The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, December 31–The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
8:00 A.M. Christmas Novena
9:30 A.M. Maria Messina
11:00 A.M. Dr. Arthur Gualtieri
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Antonio Bruno

MONDAY, January 1– The Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God
9:00 A.M. Jennifer Ronacher

11:00 A.M. Albert Boody

TUESDAY, January 2–Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen
9:00 A.M. Sister Agnes Conlon

WEDNESDAY, January 3– Most Holy Name of Jesus
9:00A.M. Marie Guerriero

THURSDAY, January 4– Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
9:00 A.M. Evelyn Singura

FRIDAY, January 5 – Saint John Nuemann
9:00 A.M. Ed Montell

SATURDAY, January 6– Saint Andre Bessette
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
John Betancourt
John McCarthy
Margaret McCarthy
Grace DaCorta
Eliseo DaCorta
Living and Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary

5:00P.M. Maxine Sullivan

SUNDAY, January 7– The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Connie Azzopardi
11:00 A.M. Alexis Scott
12:30 P.M. Franco Primante
Nunziata Manganaro
Rino Del Carro

Today's Readings

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

IGenesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:116-21

TUESDAY: 1 John 2:22-28
John 1:19-28

WEDNESDAY 1 John 2:29-3:6
John 1:29-34

THURSDAY: 1 John 3:7-10
John 1:35-42

FRIDAY: 1 John 3:11-21
John 1:43-51

SATURDAY: 1 John 5:5-13
Mark 1:7-11

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

January 1st, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. We can be confident that Mary was at peace with the will of God acting in her life. This must have helped her to not feel overly anxious or distressed at the circumstance surrounding the birth of her child. We know she was filled with faith in God and hope for what the future would hold for her son. Her words to Elizabeth, "my being proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my savior, God who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name" (Lk 1:46-49), reflect her confidence in God's goodness. A remarkable blessing of God was upon the nation of Israel and on all of humankind, and Mary and Joseph were instruments in that blessing.

