

The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intention

SUNDAY,	JUNE 20 –Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M.	For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M.	Father's Day Novena
11:00 A.M.	Raymond Loud
12:30 P.M.	Calogero Lillo Cataia Elia Cinquemani Salvatore Cinquemani Edwardo Pistolo Giuseppocarlino
MONDAY,	JUNE 21 - St. Aloysius Gonzaga
9:00 A.M.	Father's Day Novena
TUESDAY,	JUNE 22 - WEEKDAY
9:00 A.M.	Father's Day Novena
WEDNESDAY,	JUNE 23 - WEEKDAY
9:00 A.M.	Father's Day novena
THURSDAY,	JUNE 24 - The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
9:00 A.M.	Father's Day Novena
FRIDAY,	JUNE 25 - WEEKDAY
9:00 A.M.	Father's Day Novena
SATURDAY,	JUNE 26 - WEEKDAY
9:00 A.M.	Purgatorial Society Father's Day Novena Maria Petrusa
5:00 P.M.	Raymond Loud
SUNDAY,	JUNE 27– Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M.	Michael Bartolo
9:30 A.M.	Anna Cambareri
11:00 A.M.	For the People of St. Francis
12:30 P.M.	Frank Caridi Desiderata Bucci Laura Fosco



Today's Readings

The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 38:22-34
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34

Readings for the Week

MONDAY:	Genesis 12:1-9 Matthew 7:1-5
TUESDAY:	Genesis 13:2, 5-18 Matthew 7:6, 12-14
WEDNESDAY:	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Matthew 7:15-20
THURSDAY:	Isaiah 49:1-6 Acts 13:22-26 Luke 1:1
FRIDAY:	Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22 Matthew 8: 1-4
SATURDAY:	Genesis 18:1-5 Matthew 8:5-17

The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-43



From the PASTOR'S DESK



My Dear Parishioners,

Each of us has numerous reasons to be thankful for the abundance of God's grace in our lives. It may be that we can be grateful for the new day in which to show God's love to someone. We may give thanks for the food we eat, the beauty of a summer day or for our loved ones, both living and deceased.

Fostering an attitude of gratitude, however, can be a challenge in the midst of life's problems and difficulties. Most of us also face a litany of burdens every day that can include illness, suffering, economic trouble, pain, addiction and loss, to name a few. Yet, we hear in today's Scripture readings that we are not alone. God invites us to bring our burdens to him so that he can help ease our load.

In today's first reading we hear of Job, who teaches us about gratitude in the face of difficulty. It is easy to stereotype Job as that poor guy in the Bible who lost everything. But there is more to the story of Job than his misery. Even though Job suffered the loss of family, property and health, God did not abandon him. In fact, even though Job had harbored doubts about his faith, he remained faithful to God, in spite of all that had happened to him. Job had seen the works of God in his own lifetime and heard of God's wondrous deeds through various stories of faith in the lives of his Jewish ancestors. In today's passage, God speaks directly to Job, and Job is reminded of God's awesome power. How reassuring this must have been to Job, knowing that God, who created and controlled the seas, considered his miserable life to be important. Everything else had fallen away in Job's life, except for God's love. For Job, God had become the most important part of his life.

Another person who teaches us about being grateful for God's blessings is Paul. A driving force in the life of Paul was his sense of gratitude for God's gift of salvation, given through Jesus Christ. We know that Paul suffered many hardships for preaching the Gospel of Jesus. Yet, in spite of his life of suffering, Paul remained steadfast in his love of Christ. Today's reading speaks of the fact that Christ died for all so that we could be reconciled to the Father. In Baptism we die in Christ to our old selves and become new creations in him. Paul says that our love for Christ can also drive each of us to do all things in and through Jesus Christ.

