The Second Sunday of Lent

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, March 5 – The Second Sunday of Lent
8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Ottavia Silletti
11:00 A.M. The Masluk Family
12:30 P.M. Mario Vallor
Rino Del Carro
Paolo Civello

MONDAY, March 6 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Jane Duffy

TUESDAY, March 7– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Mina Polychronakis

WEDNESDAY, March 8– Weekday
9:00A.M. Patricia Ann McAleer

THURSDAY, March 9—Weekday
9:00 A.M. Anita Rudan

FRIDAY, March 10 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Sebastian Restifo (Living)

SATURDAY, March 11– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Marka Muskardin
Emil Sorrento

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

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

Today's Readings

The Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Matthew 17:1-9

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Daniel 9:4b-10
Luke 6:36-38

TUESDAY: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20
Matthew 23:1-12

WEDNESDAY: Jeremiah 18:18-20
Matthew 20:17-28

THURSDAY: Jeremiah 17:5-10
Luke 16:19-31

FRIDAY: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a
Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

SATURDAY: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The Third Sunday of Lent

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

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear Parishioners,

Is it possible to fully share in the life of other people without listening to them? We may know them and admire them, but to fully share in their lives we must listen to what they have to say. The revelations of one's thoughts and ideas, beliefs and values, come to us through listening.

Jesus knew the importance of listening and taught this to his disciples. He wanted to fully share his life. His knowledge and his glory with them. In a particular way, our heavenly Father confirms the importance of listening to the words of Jesus. The beautiful scene of the Transfiguration is crowned with the voice of God saying: "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; **listen** to Him." These words of our heavenly Father reaffirm the identity of Jesus as God's son and put the seal of authenticity and authority on the words of Jesus. Thus, the Father commands that the disciples ***listen*** to his Son in order to understand the revelation of his life and love, the mysteries of the kingdom, and the means by which to share in his glory.

Listening to the Lord opens the life of a disciple to know the Lord and his ways, and moves one to desire a greater unity with him. Listening means more than hearing; if a disciple wants to be one with Christ the words must be put into action. A share in the resurrection and glory of Christ and in eternal life awaits the disciple who receives the word of God and puts it into practice. Unity with Christ begins in this life and is carried into eternity.

In the account of the Transfiguration we get a glimpse of the glory of Christ. We are given this blessing so as to encourage and strengthen us as we embrace the life of Christ which always leads us to the cross. Physical pain or suffering, the daily demands of family life and work, the struggles to reject temptation and do good, face every one of us. We want to be one with our Savior. We want to do what he asks us to do. So we come to this vision of glory and draw strength from its revelation and promise for our lives.

Lest we think our coming to Christ is our own doing, St. Paul reminds us that God bestowed this grace upon us even before the world began. We are called by God to be holy by imitating the life of his Son. Listening to Jesus begins to bring God's will for us to fulfillment. As St. Paul tells us, following the Son of God will entail hardship, but the demands and difficulties of following the Gospel will bring about God's intentions for our lives: life and immortality.

For each of us the main purpose of Lent is to be drawn ever more deeply into the life of God. If we listen closely to God we hear his command to listen to his beloved Son. To share in Christ's glory we listen and follow. This is our hope, our blessing, and our salvation in Christ.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

Welcome New Parishioners

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

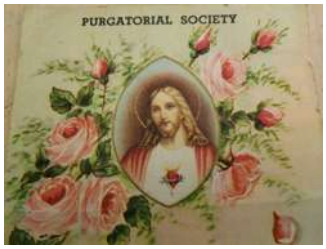
Elida & Lucio Almeida Uruchima
Carmen El Allali
Sergio & Maria Valentini

Baptisms

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

Leon Romulo Gauman

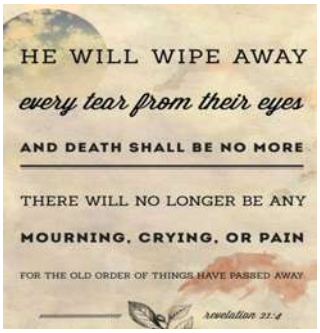
Purgatorials



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

Johanna Maria Foster

Deaths



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

Frank Trivigno
Guido Mazzone
Glenn Kuhnle

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

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.

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.

LENT

WALKING WITH CHRIST

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 Second Sunday of Lent March 5, 2023

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart."

