The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, March 10 – Fourth Sunday of Lent
8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. Roman Galido
11:00 A.M. James Power
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Joseph Iccari
Joseph Cicaro
Rosario Rosaria Manganella

MONDAY, March 11-Lenten Weekday
9:00 A.M. Joseph Conlon

TUESDAY, March 12-Lenten Weekday
9:00 A.M. Victor Salamone

WEDNESDAY, March 13– Lenten Weekday
9:00A.M. The Spieijaric Family

THURSDAY, March 14-Lenten Weekday
9:00 A.M. Joseph Salamone

FRIDAY, March 15-Lenten Weekday
9:00 A.M. Marie Salamone

SATURDAY, March 16—Lenten Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
The Maresca Family
William Hovanec
John Hovanec

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

SUNDAY, March 17– Fifth Sunday of Lent
8:00 A.M. Dan Lombardi
9:30 A.M. Frank Mancusco
11:00 A.M. The Masluk Family
12:30 P.M. Maria N. Scarlatto
Rino Del Carro
Rosa Angelo Sferrazza
Eugenia Madonna
Angelo LoBrutto

Today's Readings

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 3:14-21

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Isaiah 65:17-21
John 4:43-54

TUESDAY: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
John 5:1-16

WEDNESDAY Isaiah 49:8-15
John 5:17-30

THURSDAY: Exodus 32:7-14
John 5:31-47

FRIDAY: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

SATURDAY: Jeremiah 11:18-20
John 7:40-53

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

There is probably no stronger human need than to be loved. Infants and children crave it from their parents. Teens and young adults seek it from their peers. Young men and women seek out the perfect spouse. Husbands and wives express love in countless ways. Those who feel unloved often try to compensate with such things as material goods or excesses of all sorts.

Here is something each of us must remember: ***GOD LOVES YOU!*** Do any of us fully appreciate it? Can we even begin to imagine so great a love?

God has a long history of loving us. In fact, God's love is eternal and unconditional. From the moment God created man and woman, He had their best interests in mind. Even when they sinned, He immediately promised a woman who would bear a Savior. Even when Abraham and Sarah were aged, God promised them innumerable descendants. Even when the Chosen People were enslaved in Egypt, God sent Moses to lead them to the Promised Land. Even when they added infidelity to infidelity, God sent messengers to them for He had compassion for His people, as our first reading today reminds us. Even when they were sent into exile in Babylon, they were eventually liberated and returned home.

And in a world still darkened by sin, God continues to love us, and fulfills His eternal plan for our salvation. As we heard in today's Gospel, *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.* God sent His only Begotten Son, Jesus, to take on our humanity, to teach us about God's love, and to suffer and die for our sins. And in that dying, He destroyed our death; and in rising, He restored our life. What greater act of love could there be? Our second reading today reminds us that God is *rich in mercy because of the great love He has for us. He brought us to life in Christ Jesus.* By grace we have been saved. By grace we share in His divine life.

When we are wronged, we often seek revenge. When we are hurt, we tend to walk away. When we are ignored, we usually stop talking. But when God is wronged, He loves. When God is maligned, He stands strong. When God is ignored, He communicates with us. How can we possibly return so great a love? The liturgy itself provides our guide. We listen attentively to the truth that Christ still teaches in the Scriptures. We give due thanks and praise to God, expressing our gratitude for His many gifts. And we are dismissed from the liturgy to go out and share with others the good news that God loves them, too!

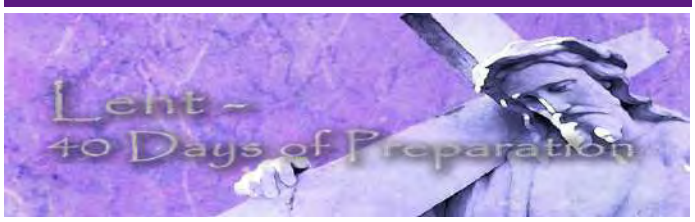
All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

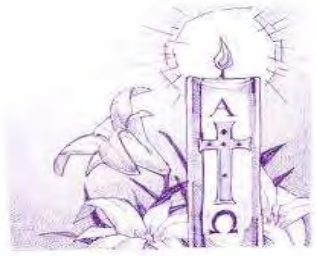
What are you doing for Lent?

