Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Mass Intention

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

MONDAY, November 27– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Vincent Ronacher

TUESDAY, November 28–Weekday
9:00 A.M. Joseph Ewy (Living)

WEDNESDAY, November 29– Weekday
9:00A.M. Joseph Salamone

THURSDAY, November 30– Saint Andrew, Apostle
9:00 A.M. Deceased Members from
Unije Croatia

FRIDAY, December 1 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Marie Salamone

SATURDAY, December 2– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
John Marchesona
Living & Deceased Members of the
Legion of Mary
John McCarthy
Margaret McCarthy
Mary Ethel Dugan
John Philip Dugan Sr.

5:00P.M. Raymond Loud

SUNDAY, December 3– First Sunday of Avent
8:00 A.M. Darrin O'Connor (Hili)
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00 A.M. Joseph Spiteri
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Walter Malecky
Laura Maffei

Today's Readings

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

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

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20
Luke 21:1-4

TUESDAY: Daniel 2:31-45
Luke 21:5-11

WEDNESDAY Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28
Luke 21:12-19

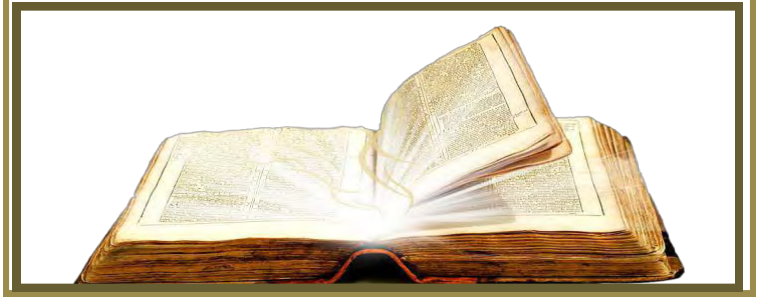
THURSDAY: Romans 10:9-18
Matthew 4:18-22

FRIDAY: Daniel 7:2-14
Luke 21:29-33

SATURDAY: Daniel 7:15-27
Luke 21:34-36

The First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

The Solemnity of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, but what it celebrates is as old as the Christian faith. For the word Christ is, in fact, simply the Greek translation of the word Messiah: the Anointed One, the King, Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified son of Mary, is so intrinsically a king that the title king has actually become a part of his name.

By calling ourselves Christians, we label ourselves as followers of the King. We recognize Jesus as our king; but we can properly understand what the kingship of Jesus Christ means only if we trace its origin from the Old Testament, where we discover that God did not intend Israel to be a worthy kingdom; God was their king. Israel was jealous of the neighboring peoples with their powerful kings and they pleaded with Samuel to appoint a king. Surprisingly, God yielded to Samuel's prayer and Saul was anointed king. The worldly kingdom eventually fell to its enemies but a new kingdom, which will not fall, is promised to David, and Jesus is its King.

If we look closely, we shall discover that this is the usual form of God's activity in relation to humanity. God does not have a fixed plan which he must carry out; on the contrary, God has many different ways of interacting with us and of even turning our wrong ways into right ways. This, then, is God's kingship, a love that is undeniable with ways that are always new. For us, God's kingship means that we must have unshakeable confidence in his constant love for us.

The pattern we experience in God's love should be the pattern of our lives: to write no one off; to try to reach them again and again with the inventiveness of an open heart. Our most important task is not to demand our own way, but to be always ready to follow the path that God lays out for us. The celebration of Christ the King is not, therefore, a burden for those who are under oppression, but a time of joy for those who are grateful to be under the guidance of Jesus Christ who brings good out of even the most difficult situation.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

