The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, February 19 – The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. The Cseri Family
9:30 A.M. Michael Cilia
11:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
12:30 P.M. Adelina Sarchese
Carmela Messina
Rino Del Carro

MONDAY, February 20 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Elvira Martucci

TUESDAY, February 21– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Richard Conlon

WEDNESDAY, February 22– ASH WEDNESDAY
7:00A.M. Stephen Keiser
9:00 A.M. Joseph Salamone
7:30P.M. Nicola Vella

THURSDAY, February 23—Weekday
9:00 A.M. Francis Gullotti

FRIDAY, February 24 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Mary Stephanopoulos

SATURDAY, February 25– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Adam Michael Ross

5:00 P.M. For the People of St. Francis

SUNDAY, February 26 - The First Sunday of Lent
8:00 A.M. Joseph Cseri
9:30 A.M. Agnes Reilly
11:00 A.M. Serafina Puccio
12:30 P.M. Giacinta Ciancio
Rino Del Carro

Today's Readings

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Sirach 1:1-10
Mark 9:14-29

TUESDAY: Sirach 2:1-11
Mark 9:30-37

WEDNESDAY: Joel 2:12-18
2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

THURSDAY: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Luke 9:22-25

FRIDAY: Isaiah 58:1-9a
Matthew 9:14-15

SATURDAY: Isaiah 58:1-9a
Luke 5:27-32

The First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear Parishioners,

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and begins the Season of Lent. We can turn to the origins of the word *LENT* to understand what is being suggested. From its old Anglo-Saxon root, this word means the lengthening of days, the phenomenon which eventually leads to spring. The Christian understanding of the season of Lent is how Lent invites us into spiritual renewal, awakening, indeed, a new springtime in our spiritual life.

Admittedly, many of us did not grow up with this emphasis. Rather, Lent was this long season focused on sacrifice and the heaviness of looking at one's sins. Knowing the true state of one's soul is, of course, important. Yet, Lent also asks us to grow spiritually and the Church has designed practices which bring us closer to God in very positive, life affirming ways.

This question beckons our attention as we begin Lent 2023: What choices during the forty days might enhance my relationship with God, do well for others, help me to grow spiritually, and bring joy into my spiritual life?

Each one's response will be unique. However, Lent's effectiveness is assisted by having clear, specific ideas. In fact, it helps to write out one's Lenten practices, and then, to review them periodically during the season. Perhaps you may want to draw upon some of the Lenten traditions of increased opportunities for prayer, acts of service, fasting, or almsgiving. All of these have spiritual merit. Yet, whatever you choose, make sure it gives you a feeling of inner joy and personal renewal.

Finally, the words of Jesus in the Gospel for Ash Wednesday, challenge us to conduct our spiritual practices with clear intent. Jesus makes it clear: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them…"We must be more concerned with the growth of our spiritual lives than with enhancing our reputation within the community. Consequently, make your Lenten plan a private contract between you and God. You will know what you have written down. God will also know what you have promised. Thus, God and you form a sacred contract to work together for the betterment and growth of your spiritual life.

Have a Good Lent!

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

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, Connie Fontano 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.

Easter Candle

If anyone would like to make a donation or memorialize the
Pascal Candle,
please stop by the rectory and speak with Marybeth.

Please mark your calendars for our
Parish Lenten Mission
which takes place beginning Monday, March 12th, to Thursday, March 16th.

The mission will take place at the 9:00AM Mass in the morning and again at 7:30PM. Fr. Lee Havey will be giving the mission.

All are invited to join us.

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.

Pray
for Vocations

The Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time February 19, 2023

"I give you a new commandment says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you."

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

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

FOCUS:

Living a life of faith means acting with love and mercy.

The call to spiritual perfection or holiness dominates our reading today. We are called to be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect, and to demonstrate that holiness in the way we treat one another and in our knowledge that we are temples of God's Holy Spirit.

What are you doing for Lent?

To help us during our Lenten journey, the following opportunities will be taking place in our parish.

1. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each morning at 8:00AM Monday through Saturday.
2. Mass is celebrated each morning at 9:00AM Monday through Saturday.
3. Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:30PM and will conclude with Benediction.
4. Confessions are heard every Saturday from 4:00 to 4:30PM.
5. Reconciliation Monday is ***April 3rd***. Every Church in our Diocese, the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Rockville Centre will be hearing confessions. We will be hearing confessions from
   3:00 to 5:00PM and 7:00 to 9:00PM.
   What a wonderful experience to receive the mercy of Christ in this great sacrament.
6. The Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Council will be hosting our Lenten Supper & Stations on Friday during the month of March. Supper will be at 6:00PM in Msgr. Campbell Hall followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:30PM in Church.
7. All are welcome to join the St. Francis of Assisi Scripture Study Group on Thursday nights at 7:20PM. The group is for anyone who would like to deepen their understanding of the Bible.
8. Our Parish Lenten Mission will take place from Monday, March 12th to Thursday, March 16th. The Mission will take place at the 9:00AM Mass in the morning and again at 7:30PM. Fr. Lee Havey will be giving the Mission. All are invited.

The season of lent starts this Wednesday, Ash Wednesday. The work Lent means spring, a time when new life is bursting into bloom. I am sure all of us look forward to spring after this winter.

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We receive a cross of ashes on our forehead to indicate our desire to spend Lent focusing on repentance, deepening and strengthening our relationship with the Lord.

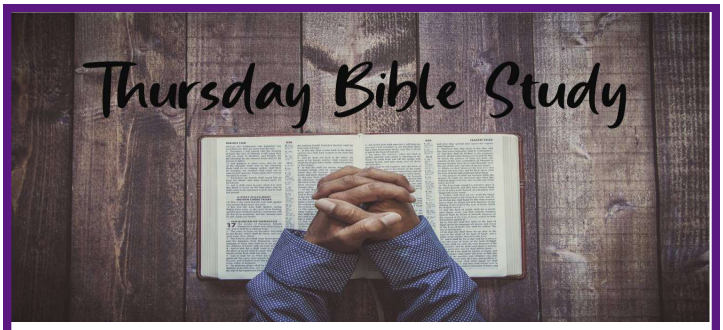
During Lent we always ask ourselves the question what action, work, practice, do I want to do for Lent? May I make a suggestion that instead, we ask, what is God asking of me in this season of Lent?

God calls us to pray, to fast, and to share our goods with others. It is through these actions that we are led to a deeper relationship with the Lord, to a keener awareness of God's presence; to a more intense desire to respond to God's initiatives.

Let us pray during this season of Lent for ourselves and for one another, that we will readily say yes to all God asks of us

Ashes will be distributed at the following services:

7:00AM Mass
9:00AM Mass
12:00Noon Prayer Service
3:00PM Prayer Service
7:30PM Mass



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Join us on Thursday, March 2nd, at 7:20-8:50 in the St. Joseph room of the rectory. This week's study will be on the Book of Isaiah, Chapters 20-27. Come join us.

The Gospel readings and study will be conducted using the Little Rock Scripture Study program. Study booklets will be provided.

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!

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.

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.

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	**$4,855.00**
2nd Collection–The Tablet	***$378.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Next weekend, February 25th and 26th, the second collection will be for the victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria. **Please note:** There are no envelopes for this collection. Thank you for your continued generosity.

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.