To help us during our Lenten journey, the following opportunities will be taking place in our parish.

1. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each morning at 8:00AM Monday through Saturday.
2. Mass is celebrated each morning at 9:00AM Monday through Saturday.
3. Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:30PM and will conclude with Benediction.
4. Confessions are heard every Saturday from 4:00 to 4:30PM.
5. Reconciliation Monday is ***March 25th***. Every Church in our Diocese, the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Rockville Centre will be hearing confessions. We will be hearing confessions from
   3:00 to 5:00PM and 7:00 to 9:00PM.
   What a wonderful experience to receive the mercy of Christ in this great sacrament.
6. The Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Council will be hosting our Lenten Supper & Stations on Friday, March 15th.

   Supper will be at 6:00PM in Msgr. Campbell Hall followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:30PM in Church. Free will donation.
7. All are welcome to join the St. Francis of Assisi Scripture Study Group on Thursday nights at 7:20PM. The group is for anyone who would like to deepen their understanding of the Bible.





The Paschal Candle Will Burn in Memory of:

Rose & Denis Sweeney

Lucia, Ralph &
Domenick Borgia

John Purich

Rita & Ralph Maresca

William LeDone

All Souls in Purgatory

If anyone would like to make a donation or memorialize the ***Pascal Candle,*** please stop by the rectory and speak with Marybeth. As you know, the Pascal Candle is blessed and lighted at the Easter Vigil and remains in the sanctuary until the Feast of Pentecost. It is then used for all our funerals during the year.

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

Awyn Profit, Jack Orlando, Steven Joyce, Judy Hanley-Brickner, John Wrenn, Augustin Cisneros, James Nunez, Vincent Wytak, John & Carol Ross, Jeffrey Hyans, Marie LoVolpe, Jessica St. Preux, Al Ciani, Alesha Moses, Nancy McCaffrey, 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 Humen, 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 Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2024

"Whoever lives the truth comes to the light."

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

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.

FOCUS:

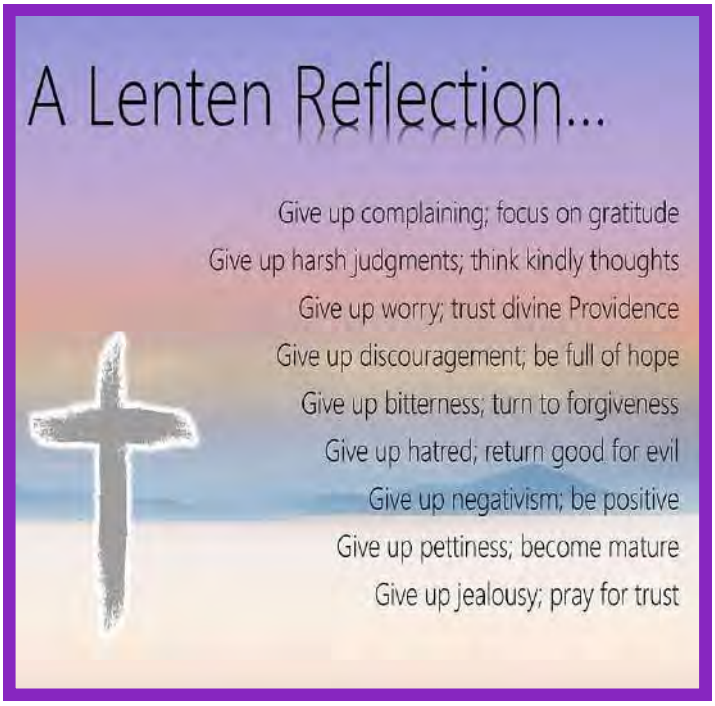
Offer gifts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving out of love and gratitude to our merciful God.