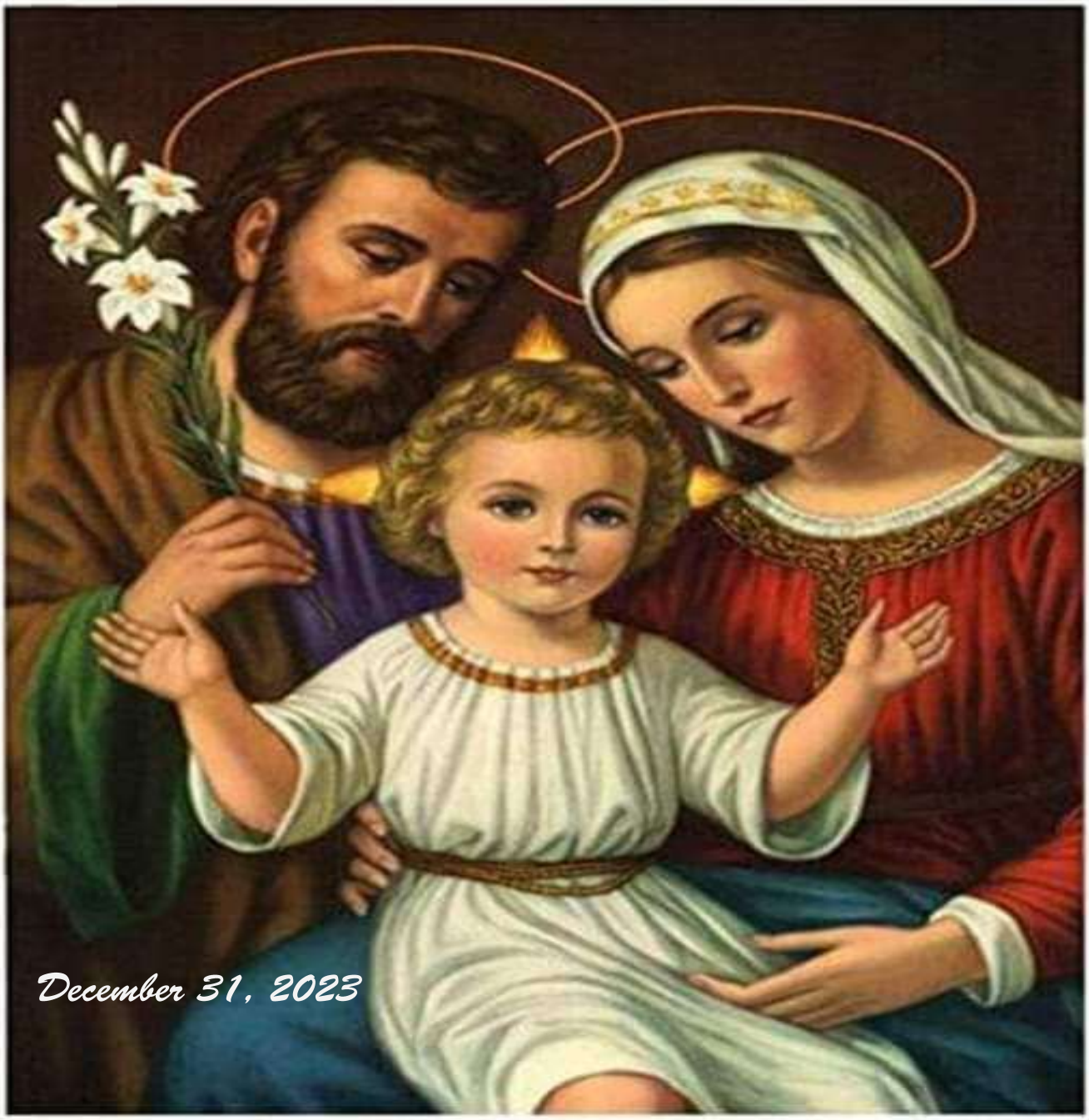
Mary and Joseph were faithful children of Israel and perhaps had heard many times the blessing the Lord spoke to Moses and directed to Aron and the priests. We heard this blessing in today's first reading, asking the Lord to bless us and keep us, that his face may shine upon us, and in his kindness give us peace. Peace was with Mary and Joseph because they knew God was with them. This is such an appropriate blessing for us, as well, as we begin the new year 2024 and mark the day as a day of prayer for peace in our own time. It is only when peace reigns in our own hearts that we can extend that peace to others.

There is much in today's liturgy for us to treasure and ponder. The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, Mother of God, is mother to the Church and to us, as well. Despite the hardships and difficulties she faced, she maintained a peaceful confidence in God's love and care for her and for her child. The ancient blessing given by God to Moses and Aron were present in her daily life, as they can be for us. With a mother's love, Mary will help us to grow in peace and trust in the Lord's goodness as we honor her and call upon her intercession. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

A Blessed New Year to all our parish families. May the Lord's peace be in your hearts throughout this new year.

