The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, January 1 – The Solemnity of Mary
8:00 A.M. All the Souls in Purgatory
9:30 A.M. Christmas Novena
11:00 A.M. Nick Lucarelli
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Alfonso Calogero Annibale
Concetta Saraceni
Camilla Della
Steven Demetriou

MONDAY, January 2 – St. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
9:00 A.M. Jim Donnellan

TUESDAY, January 3– Most Holy Name of Jesus
9:00 A.M. Jennifer Ronacher

WEDNESDAY, January 4– St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
9:00 A.M. Thomas Gallagher

THURSDAY, January 5—St. John Neumann
9:00 A.M. Edward Montell

FRIDAY, January 6 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Sister Agnes Conlon

SATURDAY, January 7– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
John Betancourt
Margaret McCarthy
Living & Deceased Members of
The Legion of Mary

5:00 P.M. Rina Brenkovich

SUNDAY, January 8 - The Epiphany of the Lord
8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00 A.M. Mark Martin O'Neill
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Giuseppe Saraceni
Concetta Saraceni
Rocco DeGrandis

Today's Readings

The Nativity of the Lord

Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: 1 John 2:22-28
John 1:19-28

TUESDAY: 1 John 2:29-3:6
John 1:29-34

WEDNESDAY: 1 John 3:7-10
John 1:35-42

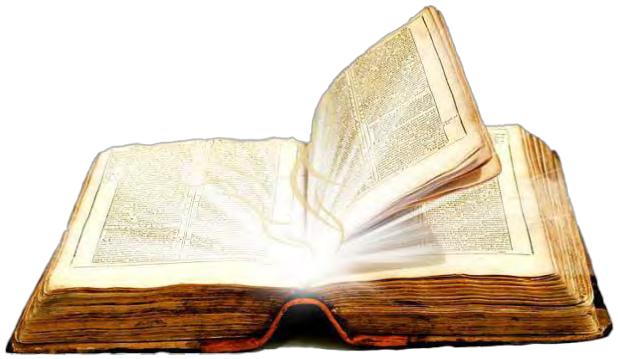
THURSDAY: 1 John 3:11-21
John 1:43-51

FRIDAY: 1 John 5:5-13
John 1:7-11

SATURDAY: 1 John 5:14-21
John 2:1-18

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12



From the Pastor's Desk

The Solemnity of Mary

My Dear Parishioners,

Happy New Year!
Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. In the Church, January 1st has had a number of titles over the years. From the sixth century until 1960, it was the Feast of the Circumcision of Jesus. This day also has been celebrated as World Day of Peace. Today's gospel reading notes the maternity of Mary and how she *"kept all things"* concerning the birth of Jesus, "*reflecting on them in her heart."*

One can only imagine what thoughts were going through Mary's mind during this time. Here is a young girl of perhaps fifteen, newly married, with the responsibility of caring for this child given to her by God. First there was the angel, then her cousin called her *blessed among women* and *the mother of her Lord* (Lk 1:42-43). Today we hear about the shepherds who came and were overcome with a special kind of joy. There was much for Mary to reflect on in her heart.

As a parish family we celebrate this New Year's Day 2023, may God's blessing come upon each of you in a special way. May you experience the peace that only comes from God as his adopted daughters and sons. May you feel the loving presence of God, our father, and the maternal love of Mary, Mother of God, Mother of the Church, and our Mother as well. May each of you have a healthy and Spirit-filled new year!

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

Welcome New Parishioners

We welcome those who registered in our parish during the month of December 2022.

Joseph & Christina Roeder
John & Ewila Rocchio
Steve Andrade & Rosa Perromo

Baptisms

We welcome those who were Baptized during the month of December 2022.

Dominick Lorenzo Calabro

Purgatorials

The following names have been enrolled in our Purgatorial Society for the month of December 2022. Please remember to continue to pray for their families.

