Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, November 12 – Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. Saverio Giordano
11:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carrol
Flavia Contratti
Andrea Gambino
Laura Maffei

MONDAY, November 13—Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini
9:00 A.M. Dumica Vlakancic

TUESDAY, November 14– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Victor Salamone

WEDNESDAY, November 15– Saint Albert the Great
9:00A.M. Mary DiPietro

THURSDAY, November 16– St Margaret of Scotland
9:00 A.M. Anthony Glavan

FRIDAY, November 17 – St Elizabeth of Hungry
9:00 A.M. Donald Marigliano

SATURDAY, November 18– The Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
The Trentecosti Family
Evelyn Singura
The Matthew C. Karcic Family

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

SUNDAY, November 19– Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Rose Cavagnolo
9:30 A.M. Dennis Lubchuk
11:00 A.M. Concetta Gandolfo
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Yolanda Beradone
Camilla Della
Laura Maffei

Today's Readings

The Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 6:12-16
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Wisdom 1:1-7
Luke 17:1-6

TUESDAY: Wisdom 2:23-3:9
Luke 17:7-10

WEDNESDAY Wisdom 6:1-11
Luke 17:11-19

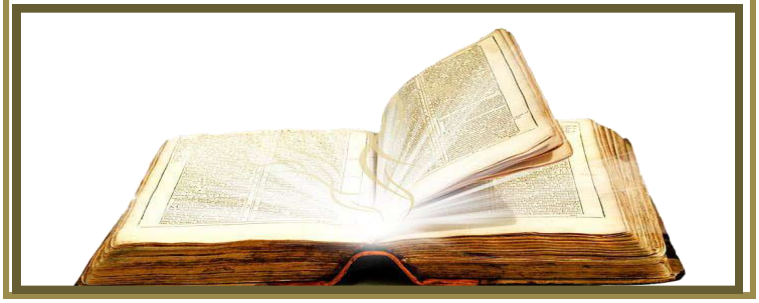
THURSDAY: Wisdom 7:22b-8:1
Luke 17:20-25

FRIDAY: Wisdom 13:1-9
Luke 17:26-37

SATURDAY: Wisdom 18:14-16; 19: 6-9
Luke 18:1-8

The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25:14-30



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

The parable of the wise and foolish virgins that you just heard works on two levels. It helps us recognize Jesus as the true bridegroom and it also anticipates his return at the end of the world. Since oil has prominent importance in our daily and sacramental lives, let us consider how oil is a central point of the message in today's Gospel.

In the time of Jesus, oil was not only a source of light, but was used as medicine. The Samaritan treated the wounds of the man who was robbed with "oil and wine" (Lk 10:34). Sacred objects were consecrated to God with oil, as were the priests and the sacrifices in the Temple. Is it any wonder, then, that Jesus would use such a common thing as oil in his teaching? Throughout his ministry Jesus used every day materials to help the people to understand the kingdom and as signs of a deeper truth when he spoke in parables.

This story is not just about forgetting to bring extra oil for our lamps, but about how we view the invitation of Jesus to prepare for our place in eternity. It is not wise to go through life making only a minimum effort to store up treasures for heaven. Without good works and prayers we will be found empty, with no oil for our spiritual lamps. Just as last minute cramming for a test at school does not always produce successful results, neither is a last minute effort to get ourselves into good spiritual shape recommended if we want quality life when we reach heaven. The Lord can come with alarming suddenness to call us to eternity. What will count is the love with which we have reached out to others and the good deeds that we have done.

The foolish virgins seem to have been somewhat lazy. As servants they surely knew what the bridegroom expected of them. If he had come during daylight hours, their lack of oil might have escaped notice, but it soon became obvious that they had not prepared properly. They are like people today who live with little or no thought of life after death.

An undisputable fact of life is that someday we will die. At the moment of death the Master closes the door. The past is gone and it is only the present that we must face. What we take into eternity are the prayers and good deeds that we do. Each of us is called to provide the oil of prayer in our lives, to study, and to act in order to keep the flame in our personal lamps burning brightly. That flame, which was entrusted to us in baptism, which we were encouraged to keep burning brightly, is the flame of faith in Jesus Christ our Redeemer. It is the flame of hope that gives us complete confidence in God's goodness and mercy. It is the flame of charity that enables us to love others with compassion.

