Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, March 24 – Palm Sunday
8:00 A.M. For the people of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Deceased Members of the Siletti Family
11:00 A.M. Scott Hall
12:30 P.M. Maria N. Scarlatto
Rino Del Carro
Giuseppe Carlino
Concetta DiPompo
Iolanda Babore
The Macchia Family
Antonio Bruno
Etta Bassi
Rosa & Gennaro Benedetto
Anna Taibi
Maria Concetta D'Angelo

MONDAY, March 25-Monday of Holy Week
9:00 A.M. The Muscat Family

TUESDAY, March 26-Tuesday of Holy Week
9:00 A.M. Luca Wierman (Living)

WEDNESDAY, March 27–Wednesday of Holy Week
9:00A.M. Jugja Marusic

THURSDAY, March 28-Holy Thursday
9:00 A.M. Morning Prayer
7:30P.M. The Mass of the Lord's Supper

FRIDAY, March 29-Good Friday
9:00 A.M. Morning Prayer
2:30P.M. Stations of the Cross
3:00P.M. Service
7:30P.M. Service

SATURDAY, March 30—Holy Saturday
9:00 A.M. Morning Prayer
7:30P.M. Easter Vigil

SUNDAY, March 31– Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
8:00 A.M. The Niemano Family
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00 A.M. Sam Perrone
12:30 P.M. Easter Novena
The Kos Family
Rino Del Carro
Antonio Bruno
Nancy Manganaro
Becky Holmes
Diego Piazza
Donato Giovanni Ciacio

Today's Readings

Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-10
Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Mark 14:1-15:47

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Isaiah 42:1-7
John 12:1-11

TUESDAY: Isaiah 49:1-6
John 13:21-33, 36-38

WEDNESDAY Isaiah 50:4-9a
Matthew 26:14-25

THURSDAY: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

FRIDAY: Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

SATURDAY: Genesis 1:1-2:2
Genesis 22:1-18
Exodus 14:15-15:1
Isaiah 54:5-14
Isaiah 55:1-11
Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4
Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28
Romans 6:3-11
Mark 16:1-7

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9

My Dear Parishioners,

Today we begin the week called ***Holy.*** Our dramatic liturgy recalls the road of suffering and death Jesus walked, which led to Easter and the celebration of new life and glory. As we remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and anticipate the events of His Passion, death, and Resurrection, we once again can get in touch with the essence of our Catholic Faith. These last few days of Lent reaffirm the meaning of our faith and purpose of our lives.