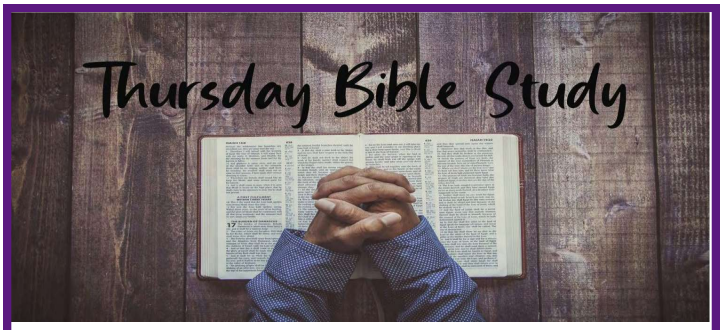
Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

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

FOCUS:

We will one day share in the glory of the Lord.

The true and full identity of Jesus is revealed in the great moment of the Transfiguration. This revelation shows us that the Father has entrusted to Him the salvation of the world. We see the glory of the Lord upon Jesus, and understand that we are meant to share that when the fullness of the kingdom is at hand.



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 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 28-33. 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 **$4,516.00**
2nd Collection–Earthquake Victims of Turkey & Syria ***$1,066.00***
School parents must use church envelopes.

Next weekend, March 11th and 12th, the second collection will be for fuel to keep our church warm during the winter months.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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 FEBRUARY 2023

The average attendance for the month of February 2023 (4 weekends)

5pm	**88**
8am	**42**
9:30am	**110**
11am	**116**
12:30pm	**60**

50/50 Winners February 2023

First Prize
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kerins

Second Prize
Mrs. Anna Giordano

Third Prize
Mr. & Mrs. John Soltesz

REMINDER

Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 12, 2023.
Don't' forget to set your clocks one hour ***ahead*** on Saturday night.

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 5—March 11

Sunday, March 5
9:30AM Pre-Communion Mass
9:30AM Girl Scout Mass & Breakfast
No Children's Liturgy
10:40 CCD

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

Tuesday, March 7
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, March 8
7:00PM Baptism Class

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

Friday, March 10
Supper & Stations

Saturday, March 11

NEXT WEEK

March 12—March 18

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

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

Tuesday, March 14
6:30PM AA Meeting
8:00PM Knights of Columbus Meeting

Wednesday, March 15

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

Friday, March 17
Supper & Stations

Saturday, March 18

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.

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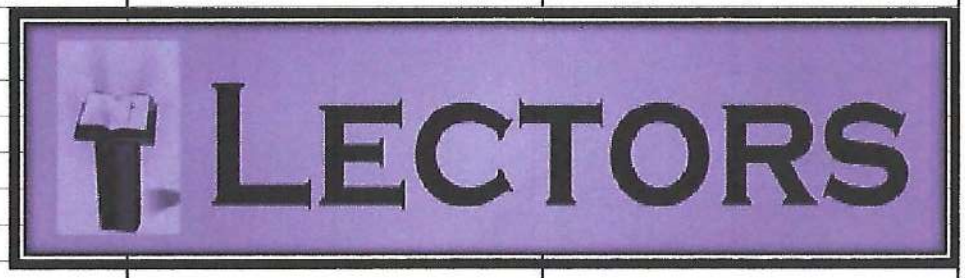
MARCH 2023
LECTOR ASSIGNMENTS

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

March 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Fasting to detach

"Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their 'shame.' Their minds are occupied with earthly things" (Philippians 3:19). We tend to eat and drink so freely that we forget God, who gives us that which we eat and drink. Fasting, especially during Lent, helps us to detach from the things of this world and remember Him. Catholics are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on Fridays.

Believe in God

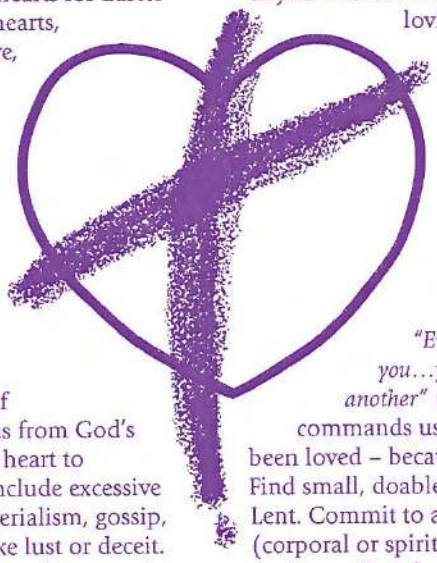
Believing in God means more than just saying He exists. Believers serve God, give time to Him, and put Him first. Spend more time in prayer this Lent, shed some possessions, perform works of charity and you will act on your baptismal promises.

"'Yet even now,' says the LORD, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments'" (Joel 2:12).

Preparing hearts for Easter joy

Lent is the Church's gift to us to help prepare our hearts for Easter by purifying our hearts, opening up to love, and putting love into action.

Purifying our hearts: Every heart yearns for love, yet only God's love can truly satisfy that yearning. The goal of Lenten penance is to purify ourselves of whatever blocks us from God's love or closes our heart to others. This can include excessive social media, materialism, gossip, or sinful habits like lust or deceit. From what does your heart need to detach so there's room for God and others?



