The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, February 5 – The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. All the Souls in Purgatory
9:30 A.M. Marie Salamone
11:00 A.M. Vincenzo Gentile
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Giacinta Ciancio
Lidia Perrone
Giovanni Maria DiBenedetto

MONDAY, February 6 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Peggy Cleary

TUESDAY, February 7– Weekday
9:00 A.M. John Purich

WEDNESDAY, February 8– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Adrian Paoline

THURSDAY, February 9—Weekday
9:00 A.M. Carmen Muscat

FRIDAY, February 10 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Dana Marusic

SATURDAY, February 11– Our Lady of Lourdes
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Antonina Kos
Rose D'Amico
Louise McCann

5:00 P.M. Dominick Borgia

SUNDAY, February 12 - The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00 A.M. Desolina Conti
12:30 P.M. 125th Anniversary of
The Knights of Columbus
Council #309

Today's Readings

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 58:7-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Genesis 1:1-19
Mark 6:53-56

TUESDAY: Genesis 1:20-2:4a
Mark 7:1-13

WEDNESDAY: Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17
Mark 7:14-23

THURSDAY: Genesis 2:18-25
Mark 7:24-30

FRIDAY: Genesis 3:1-8
Mark 7:31-37

SATURDAY: Genesis 3:9-24
Mark 8:1-10

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear Parishioners,

It is striking that the two elements that Jesus uses in today's Gospel in teaching the disciples are so common and universal. Yet, neither salt nor light change the basic structure of that to which they are applied. They only bring out what is already there. A world without light could not survive, much less create and sustain life. A world without salt would be flat, bland, and tasteless. Christians are to be anything but bland!

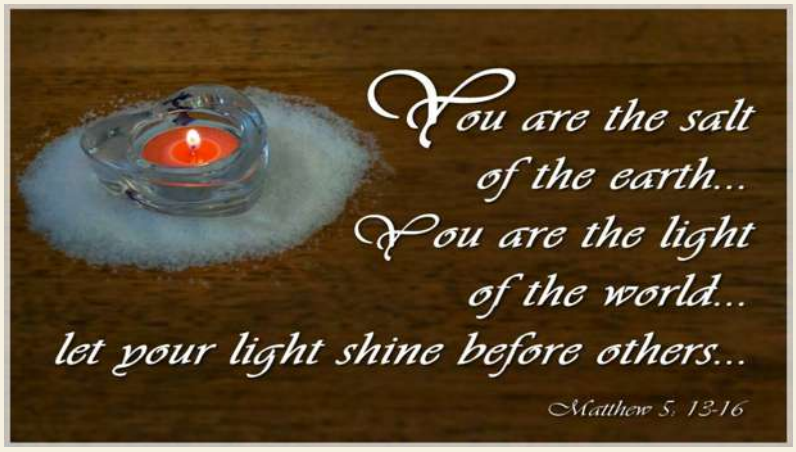
Salt and light. To those who call for peace and understanding, the challenge posed by Jesus is clear. His words are not addressed simply to the disciples. They are addressed to you and me. His words are urgent: ***You are the light of the world.***

However, in Jesus' use of salt and light as images, there is a warning. His warning has everything to do with discipleship, in his day and in ours. The warning is about useless, flavorless salt and light which is withheld or kept to oneself. Jesus has no use for those who would keep the light and salt to themselves for their own edification. This is a call to discipleship which is courageous, public, and obvious to all. This is a call that requires daily commitment, courageous decisions, and public service. When discipleship is lived in this way, it can truly be said that disciples make a difference in the world.

Like, St. Paul, we are called to proclaim the Gospel, to place ourselves at the service of God's word. Like St. Paul, we are called to the ministry of bringing good news to places of darkness, to be spice and flavor where the world is bland. We have countless God given gifts and like St. Paul, each of us has a birthright given by God, an innate ability to make a difference.

When the disciples at last chose to be light and salt they become a force to be reckoned with. When we, as disciples of Christ, choose likewise, we, too, can change the world. When the day comes that we are called home to be with God, may we be counted among those who made the world a better place. May we hear the voice of God say, "*Well done, good and faithful servant" (Mt. 25:21).*

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca



Welcome New Parishioners

We welcome those who registered in our parish during the month of January 2023.

Elida & Lucio Almeida Viuchima

Baptisms

We welcome those who were Baptized during the month of January 2023.

