The Third Sunday of Lent

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, March 12 – The Third Sunday of Lent
8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. Aino DeJoseph
11:00 A.M. James Power
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Matteo Ferrara
Rosario Rosaria Manganella
Giuseppina Felice Spiotta
Giuseppe Vitulia Spiotta
Rosa Sferrazza
Ivica Knezevic

MONDAY, March 13 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. The Spiciaric Family

TUESDAY, March 14– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Marie Salamone

WEDNESDAY, March 15– Weekday
9:00A.M. Jurja Marusic

THURSDAY, March 16—Weekday
9:00 A.M. Deceased Members of the
Maresca Family

FRIDAY, March 17 – St. Patrick
9:00 A.M. Dawn Saavedra

SATURDAY, March 18– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Franje Turkovich
Mary Ethel McCann

5:00 P.M. Patrick Farrell

SUNDAY, March 19 - The Fourth Sunday of Lent
8:00 A.M. Joseph Cseri
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00 A.M. Joseph Salamone
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Lolanda Babore

Today's Readings

The Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: 2 Kings 5:1-15ab
Luke 4:24-30

TUESDAY: Daniel 3:25, 34-43
Matthew 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
Matthew 5:17-19

THURSDAY: Jeremiah 7:23-28
Luke 11:14-23

FRIDAY: Hosea 14:2-10
Mark 12:28-34

SATURDAY: Hosea 6:1-6
Luke 18:9-14

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1b2 6-7, 10-13a
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear Parishioners,

The woman at the well must have been quite startled when Jesus approached her. She had come to the well to draw water and found him sitting there. She is surprised that this Jew would ask her, a Samaritan woman, for water. There was a long standing barrier of hatred between the Jews and the Samaritans. Jesus sidesteps her hesitancy and offers her living water, the symbol of a life giving gift. Jesus reveals who he is in stages and the woman comes to recognize him as the Messiah in stages. At first she misunderstands, then she comes to believe.

Water has always been important in biblical imagery. During the forty years of the desert wanderings of the Israelites, God fed them with manna and gave them water to drink. Water was an important symbolic metaphor in the life of Israel and eventually came to describe the final redemption of God's people. Jesus now identifies himself with this water of life. It is significant that they are sitting at Jacob's well, a place where important events had taken place. The woman refers to Jacob's gift of water but Jesus makes a distinction between ordinary water and a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Soon the conversation turns to the immoral life of the woman which Jesus brings into focus. The woman perceives that He is a special person and addresses him as a prophet. Jesus tells her that in the days to come, true worshipers will worship in spirit and truth. Worship is not to be limited to the Temple in Jerusalem as the Jews believed, but is to be conducted by the followers of Christ as a community guided by the Spirit of Truth.

The woman, thirsting at the words of Jesus, expresses her belief in the Messiah who is to come. She is astounded when Jesus reveals to her that he is the Messiah, the Promised One of God. The woman hurries back to the town and tells her neighbors that a prophet-possibly the Messiah?-is at the outskirts of their town. Because of her testimony they come to listen to His words. They too believe and bestow on Him the title the Savior of the world. Christ's saving work is not intended for a limited group but for all who come to drink at the waters of life.

For Christians the water of life is the water with which we were baptized. During the approaching Easter vigil we will share the water which brings eternal life. We will be sprinkled with newly blessed water and we will renew our commitment in faith to follow Christ in our daily lives. We must make an appropriate response. Is our response one which will lead us to drink deeply of the waters of life? Christ gives us the water; we must become true disciples making it into a river which will sweep us more earnestly into the life of Christ.

One final thought. The Samaritan woman and the townspeople listened to Jesus and responded. How our thirst is satisfied depends on how we choose, what priorities we have in our lives. This Sunday and the next two Sundays all point to Jesus as the center and the goal of our lives. This demands faith, renewal, allegiance to the word of God and worship in spirit and truth. We can so easily be led to look for gratification and superficial pleasures which our culture puts forward as ways to quench our thirst. The things we crave-the newest, the best-will never satisfy us. The only source of life giving water is found in Christ.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

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 13th 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.