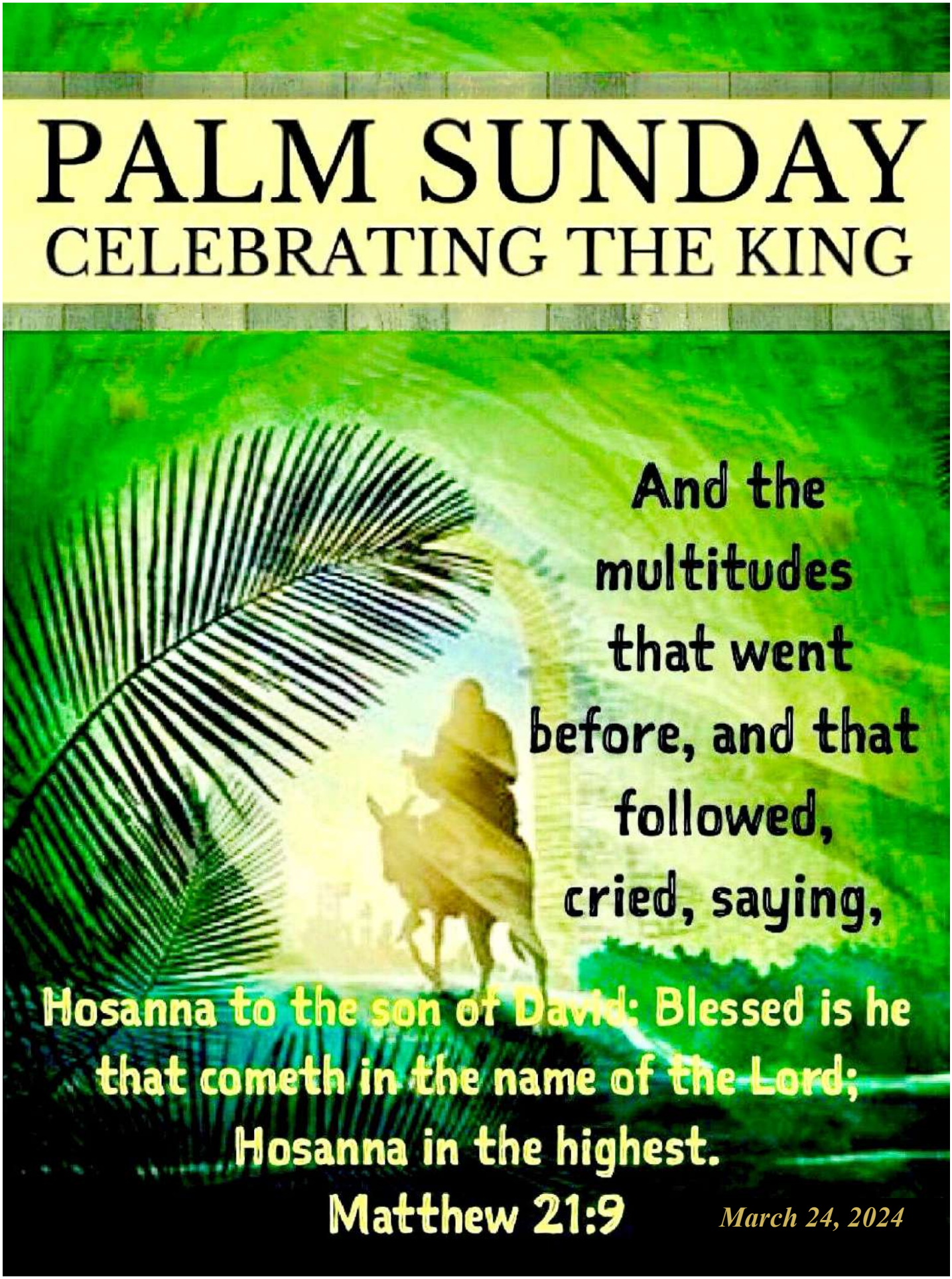
We begin by remembering Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The people shout with joy, *Hosanna!* They rejoice as the long-awaited Messiah arrives in their midst. The Lenten lessons surrounding temptation and transfiguration, temple cleansing and forgiveness, acceptance and healing culminate today as Jesus enters His holy city. Yet, as we soon hear, the mood in Jerusalem quickly changes. Mark, in his Passion account, describes the stark abandonment and rejection of Jesus leading to His death on a cross. As a prelude to this, we hear the prophet Isaiah in today's first reading. He describes the obedient Servant being led like a lamb to slaughter. Paul, in his Letter to the Philippians, continues this theme as he speaks of the obedience and humility of Jesus. He shows Jesus as a willing and compassionate Shepherd, remaining dutiful and humble before God and in service to His people. In all three Scripture passages, faced with opposition and danger, the Servant remains faithful to His commitment, and obedient to God's will.

As Holy Week unfolds, we are reminded of our own call to faithfulness and obedience to God's will. As followers of Jesus, we can expect to face suffering and persecution in our own lives, as we often struggle with sinfulness and hardships, injustice and pain. However, when we suffer for Christ and are true to His teachings, we know that God will not fail us. God will not abandon us. On the contrary, God gives us the strength and grace to persevere.

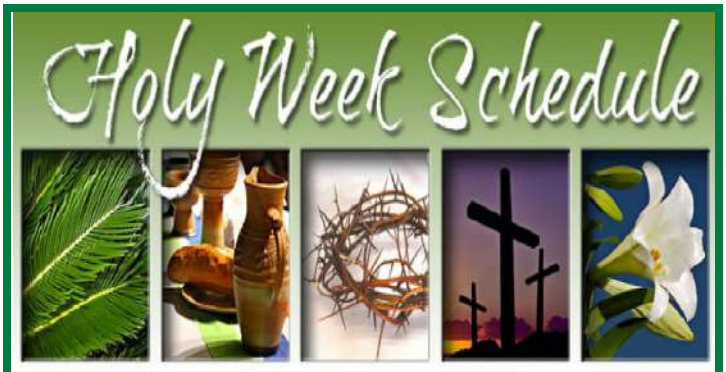
As Christ said, *Yes,* and remained obedient to the will of the Father, we, too, are to say, *Yes,* knowing full well that in and through our suffering and fidelity we, too, can reach holiness and righteousness in the sight of our forgiving God. Anticipating Christ's victory over death on Easter, let us remember and be grateful that the darkness of sin can be swallowed up by the light of His Resurrection. And so, like the people of Jerusalem, because of Jesus and our belief in Him, we, too, can shout today with confidence and joy, *Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!*

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

PALM SUNDAY
CELEBRATING THE KING



March 24, 2024



PALM SUNDAY-MARCH 24, 2024

Palms will be given out as you enter church and will be blessed at the beginning of each Mass.