The bridegroom is our Savior. His delay represents the passing of the years of our lives. The bridegroom's arrival depicts the final judgment. The wise virgins are those who have lived a full life, keeping the commandments and the beatitudes and striving to live according to the Gospel. The door through which they enter is eternal life in heaven. Jesus says to each of us today: "Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

Monday, November 13, 2023
The Feast of
Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

Frances Xavier Cabrini was the first United States citizen to be canonized. Her deep trust in the loving care of her God gave her the strength to be a valiant woman doing the work of Christ. Refused admission to the religious order which had educated her to be a teacher, she began charitable work at the House of Providence Orphanage in Cadogno, Italy. In September 1877, she made her vows there and took the religious habit. When the bishop closed the orphanage in 1880, he named Frances prioress of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Seven young women from the orphanage joined her. Since her early childhood in Italy, Frances had wanted to be a missionary in China but, at the urging of Pope Leo XIII, Frances went west instead of east. She traveled with six sisters to New York City to work with the thousands of Italian immigrants living there. She found disappointment and difficulties with every step. When she arrived in New York, the house intended to be her first orphanage in the United States was not available. The archbishop advised her to return to Italy. But Frances, truly a valiant woman, departed from the archbishop's residence all the more determined to establish that orphanage. And she did. In 35 years, Frances Xavier Cabrini founded 67 institutions dedicated to caring for the poor, the abandoned, the uneducated and the sick. Seeing great need among Italian immigrants who were losing their faith, she organized schools and adult education classes. As a child, she was always frightened of water, unable to overcome her fear of drowning. Yet, despite this fear, she traveled across the Atlantic Ocean more than 30 times. She died of malaria in her own Columbus Hospital in Chicago. The compassion and dedication of Mother Cabrini is still seen in hundreds of thousands of her fellow citizens who care for the sick in hospitals, nursing homes, and state institutions.

Friday, November 17, 2023
The Feast of
Saint Elizabeth of Hungry

In her short life, Elizabeth manifested such great love for the poor and suffering that she has become the patroness of Catholic charities and of the Secular Franciscan Order. The daughter of the King of Hungary, Elizabeth chose a life of penance and asceticism when a life of leisure and luxury could easily have been hers. This choice endeared her in the hearts of the common people throughout Europe. At the age of 14, Elizabeth was married to Louis of Thuringia, whom she deeply loved. She bore three children. Under the spiritual direction of a Franciscan friar, she led a life of prayer, sacrifice, and service to the poor and sick. Seeking to become one with the poor, she wore simple clothing. Daily she would take bread to hundreds of the poorest in the land who came to her gate. After six years of marriage, her husband died in the Crusades, and Elizabeth was grief-stricken. Her husband's family looked upon her as squandering the royal purse, and mistreated her, finally throwing her out of the palace. The return of her husband's allies from the Crusades resulted in her being reinstated, since her son was legal heir to the throne. In 1228, Elizabeth joined the Secular Franciscan Order, spending the remaining few years of her life caring for the poor in a hospital which she founded in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. Elizabeth's health declined, and she died before her 24th birthday in 1231. Her great popularity resulted in her canonization four years later. Elizabeth understood well the lesson Jesus taught when he washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper: The Christian must be one who serves the humblest needs of others, even if one serves from an exalted position. Of royal blood, Elizabeth could have lorded it over her subjects. Yet she served them with such a loving heart that her brief life won for her a special place in the hearts of many. Elizabeth is also an example to us in her following the guidance of a spiritual director. Growth in the spiritual life is a difficult process. We can play games very easily if we don't have someone to challenge us.

Remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick, that they may find health and comfort:

Jack Orlando, 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 Fontana Christopher Wojtalik, Theresa Pacheco, William Goss, Luke Pacheco, Vincenza Papa, Jim Schneggenburger, Anthony Criscuolo, Samantha O'Sullivan, Marilyn Miller, Pat Gravino, 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 & Catherine Caravana, Alex Human, Carol Simonsem and Aubrey Madden

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.

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

November 12, 2023

"By your endurance you will gain your souls"

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

Memorials for the Week of November 12, 2023

ALTAR CANDLES

In Loving Memory of
Anna Lonbardi

Requested by:
Golden Age

FOCUS:

Always be prepared to welcome Christ, for we know neither the day or the hour of His arrival.

The Gospel parable reminds us to keep vigil for Jesus. It is easy to get distracted by the details of work, family life, and other responsibilities so we forget the real purpose and mission of our lives. Let's each take a moment to contemplate how we can live out our vocation in life, readying ourselves for the Lord's coming.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

"The Words I have spoken to you are spirit and life."
John 6:64

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Dear SFA Friends and Family

Join us on Thursday, November 16th, at 7:20-8:50PM in the St. Joseph room of the Rectory. The week's study will be on Luke 17-19.

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 The Rectory at **(718) 728-7801.** Please be sure to leave your name and contact information.

Come Join US
Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture.
All are Invited ...

ALL ARE WELCOME!

PARISH
MASS
BOOK

2024 Mass Book

The Mass Book for 2024 is now open.

All Announced Masses are $15.00
Purgatorial Mass Cards are $30.00
Memorials (Altar Bread, Wine, Sanctuary Lamp and Altar Candles) are $75.00
Altar Flowers are $100.00

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.