Easter Candle

The Easter Candle will burn in Memory of:

Rose & Denis Sweeney
Lucia & Ralph Borgia
Domenick Borgia
Ralph & Rita Maresca
William LeDone
Ana Zgaljic
Antonina Kos
John Kos
Yolanda Palazzolo
Natale Palazzolo
Marija Kuljanic
Louis & Theresa Falco
Nick & Millie Mistretta
Vincenzo & Maria Falco
Frank & Adelina Falzetti

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 13th, 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.

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, Antonio Gelsomina Spiotta & lucia Spiotta.

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.

Memorials for the Week of March 12, 2023

ALTAR WINE

In Loving Memory of
James Power
Requested by:
Nanette, James & Kevin

HNS
BLESSED BE THE NAME OF JESUS

Holy Name Society

On Sunday, March 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 Third Sunday of Lent March 12, 2023

"This is My Son, My Chosen, listen to Him."

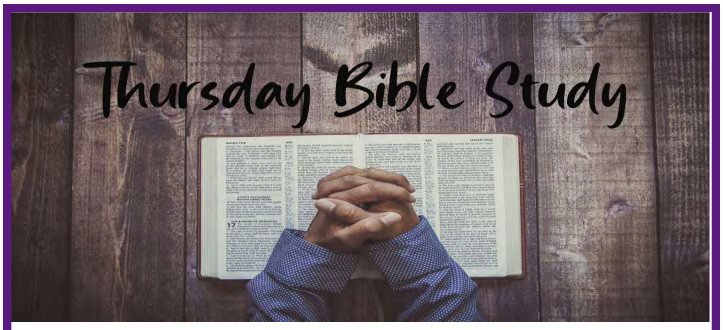
Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

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

FOCUS:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your heart.

Just as Jesus approaches the outcast Samaritan woman at the well with intimate knowledge of her history and her heart, so, too, does Christ approach us. He comes with the offer of living water that will forever satiate our thirst if only we soften our hearts to hear his voice.



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 16th, 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 34-39. 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 **$4,881.00**

School parents must use church envelopes.

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.

CRS CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES faith. action. results.

Next weekend, March 18th and 19th, the second collection will be for Catholic Relief Services.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

2023 Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimage

This year, as a part of the Eucharistic Revival that is being promoted by the Church, the Diocese of Brooklyn has announced a Lenten Pilgrimage of Eucharistic Adoration around the diocese, beginning at St. James Cathedral in Brooklyn and ending in Maspeth. Locally, the pilgrimage will arrive at Immaculate Conception Parish on March 30th, and then at St. Rita Parish on March 31st. As the dates get closer, we will promote the pilgrimage in the bulletin. For further information about the pilgrimage, you can visit this website:

dioceseofbrooklyn.org/LentenPilgrimage.

