Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intention

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

MONDAY, November 20– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Joseph Salamone

TUESDAY, November 21–The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9:00 A.M. Marie Salamone

WEDNESDAY, November 22– Saint Cecilia
9:00A.M. Victor Fusaro
7:30P.M. Evelyn Singura

THURSDAY, November 23– Saint Clement Thanksgiving Day
9:00 A.M. The Kos Family

FRIDAY, November 24 – St. Andrew Dung-Lac And Companions
9:00 A.M. Gloria Montell

SATURDAY, November 25– Saint Catherine of Alexandria
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Eileen O'Hara
Luz M. Resto
Frank DiDonato Sr.
Rosina DiDonato

5:00P.M. Marie Conlon

SUNDAY, November 26– Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Francis Gauci
11:00 A.M. John Finerty
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Laura Maffei

Today's Readings

The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63
Luke 18:35-43

TUESDAY: 2 Maccabees 6:18-31
Luke 19:1-10

WEDNESDAY 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31
Luke 19:11-28

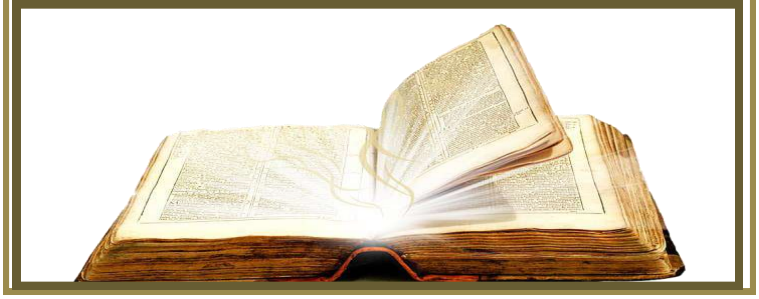
THURSDAY: 1 Maccabees 2:15-29
Luke 19:41-44

FRIDAY: 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59
Luke 19:45-48

SATURDAY: 1 Maccabees 6:1-13
Luke 20:27-40

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Matthew 25:31-46



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

The excerpt from St. Matthew's Gospel, which we hear today, is a story of judgment based on responsible use of the gifts that God has entrusted to us. Our God is generous and has freely given to us out of his bounty. He has brought us into a relationship of life in him and he continues to shepherd and nurture us. We, in turn, are called upon to use our gifts for the good of the community.