Rod Stewart
Giacinta Ciancio

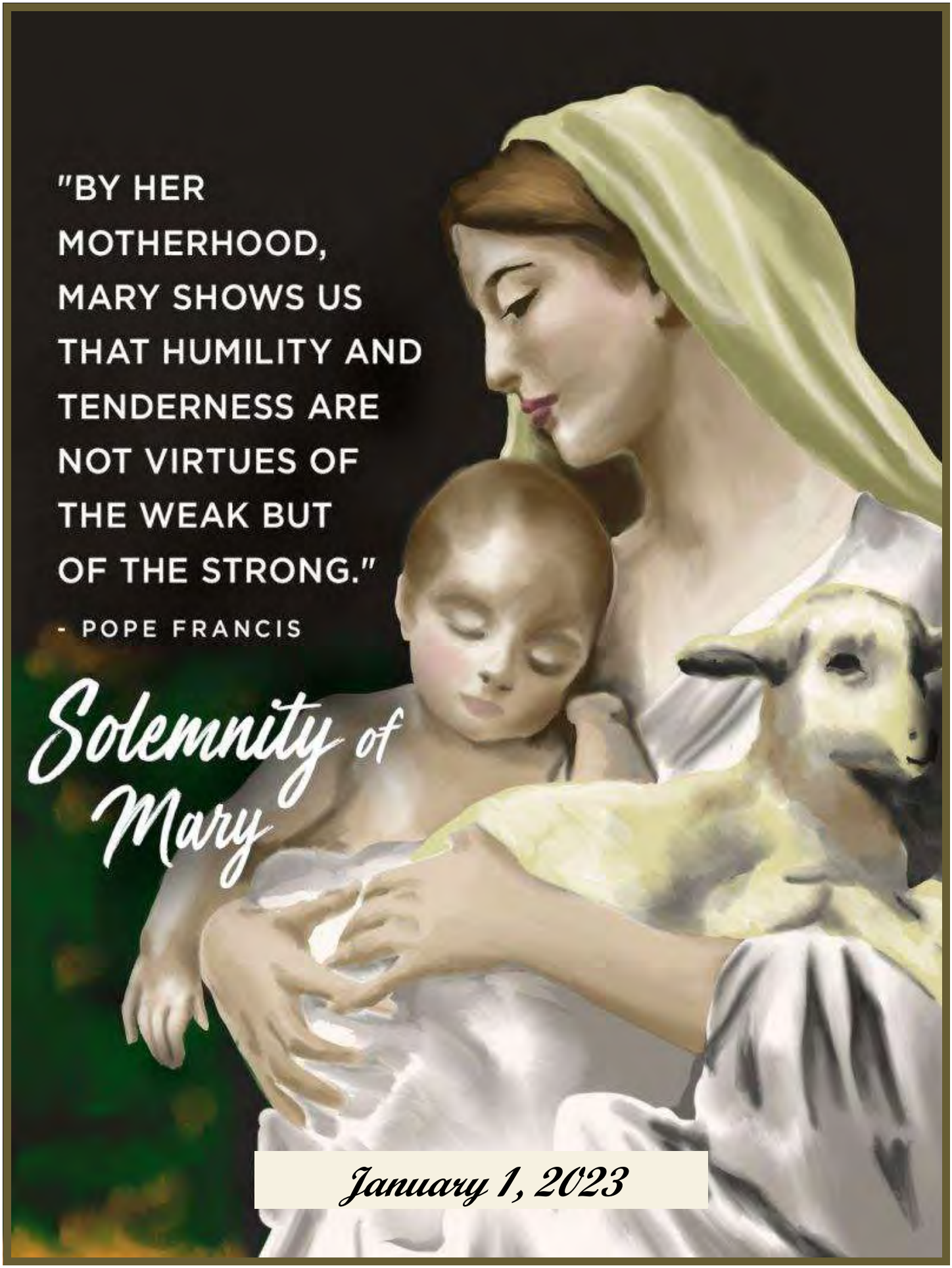
Recently Deceased

The following have passed away during the month of November 2022. We continue to pray for the recently deceased members of our parish.

Lidia Perrone
Rose Marchesi
Giacinta Ciancio
Benito Lanza

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.


"BY HER MOTHERHOOD, MARY SHOWS US THAT HUMILITY AND TENDERNESS ARE NOT VIRTUES OF THE WEAK BUT OF THE STRONG."
- POPE FRANCIS
Solemnity of Mary
January 1, 2023

JHS

BLESSED BE THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

January 3, 2023

Wednesday, January 4, 2023
The Feast of
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in New York City on August 28, 1774 to a prominent Episcopal family, and lost her mother at the age of three. In 1794, at the age of 19, Elizabeth married William Magee Seton, a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. William died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving Elizabeth a young widow. After discovering Catholicism in Italy, where her husband had died, Elizabeth returned to the United States and entered the Catholic Church in 1805 in New York.