Finally, our gratitude can grow as we hear Jesus, himself, in today's Gospel, assure us of his love and protection. It is true that life can, at times, be both terrifying and awesome. We are, in many ways, no different from those disciples who were in the boat with Jesus when the violent storm arose. Even though Jesus was with them, their instincts still took over, their adrenalin surged and they were overwhelmed with fear. Most of us this past year have experienced something akin to that with the pandemic. We lived in fear of the unknown and what was happening around us. What is important is not that the disciples were in fear, but that they called on Jesus in their time of need. Most likely we, too, in our fear, have called on Jesus. Maybe we realized how important prayer is. Like Job, doubts may plague our thoughts, but that does not mean that we will forget our trust in Jesus. No matter what happens, we can count on Jesus to see us through the storms of our lives. He is with us in times of great joy, as well as in times of sorrow. Our response is to be one of humble, loving trust and gratitude. We need only to recall the words of Jesus to overcome our fear: "DO NOT BE AFRAID".

***All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca***

PS. This will be my last column until September. I pray that all of us have a restful summer. Find time to enjoy family, relax, pray and attend Church each weekend. Remember we have so much to be thankful to God for and attending Mass each weekend and receiving the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion is the best way to show our gratitude. Stay healthy and be safe!



***Monday, June 21, 2021
The Feast of
St. Aloysius Gonzaga***

St. Aloysius Gonzaga left his powerful family to become a Jesuit priest and died as a young man caring for plague victims. Aloysius Gonzaga was the firstborn in a powerful Italian noble family. Aloysius was thrust into adult responsibilities at the age of four when he began his training as a soldier and courtier. At the age of eight he served in the court of Grand Duke Francesco I de' Medici. Aloysius Gonzaga began to suffer from kidney disease, and in the process of recovery spent time in spiritual reading and prayer. At the age of nine Gonzaga made a private vow of chastity. The political intrigue and corruption surrounding Aloysius would take the lives of two of his brothers, but he had strong spiritual allies. Aloysius Gonzaga received his first Holy Communion from St. Charles Borromeo. Aloysius also began to teach catechism to young boys. Much to the displeasure and anger of his father, Aloysius announced his intention to become a Jesuit. His family tried to convince him to be a secular priest so that they could "buy" him a bishopric. Aloysius was adamant, and at the age of 18 he signed away his legal claim to his family lands and title. In 1585 Aloysius was accepted as a Jesuit novice. In Rome his spiritual director was St. Robert Bellarmine, who counseled Gonzaga to spend less time in private devotions and more time befriending and counseling his companions. Never in good health, Aloysius successfully continued his studies. When the plague hit Rome in 1591 he actively cared for the sick. He developed the symptoms and died shortly after.



PRAYER TO OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Most holy and immaculate Virgin, Mother of Jesus and our loving Mother, being His mother, you shared in His universal kingship. The prophets and angels proclaimed Him King of Peace. With loving fervor in our hearts, we salute and honor you as Queen of Peace.

We pray that your intercession may protect us and all people from hate and discord, and direct our hearts into the ways of peace and justice which your Son taught and exemplified. We ask your maternal care for our Holy Father who works to reconcile the nations in peace. We seek your guidance for our head of state and other leaders as they strive for world peace.

Glorious Queen of Peace, grant us peace in our hearts, harmony in our families and concord throughout the world.

Immaculate Mother, as patroness of our beloved country, watch over us and protect us with your motherly love. Amen

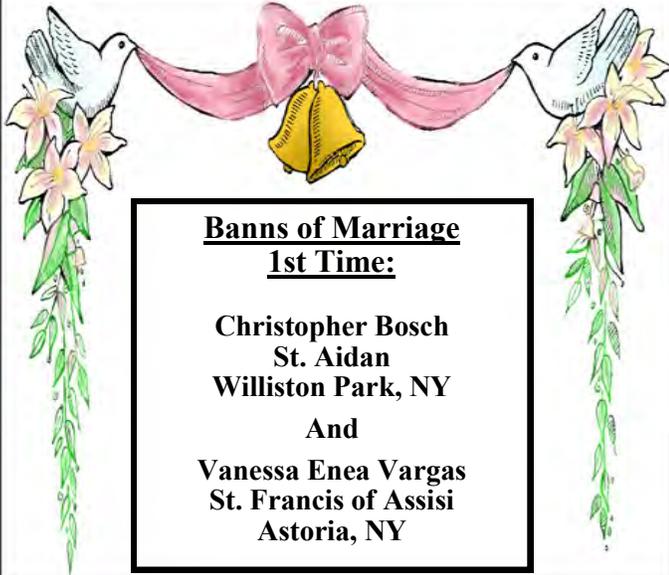


Thursday, June 24, 2021
The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Solemnity