We offer our gifts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to God out of gratitude. We recognize that all is gift. God has poured out His grace upon us . We joyfully draw near to the giver of all good gifts in the spiritual practices we take up in this season.

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 March 2-3, 2024:

5:00pm	102
8:00am	70
9:30am	202
11:00am	145
12:30pm	82

Total in Attendance: **601**

Memorials for the Week of March 10, 2024

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Loving Memory of
James Power

Requested By:
Nanette, James & Kevin

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 meet on Thursday, March 14 from 7:20-8:50 in the St. Joseph's room in the rectory with Paul's Letter to the Romans (Romans 1:18-3:20) . Join us as we **Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture**.

"But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, though testified to by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe." (Romans 3:21-22)

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.

Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture.

All are Invited … ALL ARE WELCOME!

Welcome to Our Church

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

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.

Sunday2/24-25/24: **$5,935.00**

School parents must use church envelopes.

The Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Council will be hosting our Lenten Supper & Stations on Friday, March 15th.

Supper will be at 6:30PM in Msgr. Campbell Hall followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:30PM in Church.
Free will donation.

Easter Flower envelopes can be returned in any collection. Please **clearly** print the names as they will be published in our Bulletin.

Easter Mass Remembrance envelopes can be returned in any collection before Easter. The names of our loved ones, living or deceased, will be remembered at the Easter Novena of Masses celebrated Easter week.

Dear Fellow Parishioners,
Since 2014 alone, the Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn Donation Program has given back over $400,000 to local parishes throughout the New York Metropolitan Area. Your donation has helped many individuals in need in your neighborhood. Only through the generosity of countless parishioners are we able to make a difference. Please help us to continue to make a difference by spreading the word to anyone you know that would like to donate a vehicle, running or not leaving a review on Google, and liking us on Social Media. Together we can continue our mission in helping the less fortunate.

Help Spread the Word to help Those in Need!

Please Visit Us at svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org
Leave a Review on Google &
Like us on
Follow us on

With Much Thanks and Many Blessings,
Jim Shea
Associated Vincentian Charities Car Program Coordinator

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

March 10—March 16

Sunday, March 10
8:00AM-Holy Name Mass
9:30 Pre-Communion Mass
9:30 Girl Scout Mass & Breakfast
10:40 CCD

Monday, March 11
12:00-3:30PM Golden Age-MCH
3:00-Confirmnation Rehearsal
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, March 12
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, March 13
7:00PM Baptism Class

Thursday, March 14
10:00-11:30AM-Legion of Mary
6:00PM I.A.C.A.-SFR
7:20PM Scripture Study-StJoR
7:30PM-Confirmation Rehearsal

Friday, March 15
6:30PM-Supper & Stations
7:30PM-Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 16

NEXT WEEK

March 17—March 23

Sunday, March 17
9:30 Children's Liturgy
10:40 CCD
3:00PM Confirmation

Monday, March 18
12:00-3:30PM Golden Age-MCH
3:00-3:45 Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, March 19
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, March 20

Thursday, March 21
10:00-11:30AM-Legion of Mary
6:00PM I.A.C.A.-SFR
7:20PM Scripture Study-StJoR

Friday, March 22
7:30PM-Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 23
6:00PM Youth Group Meeting

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

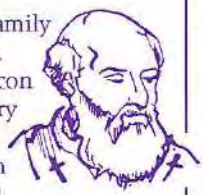
March 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca V.F., Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Pope St. Zachary



Born to a Greek family in Calabria, Italy, St. Zachary was deacon to Pope Gregory III before succeeding him as pope in 741. As pope, St. Zachary skillfully negotiated peace for Italy several times, most notably with the Lombards and the Franks. St. Zachary supported St. Boniface's German mission, ransomed slaves sold by Venetian merchants, and supported the restoration of churches. He carried the Church through troubled times with charity, prudence, and skillful leadership.