After a number of difficult years, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, planting the seeds of Catholic education in the United States. Her legacy now includes religious congregations in the United States and Canada, whose members work on the unmet needs of people living in poverty in North America and beyond.

Mother Seton, as she is often called, was canonized on Sunday, September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI. She was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "Saint." Her remains are entombed in Emmitsburg in the Basilica at the National Shrine that bears her name.

Go to him with faith, love and confidence - He will help. Fill yourself with his Spirit and He himself will govern.

From Collected Writings Volume IIIb, page 38

Thursday, January 5, 2023
The Feast of
Saint John Neumann

Perhaps because the United States got a later start in the history of the world, it has relatively few canonized saints, but their number is increasing.

John Neumann was born in what is now the Czech Republic. After studying in Prague, he came to New York at 25 and was ordained a priest. He did missionary work in New York until he was 29, when he joined the Redemptorists and became its first member to profess vows in the United States. He continued missionary work in Maryland, Virginia and Ohio, where he became popular with the Germans. At 41, as bishop of Philadelphia, he organized the parochial school system into a diocesan one, increasing the number of pupils almost twentyfold within a short time. Gifted with outstanding organizing ability, he drew into the city many teaching communities of sisters and the Christian Brothers. During his brief assignment as vice provincial for the Redemptorists, he placed them in the forefront of the parochial movement.

Well-known for his holiness and learning, spiritual writing and preaching, on October 13, 1963, John Neumann became the first American bishop to be beatified. Canonized in 1977, he is buried in St. Peter the Apostle Church in Philadelphia.

Neumann took seriously our Lord's words, "Go and teach all nations." From Christ he received his instructions and the power to carry them out. For Christ does not give a mission without supplying the means to accomplish it. The Father's gift in Christ to John Neumann was his exceptional organizing ability, which he used to spread the Good News.

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

John Ross, Steven Joyce, Judy Hanley-Brickner, John Wrenn, Augustin Cisneros, Thomas Leiter, James Nunez, Vincent Wytak, Carol Ross, Jeffrey Hyans, Marie LoVolpe, Jessica St. Preux, Al Ciani, Alesha Moses, Nancy McCaffrey, Christopher Wojtalik, Theresa Pacheco, William Goss, Luke Pacheco, Vincenza Papa, Jim Schneggenburger, Anthony Criscuolo, Samantha O'Sullivan, Marilyn Miller, John Carmody, Rosario Duran, Vivian Papa, Joel Steinmann, Anna Governali, Tim Graham, Antonio Postiglione, Mario Tamburello, Christopher Araimo, Charles Principato, Jim Kreitler, Humberto Cordova, John Schakir, Margaret Culhane, Benedicto Randazzo, Angelo Niakas, Peter Lopez, & Fr. Emilio Salerno.

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.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Saturday, January 7, 2023, the 9:00am Mass will be an anointing Mass. All those who wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick are asked to participate in this Mass.
All are invited to join us in prayer as we remember to pray for all those who are in need of God's healing power.

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.

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 you 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.

Also, remember that after you have received Holy Communion, step aside and place the host in your mouth. Do Not walk back to the pew with the host in your hand. Again as you are on line to receive Holy Communion, it is a time to think about who you are receiving and thanking Jesus for this wonderful gift of Himself in the Eucharist.

The Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God January 1, 2023

"He gave power to become children of God "

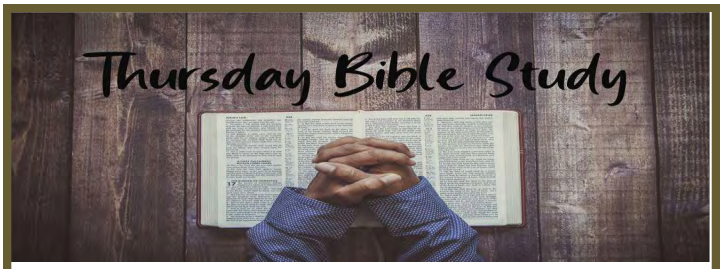
Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

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

FOCUS:

The birth of Christ is manifestation of God's unending love for humanity.