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

Dispensation for Saint Patrick's Day

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

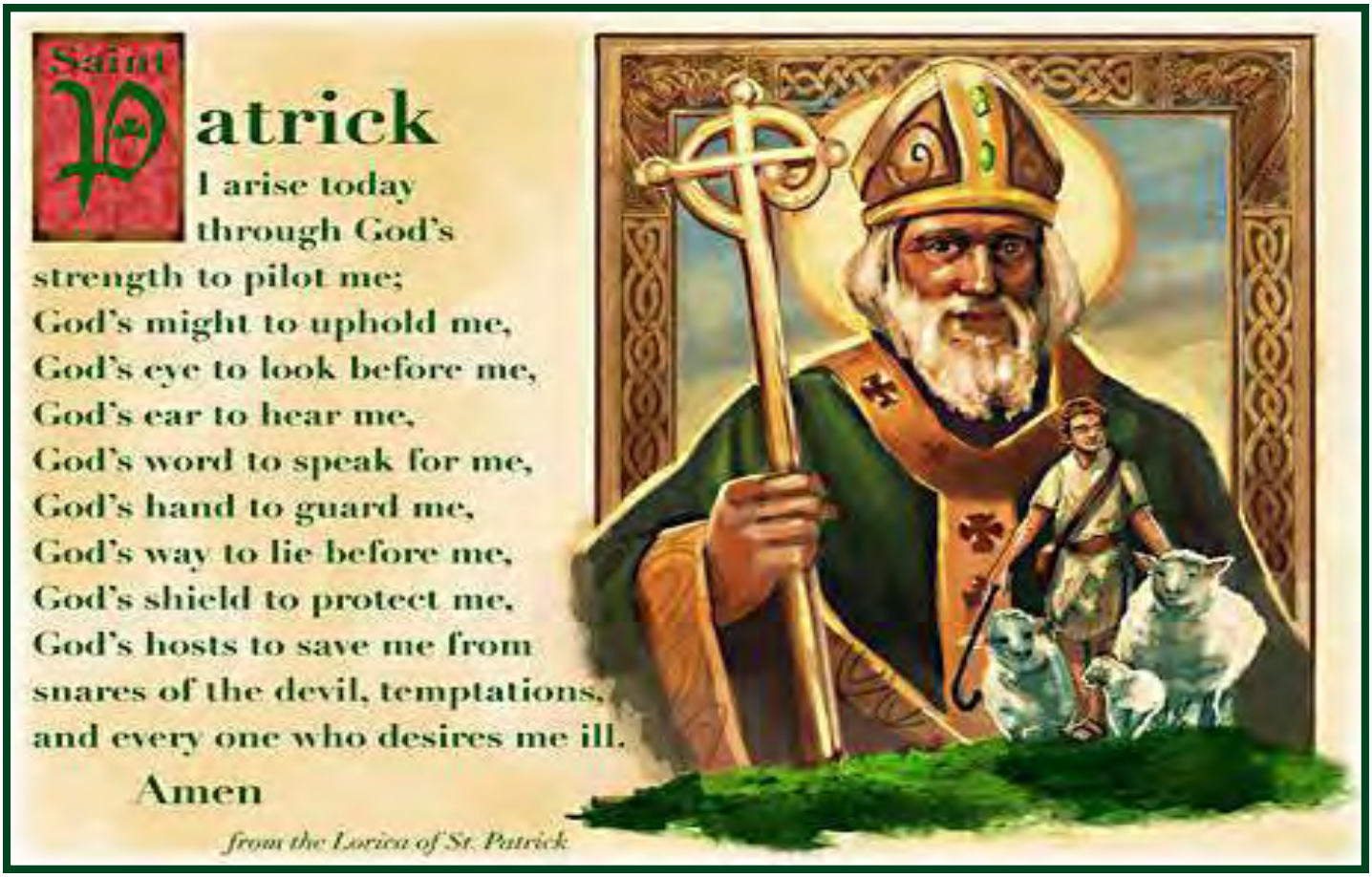
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Saint Patrick's Day is a day of celebration for many of the faithful in the Diocese of Brooklyn. To honor Saint Patrick is to honor the missionary spirit by which he brought the Faith to Ireland and which so many Irish immigrants brought to this Diocese.

The Memorial of Saint Patrick on March 17, 2023, falls, this year, on a Friday during the Penitential Season of Lent. Because of the importance of the celebration, I am happy to grant a dispensation from the obligation to abstain from eating meat on that day. This dispensation may be enjoyed by all the Faithful whether residing in the Diocese or who find themselves present in the Diocese.

Because of the great importance of the penitential character of the Season of Lent, the Faithful who do make use of the dispensation are asked to substitute abstinence on that day with another penitential act or work of charity.