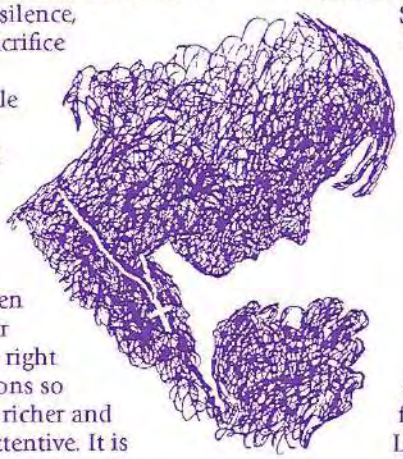
Trust

St. (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta refused donations beyond the current needs of her community. Accepting such help would mean she didn't trust God to provide for their needs. When we rely on God, we demonstrate our faith, just as Mother Teresa did.

"God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Finish Lent strong

The last weeks of Lent can feel like the last yards of a marathon. We're just pushing ourselves to reach the finish line of Easter. Instead, think of Lent as a time of silence, simplicity, and sacrifice that helps us become the people God wants us to be. That's the real point of Lent.



Silence: Prayer is oxygen for the soul. It is during prayer when God speaks to our hearts. Lent done right removes distractions so that our prayer is richer and our focus more attentive. It is critical to find time to be with Him in attentive silence each day.

Simplicity: Avoid material clutter. Consider the six month rule – if you haven't worn it or used it in the last six months – give it away. Not only will you help those in need, decluttering creates room in our homes and hearts for God.

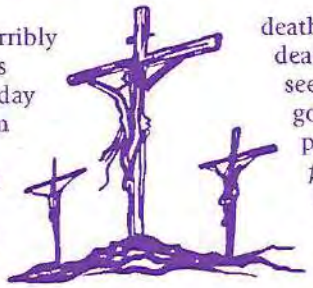
Sacrifice: Through sacrifice we give back to God what we owe Him. While we can't repay Him for His gifts in equal measure, we can express gratitude with small sacrifices that show our return back to Him in gratitude and love.

Sacraments: Sacraments are the fuel for fighting evil. During Lent, these spiritual battles intensify. Weekly Mass and monthly Confession keep up our spiritual strength. Don't fight on fumes. Fuel up with the Sacraments.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics call Good Friday "good"?

Although it recalls a terribly sad event, Good Friday is "good" because it is the day when Jesus saved us from our sins, reconciled us with God, and reopened Heaven. Out of what seemed like defeat, God brought victory. By His death, Jesus conquered sin and death. On Good Friday, we see more clearly God's goodness, justice, wisdom, power, and love. *"God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).



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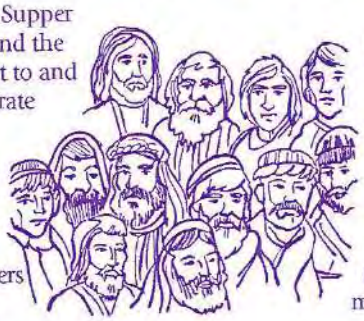
"By this all men will know that you are my disciples..."



Each Triduum begins by recalling the Last Supper during which Jesus gave us the priesthood and the Eucharist as His means of remaining present to and in His Church. On Holy Thursday, we celebrate discipleship and are all asked to renew our commitment to following Jesus.

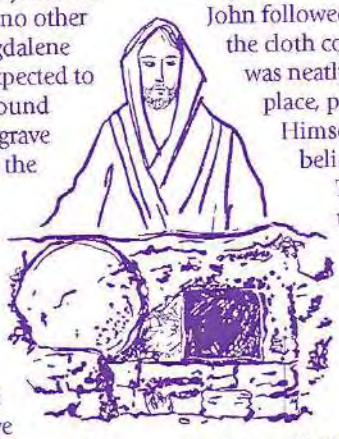
Disciples act with love. *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"* (John 13:35). True followers of Jesus know that how we treat others proves that we know Him and follow Him.