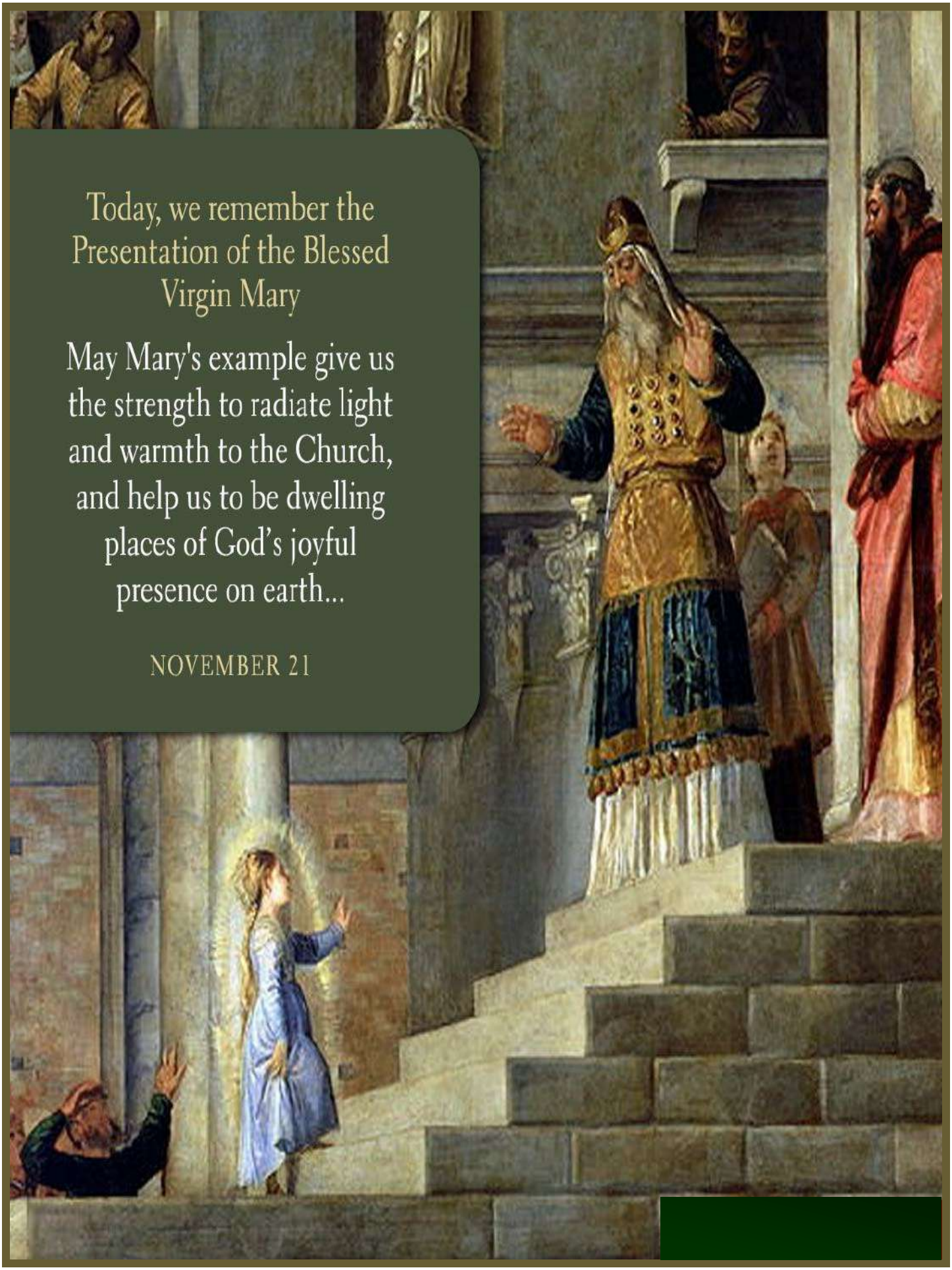
Christ's parable calls all Christians to be vigilant, watching for the return of the Lord. The master had given each servant a different sum of money, which adds to the interest of the parable. Although we might think of talents in terms of personal abilities or gifts, Matthew's readers would have understood them to be a substantial amount of money. A talent was valued at about six thousand denarli and as a laborer's wage was one denarius a day, this was the equivalent of close to twenty years' wages. Yet, to the master these amounts were a small matter. He was not concerned with the amount of money gained for him; it was the faithfulness of the servants in carrying out his wishes which earned them their reward, a share in their master's joy.

The third servant immediately starts to justify himself by describing the master as a hard man. He would not have been responsible because he took no risks with his master's money. He guarded what he had been given but made no effort to make it grow. It is his relationship with the master which is defective. Based on fear, it tells us more about the servant than it does about the master. The servant justifies his own inaction on his perception of the master. Our lives, too, are closely linked with our perception of God and our consequent relationship with him.

We are people who have been given a gift of faith and called to be disciples of Christ. Our discipleship demands of us faithfulness in continuing the mission of Christ on earth. Our talents are given to us to help build the kingdom of God. When Christ comes again, he will judge us according to how we respond to his call, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Mt 25:34). We act in a compassionate, loving, and forgiving way because God has been so bountiful to us. When we do so, God gives us even more, to share in the Master's joy in the Messianic Banquet.

Matthew is clear that we will be judged and that we must grow and increase in faith on earth. The mission of Christ demanded his total commitment to his Father's will and the same is asked of his followers. Christians are expected to make use of the gifts the master has given us to make his kingdom grow on earth. We do not bury our gifts but use them for the good of the kingdom. May each of us use the gifts God has given us and faithfully look forward to the Second Coming of the Lord.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca


Today, we remember the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
May Mary's example give us the strength to radiate light and warmth to the Church, and help us to be dwelling places of God's joyful presence on earth...
NOVEMBER 21

Wednesday, November 22, 2023
The Feast of
Saint Cecilia

St. Cecilia lived during the Roman Empire in the 3rd century and was born to a wealthy Roman family. She vowed her virginity to Christ, but her parents married her off anyway. She then converted her husband to the Christian faith, and he in turn respected her virginity and converted his brother. The story of how she converted her husband is quite remarkable. On her wedding night she made her vow known to him, and informed him that an angel guarded her purity. Her husband replied that he would believe her and honor her vow if he could also see her angel. Cecilia instructed him to first be baptized, and afterwards he was able to see her angel. The angel then crowned Cecilia with a chaplet of rose and lily. Together her husband and his brother took up the task of burying martyred Christians, which was illegal, and resulted in their martyrdom. St. Cecilia responded by burying her husband and converting hundreds of people through her Christian witness and strength of faith. This, and her refusal to worship false gods, resulted in her being arrested. According to legend, St. Cecilia was not martyred easily. They first attempted to suffocate her, but it did not affect her. Then they attempted to behead her, but they were again unsuccessful despite three blows to the neck. She instead bled to death for three days as she continued to preach, and fellow Christians collected her blood in sponges and napkins as relics. She was buried by Pope Urban and his deacons.

