The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, March 26 – The Fifth Sunday of Lent
8:00 A.M. Bill Gastic
9:30 A.M. Agnes Reilly
11:00 A.M. For the People of St. francis
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Calagio Cutaia
Giovanni Maria DiBenedetto
Diego Piazza

MONDAY, March 27 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Edward Carus

TUESDAY, March 28– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Rev. Msgr. John Scerri

WEDNESDAY, March 29– Weekday
9:00A.M. Joseph Santagato Sr.

THURSDAY, March 30—Weekday
9:00 A.M. Jane Conlon

FRIDAY, March 31 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Sam Perrone

SATURDAY, April 1 Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Living and Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary
Elena Iocco
Luigi Iocco
Rose Palazzolo
The Dugan Family
Margaret McCarthy

5:00 P.M. Isabell Proveromo Conroy

SUNDAY, April 2 - PALM SUNDAY
8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Mate Turkovich
11:00 A.M. Romulo Novillo
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Giuseppe Carlino

Today's Readings

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62
John 8:1-11

TUESDAY: Numbers 21:4-9
John 8:21-30

WEDNESDAY: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
John 8:31-42

THURSDAY: Genesis 17:3-9
John 8:51-59

FRIDAY: Jeremiah 20:10-13
John 10:31-42

SATURDAY: Ezekiel 37:21-28
John 11:45-56

PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear Parishioners,

Today's readings are filled with imagery concerning death and resurrection. Many signs and symbols represent the eternal life we believe will be ours with Christ if we live according to his teachings. Today we hear one of the most powerful statements from Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me…will never die." For all Christians, this is the passage which can give us courage to face our personal death when it comes. No one ever said that death will be easy. We mourn when someone we know dies, but our belief in resurrection separates us from those who have no faith. How sad it is for those who do not believe that there is life after their earthly experience.

In today's passage from Ezekiel we hear God's promise through his prophet that the people will be returned from their exile; the chosen people of God will be restored to Israel. This reading is part of the famous passage known as the Vision of Dry Bones in which bones cover the ground. God breathed his spirit into them and they came to life through the words of his prophet. God will restore Israel back to the prominence it once had and bring his chosen people out of their misery.

In today's second reading, St. Paul tells the Romans that if they truly accept Christ into their hearts and believe that he is the Lord, then his spirit will dwell I each of them. Again we have the imagery of death and life. We hear now those who are dead to sin can be restored to life by the indwelling of the Spirit. St. Paul tells us today that if we believe in Christ, his Spirit will dwell in us.

All these thoughts on life and death can be rather frightening at times. Yet, we are told throughout Scripture that we must prepare ourselves for the time when God will call us to himself. It is our faith which allows us to prepare for this time with confidence. We believe in God who loves us unconditionally and who judges not only with justice, but with mercy as well. It is with hope that we hear Jesus say that he is the resurrection and the life. For us, our earthly life may be important but when we die, the life we enter is even more important. It is the hope of eternal life with God on which we base our faith.

May God bless us as we continue our Lenten journey and into Holy Week and our celebration of the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

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. The pilgrimage will arrive at Immaculate Conception Parish on March 30th, and then at St. Rita Parish on March 31st.

Thursday, March 30th

Immaculate Conception

8:45AM: Morning Prayer
9:00AM: The Holy Eucharist (Mass)
10:00AM: Children's Hour: Letters to Jesus from our Academy
11:00AM: The Holy Rosary: The Joyful Mysteries
12:00PM: The Stations of the Cross
1:00PM The Holy Rosary: The Luminous Mysteries
2:00PM: The Holy Rosary: The Sorrowful Mysteries
3:00PM: The Chaplet of Divine Mercy
4:00PM: The Holy Rosary: The Glorious Mysteries
4-6PM: Confessions
6:00PM: Holy Hour & Benediction Youth & Young Adults
7:00PM: Holy Hour & Benediction English & Italian
8:00PM: Holy Hour & Benediction Spanish

Friday, March 31st

Saint Rita

8:00AM: Mass in English
8:45AM: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9:00AM: Rosary—Bi-Lingual (Spanish & English)
9:45AM: Silent Adoration
12 00PM: Angelus in English Rosary in Spanish
1:00PM: Silent Adoration
3:00PM: Divine Mercy Chaplet in Spanish
4:00PM: Silent Prayer
6:00PM: Holy Hour with the Youth Group
7:30PM: Mass in Portuguese

For further information about the pilgrimage, you can visit this website: dioceseofbrooklyn.org/LentenPilgrimage.