In a world of darkness, we wander blindly, getting even more lost. John's Gospel brings hope to a dreary world. The word *light* appears five times in the space of five verses. Christ, the true light, has come to save us. Turn to Jesus, the Word made flesh, let Him fan your flickering candle into a steady glow to light the path to salvation.
God waits with open arms.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

Advent: "Prepare the way for the Lord; clear a straight path for him."
(Isaiah 40:3; Mark 1:1-3)

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Dear SFA Friends and Family.

The Scripture Study group will not meet during the Christmas holiday. We will continue our study of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah when we return on Thursday, January 12, 2023. Join us in the new year

If you are interested in joining the study group or would like further information, please contact us through our email at sfascripturestudy@gmail.com or call the rectory at **(718) 728-7801.** Please be sure to leave your name and contact information.

Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture.

All Are Welcome!

Wishing all our fellow parishioners a Very Happy & Safe New Year.

Welcome to Our Church

If you wish to register as a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church, please stop by the Rectory Office during regular business hours. There you can pick up a census card which can be filled out at that time or returned by mail or in the Sunday Collection Basket. You can even download the census card on line. Just check our website at: ***stfrancisofassisiastoria.org***
You will then begin to receive weekly offering envelopes.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before the 9:00AM Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 8:00AM each morning, Monday through Saturday, giving parishioners an opportunity for private prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:30AM the rosary will be prayed by parishioners before the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:50AM the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed. Jesus calls us to perseverance in prayer. "Pray without ceasing." "Watch and pray." Eucharistic adoration helps us discover the Real Presence of Christ.

What a wonderful way to begin our day praying before the Blessed Sacrament in silence or praying the Holy Rosary.

Please make every effort to take advantage of this time with the Lord. We are living in challenging times and we all need the Lord to strengthen our faith and give us the courage to live each day.

Holy Name Society

On Sunday, January 8th, the 8:00am Mass is the Holy Name Mass. The mission of the Holy Name Society is to promote devotion and reverence for the Holy Name of God and Jesus. What better way than to participate in the Holy Name Monthly Mass. All are invited to join in this celebration.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2022
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated

Our goal is $41,679 and we have pledged $40,878and paid $39,604.

If you have not donated to the appeal, please prayerfully consider what you can contribute to help us reach our goal. The appeal ends in December, but it would be nice to have reached our goal before that time.

Mass Intentions

2023 Mass Book

The 2023 Mass Book is now open.

All Announced Masses are $15.00
Purgatorial Mass Cards are $30.00
Memorials (Altar Bread, Altar Wine, Sanctuary Lamp and Altar Candles) are $60.00 each
Altar Flowers are $75.00.
Thank you.

Msgr. Maresca

Saturday, December 31, 2022

5:00PM	Ray & Mary Conlon

Sunday, January 1, 2023

8:00AM	Minister Needed
9:30AM	Deacon
11:00AM	Debbi Skinner
12:30PM	Minister Needed

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.

Sunday Collection **$6,764.00**

2nd Collection-Catholic Charity ***$1,186.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

The following students from our parish have attained Honor Roll status at

The Mary Louis Academy

Madison Barry
Kaitlyn Warren

50/50 Winners December 2022

First Prize
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Higgins

Second Prize
Ms. Kelsey Papanicolaou

Third Prize
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Marchesona

Congratulations!

Christmas Flower envelopes may be returned in any collection. Please be sure to write the nams(s) **legibly**. The list of names will be listed in the Bulletin.

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Next weekend, January 7th and 8th, the second collection will be for the Diocesan Mission. The revenue will be used when the Bishop receives appeals from various missions for support from the Diocese of Brooklyn and when Mission appeals are requested from the Society of the Immaculate Conception.

Please be as generous as your means allow.

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

Money goes back to your local parish

My Car Went To Heaven

DONATE YOUR AUTO
Running or Not

• IRS Tax Deduction • Free Towing
• Any Condition • Any Model

718-491-2525

Visit Us at svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org

Dear Fellow Parishioners,
Since 2014 alone, the Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn Donation Program has given back over $400,000 to local parishes throughout the New York Metropolitan Area. Your donation has helped many individuals in need in your neighborhood. Only through the generosity of countless parishioners are we able to make a difference. Please help us to continue to make a difference by spreading the word to anyone you know that would like to donate a vehicle, running or not leaving a review on Google, and liking us on Social Media. Together we can continue our mission in helping the less fortunate.