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.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

February 19—February 25

Sunday, February 19
No Children's Liturgy
No CCD
No Children's Choir

Monday, February 20
School & Rectory Office Closed

Tuesday, February 21
Rectory Closes at 5:00PM

Wednesday, February 22
ASH WEDNESDAY
Mass at 7:00 & 9:00AM, 7:30PM
Prayer Services at Noon & 3:00PM
Rectory Closes at 5:00PM

Thursday, February 23
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR
Rectory Closes at 5:00PM

Friday, February 24

Saturday, February 25

NEXT WEEK

February 26—March 4

Sunday, February 26
No Childres's Liturgy
No CCD
No Children's Choir

Monday, February 27
12:00-3:30PM-Golden Age
3:00-3:45PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, February 28
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, March 1

Thursday, March 2
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR
6:00PM IACA
7:20-8:50 Scripture Study

Friday, March 3
FIRST FRIDAY
School Mass
Supper & Stations

Saturday, March 4

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

LENT 2023

= a day of fasting and abstinence from meat

= a day of abstinence from meat

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*).			22 *Ash Wednesday* Wear ashes today as a sign that you are seeking both forgiveness and eternal life from Christ.	23 Start a prayer book and record those for whom you pray or for what you pray. Also keep track of how God answers your prayers.	24 Catholics are required to abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent as a form of penance.	25 The Bible teaches us to deny ourselves and give instead to those in need. Read Matthew 6:1-4 to learn more about sacrificial almsgiving.
26 Imagine being responsible for all the souls in the world. Offer a Rosary for the intentions of the pope.	27 Ask God to show you what is keeping you from experiencing His love fully- worry, fears, sin. Resolve to deal with it by Easter.	28 Offer an extra small sacrifice for God, just for today - coffee without cream, lukewarm shower, no snacking, etc.	1 **March** Enjoy pretzels -- a traditional Lenten snack. The "crossed" arms of the pretzel recalled monks at prayer.	2 Today, look for opportunities to practice the virtues humility, patience, and kindness.	3 *First Friday* Attend Mass or visit the Blessed Sacrament (find the red candle). Be present to Him who is present to you.	4 Set up an empty box or bin. Throughout Lent, fill it with gently used clothes. Bring it to a local charity at the end of Lent.
5 After Mass today, go out to eat with other parishioners from church.	6 Dive deeper into your faith. Skim the glossary in the Catechism for an unfamiliar term and learn the Church's teaching about it.	7 Pick an issue in the news and pray over it today.	8 Figure out on which luxuries you spend the most money. Take a tenth of that amount and put it in the poor box at church.	9 Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for those who have no one to pray for them. Look here: https://www.usccb.org/prayers/divine-mercy-chaplet.	10 Resist "idle curiosity." Don't research trivial questions or follow every browser thread. Unless it's important, it's okay not knowing.	11 Pray for pregnant mothers and their babies. Consider donating to pro-life charities that help women in crisis.
12 Reread John 4:5-30. How is Christ calling you closer to Him? What "jug" would you leave behind?	13 Refuse to gossip, either in person or on screen. Affirm every person or keep silent.	14 Write down your worries. Place the list under a statue or image of Jesus. Pray, "Jesus, I surrender this to You. Take care of everything."	15 Attend Confession and experience God's mercy. Resolve to make amends where you can.	16 Check out Catholic Relief Services to see how you can support their projects. Look here: https://www.crs.org.	17 *St. Patrick's Day* In honor of St. Patrick, evangelize silently by wearing a symbol of your faith (e.g. a cross, medal).	18 Contact local shelters and soup kitchens and ask if they need volunteers.
19 *Laetare Sunday* Unless it's sinful, enjoy something you gave up for Lent in joyful anticipation of Easter!	20 *St. Joseph's Day* St. Joseph silently, selflessly cared for Mary and Jesus. Pray for fathers and entrust them to St. Joseph's care.	21 Do an act of kindness. Whether openly or secretly, do it for God's glory. It's really Him you're serving.	22 Take the box of clothes you set up on March 4 to a clothing drive.	23 Pray for an increased faith throughout the Church in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.	24 Practice patience... patiently. "Be patient with everyone, but first of all with yourself" (St. Francis de Sales).	25 *Annunication of the Lord* Mary said "Yes!" to God's plan. Pray three Hail Marys, for the grace to give your "Yes" to Him, too.
26 Fast from unnecessary screen use today. Use the time to read a book, walk outside, pray.	27 This week, get up when the alarm goes off and offer your day to God's service.	28 Send your parish priests a "spiritual bouquet" — listing the prayers you'll offer for them (e.g. three Hail Marys, an Our Father).	29 Today, complete an errand or chore you've been putting off.	30 The Our Father is the prayer given to us by Jesus. Pray each line slowly. Really think about what you are saying.	31 Today, fast from complaining. Culviate gratitude instead.	1 **April** Declutter, dust, and clean the house in preparation for Holy Week — the holiest time of the year.
2 *Palm Sunday* Display blessed palms around your home, *"that the King of Glory may come in!"* (Psalm 24:7)	3 Holy Week is a busy time for parishes. Stop by your parish office and ask how you can help.	4 Pray for those who are coming into the Church at the Easter Vigil.	5 Judas betrayed Christ. Consider how our sins betray Jesus and make a sincere Act of Contrition.	6 *Holy Thursday* Visit the Blessed Sacrament. Offer Him your love for the "lost hour" of Gethsemane (Mathew 26:40).	7 *Good Friday* Read the Passion Narrative, John 18, 19. See Jesus' offering of love for you. How will you respond?	8 *Holy Saturday* Renew your baptismal vows and commit to living your faith more fully this year.