Opening up to love: Mother Teresa wrote, "Have you seen…how [Jesus] looks at you with love?... Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you?" Strive to know God's heart. Seek Him, not just His gifts. Only by receiving God's love first, beginning with prayer, can we share it with others.

Put love in action: *"Even as I have loved you…you also love one another"* (John 13:34). God commands us to love as we've been loved – because we are loved. Find small, doable ways to serve during Lent. Commit to a Work of Mercy (corporal or spiritual). Practice patience. Give the gift of listening. True joy at Easter comes from loving Christ and imitating Him. Strive to do this throughout Lent and beyond.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics cover statues during Lent?

Many churches cover statues and crucifixes in red or purple cloth for the final weeks in Lent, traditionally known as "Passiontide." The veils are visual cues that we're entering into a solemn time and remind us that sin separates us from God.

This helps to build anticipation for Easter when the statues are unveiled and we are restored to Him. Lastly, the veils symbolize that heavenly glories are hidden in this life, but will be revealed when we enter eternity.

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Cultivating a "holy hospitality"

Jesus asked us to make others feel welcome, seen and loved while they're with us. "Holy hospitality" is vital to building community around Christ. Try these tips:

Sit and listen: When Jesus visited with his dear friends, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, He observed that Martha was so distracted and focused on her own concerns that she merely served Jesus instead of connecting with Him personally (Luke 10:41-42). Prepare for guests like Martha did, but enjoy them like Mary – with complete attention.

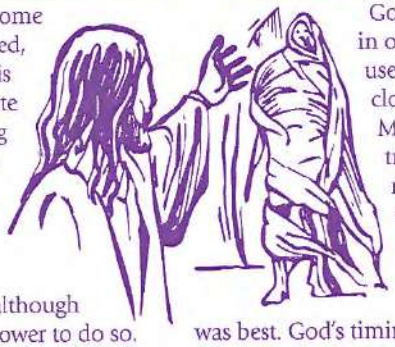
Fill your conversations with faith: A "holy hospitality" is a faith-informed one. The Samaritan woman's life changed when she encountered Christ (John 4:14-15) because He told her the Good News of salvation. Ensure your conversations are uplifting and reflect your hope and optimism for eternity.

Open your circle: Jesus ate with tax collectors and public sinners – those considered unpleasant. "Holy hospitality" means your social circle is open to the socially awkward, the frustrating coworker, the elderly neighbor who lives alone, because Christ is in all we serve (Matthew 25:40).

from Scripture

John 11:1-45, Generous trust, generous faith

In this Gospel passage, a beloved friend of Jesus' was fatally ill and his sisters sent urgent word to Jesus to come immediately. Jesus delayed, and Lazarus died, but this would not be His ultimate fate. Jesus had something else in mind for Lazarus and his family.



When He finally arrived, Martha didn't demand Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, although she acknowledged His power to do so. Even though her brother's body had been in the tomb for days and the decay had begun in earnest, her trust in Jesus was complete. She knew that God's love is more powerful than death and left the outcome in His hands.

God never leaves us in our troubles but uses them to draw us closer to Him. Martha's generous trust in God's will rested on her close friendship with Christ. Whatever He thought would be best was best. God's timing is not ours, yet everything He does – even when He does it –is for our good. Martha's trust in Jesus was rewarded in the most magnificent way. Ours will be, too.

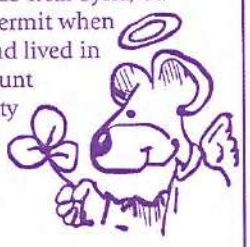
Feasts & Celebrations

March 9 – St. Frances of Rome (1440). Although she preferred a life of service, St. Frances' wealthy parents required that she marry. With her sister-in-law, Vannozza, St. Frances formed a group of women dedicated to serving the poor, all while caring for her family.

March 22 - St. Deogratias of Carthage (456): As Bishop of Carthage, St. Deogratias is best known for aiding slaves captured by the Vandal king, Geiseric. He ransomed hundreds of captives and sheltered them in two large cathedrals.

March 25 – The Annunciation of the Lord (1st century). The angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary with the extraordinary news of her role as the mother of God. Even at her young age, she had confidence in God's grace and trusted in His wisdom.

March 30 - St. John Climacus (606): Born in 525 near Syria, St. John became a hermit when he was sixteen and lived in the region of Mount Sinai. A community of monks formed around him and elected him abbot.



Q & A How can I overcome the temptations in my life?

Jesus knows that the battle for holiness is challenging in a fallen world, so He gave St. Faustina Kowalska twenty-five strategies to help (*Divine Mercy in My Soul*, #1760). Here is a sample:

"Do not bargain with any temptation; lock yourself immediately in My Heart."