Mass Attendance for the
Weekend of November 4th and 5th, 2023:

5:00pm	164
8:00am	55
9:30am	165
11:00am	91
12:30pm	43

Total in attendance: 518

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before the 9:00AM Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 8:00AM each morning, Monday through Saturday, giving parishioners an opportunity for private prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:30AM the rosary will be prayed by parishioners before the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:50AM the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed. Jesus calls us to perseverance in prayer. "Pray without ceasing." "Watch and pray." Eucharistic adoration helps us discover the Real Presence of Christ.

What a wonderful way to begin our day praying before the Blessed Sacrament in silence or praying the Holy Rosary.

Please make every effort to take advantage of this time with the Lord. We are living in challenging times and we all need the Lord to strengthen our faith and give us the courage to live each day.

Welcome to Our Church

If you wish to register as a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church, please stop by the Rectory Office during regular business hours. There you can pick up a census card which can be filled out at that time or returned by mail or in the Sunday Collection Basket. You can even download the census card on line. Just check our website at:
stfrancisofassisiastoria.org
You will then begin to receive weekly offering envelopes.

Welcome to our new altar servers.

Please help us welcome them and pray for them as they begin their journey of serving our parish.

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 11/5/23:	**$5,189.00**
All Saints Day	***$1,735.00***
All Souls Day	***$841.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Next weekend, November 18th and 19th, the second collection will be for Human Development.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the Annual Catholic Appeal for 2023. I appreciate your support in helping us reach our goal of **$41,679**. If you have not contributed to the Appeal, please prayerfully consider what you are able to give to support the Appeal. As of October 30th we have pledged **$39,117** and paid **$35,371.38**.

Help us reach our goal! We are so close!

Thank you for your support.

Sister Anne Marie Beirne from Marguerite's Pantry, operating out of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Elmhurst, is in need of used coats in good condition for the migrant ***children*** that have moved into our area.

Please bring any coats that are in good condition to the St. Francis of Assisi Rectory office. Do **NOT** leave any bags or boxes of clothing at the Church doors, the academy or on the steps of the Rectory. All coats must be dropped off at the Rectory office during business hours ***before November 15, 2023***.

Congratulations to two of our Wildcat Soccer teams that won their semifinal games and are now advancing to the playoffs, They are the girls Pee Wee team which consist of girls from the 3rd and 4th grades. And our Boys Rookie team which is made up of boys from the 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

We wish them luck this weekend and hope they bring back the championship!

GO WILDCATS

Do You Enjoy Singing?

Then use your voice to praise the Lord!
Join the St. Francis of Assisi Choir.
We meet every Monday evening at 7:00PM in the choir loft in church.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

November 12—November 18

Sunday, November 12
8:00AM Holy Name Mass
9:00AM Holy Name Meeting-MMC
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40-12 noon CCD

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

Tuesday, November 14
6:30PM—AA Meeting
8:00PM-Knights of Columbus Meeting

Wednesday, November 15

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

Friday, November 17
6:00PM Grocery Bingo

Saturday, November 18

NEXT WEEK

November 19—November 18

Sunday, November 19
8:00AM Holy Name Mass
9:30 Children's Liturgy
10:40-12 noon CCD

Monday, November 20
12:00 Golden Age Mass
1:00-3:30PM-Golden Age
3:00-3:45PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, November 21
6:30PM—AA Meeting

Wednesday, November 22
12:00 Noon Academy Mass
7:30PM Thanksgiving Vigil Mass

Thursday, November 23
HAPPY THANKSGIVING
9:00AM Mass
School & Rectory Office Closed

Friday, November 24
School & Rectory Office Closed

Saturday, November 25

Project Andrew is an opportunity for young men (high school age and older) to learn more about the priesthood. Join bishops, priests, and seminarians from the Diocese of Brooklyn with Vocation Director, Fr. Chris Bethge, for an evening of prayer, dinner, and conversation.

"If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Psalm 95:8

Join us for Project Andrew

Evening of Discernment

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Nov. 19, 2023, 4 - 6 p.m.

2325 Newtown Ave, Astoria Ph: 718-278-1834

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare and not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope." Jeremiah 29:11

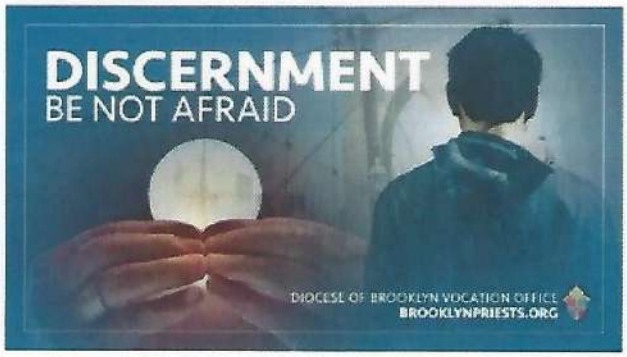
Special Guest: Bishop Robert Brennan

www.brooklynpriests.org

Facebook: Vocations Brooklyn Diocese

Instagram: brooklynpriests

Rev. Christopher Bethge, Vocation Director
Diocese of Brooklyn, Vocation Office
Vocation Office: 718-827-2454
vocations@diobrook.org