Disciples answer the call. God chooses us first, but we must answer the call. If Peter had not dropped his nets and followed Jesus, he would not have been a disciple. Discipleship involves a choice to drop everything for Him.

Disciples make other disciples. Ultimately, we need to do what Jesus did, which is to make more disciples. This was His final command, *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19). The Catholic Church's mission is to make disciples who make disciples.

from Scripture

John 20:1-9, Jesus – not death – has the last word



The Resurrection is the keystone of our Faith, making a claim no other faith can. When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb, she expected to find a body. Instead, she found the stone rolled back, the grave clothes neatly folded, and the tomb empty. She concluded, wrongly, that thieves had taken the Lord's body, and she ran to tell Peter and John.

When Peter and John arrived, Peter entered first and also saw that the grave clothes had been left behind, not left in a heap, but neatly arranged. No grave robber would have taken the body and left the clothes behind. John followed Peter and saw that the cloth covering Christ's face was neatly folded in a separate place, perhaps by Christ Himself. He saw and believed.

The Resurrection proves that Christ is who He says He is. Therefore, we must give Him our final allegiance. Because Jesus rose from the dead in glory, we also have the hope of rising in glory with Him on the Last Day. Christ – not death, sin, or evil – has the last word.

Feasts & Celebrations

March 8 – John of God (1550). Moved to repentance by a homily of St. John of Ávila, St. John left his career in the Portuguese military to establish a hospital for the sick and poor. After his death, his assistants formed the Brothers Hospitallers.

March 19 - St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (1st century). Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

March 24 - Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (1st Century). On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when He was greeted by cheering crowds waving palms. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

March 26 - St. Margaret Clitherow (1586). St. Margaret converted to Catholicism soon after she married, when Catholicism was illegal in England. Margaret continued to practice her faith, even hiding priests in her house so they could say Mass. She remained joyful, faithful, and peaceful until her martyrdom.

Q & A What are the Corporal Works of Mercy?

As followers of Christ, we're encouraged to care for each other. Jesus' parable of the judgment of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46) lists the ways we can care for those in physical need: *"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."* (Matthew 25:35).

These are the Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick and imprisoned, to shelter the homeless and to bury the dead. Essentially, "it is by what they have done for the poor that Jesus Christ will recognize His chosen ones" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2443).

The Corporal Works of Mercy are about being aware of others' needs and responding to them. Living the Corporal Works of Mercy is how we can make our love for God and others visible and effective. *"Whatever you did for one of these...you did for me"* (Matthew 25:40).