The story of Saint Cecilia is one of courage, evangelization, and love of God in the midst of persecution and strife. St. Cecilia is typically portrayed in art, statues, rosaries, and medals with a harp or other musical instruments. St. Cecilia gifts remind us to invoke the prayers of Saint Cecilia for those musicians lifting their talents up to God.

Friday, November 24, 2023
The Feast of
St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions

Andrew Dung-Lac, a Catholic convert ordained to the priesthood, was one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Members of the companions group gave their lives for Christ in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and received beatification during four different occasions between 1900 and 1951. All were canonized during the papacy of Saint John Paul II. Christianity came to Vietnam through the Portuguese. Jesuits opened the first permanent mission at Da Nang in 1615. They ministered to Japanese Catholics who had been driven from Japan. Severe persecutions were launched at least three times in the 19th century. During the six decades after 1820, between 100,000 and 300,000 Catholics were killed. Foreign missionaries martyred in the first wave included priests of the Paris Mission Society, and Spanish Dominican priests and tertiaries. In 1832, Emperor Minh-Mang banned all foreign missionaries. Like the priest-holes in Ireland during English persecution, many hiding places were offered in homes of the faithful. Persecution broke out again in 1847, when the emperor suspected foreign missionaries and Vietnamese Christians of sympathizing with a rebellion led by of one of his sons. The last of the martyrs were 17 laypersons, one of them a 9-year-old, executed in 1862. That year a treaty with France guaranteed religious freedom to Catholics, but it did not stop all persecution. By 1954, there were over a million Catholics—about seven percent of the population—in the north. Buddhists represented about 60 percent. Persistent persecution forced some 670,000 Catholics to abandon lands, homes and possessions and flee to the south. In 1964, there were still 833,000 Catholics in the north, but many were in prison. In the south, Catholics were enjoying the first decade of religious freedom in centuries, their numbers swelled by refugees. During the Vietnamese war, Catholics again suffered in the north, and again moved to the south in great numbers. Now reunited, the entire country is under Communist rule.

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-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

November 19, 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 19, 2023

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Loving Memory of

Marie & Sylvester Guerriero

FOCUS:

We are given talents to share.

The Lord told us that He will come again at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. Though the timing is unpredictable, this end is inevitable and inescapable. Let us be prepared to give an account of the ways in which we have used our gifts for the benefit of others.

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

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 118:1)

Join us on Thursday, November 30th, at 7:20-8:50PM in the St. Joseph room of the Rectory. The week's study will be on Luke 20-22.

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 11th and 12th, 2023:

5:00pm	97
8:00am	65
9:30am	103
11:00am	92
12:30pm	29

Total in attendance: 386

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.

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 11125/23:	**$3,413.00**
2nd Collection-Fuel	***$1,001.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Reminder!

As the cold weather approaches please remember that Church opens at 7:30AM on Saturdays and Sundays. Please note the time so no one is standing in the cold.

Thank You!

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.

NOTE A CORRECTION IN MASS TIMES

In your most recent mailing of your weekly envelopes, the Christmas Mass Schedule is enclosed. There is a mistake in the mass times for Sunday, December 31st. The morning mass schedule for Sunday, December 31st is 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am and 12:30pm.

There will be NO Vigil Mass on Sunday, December 31st.

All the other mass times are correct.