John Joseph Roeder
Zoey Karen Orosz
Oliver Raul Corleto Farrat

Marriage

Congratulations to those who were married in our Parish in the month of January 2023.

Nicholas Thomas Mistretta
&
Kelsey Eileen Papanicolaou

Purgatorials

The following names have been enrolled in our Purgatorial Society for the month of January 2023. Please remember to continue to pray for their families.

Jason Abbenante

Recently Deceased

The following have passed away during the month of January 2023. We continue to pray for the recently deceased members of our parish.

John Clemente
Vito Vicari
Christine Broderick

Saturday, February 11, 2023
The Feast of
Our Lady of Lourdes

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: "O Mary conceived without sin." During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was "something white in the shape of a girl." She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning "this thing." It was "a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm." Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity. Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

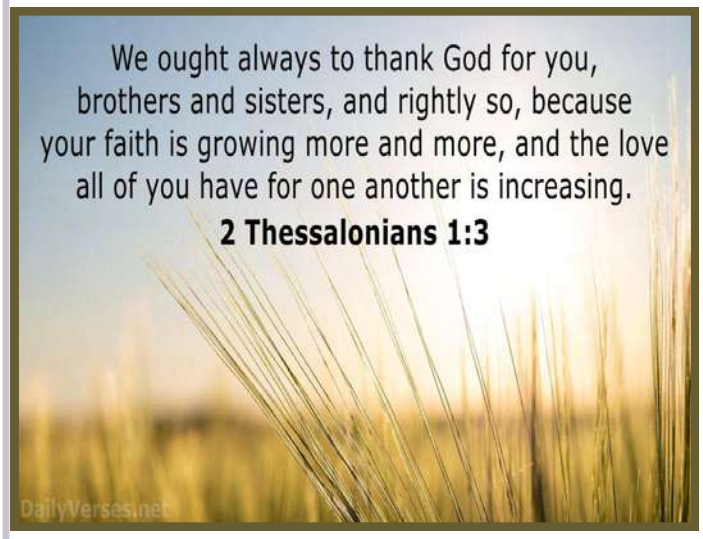
O glorious Mother of God, so powerful under your special title of Our Lady of Lourdes, to you we raise our hearts and hands to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the gracious heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare and for the special favor we so earnestly seek.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.
Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

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.



Holy Name Society

On Sunday, February 12th, 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.

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 Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time January 29, 2023

"You are the body of Christ and individually members of it "

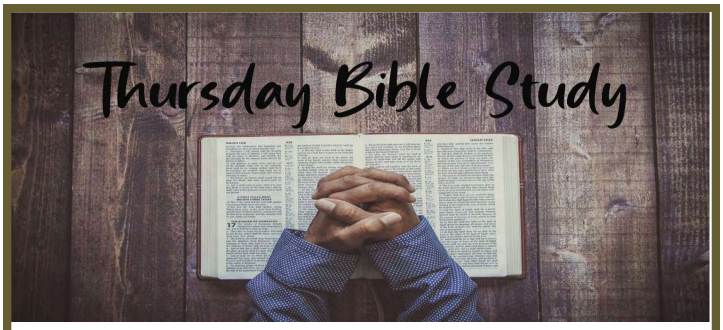
Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

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

FOCUS:

Your light must shine before others.

In both the Old and New Testaments, the secret to knowing the love of God is revealed: Share and love as God loves. God wants everyone to know the peace and joy we experience because He loves us and lights our way. He didn't give us His love to keep; we must share it with others. The mystery is, the more we share His love and light, the more we know how loved we are.



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

The Scripture Study group will take a brief winter recess and will resume again on February 9, 2023. Join us on Thursday, February 9th, 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 5-11. Come join us in the new year.

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!

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.

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.

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	**$3,993.00**
2nd Collection- SFACA	***$1,575.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

The Tablet
A CATHOLIC WEEKLY
BROOKLYN, N. Y., SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1939
HOLY FATHER ASKS GREAT DRIVE FOR WORLD PEACE
Bishop Pays Tribute To Cathedral College
REDS CAUSE RIOT AT CHURCH DUE TO PEACE PLEA

Next weekend, February 11th and 12th the second collection will be for The Tablet.

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.

Msgr. Maresca

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.