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LENTEN

Supper & Stations

The St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council invites you to our
Supper and Stations during the Season of Lent.
The dates are as follows:

Friday, March 3rd - Soup and Bread
Friday, March 10th - Pizza Night
Friday, March 17th -Salad Night
Friday, March 24th - Pasta and Bread
Friday, March 31st - Dessert Night

Please fill out the slip below by Sunday, February 26th
and check off which night(s) you will be joining us.
Simply return in any collection or Rectory mailbox

Supper will be at 6:00pm in Msgr. Campbell Hall.
Following supper, you are invited to attend the
Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm in the Church.
A free will donation is asked of you.
What a great way to observe the fast on Lenten Friday's Supper & Stations!

Name _____ Contact # _____

Number of guests _____

Please check off the night(s) you will be joining us.

_____ **Friday, March 3rd - Soup and Bread**
_____ **Friday, March 10th - Pizza Night**
_____ **Friday, March 17th -Salad Night**
_____ **Friday, March 24th - Pasta and Bread**
_____ **Friday, March 31st - Dessert Night**

Kindly return by Sunday, February 26th

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
WILDCATS

CYO SOCCER

SIGN UPS ARE OPEN
SCAN QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION

GET FIT. HAVE FUN. SHARPEN SKILLS
BECOME FAMILY

Boys and Girls K-8 are encouraged to join our
CYO soccer teams.
Home field is the Italian Federation field.
Volunteers are needed.
Any further questions contact
Soccer AD Jonathan Hili @
wildcats.sfa.soccer@gmail.com