Jesus called John the greatest of all those who had preceded him: “I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John....” But John would have agreed completely with what Jesus added: “[Y]et the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he” (Luke 7:28). John spent his time in the desert, an ascetic. He began to announce the coming of the Kingdom, and to call everyone to a fundamental reformation of life. His purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus. His baptism, he said, was for repentance. But one would come who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John was not worthy even to untie his sandals. His attitude toward Jesus was: “He must increase; I must decrease” (John 3:30).

John was humbled to find among the crowd of sinners who came to be baptized the one whom he already knew to be the Messiah. “I need to be baptized by you” (Matthew 3:14b). But Jesus insisted, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15b). Jesus, true and humble human as well as eternal God, was eager to do what was required of any good Jew. Jesus thus publicly entered the community of those awaiting the Messiah. But making himself part of that community, he made it truly messianic.

The greatness of John, his pivotal place in the history of salvation, is seen in the great emphasis Luke gives to the announcement of his birth and the event itself—both made prominently parallel to the same occurrences in the life of Jesus. John attracted countless people to the banks of the Jordan, and it occurred to some people that he might be the Messiah. But he constantly deferred to Jesus, even to sending away some of his followers to become the first disciples of Jesus. Perhaps John’s idea of the coming of the Kingdom of God was not being perfectly fulfilled in the public ministry of Jesus. For whatever reason, when he was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the Messiah. Jesus’ answer showed that the Messiah was to be a figure like that of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah. John himself would share in the pattern of messianic suffering, losing his life to the revenge of Herodias.

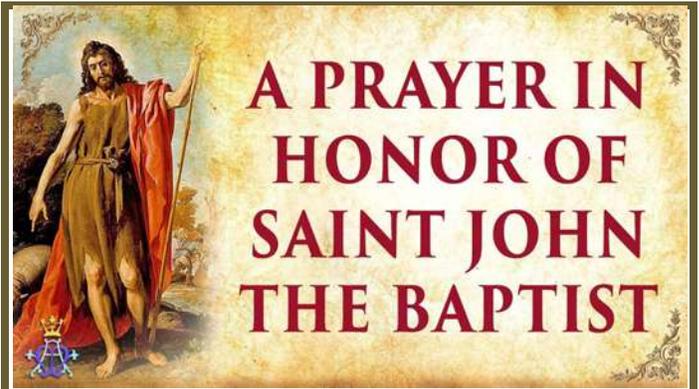


Banns of Marriage
1st Time:

Christopher Bosch
St. Aidan
Williston Park, NY

And

Vanessa Enea Vargas
St. Francis of Assisi
Astoria, NY



**A PRAYER IN
HONOR OF
SAINT JOHN
THE BAPTIST**

Oh God, you gave St. Elizabeth, in her old age, the gift of a son, St. John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for Jesus to begin His ministry here on earth.

Lord, Fill Your people with the joy of possessing graces like those of Saint John the Baptist, and direct the minds of all us in the way of salvation and peace. St. John was martyred for truth and justice, so may we Dear God, energetically profess our Faith in You, and help us to lead others to Your Way, Your Truth, and Your Eternal Life. Amen.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please note that adoration ended on Saturday, June 19th and will resume on Tuesday, September 7th.

Parish Mission Statement

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Catholic community that is centered in Jesus, gathers in worship and witnesses the Gospel message. The parish values and welcomes each person's gift of time, talent and treasure. As a faith-filled community, we are committed to minister to the spiritual, educational and material needs of all people.