MASS COUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2023

The average attendance for the month of January (4 weekends):

5pm	**96**
8am	**51**
9:30am	**160**
11am	**190**
12:30pm	**107**

50/50 Winners January 2023

First Prize
Mrs. Ann Kean

Second Prize
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Zilinski

Third Prize
Mrs. Pietro Zuliani

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

February 5—February 11

Sunday, February 5
9:30AM-Pre-Communion Mass
10:40-12 Noon CCD
2:00PM-Confirmation

Monday, February 6
12:00-3:30PM-Golden Age
3:00-3:45PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, February 7
6:30PM—AA Meeting

Wednesday, February 8
7:00PM—Baptism Class

Thursday, February 9
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR
6:00PM—I.A.C.A.
7:20-8:50PM—Scripture Study

Friday, February 10

Saturday, February 11

NEXT WEEK

February 12—February 18

Sunday, February 12
8:00AM Holy Name Mass
9:30AM-Children's Liturgy
10:40-12 Noon CCD
12:30PM Knights of Columbus 125th Anniversary

Monday, February 13
12:00-3:30PM-Golden Age
3:00-3:45PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

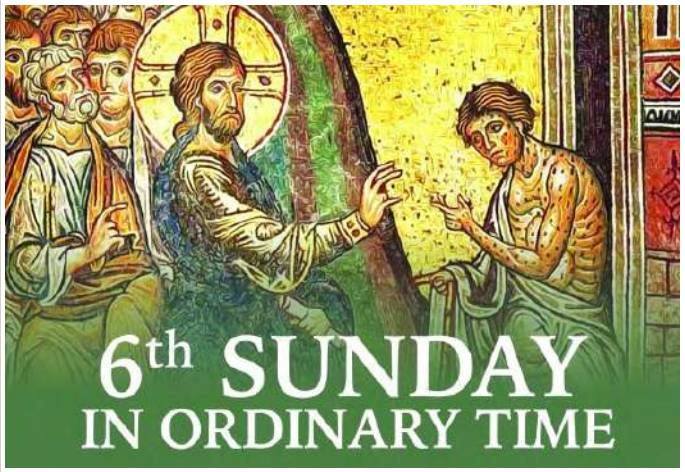
Tuesday, February 14
6:30PM—AA Meeting

Wednesday, February 15

Thursday, February 16
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR
6:00PM—I.A.C.A.
7:20-8:50PM—Scripture Study

Friday, February 17

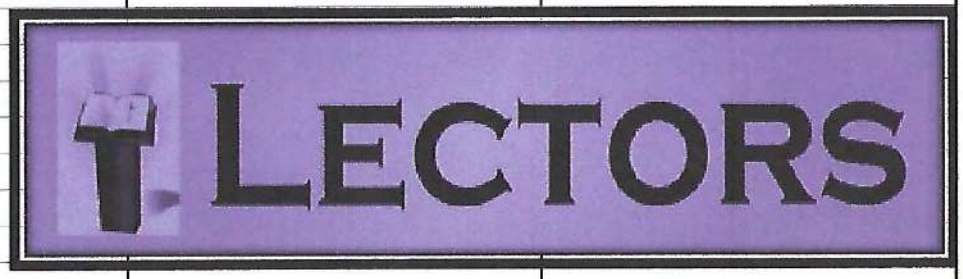
Saturday, February 18



FEBRUSRY 2023
LECTOR ASSIGNMENTS

	THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
	FEBRUARY 4-5	FEBRUARY 11-12	FEBRUARY 18-19	FEBRUARY 25-26
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski	Debbi Skinner	Dolores Ratkowski
Sunday 8:00 A.M.	Andrew Soltesz	Andrew Soltesz	Andrew Soltesz	Robert Laucella
Sunday 9:30 A.M.	Josephine Corso	Patrick O'Toole	Marta O'Toole	Maria Brooks
Sunday 11:00 A.M.	Jane Di Donato	Jane Di Donato	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey
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



Growing in FAITH™

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

February 2023

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

One Minute Meditations

Flee temptation

Christians are meant for Heaven. Yet, the world can work against our efforts for holiness. St. Peter tells us to *"escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires"* (2 Peter 1:4). Ask God often to protect you from sin, to give you the wisdom and courage to make good choices and, become sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. God will reveal when you've messed up, and rejoice with you when you get it right.

Serve without complaint

Every job has aspects about it that are tedious, messy, and unrewarding, yet they are necessary. However, they can be opportunities to grow in virtue: humility, patience, self-discipline, etc. When you dread doing your work, smile and say a prayer, *"and your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you"* (Matthew 6:4).