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living

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

LENT 2024

= a day of fasting and abstinence from meat

= a day of abstinence from meat

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). **February**			14 *Ash Wednesday* Attend Mass and receive ashes. Prayerfully choose Lenten offerings of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.	15 Set aside an empty jar for loose change. When it's full, donate it to the poor box at church.	16 Offer up every time you're tempted to have meat for those who can't afford to have meat regularly.	17 Adopt a seminarian or consecrated religious to pray for this Lent. Check your diocesan website to see who is in discernment.
18 Scroll through your phone contacts and offer your Communion for whichever person you land on.	19 Keep custody of the thoughts: give up complaining, rash judgement, and negative self-talk. See holiness -- and productivity! -- increase.	20 Pick a saint to accompany you during Lent. Learn more about them and ask them to pray for you.	21 Find a pro-life pregnancy center near you and ask how you can help them support the women and their babies.	22 Put out an empty box. Throughout Lent, fill it with gently used items in good condition that you no longer use.	23 Observe a screen fast (from recreational use) from noon to 3, recalling the 3 hours Jesus hung on the Cross.	24 Make up bags of socks, oranges, and bottled water to offer people who are homeless.
25 Stay after Mass and pray for the intentions of the pope.	26 Ask God to remind you of His love for you today – it's a prayer He loves to answer. Thank Him tonight before bed.	27 Make a small sacrifice today for souls, e.g., no cream in your coffee, no snacks before dinner.	28 Give up worry. Write down what worries you and leave it before an image of Jesus, surrendering it to His care.	29 Stop by the parish office and ask what upcoming events you can volunteer with (e.g. setting up St. Joseph's Table).	1 **March** Attend Daily Mass and/or spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament in honor of Jesus' Sacred Heart.	2 Our Lady urged praying the Rosary to bring peace. Pray a Rosary in honor of Mary's Immaculate Heart.
3 Meditate on today's Gospel (John 2:13-25). Where can you "clean the temple" of your heart to make more room for God?	4 Learn something new about your Faith: skim the glossary of the Catechism for an unfamiliar term and learn more about it.	5 Check out Catholic Relief Services at www.crs.org to see how you can help support any of their projects.	6 Meditate on Scripture on-the-go. Copy down a favorite Bible verse and carry it with you all day. Pray with it whenever you have to wait.	7 Catch up with a friend you haven't heard from in a while.	8 Attend a Stations of the Cross service or pray them on your own. Find them here: www.usccb.org.	9 Give others the gift of your presence: ask about their work, interests, or family, and listen attentively while they speak.
10 *Laetare Sunday* Rejoice! Have some holy fun after Mass today.	11 This whole week, give up recreational screen time after 9PM and give that time to God.	12 Renew your commitment to your Lenten promises.	13 Do a thorough Examination of Conscience, then go to Confession to be freed of your sins and experience God's mercy.	14 Today, choose kindness. Resolve to smile at everyone you meet.	15 Make an additional, small sacrifice of your choosing and pray for the unborn children and their mothers.	16 Volunteer at a retirement community. Call ahead and ask how you can serve (e.g., reading to the residents, donating needed items).
17 Consider offering your Communion at Mass for missionaries, teachers, and catechists – anyone who passes on the Faith.	18 Until the end of Lent, only buy essentials, like food, medicine, etc.	19 *St. Joseph's Day* Happy Solemnity! Enjoy pastries today to celebrate. Prayerfully entrust husbands and fathers to St. Joseph's protection.	20 Drop off the box of clothes at its destination.	21 Find time today to visit the Blessed Sacrament, even if briefly. Pray that everyone has a safe and spiritually fruitful Holy Week.	22 The King is coming! Clean the house in preparation for Palm Sunday.	23 Praying for the dead is a work of mercy. Visit a cemetery and pray for the souls there.
24 *Palm Sunday* During the Gospel readings at Mass, imagine you're in the scene. How would you respond?	25 Offer extra prayers today for those coming into the Church at Easter.	26 Evaluate your Lent. Where did you see spiritual growth? What would you do differently next year?	27 Today recalls Judas' betrayal of Christ. Ask forgiveness from those you have hurt. Forgive those who have hurt you.	28 *Holy Thursday* Today, Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood. Send a priest a thank-you card for all the ways he's served you.	29 *Good Friday* Read Mark 15 and reflect on Jesus' love for you. Name one way you'll return His love.	30 *Holy Saturday* Light a candle and renew your baptismal vows to remain faithful to God this coming year.

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Lent

As the start of Lent draws near on Ash Wednesday (February 14), in the hope of assisting the faithful of the Diocese of Brooklyn to celebrate this season of preparation for Easter in a fruitful manner, Bishop Robert Brennan wishes to call attention to the following:

ABSTINENCE: All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age are required to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday (February 14) and on all the Fridays of the Lenten Season.

FASTING: All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 (inclusive) are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday (March 29) by limiting oneself to one full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken on two other occasions during the day.

EASTER DUTY: After having been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, the faithful are obligated to receive holy Communion at least once a year, this precept to be fulfilled during the Easter Season, unless it is fulfilled at some other time for a good reason. In the United States, the period for fulfilling this precept is extended from the First Sunday of Lent (February 18) until Pentecost Sunday (May 19).