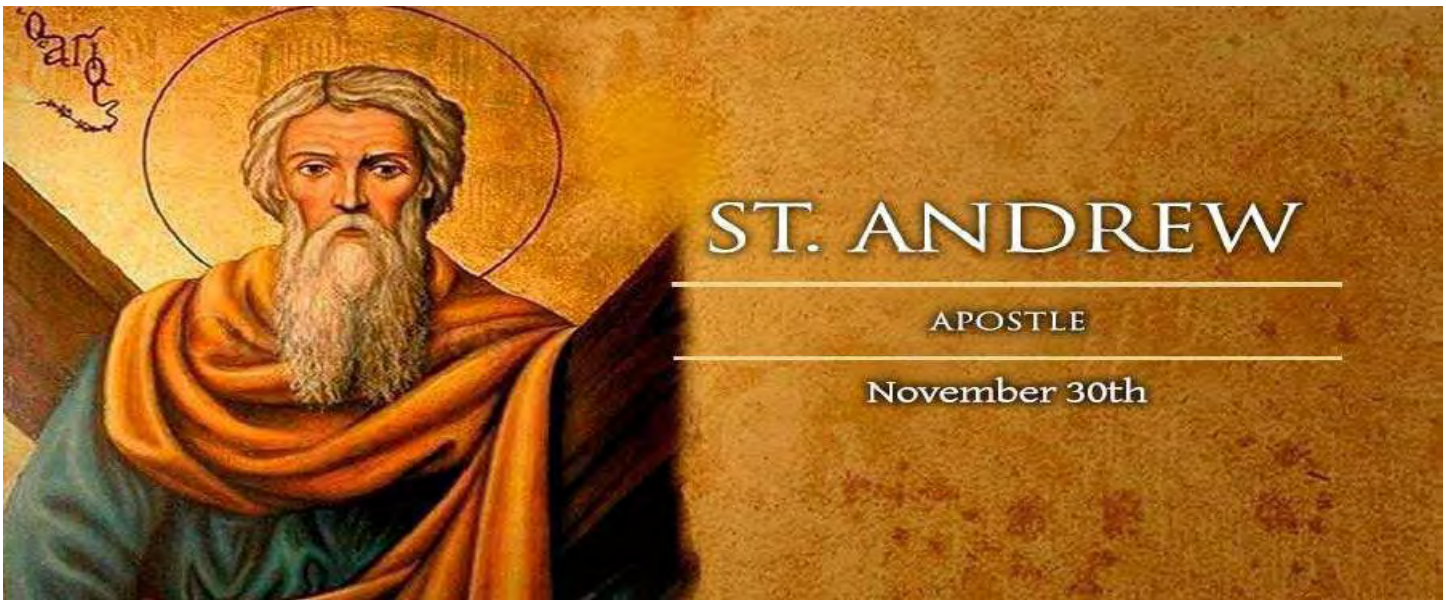
SOLEMNITY OF JESUS CHRIST
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

@junevreyes

"I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA"

says the Lord God, "Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come, the Almighty."

— REVELATION 1: 8 —



Thursday, November 30, 2023
The Feast of
St. Andrew the Apostle

"We have found the Messiah", expresses the great joy of the apostle Andrew. Those are the words we find in John's Gospel when Andrew rushes to meet his brother Simon Peter to tell him what he has discovered and to share his joy at being the first one called by Jesus. A fisherman from Bethsaida of Galilee and a disciple of John the Baptist, Andrew recognizes the "Lamb of God" in the son of Joseph the carpenter. The disciple recalled the time of this encounter at the Jordan river that would mark his life forever, "it was about four in the afternoon".

"Rabbi, where are you staying?" Jesus responded immediately to this question of Andrew and the other disciple, saying, "Come, and you will see". That clear invitation foreshadowed the following, more explicit call Jesus made on the shore of the Sea of Galilee to Simon, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men". The two disciples were still taken aback, but did not have any hesitation following Jesus, as the evangelist Matthew writes, "At once they left their nets and followed him".

From that first exchange with each other, a journey of faith began in following Jesus in his daily ministry. Andrew is one of the twelve apostles, whom the Son of God chose as one of his closest friends. He must have been amazed when he witnessed the multiplication of the loaves of bread and fish. Before the miracle, when he turned his gaze on the hungry crowds and saw only five loaves of bread and two fish, he asked "what good are these for so many?"

The preaching of the Good News continued tirelessly throughout Achaea and in Patras by around the year 60 AD. He was martyred there and crucified on a diagonal cross which he requested as a way to evoke the Greek initial used for the name of Christ. According to the Golden Legend, before giving his last breath, he was to have pronounced these words: "Cross, sanctified by the body of Christ. Good Cross, long desired always, I loved you and wished to embrace you. Welcome me and bring me to my master".

As in the case of all the apostles except Peter and John, the Gospels give us little about the holiness of Andrew. He was an apostle. That is enough. He was called personally by Jesus to proclaim the Good News, to heal with Jesus' power and to share his life and death. Holiness today is no different. It is a gift that includes a call to be concerned about the Kingdom, an outgoing attitude that wants nothing more than to share the riches of Christ with all people.

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.

Our Lord Jesus Christ
King of the Universe
November 26, 2023

"He has raised from the dead, in him shall all be brought to life"

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

Saturday, December 2, 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.

FOCUS:

We celebrate Jesus, our king and true shepherd.