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Brooklyn



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

March 12—March 18

Sunday, March 12
8:00AM Holy Name Mass
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40 CCD

Monday, March 13
9:00AM Parish Mission
12:00-3:30PM-Golden Age
3:00-3:45PM Children's Choir
7:30PM Parish Mission

Tuesday, March 14
9:00AM Parish Mission
6:30PM AA Meeting
8:00PM Knights of Columbus Meeting
7:30PM Prayer Service

Wednesday, March 15
9:00AM Parish Mission
7:30PM Parish Mission

Thursday, March 16
9:00AM Parish Mission
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR
6:00PM IACA
7:20-8:50 Scripture Study
7:30PM Parish Mission

Friday, March 17
Supper & Stations

Saturday, March 18

NEXT WEEK

March 19—March 25

Sunday, March 19
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40 CCD

Monday, March 20
12:00-3:30PM-Golden Age
3:00-3:45PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, March 21
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, March 22

Thursday, March 23
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR
6:00PM IACA
7:20-8:50 Scripture Study

Friday, March 24
Supper & Stations

Saturday, March 25

You can take part in decorating St. Francis of Assisi Church by memorializing a Palm Cross during the Easter Season.

The Palm Crosses will adorn the walls inside of the church from Palm Sunday April 1 & 2 until Divine Mercy Sunday April 15 & 16

Small messages of dedication will be attached to each cross.
ie: In Loving Memory of…….
In Thanksgiving for ……..

Donations to memorialize a cross: $50

Please submit payment to the rectory or in any collection by March 24th.

PALM CROSS

Requested by_____

In Loving Memory of_____
OR
In Thanksgiving for _____

Amount enclosed $_____

DIOCESAN NEWS

Lenten Regulations 2023

The penitential and grace-filled Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22, 2023. It is a time of hope-filled renewal as the Church journeys towards Easter. In order to assist the faithful of the Diocese of Brooklyn, our Bishop, the Most Reverend Robert Brennan wishes to draw attention to the following:

ABSTINENCE

All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age are required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

FASTING

All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday. Fasting means limiting oneself to one full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken on two other occasions during the day. Coffee, tea and juice are permitted at any time.

EASTER DUTY

After they have been fully initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled in the Easter Season unless, for a good reason, it is fulfilled at another time. By special permission, in the USA, the period for fulfilling this precept is extended to include the period from the 1st Sunday of Lent (February 26) until Pentecost (May 28).

EASTER VIGIL

Sunset in Brooklyn on April 8, 2023 (Holy Saturday) will be at 7:28 pm. Since the Easter Vigil should begin after dark, the Vigil could begin between 7:30 pm and 8 pm or later and must end before dawn on Easter Sunday (April 9).

Also to be noted:

The "Alleluia" is not sung or said from the beginning of Lent until the Easter Vigil. Musical instruments are to be used during Lent and the Paschal Triduum only to give necessary support to the singing.

The Church should not be decorated with flowers during Lent. Exceptions are the Solemnities of Saint Joseph (which is celebrated on March 20, 2023, this year) and the Annunciation (March 25).

The practice of covering crosses and images in the church may be observed from Sunday, March 26. Crosses remain covered until the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday and other images until the Easter Vigil.

Funeral Masses are not permitted during the Paschal Triduum. Funeral Rites carried out during those days make use of a Liturgy of the Word with a Rite of Farewell.

The obligation to observe, as a whole or substantially, the penitential days specified by the Church is a serious one. Days of penance are not merely individual exercises but rather ones observed by the whole Church as the Body of Christ.

The faithful are urged to celebrate the sacraments of the Eucharist and Penances frequently during Lent as well as reading the Word of God, praying the Stations of the Cross, praying before the Blessed Sacrament and performing acts of charity especially to the poor.

Pastors and parents are responsible for teaching young people, who are not bound by the above regulations, an authentic sense of penance.