Saturday 5:00PM

Sunday, 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM & 12:30PM

HOLY THURSDAY-MARCH 28, 2024

Morning Prayer 9:00AM

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30PM

Visits to the Repository Until 10:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY-March 29, 2024

Morning Prayer 9:00AM

Stations of the Cross 2:30PM

Service 3:00PM

Service 7:30PM

HOLY SATURDAY-March 30,2024

Morning Prayer 9:00AM

NO CONFESSIONS

NO 5:00PM Mass

Easter Vigil 7:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY-March 31, 2024

Masses:

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

As we begin the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Jesus showed His love in His desire to remain with us always through the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Jesus invites us to intimacy, the intimacy of eating a meal together, the intimacy of becoming our very food and drink so that He might share His life with us. The intimacy of remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection so deeply that Jesus is present among us.

Also, the disciples must have been dumfounded when Jesus began washing their feet, a task preformed by slaves. Peter was embarrassed by this action but Jesus was able to tell Peter that by washing their feet, Peter could share in His heritage.

This same possibility is open to us. Jesus invites us into a relationship that is so strong and so deep that it will enable our faith to grow even deeper. This Holy Thursday, let us spend some quiet moments with Jesus present in the Eucharist and tell Him of our heart's desires.

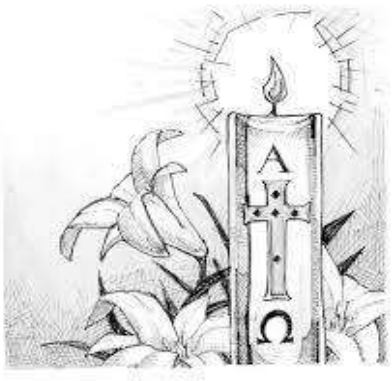
Good Friday is a day of mixed emotions. As we think of the pain our gentle Jesus suffered we cannot help being sorrowful. At the same time, however, we have reason to rejoice. Through His suffering and death on the cross Jesus had completed His mission on earth. He has opened the way for us who believe in Him to share in the joy of His resurrection.

As we prayerfully recall Christ's passion, we see in it a reason to hope. Being God's divine Son, Jesus could have overcome His oppressors, but He freely took this suffering upon Himself out of love for us. If we believe in Him and, like Him, trust in the love and mercy of His divine Father, we too can triumph over death.

May this Holy Week be a source of strength, hope and courage for each one of us as we accompany Jesus through these celebrations.

God Bless,
Msgr. Maresca

The Easter Candle Will Burn in Memory of:



Rose & Denis Sweeney
Lucia, Ralph & Domenick Borgia
John Purich
Ralph & Rita Maresca
William LeDone
All Souls in Purgatory
Marie & Sylvester Guerriero
Harold Elmendorf
Christina & Pasquale Iorio
Lucia & Raffaele Guerriero
Louise & Frank Esposito
Josephine & Walter Tanalski
Vincent Iorio
Giustina & Antonio DiBenedetto
Concetta & Giuseppe Saraceni
Earl Ferguson

Jorge & Mauricio Mesa
Antonina & John Kos
Yolanda & Natale Palazzolo
Lena & Antonino Galioto
Marie Scaglione
Elsa Armenti
Marija Kuljanic
Louis & Theresa Falco
Nick & Millie Mistretta
Frank & Adelina Falzetti
Vincent & Maria Falco
Rowan McKeown

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, Rick Simonsen 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

Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

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:

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

During the journey to Golgotha, Jesus goes from hailed hero to crucified criminal. He surrenders out of obedience to His Father and love for us. As followers of Jesus, we, too, can face loss and sacrifice. Jesus knows what it means to sacrifice out of love. We journey together through loss, never alone, but always united with Christ.

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.