Help Spread the Word to help Those in Need!

Please Visit Us at svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org
Leave a Review on Google &
Like us on
Follow us on

With Much Thanks and Many Blessings,
Jim Shea
Associated Vincentian Charities Car Program Coordinator

JANUARY 2023
LECTOR ASSIGNMENTS

	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	JANUARY 7 - 8	JANUARY 14 - 15	JANUARY 21 - 22	JANUARY 28 - 29
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski	Debbi Skinner	Dolores Ratkowski
Sunday 8:00 A.M.	Robert Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Robert Laucella	Andrew Soltesz
Sunday 9:30 A.M.	Josephine Corso	Patrick O'Toole	Marta O'Toole	Maria Brooks
Sunday 11:00 A.M.	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato
Sunday 12:30 P.M.	*Anna Maria Tenaglia*	Eterna Bruno	Jackie Machia	Anna Maria Del Carro

***** REMINDER *****
Once you are scheduled, if you cannot fulfill your assignment, please make every effort to call and get a replacement. Thank you

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 31st
New Years Eve
9:00am
No Confession
5:00pm

Sunday, January 1st
The Solemnity of Mary
8:00am
9:00am, 11:00am
12:30pm (Italian Mass)

Rectory Schedule

Saturday, December 31 (New Years Eve), 9:00am to Noon
Sunday, January 1 (New Years Day), Closed
Monday, January 2, Closed

The Rectory office will resume the regular hours on Tuesday, January 3, 2022 at 9:00am.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

January 1—January 7

Sunday, January 1
NO Children's Liturgy
NO CCD

Monday, January 2
Holiday—School & Rectory Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3
6:30PM—AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 4

Thursday, January 5
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR
6:00PM—I.A.C.A.

Friday, January 6
First Friday—School Mass

Saturday, January 7
6:00-7:30PM—Youth Group Meeting

NEXT WEEK

January 8—January 14

Sunday, January 8
NO Children's Liturgy
10:40-12 Noon CCD

Monday, January 9
12:00-3:30PM Golden Age
3:00-3:45PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, January 10
6:30PM—AA Meeting
8:00PM Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, January 11
7:00PM Baptism Class

Thursday, January 12
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR
6:00PM—I.A.C.A.
7:20-8:50PM—Scripture Study

Friday, January 13

Saturday, January 14

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

January 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

A kinder, gentler you

Kindness is contagious. A recent study found that witnessing an act of kindness produces good feelings and inspires imitation. In the new year, make efforts to be kinder – more friendly, generous, and considerate – and inspire others to do the same.

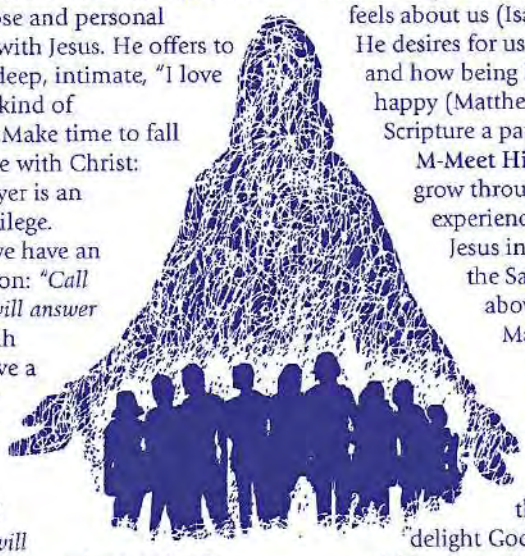
Choose not to be offended

In the news or on social media, it can appear that there is more polarization around issues now than in the past. Each side wants to persuade the other. Being right is no compensation for broken friendships, however. If there is someone in your life who deliberately pursues you to argue, don't take the bait. Rather than let arguments create a rift, look the other way when feeling slighted. Being kind is more rewarding than being right.

"I have told you this that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (John 16:33).

Fall deeper in love with Christ in the New Year

At the center of all we do as Catholics must be a close and personal relationship with Jesus. He offers to each of us a deep, intimate, "I love you forever" kind of relationship. Make time to fall deeper in love with Christ:



T-Talk: Prayer is an amazing privilege. Through it, we have an open invitation: *"Call to me, and I will answer you"* (Jeremiah 33:3). We have a promise that He hears us: *"When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you"* (Jeremiah 29:12). The God of the universe wants to hear from you.