"The works of God are all of them good; in its own time every need is supplied" (Sirach 39:16).

Take steps to share your faith during Lent

Jesus didn't intend for the Great Commission – *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19) – to be a heavy burden. He meant witnessing to His love to come through the natural course of living a Christ-inspired life. Consider making more disciples this Lent:

Live a Catholic life. Non-believers may hear what we say about Jesus, but they are persuaded by seeing how our love for Him shapes our lives. It is critical that worship – Sunday Mass, Confession, Scripture – informs our life choices. When we spend time in Jesus' presence, His character rubs off on us.

Bring Christ out into the world. Jesus asked that we care for the poor and needy, thus acting as His hands and feet in the world. We may not be able to solve all of their problems, but we can show them the reality of Christ's love in their lives.

Talk about God's plan. God wants us each to experience the peace He offers. Help others know that God's love is personal and He has a specific plan for each of us.

Invite. Some people will be ready to "come and see," so consider inviting seekers to Mass. Others might be ready to "take up and read." Share your favorite inspirational reading. If you need other suggestions, ask your pastor or favorite religious.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics strike their chests?

When we use our voices, our minds, and even our bodies during prayer, we pray with deeper meaning and enthusiasm. During the Confiteor at Mass, for example, we strike our chest three times, saying, "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." It's an ancient symbol of sorrow and repentance for having offended God or hurting our neighbor. Such a gesture reminds us to take responsibility for our actions and pray for forgiveness and grace to change.

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Lent leads us back to God

"For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment" (Joel 2:13). Lent may be a penitential season, but it is also a wonderful reminder that no matter how we let sin interfere in our relationship with God, He always wants us back. Gracious and merciful is He.

"Return to me with your whole heart." Throughout the year, sin creeps into our daily lives almost without our noticing. A bad habit such as using bad language or gossiping can keep us from loving God fully. Lent is a time to examine our lives and sweep aside whatever keeps us from giving God our whole heart.

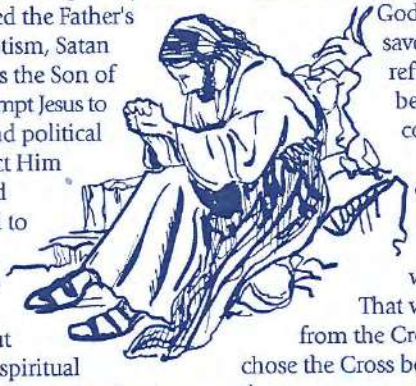
"Rend your hearts, not your garments." God doesn't just want outward acts of repentance. Our Father wants a change of heart. Start with Confession and then practice virtues such as prudence, temperance, and fortitude.

"Gather the people, notify the congregation." Become more active in your parish to build it up. Consider attending Mass more often than just once a week.

from Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11, Victory in the wilderness

In this passage, Jesus is tempted by the devil. Having witnessed the Father's declaration at His baptism, Satan tested Jesus' identity as the Son of God. His goal was to tempt Jesus to embrace an earthly and political mission and to distract Him from the suffering and death that would lead to the world's salvation.



Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His hunger with a miracle – to put physical needs above spiritual needs. In His response, Jesus taught us to put spiritual needs first and to entrust both body and soul to God's care. Next, Satan commanded Jesus to jump from the temple roof in an effort to force God to miraculously save Him. Again, Jesus refused. God is not to be forced or controlled.

Finally, Satan offered to surrender all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. That would save Jesus from the Cross. Instead, Jesus chose the Cross because it was the only way to save us. When tempted to do what's "easy" versus what's morally right, ask for the strength to choose what's right.

Q & A What's a simple way to explain the Faith, if asked?

St. Peter says to be ready to *"account for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15). Consider using this simple, five-point explanation, inspired by Bishop Michael Jackels:

Pinky: The smallest finger recalls our weakness and need for a Savior.

Although Jesus redeemed us, we're still weak and must pray for God's graces daily.

Ring finger: To save us, Jesus took on our human nature, "wedding" Himself to us. At Sunday Mass, we worship God and become one with Him in Holy Communion.

Middle finger: Jesus was raised up on the Cross for sins, then raised from the dead. We attend Confession monthly and receive the saving graces. We hope to be raised to eternal life.

Pointer: Jesus' call is universal, yet personal. He singled you out and chose you to follow Him; only you can give Jesus your "Yes" – in word and deed.