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 19—November 25

Sunday, November 19
9:30 Pre-Communion Banner Mass
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

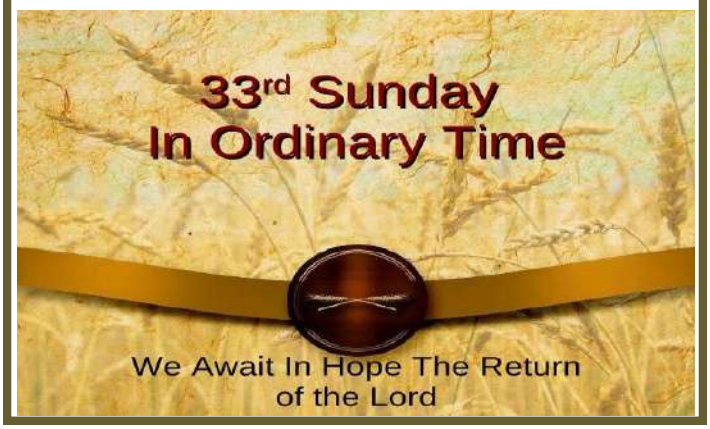
Tuesday, November 21
6:30PM—AA Meeting

Wednesday, November 22
11:00AM Academy Mass
7:30PM Thanksgiving Vigil Mass

Thursday, November 23
HAPPY THANKSGIVING
School & Rectory Office Closed

Friday, November 24
School & Rectory Office Closed

Saturday, November 25



NEXT WEEK

November 26—December 2

Sunday, November 26
1:30PM Baptisms

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

Tuesday, November 28
6:30PM—AA Meeting

Wednesday, November 29

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

Friday, December 1
FIRST FRIDAY
9:00AM School Mass
6:00PM Youth Group to Set Up Giving Tree

Saturday, December 2
9:00AM-Anointing Mass

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

Statistics shared by Bishop Brennan

Some Clergy Personnel Statistics

Diocesan Clergy	2017	2022	8/31/2023
Priests assigned to active ministry	273	255	255*
Retired Priests	148	143	130
Total	421	398	385

*206 assigned to parishes

Number of priests Age Range	2017	2022	6/30/2023
26-30	14	1	0
31-40	37	39	42
41-50	42	44	51
51-60	72	71	64
61-70	90	77	76
71-74	46	48	41
76-99	120	118	111
TOTAL	421	398	385
Non-Incardinated	56	85	70*

*Does not include 134 religious order clergy

We have:

175 parishes, which include:

24 merged parishes with 2 sites

4 merged parishes with 3 sites

18 parishes in a partnership (9 pairs)

Total Mass Attendance:

2017:	205,502	
2018:	167,140	(19% decrease)
2019:	160,211	(4% decrease)
2021:	110,607	(31% decrease)
2022:	124,031	(12% increase)
2023:	129,701	(5% increase) *May counts only*