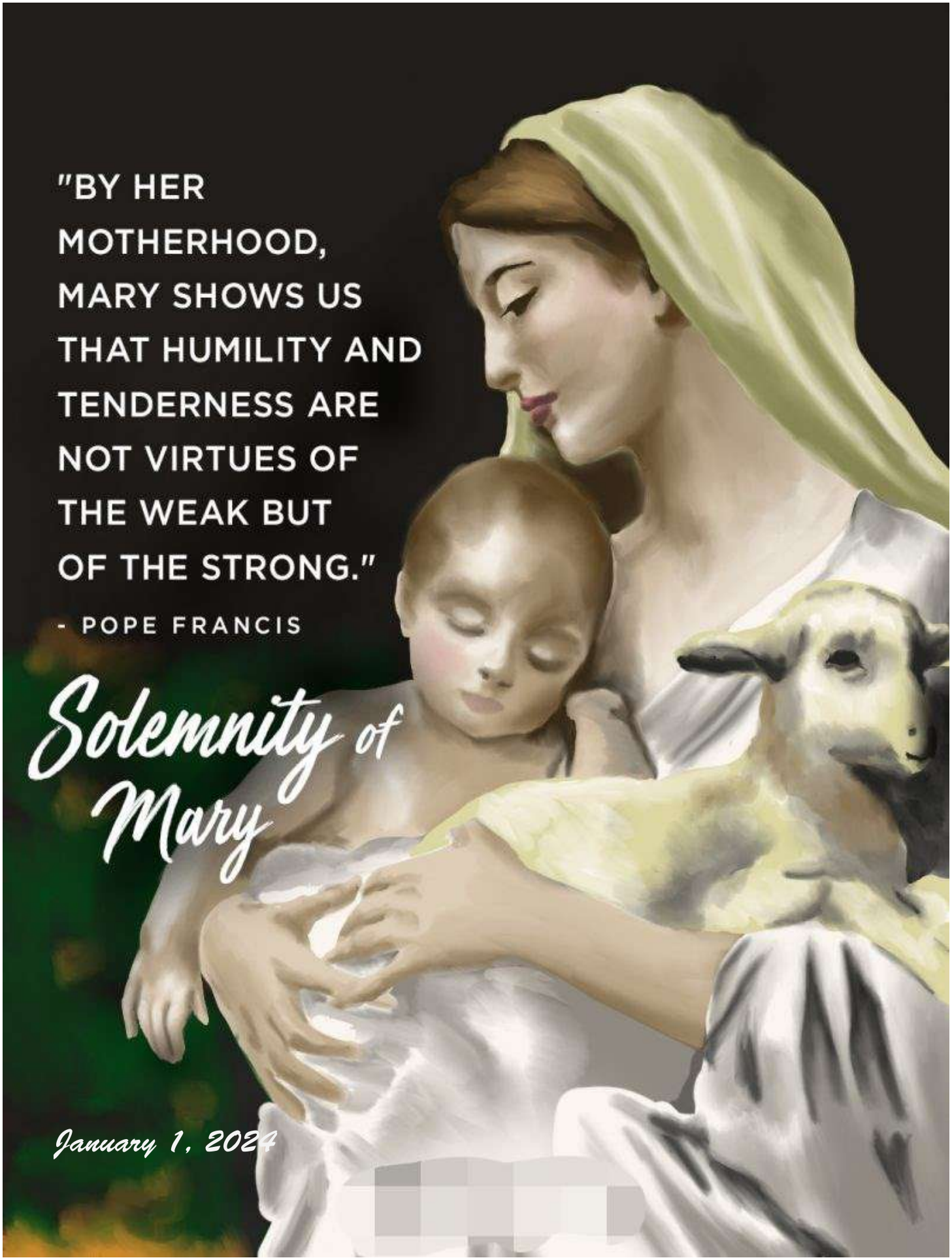
All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

HAPPY FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



God our Father, in the Holy Family of Nazareth you have given us the true model of a Christian home. Grant that by following Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their love for each other and in the example of their family life, we may come to your home of peace and joy.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph pray for our families!


"BY HER MOTHERHOOD, MARY SHOWS US THAT HUMILITY AND TENDERNESS ARE NOT VIRTUES OF THE WEAK BUT OF THE STRONG."
- POPE FRANCIS
Solemnity of Mary
January 1, 2024

Tuesday, January 2, 2024
The Feast of
Sts. Basil & Gregory Nazianzen

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzen were among the most devoted defenders of the faith in the fourth century. Both were bishops and both are now saints and doctors of the Church. These two men met while studying in Caesarea Cappadocia and strengthened their tight friendship in Athens. After Basil's death, Gregory wrote of their bond, "We seemed to have one soul, inhabiting two bodies" (*Orationes of Saint Gregory* 43:20). Both saints came from families of saints. Basil's maternal grandmother was a martyr; his paternal grandmother, his parents, and three of his siblings are also saints. Gregory's father was converted to Catholicism by his wife. After his conversion, he was ordained a priest and then consecrated as Bishop of Nazianzen. He served as bishop for about forty-five years, living into his nineties. These saintly parents had three children, all of whom became saints. At the time that Saints Gregory and Basil lived, the Church, the body of Christ, was suffering from the pandemic of Arianism, a heresy that denied the divinity of Christ. This heresy was like a disease infecting the Church. Arianism entered the bloodstream of Christ's body and weakened every limb and muscle, causing convulsions, violent outbursts, and deep divisions among both bishops and the faithful. The clear teaching and brave episcopal leadership of Saints Basil and Gregory helped the Church to heal, to eradicate this heresy, and to restore unity of faith in the East. But not all warmly welcomed their efforts. They both suffered greatly. From the emperor, many bishops, and other clergy and laity, they received many abuses, calumnies, physical attacks, and threats. Through it all, they remained faithful to their preaching and calm and focused in their resolve, restoring a deeper and more ancient unity to Christ's faithful. Today, their voluminous writings are among the most inspiring, insightful, and convincing teachings of the early Church, particularly as they pertain to Christ's divinity and the Most Holy Trinity.