Thumb: Lastly, hitchhikers point their thumbs to ask, "Are you on my way?" Likewise, we're called to ask, "Are you going His Way?" (John 14:6).

Feasts & Celebrations

Lent begins February 22, and is devoted to the Passion of Our Lord. One form of observance is to pray the Stations of the Cross and meditate on Jesus' walk to Calvary.

February 1 – St. Brigid of Ireland (525). Born to an Irish chieftain and an enslaved mother in Ireland, St. Brigid founded a monastery for monks and nuns at Kildare and served as abbess until her death.

February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858). A heavenly "lady" appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl from a village in France and a miraculous spring emerged from a nearby cave. The "lady" revealed herself as the "Immaculate Conception," the Blessed Virgin Mary.

February 22 – Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent. Ashes are placed on the foreheads as a sign of penance.

February 27 – St. Gregory of Narek (1003). Born in Armenia to a devout Christian family, St. Gregory entered the Narek Monastery and was ordained in 977. He wrote treatises, letters, mystical poems, and Scripture commentaries.

Our Mission
To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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http://www.growinginfaith.com
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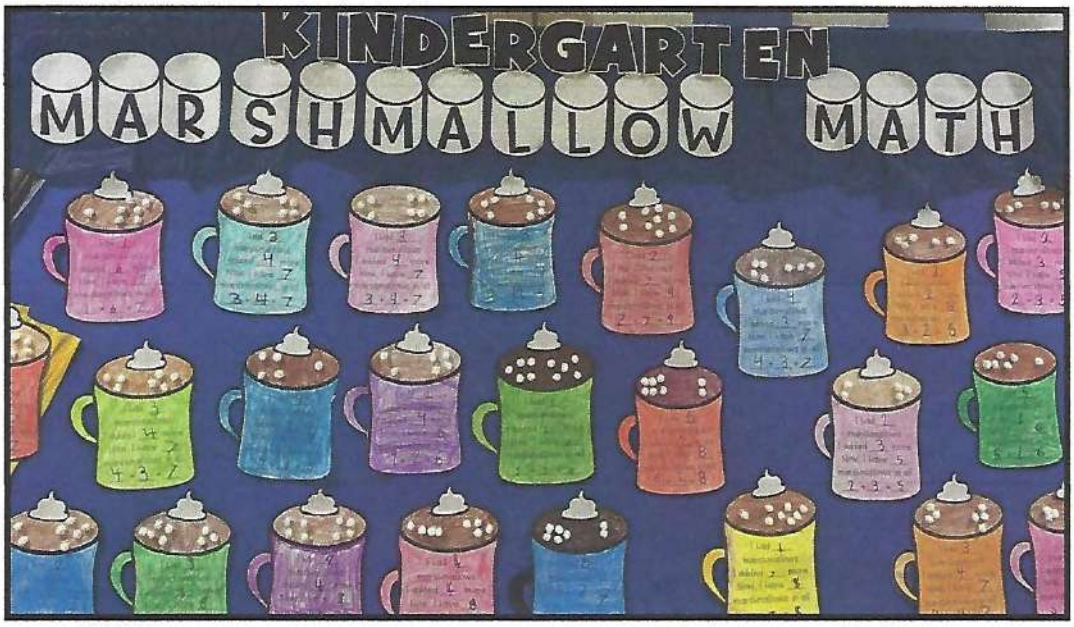
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC ACADEMY PRESENTS
K102 & K103
MISS STEPHANIE BISCAGLIA & MISS VALENTINA PADOVAN
JANUARY STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This month the students learned about addition!

Kindergarten learned about addition in Math Class.
Each student created a marshmallow craft. Using the marshmallows, the students wrote an addition sentence to figure out how many marshmallows they had all together.



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

"The Eucharist
is my highway
to heaven"
Carlos Acutis

Come to have a day with Jesus in the Eucharist.