"To which king should I be loyal?" is not a question many of us face in modern times, but for both faithful Jews and followers of Jesus, it was a decision on which their lives could literally depend. We realize how relevant the question remains when we ask, "Who or what reigns in my life?" The answer determines both our present and future joy .

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!**

Memorials for the Week of November 26, 2023

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Loving Memory of
Francis Gauci
Requested By:
The Spiteri Family

ALTAR BREAD

In Loving Memory of
John Finerty
Requested by:
The Finerty Family

ALTAR WINE

In Loving Memory of
John Finerty
Requested by:
The Finerty Family

ALTAR CANDLES

In Loving Memory of
John Finerty
Requested by:
The Finerty Family

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.

Mass Attendance for the
Weekend of November 18th and 19th, 2023:

5:00pm	96
8:00am	42
9:30am	204
11:00am	102
12:30pm	74

Total in attendance: 518

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 11/19/23: **$4,410.00**

2nd Collection-Human Development ***$540.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

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!

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.

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.

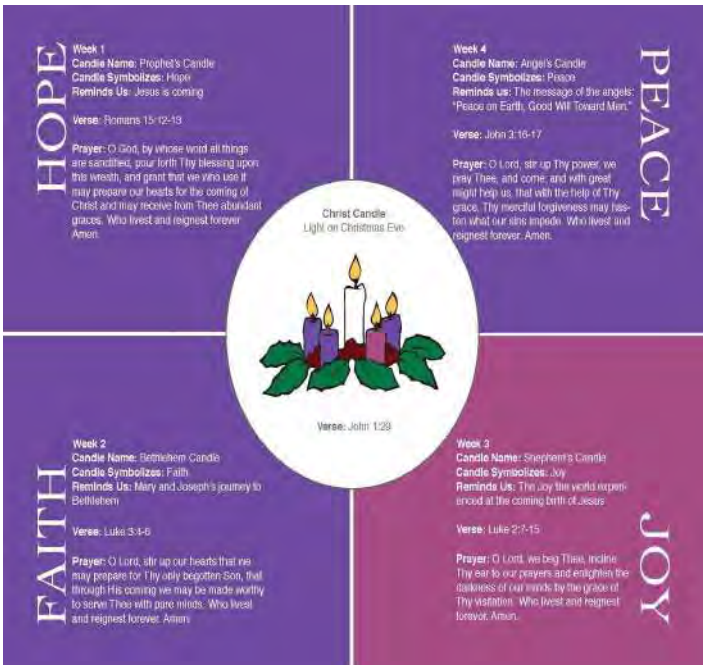
Do You Enjoy Singing?

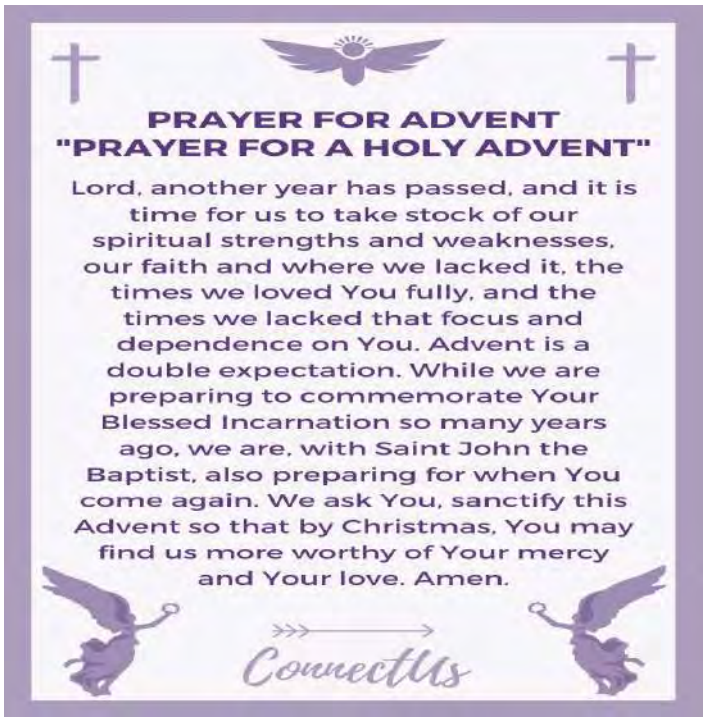
Then use your voice to praise the Lord!
Join the St. Francis of Assisi Choir.
We meet every Monday evening at 7:00PM in the choir loft in church.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

If anyone would like to memorialize the Advent Wreath Candles please stop by the Rectory.

