Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, March 31 – Easter Sunday
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
Rino Del Carro
Antonio Bruno
The Kos Family
Nancy Manganaro
Becky Holmes
Diego Piazza
Donato Giovanni Ciacio

MONDAY, April 1-Octave of Easter
9:00 A.M. Easter Novena

TUESDAY, April 2-Octave of Easter
9:00 A.M. Easter Novena

WEDNESDAY, April 3–Octave of Easter
9:00A.M. Easter Novena

THURSDAY, April 4-Octave of Easter
9:00 A.M. Easter Novena

FRIDAY, April 5-Octave of Easter
9:00 A.M. Easter Novena

SATURDAY, April 6—Octave of Easter
9:00 A.M. Easter Novena
Purgatorial Society
John McCarthy
Margaret McCarthy
Evelyn Singura
Joyce Cosgrove
Living & Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary

5:00P.M. Patrick Farrell

SUNDAY, April 7– Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)
8:00 A.M. Mary Pandone
9:30 A.M. Maria Assunta Spiteri
11:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
12:30 P.M. Laura Maffei
Concetta Saracini
Rino Del Carro

Today's Readings

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

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

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Acts 2:14, 22-33
Matthew 28:8-15

TUESDAY: Acts 2:36-41
John 20:11-18

WEDNESDAY Acts 3:1-10
Luke 24:13-35

THURSDAY: Acts 3:11-26
Luke 24:35-48

FRIDAY: Acts 4:1-12
John 21:1-14

SATURDAY: Acts 4:13-21
Mark 16:9-15

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

It is hard for us to imagine what that first Easter must have been like. This small band of people was at a loss. Their individual lives had each been stirred by the fact that they had encountered the same extraordinary person. Now He was dead-yet some were reporting the unthinkable-the unbelievable-that He is not dead after all; that He was raised from the dead.

The Easter event is what justifies us as Catholics. If Jesus had walked the earth, said all that He said and did all that He did, and then died and stayed dead, it is unlikely we would be here today. Our faith would be in vain. But Jesus did rise from the dead. He overcame sin and death. This is what brings us here today and brings us the hope of eternal life in heaven.

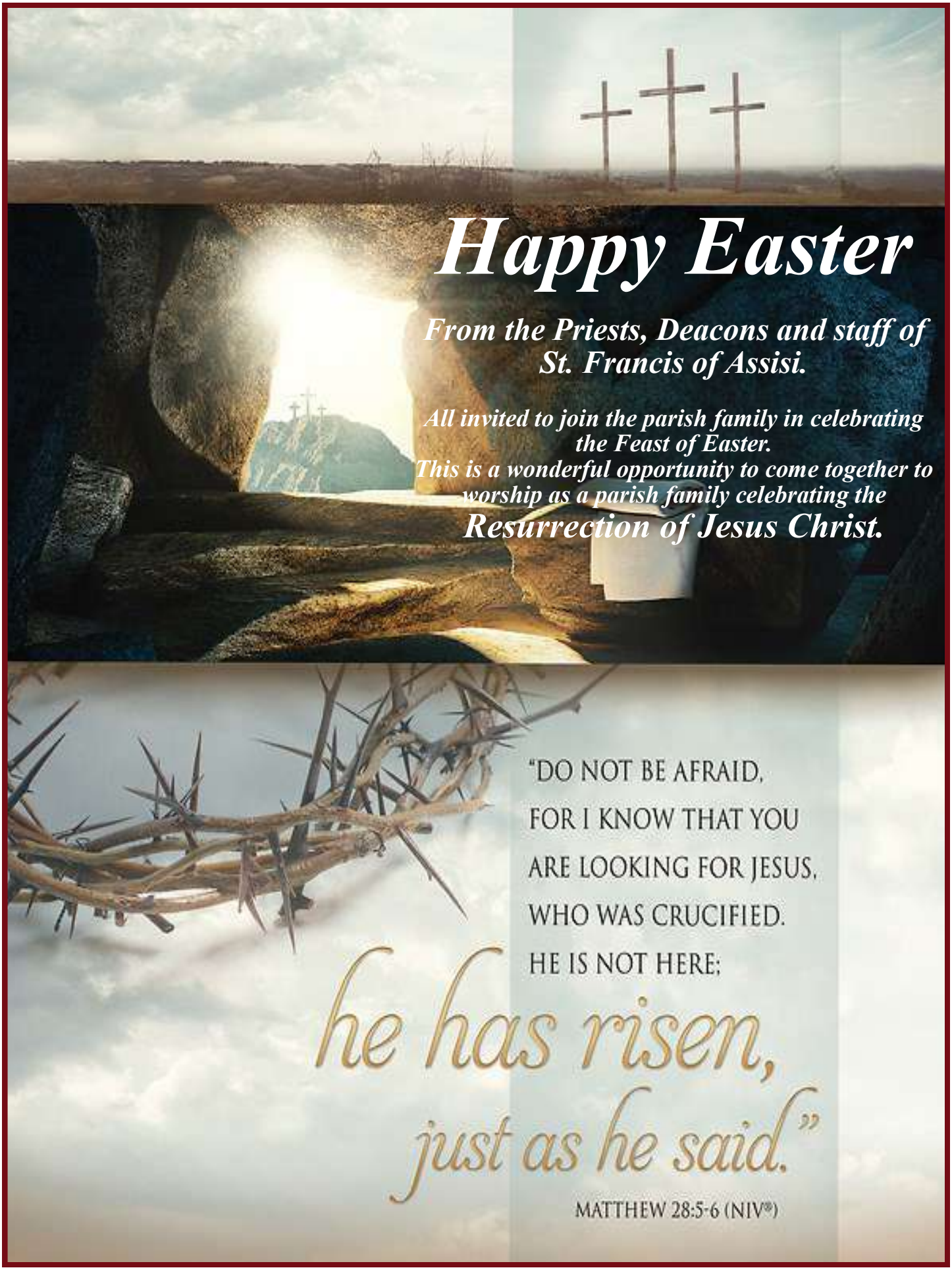
When we look around and see so many people of every age and background here together, it makes one wonder what a world we could have if we could but harness the faith, the excitement and the wonder that underlies today's celebration. If we pooled our time, talent and resources in the name of Jesus to tackle the issues that face us as individuals, as couples, as families, as believers and as a society-there is no mountain we could not move. We believe this to be true because Jesus said it could happen if we only have faith. My friends, look around you. We have FAITH!