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.

LENT
WALKING WITH CHRIST

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
John Purich
Louis & Theresa Falco
Nick & Millie Mistretta
Vincenzo & Maria Falco
Frank & Adelina Falzetti
Maria & Domenic Viscovich
Maria Vlacich
Sylvester V. Guerriero
Harold Elmendorf
Raffaele & Lucia Guerriero
Pasquale & Christina Iorio
Vincenzo & Benedetta Iorio
Pasquale & Lugina De Cicco
Carmela Messina

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

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.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY

April 3, 2023

On Monday, April 3rd, our Diocese will join both the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Rockville Centre in celebrating ***Reconciliation Monday***. On this special day, our parish will offer the ***Sacrament of Reconciliation*** from 3:00PM to 5:00PM and 7:00PM to 9:00PM, in preparation of for the holy days of the Paschal Triduum.

Beginning next weekend our statues will be covered and will remain so until Holy Saturday night.

This is done, as it was done in the past, to allow the faithful when they pray, no distractions in reflecting and mediating on the Crucifix. Let us in the last weeks of Lent remain close to the Lord as He journeys to Jerusalem, to take up His cross, to suffer and die for us.

Pray
for Vocations

The Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 26, 2023

"Christ Jesus has made me His own."

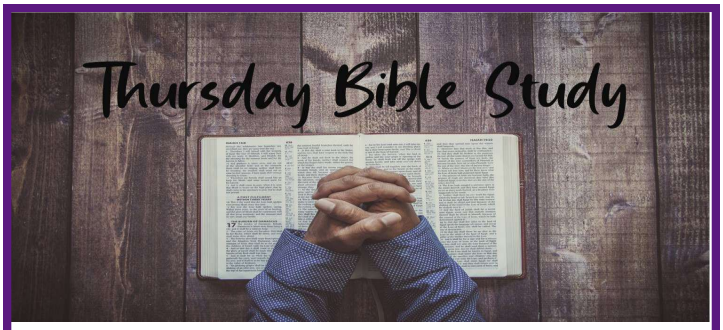
Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

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

FOCUS:

I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in His word.

It takes courage to truly believe in God's promises. He promises to raise His people from their graves. In his Letter to the Romans, Paul promises that those who live in the Spirit will receive life through the Spirit. In the gospel, Jesus raises His friend Lazarus from the dead, and many people come to believe in Him.



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 30th, 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 43-46. 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!

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.

Saturday, April 1, 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.

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 **$5,149.00**

2nd Colection.–Catholic Relief Fund ***$753.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Next weekend, April 1ST and 2ND, the second collection will be the **EASTER GIFT TO MY CHURCH.**

Your Easter Gift will go toward the operation of our parish with all it's programs and services.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our parish.

Easter Mass Remembrance envelopes can be returned in any collection before Easter. The names of your loved ones, living or deceased, will be remembered at the Easter Novena of Masses.

Easter Flower Offering envelopes can be returned in any collection.

Please clearly **print** the names as we will be listing the names in our Bulletin.

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.

MOLLOY UNIVERSITY

Spring Open House
Sunday, April 23, 2023
1:00PM

Register at: **www.molloy.edu/openhouse23**

The Mary Lewis Academy

The following students from our parish have attained Honor Roll status at The Mary Lewis Academy:

Principal's List:

Madison Barry
Kaitlyn Warren

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

For each car, truck or van, running or not, The Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn will give back to St. Francis of Assisi $50/100 per vehicle. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that they would like to donate.

Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at **(718) 491-2525.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

March 26—April 1

Sunday, March 26
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40 CCD
1:30PM—Baptisms

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

Tuesday, March 28
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, March 29

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

Friday, March 31
6:00PM Supper & Stations
7:30PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 1
6:00-7:30PM Youth Group Meeting

NEXT WEEK

April 2 - April 8

Sunday, April 2
PALM SUNDAY
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40 CCD

Monday, April 3
3:00-3:45PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

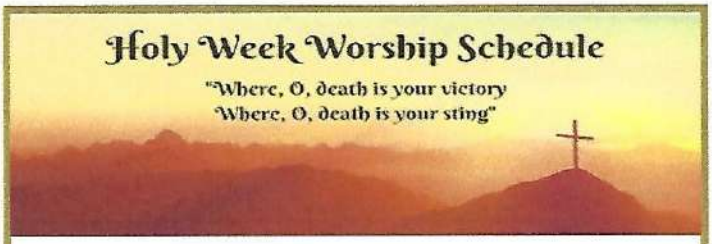
Tuesday, April 4
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 5
7:00PM—Baptism Class

Thursday, April 6
HOLY THURSDAY
9:00AM Morning Prayer
7:30PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 7
GOOD FRIDAY
9:00am Morning Prayer
2:30PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion
3:00PM Prayer Service
7:30PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 8
HOLY SATURDAY
9:00AM Morning Prayer
7:30PM Easter Vigil Mass



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023

Palms will be given out as you enter church and will be blessed at the beginning of each mass.

Saturday 5 P.M.

Sunday **8:00 A.M.**
9:30 A.M.
11 A.M.
12:30 P.M. (Italian)

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

Morning prayer - 9:00 A.M.

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30 P.M.

Visits to the Repository Until - 10:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2023

Morning Prayer - 9:00 A.M.

Stations of the Cross - 2:30 P.M.

Liturgy of the Passion & Death of the Lord:
3:00 P.M.
7:30 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023

Morning Prayer - 9:00 A.M.

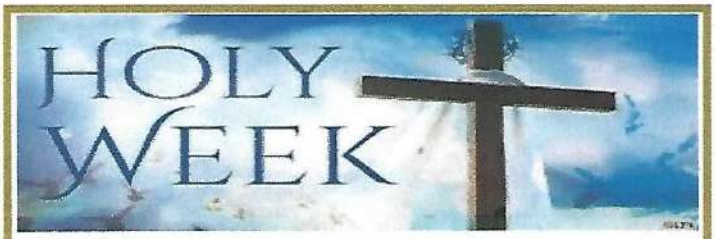
NO CONFESSIONS

NO 5:00 P.M. MASS

Easter Vigil - 7:30 P.M.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023

Masses **8:00 A.M.**
9:30 A.M.
11:00 A.M.
12:30 P.M. (Italian)



ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK

As we begin the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Jesus showed his love in his desire to remain with us always through the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Jesus invites us to intimacy, the intimacy of eating a meal together, the intimacy of his becoming our very food and drink so that he might share his life with us. The intimacy of remembering Jesus' life, death, and resurrection so deeply that Jesus is present among us.

Jesus invites us into a relationship that is so strong and so deep that it will enable our faith to grow even deeper. This Holy Thursday, let us spend some quiet moments with Jesus present in the Eucharist and tell him of our hearts' desires.

Good Friday is a day of mixed emotions. As we think of the pain our gentle Jesus suffered we cannot help being sorrowful. At the same time, however, we have reason to rejoice. Through his suffering and death on the cross Jesus has completed his mission on earth. He has opened the way for us who believe in him to share in the joy of his resurrection.

As we prayerfully recall Christ's passion, we see in it a reason to hope. Being God's divine son, Jesus could have overcome his oppressors, but he freely took this suffering upon himself out of love for us. If we believe in him and, like him, trust in the love and mercy of his divine Father, we too, can triumph over death.

May this Holy Week be a source of strength, hope, and courage for each one of us as we accompany Jesus through these celebrations.

God Bless, Msgr. Maresca

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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WAY OF THE CROSS

OVER THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE

Begins at 9:45 AM April 7, 2023.

St. James Cathedral-Basilica
250 Cathedral Place in Brooklyn
(corner of Jay and Tillary St.)

The procession will stop on the Brooklyn Bridge, at City Hall Park and end at St. Andrew's Church, Cardinal Hayes Plaza at 1:30 pm.

Borough Hall 2 3 4 5

Jay Street - MetroTech A C F R

Sponsored by
Communion and Liberation

www.wocbrooklynbridge.org (212) 337 3580 wocbrooklynbridge@gmail.com

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!