***Memorials for the Week of
June 20, 2021***



ALTAR BREAD
In Loving Memory of
Tommaso Scarlatto
Requested by:
**The Faculty & Staff of
St. Francis of Assisi
Catholic Academy**

Ensuring the Future of Your Church

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish relies on your goodness and generosity to ensure that the ministry of Jesus continues here in Astoria. A charitable bequest is an excellent way to create a lasting memorial. Many of our parishioners use their wills or living trusts to make their most generous gifts. Please remember us when you create yours.



ALTAR WINE
In Loving Memory of
Tommaso Scarlatto
Requested by:
**The faculty & Staff of
St. Francis of Assisi
Catholic Academy**

Remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick, that they may find health and comfort:



Steven Joyce, Ana Balint, John Wrenn, Rose Williams, George Behringer, Augustin Cisneros, Martha Calado, James Nunez, Vincent Wytak, Carol Ross, Jeffrey Hyans, Marie LoVolpe, Jessica St. Preux, Al Ciani, Alesha Moses, Nancy McCaffrey, Christopher Wojtalik, Marie Guerriero, Theresa Pacheco, William Goss, Luke Pacheco, Vincenza Papa, Jim Schneggenburger, Anthony Criscuolo, John Ross, Samantha O'Sullivan, Marilyn Miller, John Carmody, Rosario Duran, Vivian Papa, Joel Steinmann, Anna Governali, Antonio Postiglione, Mario Tamburello, Christopher Araimo, Charles Principato, Jim Kreitler, Humberto Cordova, John Schakir, Louise Joyce Mastromarco, Margaret Culhane, Benedicto Randazzo, Theresa Unter, Angelo Niakas, Serdjo Pavich & Peter Lopez.

Also remember in your prayers all the deceased of the Parish. Please remember to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and married life.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

After receiving Holy Communion, please remember this is a special time with the Lord. Do not be stopping to say hello or wave to people in the pews. Return to your seat in silence and use this special time for prayer and thanksgiving. Reflect that you have received the Body and Blood of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus is with you. Please observe a prayerful silence.

Please be mindful that there are people who come to church early in order to pray.



Please show respect by observing silence.

The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time June 20, 2021

“He indeed died for all.”

Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

Contact the Vocation Office at
(718) 827-2454 or
email: vocations@diobrook.org



Pray
for Vocations



Communion for the Homebound

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion can bring the Eucharist to home bound parishioners using the usual safety precautions (masks, social distancing) and if the parishioner and extraordinary minister are comfortable doing so. The homebound person should be equally comfortable in having the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion visit their home. If Extraordinary Ministers are willing, please call Marybeth at the rectory to let her know.

Those who are home bound, if you wish Holy Communion, please call the rectory and leave your name, address, and phone number. A minister will be in contact with you to make the necessary arrangements. Please DO NOT contact a minister on your own. If a minister was bringing Holy Communion to you let Marybeth know that when you call the rectory.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

FOCUS:

Jesus' power is greater than anything on earth.

Nature is a beautiful force, and yet with three simple words, *Quiet! Be still!* Jesus showed that His power was greater. Jesus is here for us too, to calm the storms in our lives and to draw us closer to Him. We do our part by nourishing our faith and strengthening our relationship with Jesus as we journey with Him toward the kingdom of God.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Weekly Offering

Thank you for your continued generosity of giving each week. Your weekly offering helps us pay our monthly bills.

The Collection/Donation
for the weekend:

Sunday Collections 6/12-6/13 \$4,573.00

School parents must use church envelopes.



Next weekend, June 26th and 27th, the second collection will be for Peter's Pence.

Please be as generous as your means allow.



Annual Catholic
Appeal 2021
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

I am **the**
You are **the**
We are **CHURCH**
together

THANK YOU to all who have donated to the Annual Catholic Appeal. I appreciate your generosity. As of this time we have \$29,278.00 pledged and \$23,796.00 paid towards our goal of \$41,679.00.

If you have not donated to the appeal as of this time, I ask you to prayerfully consider a donation to help us achieve our goal.

Envelopes are available in Church or you may stop at the rectory.

Our parish receives a grant from the appeal for our Religious Education Program and a grant helps to defray the cost of the hospital chaplain in our deanery. I ask that you help us reach our goal since we do benefit from the appeal.