February 18 2023

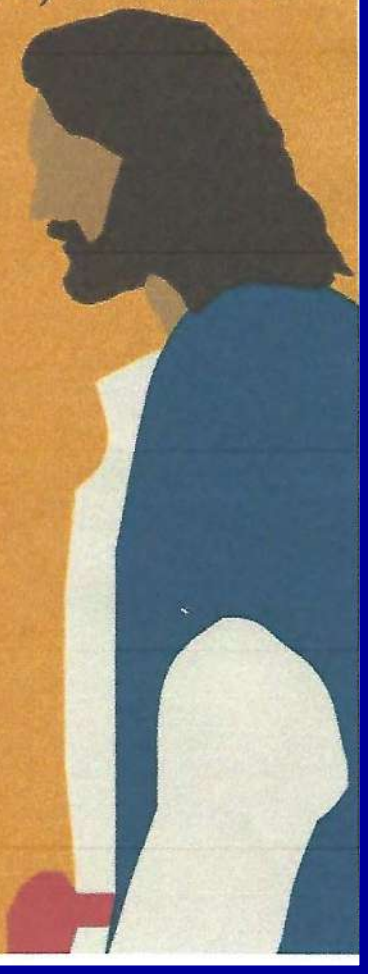
10 am to 2pm

St Joseph's school gym 28-46, 44th st, Astoria

Teens from 12 to 19 years old

JESUS IS WAITING FOR YOU

FOR MORE INFO
EMAIL YULIANA
YOUTH.MINISTRY@STJOSEPHASTORIA.ORG



HEART TO HEART MINISTRY

Women's Brunch Retreat

American Martyrs Church~Bayside
79-43 Bell Boulevard/Union Turnpike

Sullivan Hall*(Accessible)**

Saturday, February 11, 2023

9:45am—12 Noon

Theme: Ordinary is Wonderful

Wonderful Reflection and Music by Alverlis

****Donation Basket that day.**

RSVP to Sister Ave Clark, O.P.
(718) 428-2471

Knights of Columbus

Colon-Msgr. Higgins Council No. 309

125th Anniversary

Sunday, February 12, 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Church
21-17 45th Street
Astoria, NY 11105

Mass of Thanksgiving at 12:30 PM

Dinner at 2:00 PM
Msgr. Campbell Hall (lower church)

Music | 50/50 Raffle | $75 per Person

RSVP January 27, 2023

For more information contact Boris Musich, 718-683-1051 or John Ketcham, 347-306-2366.

_____Number of tickets @ $75 each

Names of guests: _____

__ I can't attend but wish to donate to the good works of the council. Amount: _____

Total payment: _____

Name: _____

Email address: _____ Phone:_____

Make checks payable to 'Colon-Msgr. Higgins Council 309' and mail to:

Boris Musich, Financial Secretary
20-18 74th St., Apt. 2
East Elmhurst, NY 11370

You may also send your payment via Zelle to boris.musich@gmail.com

THANK YOU

2022 Tax Contribution Statements

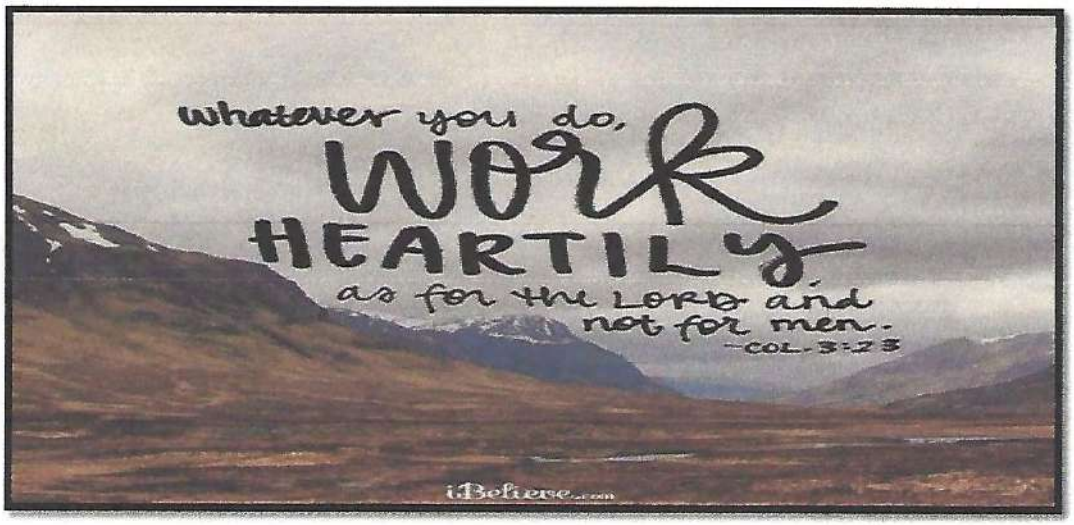
All parishioners who would like to receive a copy of their 2022 Tax Contribution Statement should complete the form below.

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 #: _____

ENVELOPE # _____