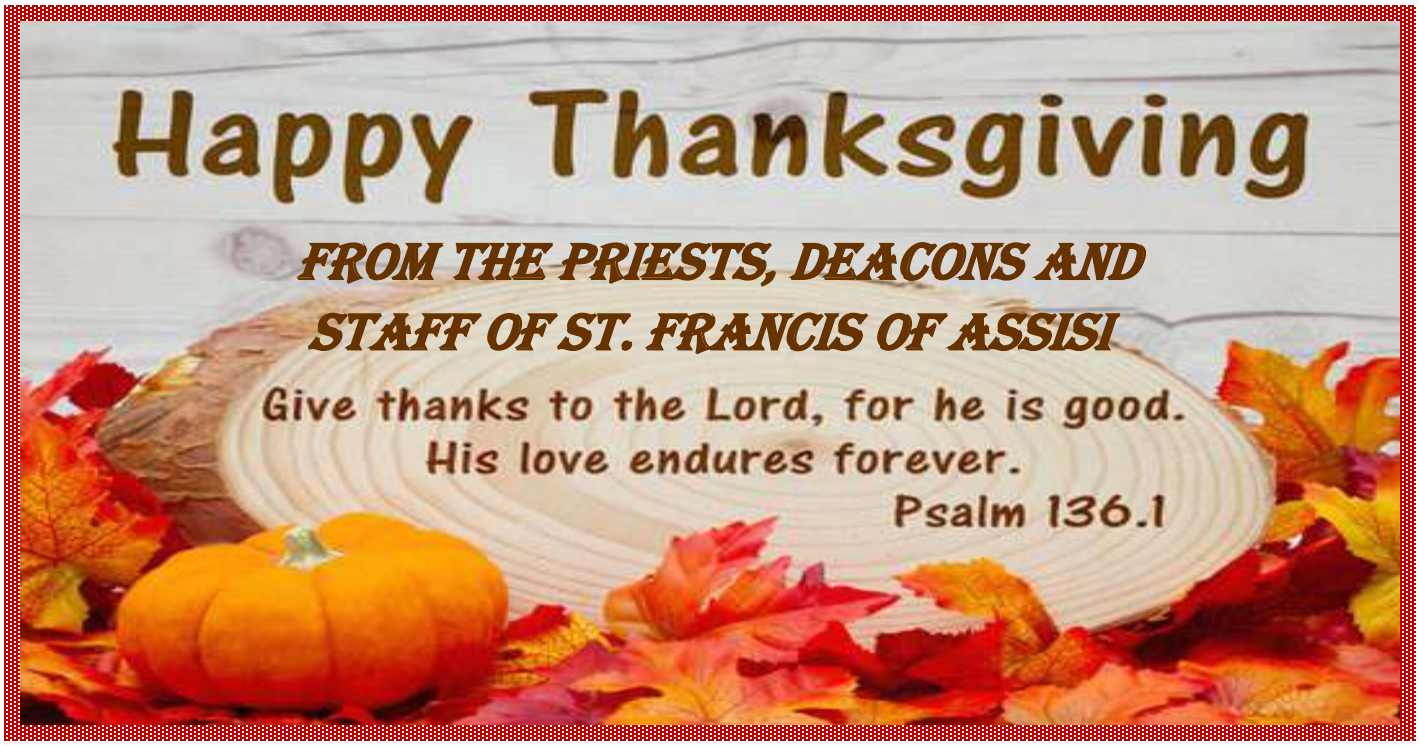
37% decrease from 2017 - 2023

3

We Cordially Invite All of Our Parishioners to
Celebrate Thanksgiving on
Wednesday Evening,
November 22nd at 7:30P.M.
OR
Thursday, November 23rd at the
9:00A.M. Mass

Please Note: At each Mass we will be collecting non-perishable goods to give to Marguerite's Pantry. Baskets will be in front of the sanctuary for you to place your goods. The collection taken up at each Mass will go to the St. Vincent DePaul Society to assist the poor and needy.

Thank you for your generosity.



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 !

Advent Giving Trees

The Advent Giving Trees will be setup in the front and back of church and decorated with colored Tags on Friday, December 1, 2023.

Each color Tag identifies the charity that will receive the gifts.
Please tape the Tag to the ***unwrapped*** gift purchased and place it under the Giving Tree before or after any one of the Masses.

Yellow Tags—Catholic Charities
Blue Tags— Hour Children
Green Tags—Marguerite's Pantry
Purple Tags—Transfiguration

ALL GIFTS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023.

We thank you for always being so generous and helping.

Friends of RADIO MARIA New York

(718)417-0550

Siete tutti invitati ad una

GIORNATA DI SPIRITUALITA'

SABATO 9 DICEMBRE, 2023

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Sara' una giornata di preghiera e di riflessione in preparazione per il Santo Natale

PROGRAM

10:00 am - Rosario
11:00 am - Santa Messa
12:00 pm - Pranzo al sacco
1:30 pm - Adorazione Eucaristica
2:30 pm - Presepe Vivente

Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

4319 30th Avenue, Astoria, 11103 NY
Tel: (718) 278-1611

Durante la celebrazione ci saranno sacerdoti a disposizione per le confessioni

Preghiera e contemplazione sull' arrivo di Gesu' nei nostri cuori

St. Joseph's Seminary Schola Cantorum
presents an

Advent & Christmas Concert

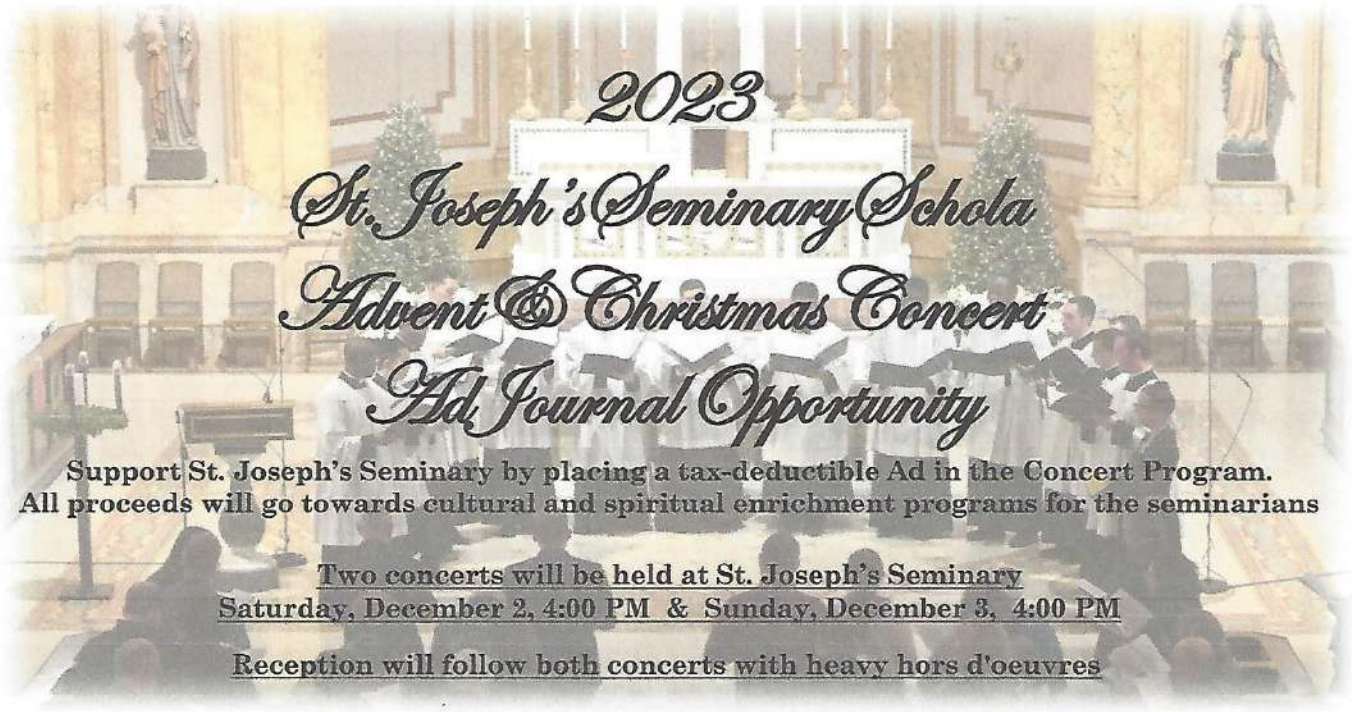
Saturday, December 2, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 3, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Join us for an annual holiday tradition
of song and fellowship!

2023SJSConcert.eventbrite.com
(914) 968–6200, x8201
201 Seminary Ave., Yonkers, NY

* Tickets - children 12 & under $20.00, adults $35.00 (general seating)/$100.00 (VIP seating)
* Ticket includes hot buffet reception following concert *

SCAN ME



2023
St. Joseph's Seminary Schola
Advent & Christmas Concert
Ad Journal Opportunity

Support St. Joseph's Seminary by placing a tax-deductible Ad in the Concert Program.
All proceeds will go towards cultural and spiritual enrichment programs for the seminarians

Two concerts will be held at St. Joseph's Seminary
Saturday, December 2, 4:00 PM & Sunday, December 3, 4:00 PM

Reception will follow both concerts with heavy hors d'oeuvres

Journal Ad Sizes and Costs , Journal Size - 6" x 9"

Gold Level Ad	Silver Level Ad	Bronze Level Ad
$1,000.00, Full page (5"x 8") Plus 2 VIP or 4 general seating tickets to concert of choice.	$700.00, Full page (5"x 8") Plus 4 general seating tickets to concert of choice.	$500.00, Half Page (5" x 3.75") Plus 2 general seating tickets to concert of choice.

Full Page Ad - $400.00 (5" x 8") **Half Page Ad - $250.00 (5" x 3.75")** **Quarter Page Ad - $100.00 (5" x 1.875")**

Patron Recognition - $50.00

Production Requirements

Please email your ad in a PDF or JPEG format to ***Anthony.Piscitiello@archny.org***
Resolution should be at least 300 dpi, All ads are due by ***Friday Novembe 24th***

Please fill out the form below or go online to https://dunwoodie.edu/concert2023 or scan the QR code.

Ad Choice _____

Name/Company/Parish: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

_____

Payment Information

Please make all Checks or Money Orders payable to: St. Joseph's Seminary, re: Schola Fundraiser and mail to St. Joseph's Seminary, 201 Seminary Ave., Yonkers, NY 10704, Attn: Schola Concert

201 Seminary Avenue ~ Yonkers, New York 10704 (914) 968-6200

HO! HO! HO!
Santa Has Christmas
Presents For You
Monday, December 4, 2023, 7pm
McManus Memorial Park
81st St. & Grand Central Service Rd.