Wednesday, January 3, 2024
The Feast of
The Holy Name of Jesus

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. "In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of the incarnation: "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus". It is a name that has marvelous implications, for it means "savior." The very name bespeaks the magnitude of His mission, His infinite love, a love that will cause Him to offer Himself up for us.

Although Saint Paul might claim credit for promoting devotion to the Holy Name because Paul wrote in Philippians that God the Father gave Christ Jesus "that name that is above every name" (see 2:9), this devotion became popular because of 12th-century Cistercian monks and nuns but especially through the preaching of Saint Bernardine of Siena, a 15th-century Franciscan. Bernardine used devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus as a way of overcoming bitter and often bloody class struggles and family rivalries or vendettas in Italian city-states. The devotion grew, partly because of Franciscan and Dominican preachers. It spread even more widely after the Jesuits began promoting it in the 16th century. In 1530, Pope Clement V approved an Office of the Holy Name for the Franciscans. In 1721, Pope Innocent XIII extended this feast to the entire Church.

Jesus died and rose for the sake of all people. No one can trademark or copyright Jesus' name. Jesus is the Son of God and son of Mary. Everything that exists was created in and through the Son of God (see Colossians 1:15-20). The name of Jesus is debased if any Christian uses it as justification for berating non-Christians. Jesus reminds us that because we are all related to him we are, therefore, all related to one another.

Thursday, January 4, 2024
The Feast of
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Mother Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. She opened the first American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage. All this she did in the span of 46 years while raising her five children. Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton was born August 28, 1774, just two years before the Declaration of Independence. By birth and marriage, she was linked to the first families of New York and enjoyed the fruits of high society. Reared a staunch Episcopalian, she learned the value of prayer, Scripture and a nightly examination of conscience. Her father did not have much use for churches but was a great humanitarian, teaching his daughter to love and serve others. The early deaths of her mother in 1777 and her baby sister in 1778 gave Elizabeth a feel for eternity and the temporariness of the pilgrim life on earth. Far from being sullen, she faced each new "holocaust," as she put it, with hopeful cheerfulness. At 19, Elizabeth was the belle of New York and married a handsome, wealthy businessman, William Magee Seton. They had five children before he died of tuberculosis. At 30, Elizabeth was widowed and penniless, with five small children. While in Italy with her dying husband, Elizabeth witnessed Catholicity in action through family friends. Three points led her to become a Catholic: belief in the Real Presence, devotion to the Blessed Mother and conviction that the Catholic Church led back to the apostles and to Christ. Many of her family and friends rejected her when she became a Catholic in March 1805. To support her children, she opened a school in Baltimore. From the beginning, her group followed the lines of a religious community, which was officially founded in 1809. The thousand or more letters of Mother Seton reveal the development of her spiritual life from ordinary goodness to heroic sanctity. She suffered great trials of sickness, misunderstanding, the death of loved ones and the heartache of a wayward son. She died January 4, 1821, and became the first American-born citizen to be beatified (1963) and then canonized (1975). She is buried in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Friday, January 5, 2024
The Feast of
Saint John Neumann

Perhaps because the United States got a later start in the history of the world, it has relatively few canonized saints, but their number is increasing. John Neumann was born in what is now the Czech Republic. After studying in Prague, he came to New York at 25 and was ordained a priest. He did missionary work in New York until he was 29, when he joined the Redemptorists and became its first member to profess vows in the United States. He continued missionary work in Maryland, Virginia and Ohio, where he became popular with the Germans. At 41, as bishop of Philadelphia, he organized the parochial school system into a diocesan one, increasing the number of pupils almost twentyfold within a short time. Gifted with outstanding organizing ability, he drew into the city many teaching communities of sisters and the Christian Brothers. During his brief assignment as vice provincial for the Redemptorists, he placed them in the forefront of the parochial movement. Well-known for his holiness and learning, spiritual writing and preaching, on October 13, 1963, John Neumann became the first American bishop to be beatified. Canonized in 1977, he is buried in St. Peter the Apostle Church in Philadelphia.