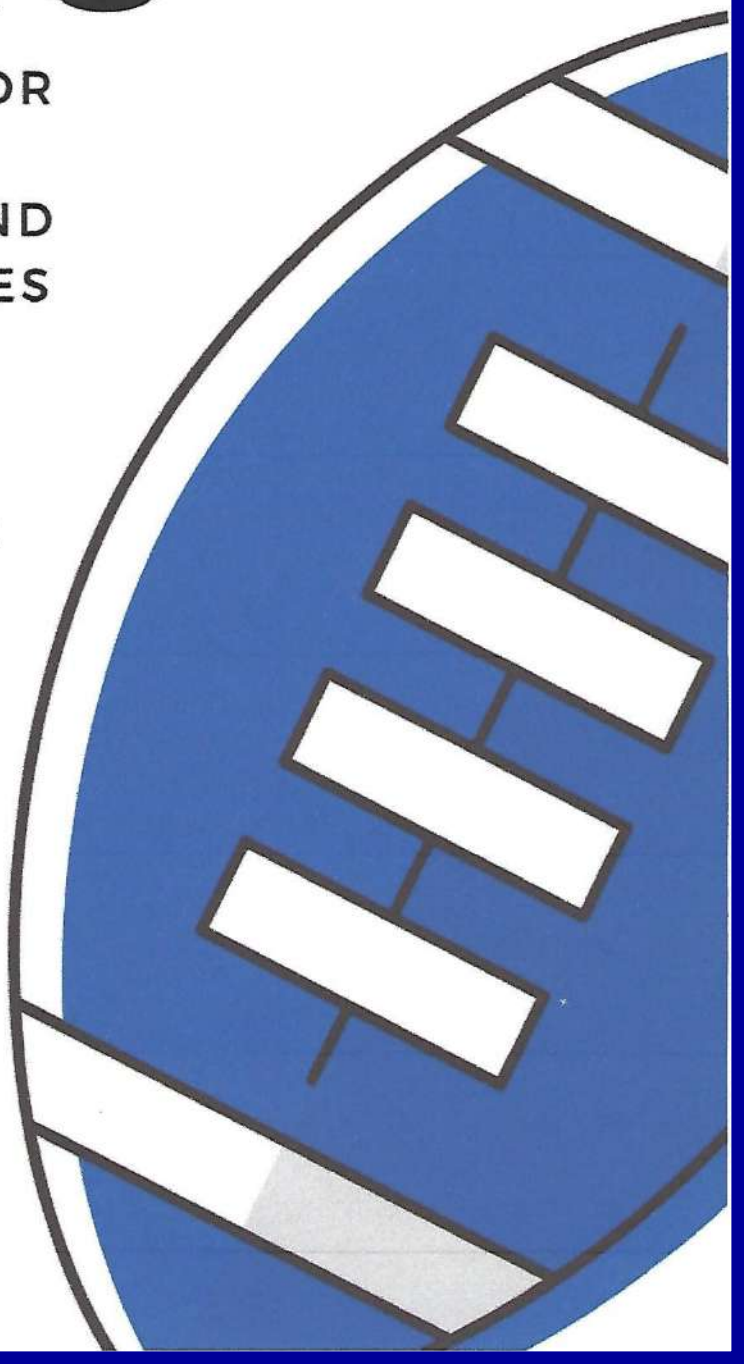
WILDCATS FLAG FOOTBALL

SFA CYO

WE ARE LOOKING FOR
BOYS AND GIRLS
GRADES 4TH-8TH AND
VOLUNTEER COACHES

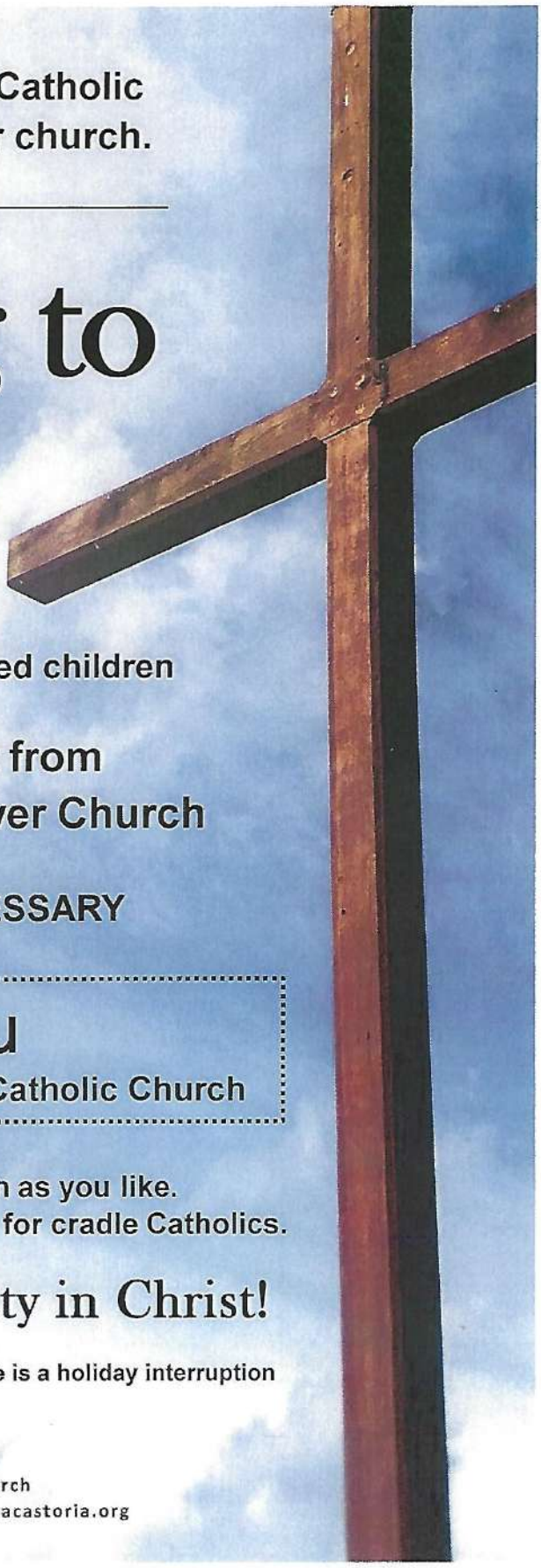
SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR WITH ANY QUESTIONS REACH OUT TO THE FOOTBALL AD
JONATHAN HILI @
JONATHAN.HILI.62@GMAIL.COM