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Brooklyn

310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215

November 3, 2023

To the Clergy, Staffs and the Faithful parishioners of Brooklyn and Queens,

Recently, I met with our Vicar General, Regional Vicars, local Deans and priests during our annual Priest Convocation in Douglaston. During this gathering, we discussed important issues that we will need to address in the near future, like new models of parish life, possible collaborations among parishes regarding Religious Education and other ministries, as well as assessing the current Mass schedules at all our parishes.

Allow me to share with you some statistics that were shared with the priests:

• In 2017, Mass attendance in our Diocese was reported at an average of 205,502 people per weekend. In 2022, the average was reported at 124,031. Due to demographic changes as well as the overall national trend of fewer Catholics attending Sunday Mass regularly, we see a decrease of nearly 40 percent in Mass attendance in our diocese in the last 5 years. This decline in Mass attendance means that we have in many parishes throughout the diocese large capacity churches with a significantly reduced Mass size.

• Due to a high number of priest retirements and deaths in recent years, there are fewer priests serving in our 175 parishes.

• In our diocese Mass is celebrated in 14 different languages on a weekly basis and in 26 languages monthly. This unique pastoral challenge in combination with the reduced number of clergy with bi-lingual skills further complicates the ability to best serve our parishes with specific language needs.

There is no simple solution to these issues. In many of our parishes it is evident that we do not need so many separate Masses to accommodate the number of parishioners in attendance at Sunday Eucharist each week. We are asking pastors and administrators throughout the diocese in Brooklyn and Queens, in consultation with their pastoral councils, to review and evaluate their Mass schedules. In many parishes, the number of Masses celebrated each weekend could be reduced by at least one or maybe more Masses, depending on the number of people attending and the capacity of each church.

Additionally, your pastor in coordination with your Regional Vicar and local Dean, are beginning discussions at the deanery level concerning possible collaborations among neighboring parishes regarding Religious Education programs and other ministries, that could possibly lead to formal parish partnerships.

I ask for your openness and cooperation with these possible changes. Not every parish will be affected, but most will go through some sort of adjustment, in order to be able to most effectively serve the current needs of the People of God in our great Diocese.

Be assured of my prayers for each of you, and may I humbly ask for your prayers, especially for our pastors and administrators, and all those who will be part of these discussions taking place throughout our parishes and deaneries.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Robert J. Brennan

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Brooklyn

Advent Day of Prayer
Join us on
Sunday, December 3, 2023
1:30 - 3:30pm
Theme: Eucharist
Presenter: Deacon Thomas Quinn
~
1:30pm: Meeting in Msgr. Campbell Hall
2:30pm: Holy Hour in Church
3:30pm: Benediction
All are welcome!

Please come and join the Italian American Catholic Action at

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

88 Route 173 West, Hampton New Jersey 08827

Holiday Christmas show on:

December 2, 2023

The event will include the Christmas Show, Buffet Dessert Table, Lunch Special, and Roundtrip Transportation

The ticket price is $150 per person

The bus will pick up at 8:45 AM

Pick up location:

St. Francis of Assisi Church

21-17 45th Street in Astoria, New York 11105

<u>If you wish to attend, payment must be received no later than November 16, 2023</u>

(No refund will be issued when the reservation is confirmed)

Please contact Administration:

Mrs. Maria Bruno 1-917-943-7156

Mrs. Josephine Sferrazza 1-718-808-2097

Silvia DiMaggio 1-929-253-4945

Astoria Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association

21-20 49th St. Astoria, NY 11105 (718) 721-3690

Facebook: Astoria, Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association **Instagram**: AstoriaHTBCA

Twitter: @betterastoria **Email**: betterastoria@gmail.com **Website**: www.betterastoria.com

Attention Members, Neighbors and Friends:

Please attend our Community Meeting

Wednesday, November 15th, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Pistilli Grand Manor

45-02 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria, NY

**** Please enter on 45th Street side entrance, right before the parking garage ****

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Borough Planner Joseph Patti

Queens Borough Commissioner's Office – NYC Dept. of Transportation

Deputy Chief Raymond Porteus

Executive Officer of Patrol Borough Queens North for the NYPD

Deputy Inspector Kenneth Gorman

Commanding Officer, NYPD – 114th Precinct

Join us, and tell all your neighbors and friends. All are welcome!

Teenagers and young adults encouraged to attend.

Feel free to share throughout your social media … Facebook, Instagram, Twitter