Neumann took seriously our Lord's words, "Go and teach all nations." From Christ he received his instructions and the power to carry them out. For Christ does not give a mission without supplying the means to accomplish it. The Father's gift in Christ to John Neumann was his exceptional organizing ability, which he used to spread the Good News. Today the Church is in dire need of men and women to continue in our times the teaching of the Good News. The obstacles and inconveniences are real and costly. Yet when Christians approach Christ, he supplies the necessary talents to answer today's needs. The Spirit of Christ continues his work through the instrumentality of generous Christians.

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

Jack Orlando, Steven Joyce, Judy Hanley-Brickner, John Wrenn, Augustin Cisneros, Thomas Leiter, James Nunez, Vincent Wytak, John & 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, 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.

Pray for Vocations

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

December 31, 2023

"He gave power to become children of God"

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 December 31, 2023

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Loving Memory of
Jennifer Ronacher

Requested By:
Davina Gelber

FOCUS:

Imitate the Holy Family, the true model of life.

Even in their holiness, Mary, Joseph and their child Jesus were not exempt from suffering, and the difficulties of life. Yet they never wavered in their commitment to God or to each other. Theirs was a home where *the child (Jesus) grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him*. Let us strive to make our homes a haven for others to grow in love, virtue and favor.

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.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Saturday, January 6, 2024, 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.

Christmas Flower Envelopes can be returned in any collection. Please be sure to write the name(s) legibly. The list of names will be printed in the Bulletin. Thank you.

Due to the early submission deadline Mass Attendance for the Weekends of December 23rd and 24th, 2023 and December 30th and 31st will be updated in the Bulletin on January 7, 2024.

Thank you for your understanding.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

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

Dear SFA Friends and Family

The Scripture Study group will be on winter recess until January when we will begin a new study. The new study will be announced at a later date.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" (Isaiah 52:7)

HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR

Wishing you Joy and Peace.

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 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.

The collection amounts for the weekends of December 23rd & 24th and December 30th & 31st will be updated in the January 7, 2024 Bulletin.

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

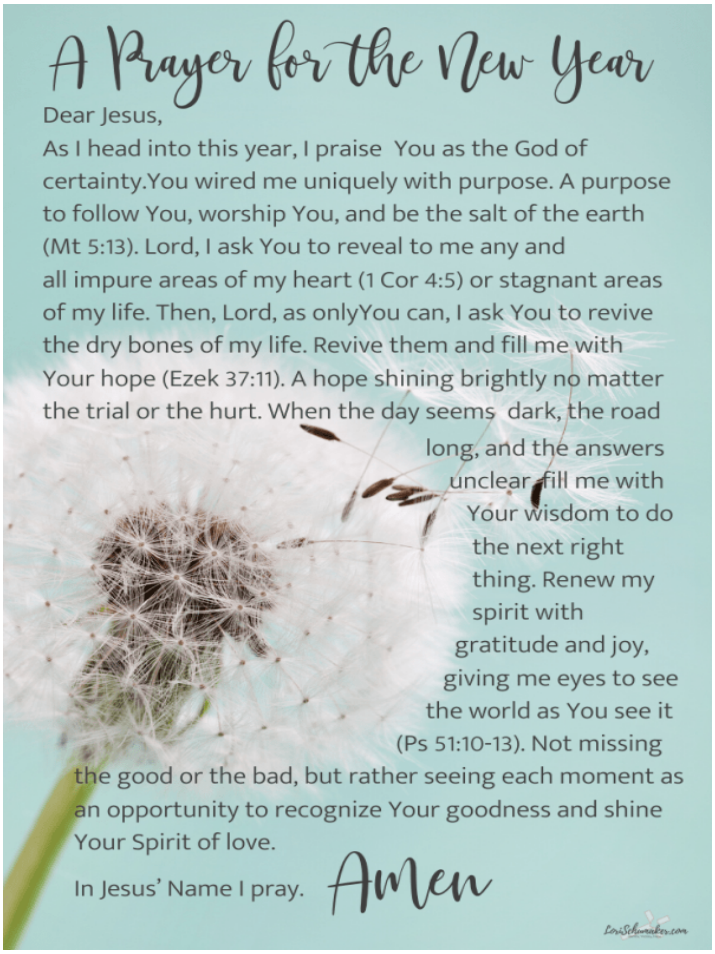
Next weekend, January 6th and 7th, the second collection will be for the Diocesan Mission.
Please be as generous as your means allow.