Don't assume you are strong enough for a "little" temptation. Run immediately to the refuge of Jesus' sacred heart for protection.

"Bear with yourself with great patience." Saints aren't made overnight. See yourself as God does – beloved. Be patient and keep trying.

"Do not neglect interior mortifications." Withhold a biting remark, give up a luxury for the day, cut down on screen time. Sacrifices for love are powerful.

"Shun murmurs like a plague." Gossip is never in God's service. False accusations and rumors that hurt reputations are Satan's favorite tools. Don't indulge.

"Always fight with the deep conviction that I am with you." Our courage comes from being rooted in God (John 15:5). Recall God's loving presence throughout the day: "Jesus, I trust in you!"

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC ACADEMY PRESENTS
6-201
MISS DANIELLE GANGI
FEBRUARY STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This month the students learned about Ancient Egypt.

The sixth grade is studying Ancient Civilizations in Social Studies class, focusing on Ancient Egypt. In their learning of Egyptian burial practices, the students created sarcophagi. In addition, they also wrote about the pharaohs, and their importance in Egypt. Since the pharaohs were the kings of Egypt, the sixth grade also considered what it means to be a good leader.

"Pharaohs were known as the rulers of Egypt. Trading, farming, building, pyramids are decisions pharaohs made. They had long reigns." - Chiara

"The pharaohs were good leaders because they grew their civilization and improved their agriculture." - Valentino

"The pharaohs made laws, waged war, collected taxes and controlled over the land of Egypt. They also maintained order." - Sofia

"The pharaohs were rulers of the kingdom for a long period of time. It took devotion of the people to continue to follow these dynasties." - Bella S.

"The pharaoh was such a significant leader as they were the people who controlled everything spanning from science to farming to taxes to trading" - Sean

"The pharaohs were powerful leaders with many responsibilities. Their bureaucracy included officials to handle business of government including taxes farmers paid with their food surplus." -Dakota

"To be a good leader, you need to be fair with your people. If you are nice, people will treat you better. Treat others the way you want to be treated . You will get a lot of praise this way." –Siobhan

"To be a good leader you must put the people and the nation first. Allow for their voices to be heard. Make peace with others shows good leadership." - Teddy

"The pharaohs were rulers of ancient Egypt. They ruled to have a well-thriving society. They had successful farmers and profitable trading." - Fiona

"To be a good leader you must protect your country and keep your soldiers safe." - Anthony

"Pharaohs were religious leaders who were considered as divine intermediary between Gods and Egyptians." -Andrew

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:

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

Please fill out the slip below **as soon as possible**
and check off which night(s) you will be joining us.
Simply return in any collection or Rectory mailbox

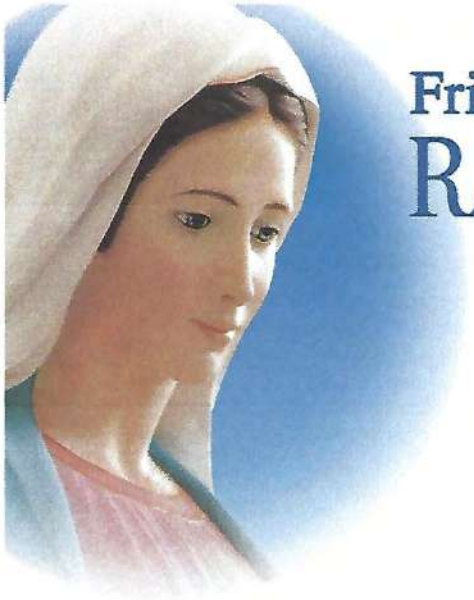
Supper will be at 6:00pm in Msgr. Campbell Hall.
Following supper, you are invited to attend the
Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm in the Church.
A free will donation is asked of you.
What a great way to observe the fast on Lenten Friday's Supper & Stations!

Name _____ Contact # _____

Number of guests _____
Please check off the night(s) you will be joining us.

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

Kindly return by Sunday, **March 5th**



Friends of
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(718)417-0550

Siete tutti invitati ad una

GIORNATA DI SPIRITUALITÀ

SABATO 11 Marzo, 2023
10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Sara' una giornata di preghiera
e di riflessione in preparazione
alla Santa Pasqua

PROGRAMMA

10:00 am - Confessioni
11:00 am - Santa Messa
12:00 pm - Pranzo al sacco
1:30 pm - Adorazione Eucaristica
2:30 pm - Via Crucis

St. Francis of Assisi
Roman Catholic Church

2117 45th St,
Astoria NY 11105
(718) 728-7801

Durante la celebrazione ci saranno sacerdoti a disposizione per le confessioni