Thank you for your support.



Church Tower Repairs

The front and side of the tower of Church are in need of major repair. If you look closely at the wood it is rotting and cracked and, in some places, coming off. Work needs to be done before water seeps into the stairwell going down to Msgr. Campbell Hall. Before that happens, which would create mold and mildew, it has to be repaired.

I have contracted with ARTECH Church Restoration, they are the company who restored the inside of our church years ago, to do the work on the tower. They will fasten all the loose boards and then install custom cap aluminum siding to replicate the existing design. This will protect the tower and prevent any rotting or leakage of water for years to come. The cost of this project is \$25,500.00.

I know we are in challenging times, however, if you are able to make a donation to help defray the cost, I would be very grateful. Please make the check out to St. Francis of Assisi and mark the envelope "TOWER RESTORATION". You may place it in any collection or drop it off at the rectory.

Thank you for your support of this project and your help in keeping our Church in good shape. To this day, we have received \$6,880.00 in donations.

I am grateful to all those who have donated to this project.

Msgr. Maresca





ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

The St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center will be offering
“Hearing Aid Help”
from June 21, 2021 through August 5, 2021. This is a free service and is available for anyone who has a hearing aid and may be experiencing some difficulty caring for it or using it.

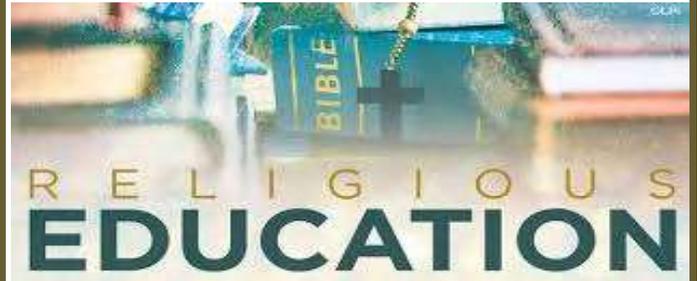
Please call the Center at
(718) 990-6480 to schedule an appointment.

The Speech and Hearing Center is located at
152-11 Union Turnpike
Flushing, NY

NO THANK
YOU

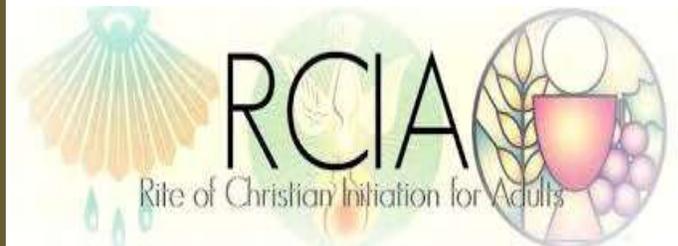
PLEASE do NOT leave any donations of clothing, shoes and other things that you do not want on the front steps of the rectory or the Church. We are NOT collecting these things and we have no place to keep them. You may want to call the St. Vincent DePaul Society and inquire if they are collecting things at this time.

Thank you for your cooperation.



If you have a child beginning first grade in public school, it is time to register for Religious Education. Diocesan guidelines require *two years* of instructions prior to the reception of a Sacrament. If your child is already in the first grade and missed this year, call the Office of Religious Education to set up an appointment to discuss the options.

Anthony Perrelli, Director of Faith Formation,
(718) 278.0259 or dre@sfaacademy.org



ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW
SOMEONE WHO...

Has expressed an interest in becoming
Catholic?

Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not
celebrated the Sacraments of
Eucharist and/or Confirmation?

Then **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**
is what you're looking for!

Sessions focus on the teachings and
experience of the Church as well as prepare
individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of
Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the
Easter season.

For information please contact our
Director of Faith Formation, Anthony Perrelli at
(718) 278.0259 or dre@sfaacademy.org.