Thank you for your continued support.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Thank you to all who gave to this years Annual Catholic Appeal. Our goal was $41,679 and as of Monday, December 18th, we have pledges amounting to $42,467. Paid is $40,356.72. this amount is from 106 families in our parish.
I realize everyone has financial responsibilities, but your generosity to support this appeal is truly a sign of your love for our parish.
Also, all monies received over goal will come back to our parish and placed in the operating account of the parish.
Please know you are remembered each day in prayer.

Msgr. Maresca



The Priests, Deacons and Staff of St. Francis of Assisi Wish all our parishioners a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year

Worship Schedule

Confessions **-**

Saturday, December 30th
4:00-4:30PM

Mass Schedule **-**

Saturday, December 30th-Christmas Octave
9:00AM & 5:00PM

New Year's Eve-Sunday, December 31st

8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM & 12:30PM (Italian)

NO 5:00PM Mass

Mary, The Holy Mother of God -Monday, January 1st

9:00AM & 11:00AM

Parish Office Schedule

Saturday, December 30th-9:00AM to 2:00PM
Sunday, December 31st-Closed
Monday, January 1st-Closed

The Rectory will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd at 9:00am.
Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

December 31—January 6

Sunday, December 31
Mass Times
8:00AM
9:30AM
11:00AM
12:30PM (Italian)
NO VIGIL MASS

Monday, January 1
Rectory Office & Academy Closed
Mass Times
9:00AM
11:00AM

Tuesday, January 2
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 3

Thursday, January 4
10:00-11:30AM-Legion of Mary
6:00PM-I.A.C.A.

Friday, January 5
9:00AM School Mass

Saturday, January 6
9;00AM Anointing Mass
6:00PM Youth Group Meeting

NEXT WEEK

January 7—January 13

Sunday, January 7
NO Children's Liturgy
9:30AM Pre-Communion Mass
10:40AM-12 Noon CCD

Monday, January 8
12:00-3:30PM-Golden Age
3:00-3:45PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Chior

Tuesday, January 9
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 10
7:00PM Baptism Class

Thursday, January 11
10:00-11:30AM-Legion of Mary
6:00PM-I.A.C.A.
7:20PM Scripture Study

Friday, January 12
6:00-8:00PM Winter Blast-Grades 3-5

Saturday, January 13

JANUARY 2024
LECTOR SCHEDULE

	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	JANUARY 6 -7	JANUARY 13-14	JANUARY 20 - 21	JANUARY 27- 28
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Dolores Ratkowski	Dolores Ratkowski	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski
Sunday 8:00 A.M.	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Andrew Soltesz	Andrew Soltesz
Sunday 9:30 A.M.	Josephine Corso	Martha O'Toole	Maria Brooks	Patrick O'Toole
Sunday 11:00 A.M.	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato
Sunday 12:30 P.M.	Anna Maria Del Carro	Eterna Bruno	Jackie Machia	Anna Maria Tenaglia

***** REMINDER *****
Once you are scheduled, if you cannot fulfill your assignment, please make every effort to call and get a replacement. Thank you

Come Home to St. Francis of Assisi for Christmas

JOIN OUR PARISH FAMILY AS WE CELEBRATE MASS EACH WEEKEND

Masses: Vigil on Saturdays 5pm

Sunday: 8am, 9:30am, 11:00am, 12:30pm (Italian)

Let us worship together and give thanks and praise to God.