THE SOLEMNITIES OF SAINT JOSEPH AND THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD: The liturgical solemnities of Saint Joseph (March 19) and the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25) are to be celebrated with due solemnity even though they fall within the Season of Lent.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY: Reconciliation Monday is observed in the Diocese on the Monday of Holy Week (March 25). Observance of this day allows the faithful to experience the grace of forgiveness and mercy in the Sacrament of Penance. Those conscious of grave (mortal) sin are obligated to confess before receiving holy Communion.

TIME OF CELEBRATION OF THE EASTER VIGIL: Sunset in Brooklyn on Holy Saturday, March 30, is at 7:19 pm. Therefore, the celebration of the Liturgy for the Easter Vigil should begin after that, realistically at 8 p.m. or later, and must end before dawn on Easter Sunday.

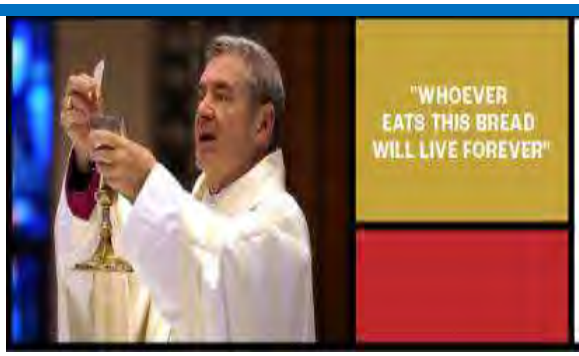
Please take note of the following, as well:

MUSIC: During Lent, the "Alleluia" is not sung or said. Musical instruments are to be used at liturgical celebrations only to give support to the singing.

CHURCH DECORATIONS: The church should not be decorated with flowers during Lent.

HOLY WATER: Holy Water is not removed from the fonts during Lent. It is only removed immediately before the Celebration of the Lord's Supper and replaced at the Easter Vigil with water blessed at that celebration.

FUNERALS: Funeral masses are not permitted during the Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday). The rite to be used at funerals during those days is the rite for Funerals Outside Mass.



Diocesan Eucharistic Revival

Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis
Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn

The Eucharistic Revival will take place in the Louis Armstrong Stadium of the USTA Billie Jean King Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows on April 20, 2024.

Save the date.

More to come!

Take Catholic Theology Courses This Summer at St. Joseph's Seminary!

Dates: May 29 through July 19

Courses are:

- **Open to qualified lay men and women, clergy, and consecrated religious**
- **Offered in person or online - Zoom in from any location to join a class**
- **Reasonably priced - Affordable tuition rates!**
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To learn more about our schedule of classes for summer, go to www.dunwoodie.edu or email: sjs.academics@dunwoodie.edu

St. Francis of Assisi Girl Scouts

COOKIE SALE!!

PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND

SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD & SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH

OUTSIDE OF CHURCH AFTER ALL MASSES

Sat 5pm - Sun 8am-9:30am-11am-12:30pm

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH, 45TH STREET & 21ST AVENUE, ASTORIA, NY

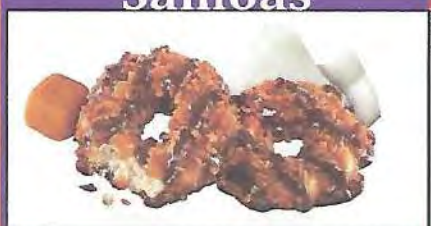
Adventurefuls

Lemon Ups

Trefoils

Do-si-dos

Samoas



Tagalongs

Thin Mints

S'mores

Toffee-tastic

Because *Women Deserve Better® than Abortion.*

8TH ANNUAL

INTERNATIONAL GIFT of LIFE WALK NYC

GRAND PROLIFE MARSHAL
Bishop Joseph L. Coffey
Archdiocese of Military Services

Saturday, March 23 • FOLEY SQUARE • New York City, NY

Rally: 11:00AM
FOLEY SQUARE
Info Faire: 10:30AM

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Rally starts at Foley Square, Walking down Broadway (0.9 miles). Walk ends at Broad & Stone Streets in the Financial District.