An ongoing catechesis of the Catholic Faith for adult members of our church.

Listening to the Lord



Jesus taught adults and blessed children

Every Tuesday Night from
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Lower Church

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY

Free to you

A Bible and a Catechism of the Catholic Church

Join for one time or for as often as you like.
For those new to the catholic faith and for cradle Catholics.

Grow to your full maturity in Christ!

Just call the rectory 718-728-1613 just in case there is a holiday interruption in classes.

Immaculate Conception Church
Ditmars Blvd and 29th St. | www.immacastoria.org

2022 Tax Contribution Statements

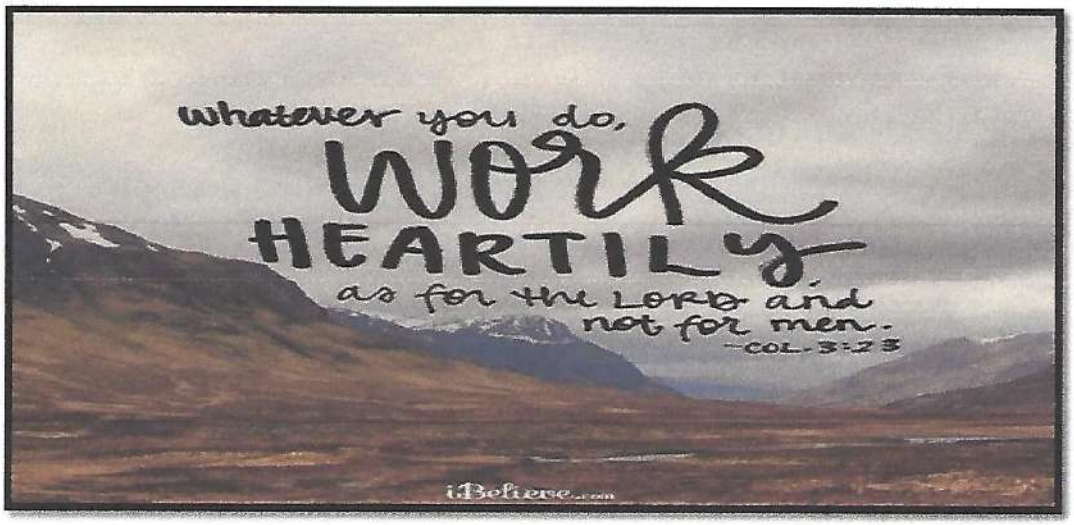
All parishioners who would like to receive a copy of their 2022 Tax Contribution Statement should complete the form below.

The forms can be returned by dropping them in the contribution basket during Mass or they can be dropped in the box on the front door of the rectory. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____

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