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday 9:00AM to 3:00PM
or by appointment



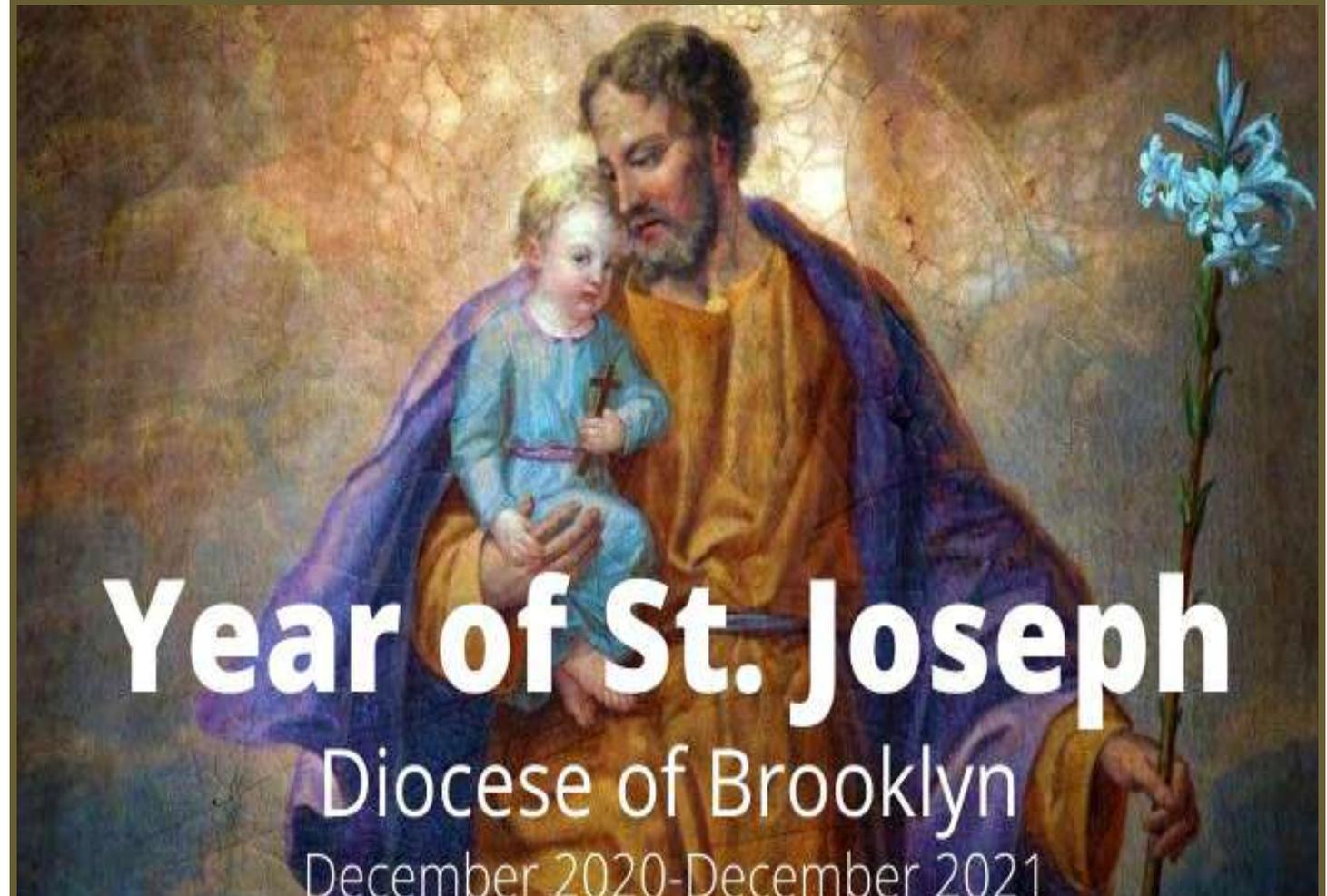
*A FATHER'S DAY
BLESSING*

*Blessed is the Father
who lets the Lord
be his guiding hand,
Whose faith brings
his family courage,
Whose wisdom comes from God,
And whose children
still stand and honor him.*

Happy Fathers Day

to all the fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, step-fathers and those who stand in as fathers.

May God bless you.



Year of St. Joseph

Diocese of Brooklyn

December 2020-December 2021

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