Register and info:
email: info@PersonhoodEducationNY.com

PersonhoodEducationNY.com

MAKE PROLIFE HISTORY IN NYC MARCH 23, 2024

SR DEDE BYRNE

GRAND MARSHAL BISHOP L. COFFEY

DR PAUL BYRNE

Brought to you by PersonhoodEducationNY.com

2 EVENTS-SAME DAY

2024
INTERNATIONAL
GIFT OF LIFE WALK-NYC
GRAND MARSHAL BISHOP
JOSEPH L. COFFEY

FOLLOWED BY
BRUNCH WITH B&B

SR. DEDE BYRNE
Sister, Soldier, Surgeon
PAUL BYRNE, MD
Neonatologist

2024 INTERNATIONAL GIFT OF LIFE WALK-NYC

This year will be the 8th Annual pro-life walk in NYC. Our Grand Marshal for this year will be Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Military Services. Every year we honor the vision of St. John Paul II when he designated March 25, as the International Day of the Pre-born Child. The mission of this Walk is to claim the Personhood of all humans at the moment of conception. With that carries the recognition of the worth and dignity of every human being, from conception to natural, true death.

BISHOP COFFEY'S STATEMENT:

"Now that the overturning of Roe V Wade has determined there is no Constitutional right to abortion, it is imperative that all New Yorkers of good will to stand up and demand the recognition that, from the moment of conception, all pre-born children are persons. As persons they are fully invested with all Rights of the Equal Protection under the laws of this State and this Great Nation. The International Gift of Life Walk in NYC is a perfect place to start this movement. I applaud and endorse the WALK for the protection of the defenseless in the womb and the rallying cry it proclaims for the recognition of PERSONHOOD."

RALLY & WALK LOCATION:
11AM RALLY
FOLEY SQUARE
148-152 WORTH STREET
NYC, NY 10013

BRUNCH WITH B&B

Following the WALK, be nourished with Brunch and two special Speakers: Sr. Dede Byrne and Dr Paul Byrne.

BRUNCH LOCATION:
2-5PM
FRAUNCES TAVERN
54 PEARL STREET
NYC, NY 10004

*****CALL (631) 487-7578 for BUS information******

Our beautifully refurbished
Retreat House is a peaceful oasis
in the heart of the city!
We have created a Place of sacred
hospitality, prayer and restoration.

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THOMAS BERRY PLACE

A Passionist Ministry

2024 Holy Week Retreat

Enter into the Passion of Christ as we walk with Christ Crucified yesterday and today.

We begin with dinner on
Holy Thursday, March 28 at 5:00 PM
and end with breakfast on
Easter Sunday, March 31.

This silent retreat offers time for
prayer and personal reflection
as we enter more deeply into the Paschal Mystery.

Presented by the Passionist Priests and the TBP Team.

The cost is $375.00 per person.
Registration is required by March 8th.

Call 929-357-6700 x205
to reserve your spot!

ITALIAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC ACTION

St. Francis of Assisi Parish 21-17 45TH Street Astoria, NY 11105

45th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday April 28, 2024

Mass of Thanksgiving at 12:30 PM

Lunch to Follow

Msgr. Campbell Hall (lower church)

Honoring

The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano

Bishop - Diocese of Bridgeport

Mr. & Mrs. _____ **Tel. #** _____

Mr. & Mrs. _____ **Tel. #** _____

Mr. & Mrs. _____ **Tel. #** _____

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Donation: $85.00 per person Limited seats R.S.V.P . by April 15, 2024

Make checks payable to:

Italian American Catholic Action

For Information, call

Mrs. Maria Eterna Bruno 917 943-7156 or Mrs. Josephine Sferrazza 718 808-2097