I-Intimacy: To love Christ, we must know Him. In Scripture, God tells us who He is (Exodus 34:6), how He feels about us (Isaiah 43:4), what He desires for us (Luke 12:32), and how being His will make us happy (Matthew 5-7). Make Scripture a part of every day.

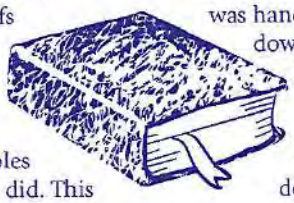
M-Meet Him: Relationships grow through shared experiences. We meet Jesus in prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, and above all, during the Mass.

E-Everything for love: St. Thérèse of Lisieux discovered that she could delight God by simply picking up a pin out of love. He wants to hear us, His beloveds, say, "I love you, too," in words and actions. Essential to falling in love with God is making time for Him.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe things that aren't in the Bible?

Catholics recognize the Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and we reject beliefs that contradict Scripture. Long before the Gospels were written down, the Apostles passed on to their disciples all that Jesus taught and did. This is what we call, "Tradition," or what was "handed on." Not everything that was handed on could be written down. It was impossible to include everything Jesus did (John 21:25). Catholic beliefs don't depart from Scripture, but delve deeper into it.



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Make one change for God this year

When making New Year's resolutions this year, consider one change that will bring you closer to God. Here are some ideas other Catholics have used to strengthen prayer, serve the poor, and evangelize our faith …

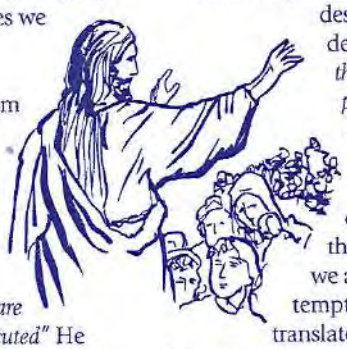
Laura felt her prayer life growing stale, so when her parish asked for adorers for the perpetual adoration chapel, she jumped at the chance. Now, Mondays at midnight, Laura can be found in the presence of the Eucharist. She said, "I really look forward to my peaceful hour each week. It's just me and Him."

Peter's law practice is incredibly busy, but he takes an afternoon off every month to work at the local soup kitchen serving hot meals to the homeless and working poor. When asked why, he said, "Jesus said, *'When I was hungry, you gave me to eat.'*"

JoAnn's children are grown, yet she teaches a religious education class at her parish. "What better way to spread our faith than to children? That's where I can do the most good," she said.

from Scripture — Matthew 5:1-12a, Jesus' blueprint for holiness

This passage contains the Sermon on the Mount during which Jesus detailed the Beatitudes – the attitudes we need to be truly holy, and therefore happy. In fact, "beatitude" is translated from the Greek word for happiness. Jesus was saying, "Happy are you!" or "Congratulations!" if you live by these attitudes.



When Jesus said, *"blessed are the poor in spirit … blessed are they who mourn … the persecuted"* He promised that when we turn to God in times of trial, we will be comforted and cared for. When He said, *"Blessed are the pure in heart … those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,"* He was showing us that a holy heart will receive what it desires. When He described *"the meek … the merciful … the peacemakers,"* He gave us a blueprint for how to act.

We can measure our behavior against these standards. When we are faithful to God in tempting moments, and translate holy inner attitudes into outward actions, we'll know we're on the right path to holiness. When we live by the Beatitudes, we'll be truly happy.

Feasts & Celebrations

January 2 – St. Gregory Nazianzen (389). Known as "The Theologian" for his faithfulness and eloquence, St. Gregory was unwillingly made Bishop of Sasima. He worked to clarify the Church's teachings about the Holy Trinity.

January 16 – St. Berard and Companions (1220). St. Francis of Assisi sent St. Berard and his companions to evangelize in the Muslim territories. After being arrested in Morocco, they were martyred after refusing to stop preaching and renounce their Faith.

January 23 – St. Marianne Cope (1918). St. Marianne began religious life as an educator in New York schools, and later became a nurse. In 1883, she helped St. Damien de Veuster serve the leper colonies of Hawaii, continuing his work after his death.