APRIL 2023
LECTOR ASSIGNMENTS

	PALM SUNDAY	EASTER VIGIL	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
	APRIL 2-3	APRIL 8-9	APRIL 15-16	APRIL 22-23	APRIL 29-30
Saturday 7:30 P.M.					
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Edward Kubina	***EASTER SUNDAY***	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski	Debbie Skinner
Sunday 8:00 A.M.	Robert Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Robert Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Robert Laucella
Sunday 9:30 A.M.	Josephine Corso	Patrick O'Toole	Josephine Corso	Marta O'Toole	Maria Brooks
Sunday 11:00 A.M.	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato
Sunday 12:30 P.M.	Eterna Bruno	Anna Maria Del Carro	Jackie Macchia	Anna Maria Tenaglia	Concetta D'Angelo

Please Note: Deacon John will contact the Lectors assigned on Palm Sunday. There will be a spearate schedule for Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil.

LECTORS

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 $_____

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Come and see what becoming a Catholic is about!

Do you think that God might be calling you to Baptism?
Have you always wanted to complete your first Sacraments of
Holy Communion or Confirmation?

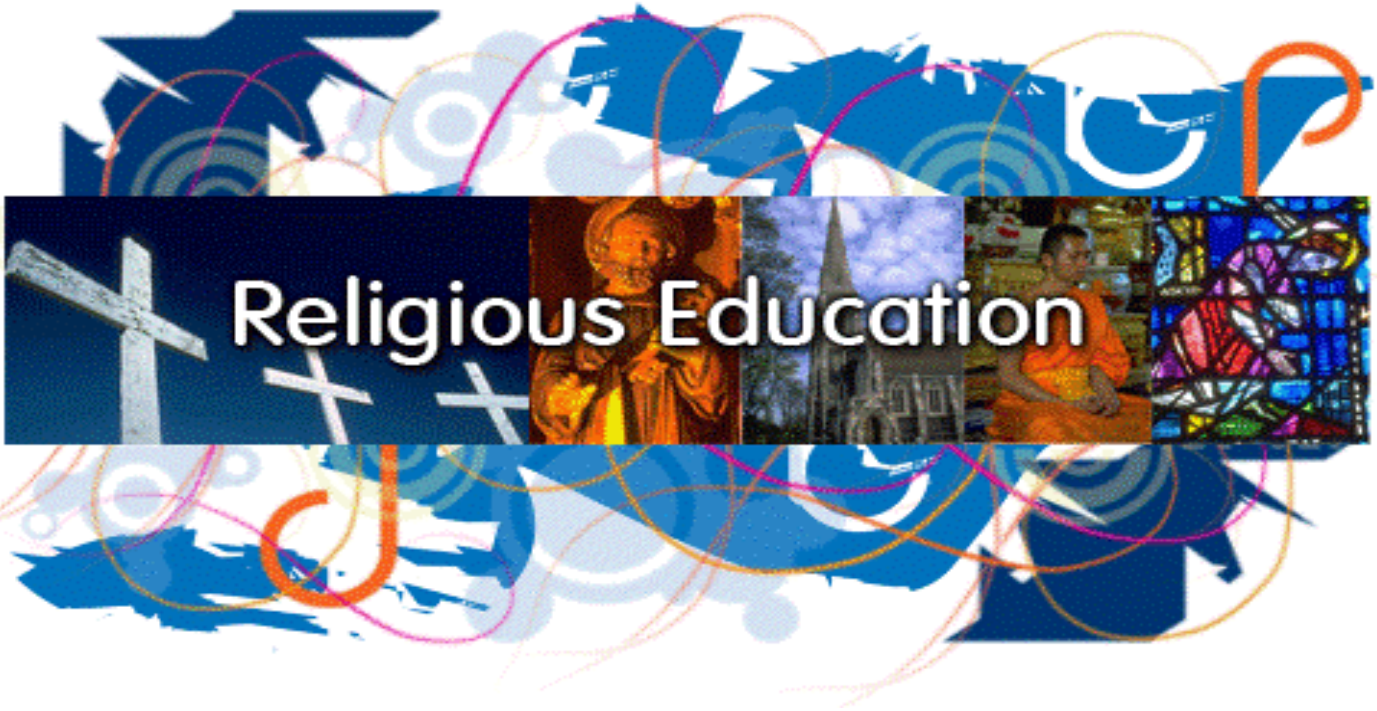
Please consider joining our RCIA program with Sister Francesca Mumbua,
our new Director of Religious Education.