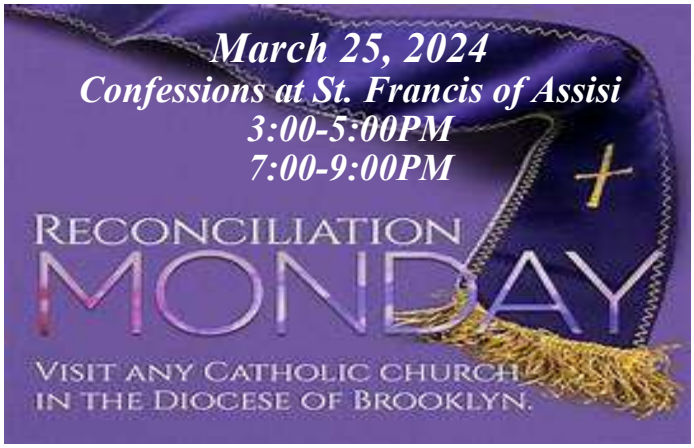
What a wonderful way to begin our day praying before the Blessed Sacrament in silence or praying the Holy Rosary.

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.

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. 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.



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 Easter recess until our next meeting on Thursday, April 11. The scripture reading for that week is Romans 5:1-6:23) . Join us as we **Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture**.

The Gospel readings and study will be conducted using the Little Rock Scripture Study program. Study booklets will be provided.

"And all of this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

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.

All are Invited … ALL ARE WELCOME!

Memorials for the Week of March 24, 2024

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Loving Memory of
Maria N. Scarlatto
Requested By:
Frances Perrino

ALTAR CANDLES

In Loving Memory of
Maria N. Scarlatto
Requested By:
William & Lynn Abbate

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.

Sunday3/16-17/24: **$3,463.00**

School parents must use church envelopes.

Mass Attendance for the Weekend of March 16-17, 2024:

5:00pm	89
8:00am	49
9:30am	98
11:00am	119
12:30pm	32
3:00PM	368

Total in Attendance: 75**5**

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.

Holy Thursday—March 28, 2024
St. Vincent De Paul

Good Friday—March 29, 202
Holy Land

Easter Sunday—March 31, 2024
Support for Senior Priests

Thank you to all who joined us for supper on the 2 Fridays in Lent. As you know a free will donation was requested.

We collected $300 which has been sent to Marguerite's Pantry.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

March 24—March 30

Sunday, March 24
PALM SUNDAY
Girl Scout Cookie Sale
9:30 Children's Liturgy
10:40 CCD

Monday, March 25
RECONCILIATION MONDAY
Confessions
3:00-5:00pm
7:00-9:00pm

Tuesday, March 26
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, March 27
10:30AM-School Easter Mass

Thursday, March 28
HOLY THURSDAY
9:00AM Morning Prayer
Rectory Office Will Close at 5:00PM
7:30PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, March 29
9:00AM Morning Prayer
2:30PM-Stations of the Cross
3:00PM Service
The Rectory Office will close at 3:00PM
7:30PM Service

Saturday, March 30
9:00AM Morning Prayer

NEXT WEEK

March 31—April 6

Sunday, March 31
EASTER SUNDAY

Monday, April 1
Rectory Office Closed

Tuesday, April 2
The Rectory Office will close at 5:00PM

Wednesday, April 3
The Rectory Office will close at 5:00PM

Thursday, April 4
10:00-11:30am-Legion of Mary
The Rectory Office will close at 5:00PM

Friday, April 5

Saturday, April 6
9:00AM-ANOINTING MASS

RECTORY HOLIDAY HOURS

March 28th (Holy Thursday) Closed at 5:00PM
March 29th (Good Friday) Closed at 3:00PM
Monday, April 1st-Closed All Day
The Rectory will close at 5:00PM
on April 2nd-April 4th.

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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293180

Join us on a 9-day pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal!

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Led by Msgr. Ralph Maresca, Pastor

December 26, 2024 - January 3, 2025

Madrid ~ Toledo ~ Ávila ~ Leon ~ Santiago de Compostela
Porto ~ Fátima

Peter's Way Tours

www.PetersWay.com

To request a brochure
E-mail: Peter@petersway.com
Ask for Tour Code #1165
800-225-7662 • 516-605-1551

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!**
- **50% tuition discount for new students, alumni auditors, diocesan and parish employees**
- **Taught by world-class faculty**

To learn more about our schedule of classes for summer, go to www.dunwoodie.edu or email: sjs.academics@dunwoodie.edu

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. #** _____

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

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

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