All other Fridays of the year remain days of penance. The Bishops of the USA have recommended that abstinence from meat remain a penitential practice for those days but another practice of voluntary self-denial, personal penance, or charity is also encouraged.

In prayerful communion with the candidates and catechumens, let us accompany the Lord on His way to the cross and the empty tomb. May this time of Lent unite us all more closely to the Lord in His death and His Resurrection!

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.

© copyright 2023 InFaith Publishing Group, www.infaithpublishing.com

293180

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Each year **St. Francis Of Assisi** and the Diocese of Brooklyn engage in the **Annual Catholic Appeal** which supports Catholic programs throughout Brooklyn and Queens and affects the lives of countless individuals and families living in our neighborhoods in addition to benefiting our parish.

How Does Our Parish Benefit?

In order for our parish to function, we need well-trained **priests and deacons** who can celebrate the sacraments and administer the parish. Without the **$2.5 Million** from the Appeal allocated to vocations, we would not have the clergy our parish needs.

Our Children are the future of our parish, and we are called to support them as they grow in faith. The Appeal provides funding that supports every parish **religious education program** as well as tuition assistance to those seeking **Catholic Education** at Catholic Academies and Schools. Over **$1.8 million** from the Appeal is invested in the faith of our children in addition to also providing **adult faith formation.** Instruction programs for lay people, including those in our own parish, provide training in ministries such as Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors or prepare others for sacraments.

The Appeal also provides funding for the Youth Ministers working in parishes throughout Brooklyn and Queens. **$150,000** each year from our donations sustains the **Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative,** which has been supported by Generations of Faith, ensuring that young people encounter Christ through the Church, forming life-long bonds of faith which will sustain our parishes for years to come.

Christ Himself has called all on us to care for those among us in need, but as one parish we lack the time, space, skills, and volunteers that it takes to address the needs of all our brothers and sisters who need our help. Therefore, through the Annual Catholic Appeal, our parish supports the work of **Catholic Charities** and **Catholic Migration Services** which receive a total of **$1.4 million** from the Appeal. Together we can welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and shelter the homeless in the name of our Church.

The **Annual Catholic Appeal** seeks to raise a minimum of $8 million to provide programs and ministries throughout the Diocese and support the local efforts of parishes like ours.

The goal at St. Francis Of Assisi is $41,679

Once we exceed our goal, we will then receive 100% of all funds raised above this figure directly back to our parish.

For questions regarding the *Annual Catholic Appeal*, or to schedule an appointment to make a gift to the parish, please contact the Parish Office – (718) 728-7801

United in Communion
United in Charity

In our efforts to spread the Gospel of Christ, we also have a responsibility as Catholics to minister to those who are ill, students in high schools and colleges as well as those who are imprisoned, just as Christ directed us to. The Appeal provides **$1.1 million** to ensure that **chaplains** bring the sacraments of the church to those who are ill, imprisoned, or are studying in high school and college.

Why is my participation important?

As followers of Jesus here at **St. Francis Of Assisi**, we understand our responsibility to our parish implies a responsibility to the diocese, which unites us together with the entire Catholic community as the one body of Christ.

When one part of the body does not participate, the entire body suffers and makes it harder to function. Likewise, your participation in this Appeal, over and above your regular Sunday offering, will determine the ability of **St. Francis Of Assisi** to faithfully support the mission of Christ while also providing the needed support we receive as one parish, which is part of the larger Catholic Church.

WHAT IS NEXT FOR THE Annual Catholic Appeal AND HOW CAN WE HELP?

Please join us to respond as the Church of Christ United in Communion, United in Charity in Brooklyn and Queens through a pledge to the *Annual Catholic Appeal* today at **AnnualCatholicAppeal.org** or text ***DONATE*** to **917-336-1255**

Thank you and God bless you.