The donation is $75.00 per candle.





The season of Advent will begin on the weekend of December 2nd/3rd. It is a 4-week period of waiting and preparing for the feast of Christmas. During the Season of Advent, on of the beautiful signs we have in our church is the Advent Wreath. The wreath, which has 4 candles, is placed in the church and each week a candle is lit to remind us of our waiting and preparing for the birth of Christ.

This year, you are invited to be part of the candle lighting ceremony. You can sign up as a family or individually. The candle lighter(s) would sit toward the front of the church and at the beginning of each mass, the priest will call you up to light the candle(s) for that week of Advent.

There will be a sign in the vestibule of the church this weekend. Any families, individuals or groups are invited to sign up at any of the masses to light the advent wreath. Please sign up for one of the weekend Masses to participate in the Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony.

Join us as we renew our desire, anticipation and hope for Christ's coming again.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

November 26—December 2

Sunday, November 26
NO Children's Liturgy
NO CCD
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

NEXT WEEK

December 3—December 9

Sunday, December 3
9:30AM-Pre-Confirmation Name Mass
9:30AM-Children's Liturgy
10:40-12 noon CCD

Monday, December 4
12:00-3:30PM-Golden Age
3:00-3:45PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, December 5
6:30PM—AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 6

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

Friday, December 8
The Immaculate Conception
9:00AM Mass
11:00AM Mass
7:30PM Mass

Saturday, December 9

December 2023
LECTOR Assignments

	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH
	December 2 -3	**December 9-10**	**December 16-17**	**December 23- 24**	**December 25**	**December 30-31**
Saturday 5:00 PM	Dolores Ratkowski	Debbi Skinner	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski		Edward Kubina
Sunday 8:00 AM	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz
Sunday 9:30 AM	Josephine Corso	Martha O'Toole	Maria Brooks	Patrick O'Toole	Josephine Corso	Martha O'Toole
Sunday 11:00 AM	Carol Hickey	Jane DiDonato	Carol Hickey	Jane DiDonato	Carol Hickey	Jane DiDonato
Sunday 12:30 PM	Anna Maria Tenaglia	Jackie Macchia	Anna Maria DelCarro	Eterna Brooks	Concetta D'Angelo	Anna Maria Tenaglia
4:00 PM				Edward Kubina		
6:00 PM				Lector Needed		

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca V.F., Pastor

2023 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 **December** Light the first violet candle in your Advent wreath and pray with today's Gospel, *Mark 13:33-37.*	4 Choose a way you can grow closer to Christ in Advent: more mental prayer, penance, almsgiving, Sacraments.	5 Display the stable for the Nativity Scene. Add figures gradually throughout Advent.	6 **St. Nicholas of Myra** Perform a simple act of kindness for someone today in honor of this generous saint.	7 On the Memorial of Saint Ambrose, bishop and teacher, pray for all clergy in the Church.	8 **The Immaculate Conception of Mary** Celebrate by attending Mass and praying a Rosary for our country.	9 Prepare heart and soul to welcome Christ. Make an examination of conscience and attend Confession.
10 Light the second violet candle and meditate on *Mark 1:1-8.*	11 Offer a small sacrifice out of love for Jesus, who offered Himself up for love of you.	12 Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pray for all pregnant women and thank God for the gift of new life.	13 Advent is a busy time for parishes. Call or email your parish office and ask how you can serve.	14 In prayer, forgive someone who has hurt you. Ask for the grace to let go and move on.	15 Call Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS or www.catholicrelief.org) to see how you can contribute.	16 Las Posadas begins today honoring Mary's and Joseph's search for shelter. Gather friends and go caroling.
17 *Gaudete Sunday* Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. Pray with *John 1:6-9, 19-28.*	18 Put a lamp or candle in a window to welcome the Christ Child. Light it every night until Christmas.	19 Feed the hungry. Look for someone who is physically hungry or hungry for human kindness.	20 Review your "Advent resolutions" and renew your commitment to them.	21 Spend time before the Blessed Sacrament today to ready your heart for the arrival of the King.	22 Reflect on how your relationship with Christ grew this Advent. Thank Him for the graces you received.	23 Make an effort to see everyone with loving eyes today.
24 The fourth week of Advent lasts only one day. Meditate on the great news the angel brought (see *Luke 1:26-38*).	25 *Rejoice!* Place the Christ Child in the manger. Go to Mass today and rejoice!	*"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).*				

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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

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

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