Please call or visit the Religious Education Office on Monday or Thursday.

Registration is in progress.

JOURNEY OF FAITH

**YOU are the reason we are HERE! Come and talk to us.
We will help you get started or Complete you
Sacramental Journey.**



Has your child completed the three Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation?

Please bring him/her for Religious Education at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Religious Education will lead to reception of these Sacraments.

Please consider enrolling him/her in our school of Religious Education.
Classes are held on Sunday morning from 10:30 to 12:00 noon,
September to May.

Hurry! Registration phase for the Class of 2023/2024 is taking place NOW!

You can obtain the registration forms from the Bulletin, parish Office or the Religious Education Office.

The Faith Formation Team of St. Francis of Assisi is waiting for your child!

YOUR child's faith is important to US.

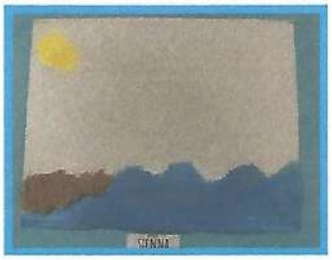
Let the children come to me.

MATTHEW 19:14

See what we are learning!

PRE-K FOR ALL

"Snowman"
- Anthony



"Beach"
- Sienna

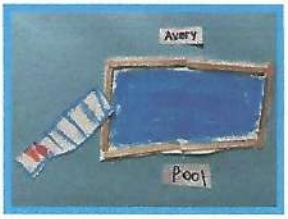
"Pond"
- Nicolas

"Ocean"
- Oliver

The St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Pre-K students have spent the last few weeks immersed in a unit of study on Water.

This unit, like all Pre-K for All units, provides opportunities for children to observe objects and phenomena in their environment with increasing complexity.

Activities throughout the unit prompt children to learn about water through hands-on explorations and provide opportunities to observe water in their immediate environment.



"Pool"
- Avery

"Ocean"
- Omar

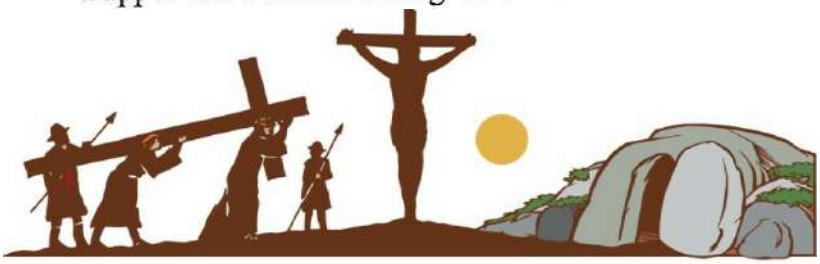
"Rain"
- Anthony

"Snowman"
- Anthony

"Snowflake"
- Galia

LENTEN
Supper & Stations

The St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council invites you to our
Supper and Stations during the Season of Lent.



STATIONS of the CROSS

Please fill out the slip below **<u>as soon as possible</u>**
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 let us know if you will be joining us for
our last Supper & Stations.

The Stations of the Cross will continue through
Lent.

_____ **Friday, March 31st - Salad Night**

Kindly return by Sunday, **March 26th**

ITALIAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC ACTION

44th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday April 30, 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)

HONORING

DEACON NICOLINO SCARLATTO

&

DEACON GIOVANNI MESSINA

Basket Raffles, 50/50 $ 75.00 per person

RSVP April 15, 2023

For more information contact Maria Bruno 917 943-7156 or Josephine Sferrazza 718 808-2097

_____Number of tickets @ 75.00 each

Names of guests: _____

__ I can't attend but I wish to donate Amount_____

Total payment: _____

Name_____

E-mail address_____Phone:_____

Please make checks payable to I.A.C.A

Thank You

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 IMAC PARISH RENEWAL

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