January 25 – Conversion of St. Paul (1st Century). Formally called "Saul", he persecuted the Christians until Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus, saying, *"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting"* (Acts 9:5). After that, Saul became Paul and traveled around the known world, preaching the Faith.

Q & A — What qualities can I pursue to make me a better follower of Jesus?

Actually, when you were baptized, made your First Communion, or got Confirmed, the Holy Spirit conferred gifts to help you grow in strength and holiness. Recognizing these gifts and nurturing them will certainly make you a better Christian.

Wisdom: This gift helps us stay focused on God's will and His plan for us.

Understanding: Lets us grasp truths. It means seeing with the heart and the mind.

Counsel: Also called "right judgment," counsel enables us to weigh alternatives to make the right choice.

Fortitude: The ability to remain firm against pressure. (Also called courage.)

Knowledge: A person with knowledge sees more than one dimension of an issue to determine the right path.

Piety: Helps us think of ourselves as children of God and be eager to serve Him.

Fear of the Lord: The wonder and awe God inspires encourages us to respect Him and all his creations.

The more you use these gifts, the more you will grow in faith and holiness. Then you will certainly become a better Christian.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC ACADEMY PRESENTS
2-210 - MS. MELISSA D'ANGELO
DECEMBER STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This month the students learned about

The Advent Wreath

As part of our Student Spotlight project, we decided to create our own candles in the color we wish to celebrate this season.

As you read along, think of what you would pray for in your own candle, and pray that all our second graders and the whole school are blessed this Advent season.

†

The purple candles represent prayer, penance, and preparation.

The wreath symbolizes the eternity of God and his endless love for us.

†

The pink candle represents rejoicing for the birth of Jesus.

"Jesus is the light of us because he gives us love and cares for us. He gives us food. He tells us to take care of the poor & never sin. - Aspasia

"We pray to God. Jesus was born on Christmas night. Sunday is the Lord's Day. Jesus taught us about the Lord." - Colin

"We know Jesus is the light of the world. We should donate our gloves." - Nina

"I love God because he created us. I love God because he gave us food. I love God because he made our world." - Benjamin

"Help the poor. Be nice to each other. Say a prayer before you eat. When someone is in the rain, give them your umbrella." - Kenzi

"I am a light because you can donate hats and scarves. I can donate my food to the poor. I can pray to God & Jesus worship Him." - Ava

"We can all celebrate Jesus. He was born on Christmas Day and He rose from the dead." - Liv

"He helps me study, do good on tests. He taught me to be kind. We pray to him." - Patrick

"Jesus teaches me. Jesus corrects me. Jesus helps me. Advent means Jesus is coming." - Rosandrea

"He helps the poor and the lonely. He cares for others. He loves people. He is God's son. He made us. He did miracles." - Domenico

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC ACADEMY PRESENTS
2-210 - MS. MELISSA D'ANGELO
DECEMBER STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This month the students learned about

The Advent Wreath

As part of our Student Spotlight project, we decided to create our own candles in the color we wish to celebrate this season.

As you read along, think of what you would pray for in your own candle, and pray that all our second graders and the whole school are blessed this Advent season.

†

The purple candles represent prayer, penance, and preparation.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent.

†

The pink candle represents rejoicing for the birth of Jesus.

"Help others. Help the poor. Be good. Be nice. Participate. Help. Be kind. Help put away nice things. Help my class. Help my friend." - Valentina

"To help people.
To be nicer.
To learn and listen
to your teacher.
Help your teacher." - Enesa

"Because he was kind to everyone and he died for us and all the people. Even if people did not like him, he still loved them." - Gabriele

"Jesus is the light if the world because he saved us from sin and loves us. We celebrate Him at Christmas." - Giana

"I pray to God.
I pray before I eat.
I'm happy to pray.
I want to be kind." - Vrin

"Jesus loves us because he forgives us and will help us make good decisions." - Giorgio

"I love Jesus so much.
He is the Son of God.
We give Jesus everything.
We should give to the poor."
- Ellis

"He can help me with Math.
He can help me say the
Our Father.
He can help me
decorate." - Sibyl

"I love you God.
You are the best.
You love me and I love you so much. From your best friend."
- Antonia