4063 - St. Francis Of Assisi

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:

PLEASE NOTE

Since Bishop Brennan gave a dispensation for Friday, March 17th, we will have dessert on Friday March 17th for Supper and Stations, and salad on March 31st for Supper and Stations.

Please fill out the slip below **as soon as possible**
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 17th - Desert Night**
_____ **Friday, March 24th - Pasta and Bread**
_____ **Friday, March 31st - Salad Night**

Kindly return by Sunday, **March 12th**

A Three-Year Lecture Program

The Great Mysteries of the Catholic Faith

Encountering Christ: First Year Preparation for our 100th Anniversary

Year One Series: The Mystery of the Incarnation

Speaker: Fr. Anthony Ciorra – Internationally acclaimed Speaker

Three Wednesday Nights this Lent

March 15: And the Word Was Made Human

March 22: Becoming Fully Human and Fully Alive

March 29: Embracing All That Is Human

All Lectures will be in the Lower Church at 7:00 p.m.

No Pre-Registration Necessary.

$10 for Each Lecture--$25 for a Series Ticket.

Looking ahead

2nd Series: The Mystery of the Redemption—Lent of 2024

3rd Series: The Mystery of the Holy Trinity—Lent of 2025

100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 2022-2023 IMMACULATE PARISH RENEWAL

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

MARCH 25, 2023
@ 11:00 AM

FOLEY SQUARE
111 Worth Street
NY,NY 10013

COME CELEBRATE
'THE DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD'

***Registration is required here:**
www.PersonhoodEducationNY.com

THE NATIONAL MEN'S MARCH WILL BE PARTICIPATING

BUSES FROM
STATEN ISLAND: +1.347.896.2307
WESTCHESTER: +1.914.473.0784

International Gift of Life Walk -NYC

Life without compromises

GRAND PRO-LIFE MARSHAL

HAYWOOD ROBINSON, MD
40 Days For Life
FORMER ABORTION DOCTOR

JENNIFHER DIRCIO
FRANCISCAN SISTERS
OF THE PURE HEART MINISTRY

FR. VINCENT DRUDING
HOLY CROSS CHURCH (BRONX)

ED MECHMANN, ESQ
POLICY DIRECTOR
ARCH DIOCESE OF NYC

THERESA BONOPARTIS
DIRECTOR OF 'LUMINA'
CO-DEVELOPER OF
ENTERING CANAAN MINISTRY

REV. STEPHEN IMBARRATO
CO-FOUNDER MEN'S MARCH
FOUNDER, DIRECTOR LIFE MINISTRIES US

DAWN ESKEW
PRESIDENT, FOUNDER
PERSONHOOD EDUCATION NEW YORK, INC.

JIM HAVENS
THE SIMPLE TRUTH HOST
CO-FOUNDER THE MEN'S MARCH

WITNESS TO THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON
AS YOU WALK DOWN THE 'CANYON OF HEROES'
WALK IS ONLY 0.9 MILES

YOU CAN HELP WITH YOUR TAX EXEMPT DONATION OR SPONSORSHIP
EIN# 46-4683058 NYS CHAR #44-46-33
PERSONHOOD EDUCATION NEW YORK, INC.
BOX 424, HICKSVILLE, NY 11802
1.631.487.7578

Saint Francis of Assisi Presents

CLUB BASEBALL

Who can attend?

Boys and girls from St. Francis and local community

What grades?

K through 8th

When?

Wed, Mar 8th, Wed, Mar 22nd, Sat, March 25th – More to be scheduled

Where?

SFA Church Basement plus other indoor/outdoor venues

What are we teaching?

- **Hitting, throwing and fielding drills**
- **Base running**
- **Fielding fundamentals**
- **Discipline and team play**
- **Safety rules**

Cost?

ZERO for winter session. SFA will join a Spring league with SFA uniforms if a team(s) can be formed. Fees would apply

Where do I inquire/ Sign up?

Email SFA.Astoria.Baseball@gmail.com to join our roster or to ask any