If the world we live in is to remain a good place; in fact, if it is to remain a holy place for us to dwell in, then the faith that brings us here today must go with us into that world. We must carry it into our homes, our schools, our places of work, our neighborhoods , our parish, and wherever else we find ourselves. We must not be afraid to tell anyone who will listen that we know about the tomb of Jesus and know it was empty, not because someone stole His body, but because the Father raised Him up as He promised He would.

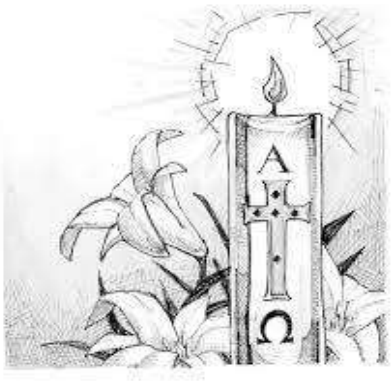
Too many people today are busy trying to push the stone back in front of the tomb in hopes they might be able to forget what really happened on that first Easter morning. So let this be the Easter we rededicate ourselves to our baptismal promises of being good and faithful disciples. Let us dispense from all the excuses as to why we do not have the time, or the ability, or the know-how. Let us recommit ourselves to bearing witness to the Gospel, symbolized and confirmed by the empty tomb. Let our words and our actions proclaim the Good News from a lively *Resurrection Faith.* If others observe us living out our faith with great enthusiasm, all they will be able to say is, *Alleluia, Christ is Risen!*

May the Risen Lord touch your lives with hope, courage, peace and love.
A Blessed Easter to you and your families!

All Blessings of the Risen Lord,
Msgr. Maresca


Happy Easter
From the Priests, Deacons and staff of St. Francis of Assisi.
All invited to join the parish family in celebrating the Feast of Easter.
This is a wonderful opportunity to come together to worship as a parish family celebrating the
Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
"DO NOT BE AFRAID,
FOR I KNOW THAT YOU
ARE LOOKING FOR JESUS,
WHO WAS CRUCIFIED.
HE IS NOT HERE;
he has risen,
just as he said."
MATTHEW 28:5-6 (NIV®)

The Easter Candle Will Burn in Loving 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
Carmela Messina

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
Charles Hickey
Kenneth Byrnes
Rylee Monroe Hendrix
Claire McKenna

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, Aubrey Madden And Madison Millet.

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.

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

March 31, 2024

"The Lord is truly risen!"

Pray for Vocations

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:

Yes, Christ my hope is arisen; to Galilee He goes befor you.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Not even death could keep him from us. So mighty is His live that He transformed the evil of the cross into a blessing through which He can eternally unite us to God. He is here! He is risen! Alleluia!

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.

Memorials for the Week of March 31, 2024

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Loving Memory of
Maria Assunta Spiteri
Requested by
The Spiteri Family

ALTAR FLOWERS

In Loving Memory of
Ana Balint
Requested by
The Balint Family

ALTAR CANDLES

In Loving Memory of
Antonio Ciancio

ALTAR BREAD

In Loving Memory of
Antonio Ciancio

ALTAR WINE

In Loving Memory of
Antonio Ciancio

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 SCRIPTURE STUDY

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

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Wishing all a Joyous Easter.

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.

"We know that Christ, raised from the dead. Dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God."(Romans 6:9-10)

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!

Saturday, April 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.

VOCATION PRAYER

In this Year of Prayer, the Parish Council has suggested that we as a parish pray the prayer for Vocations found on the back cover of the missalette.
We will begin this on Sunday, April 7th and continue until December. We will pray the prayer every Sunday before the final blessing of Mass.
Vocations to the priesthood are needed throughout the country. Here in our own Diocese of Brooklyn, vocations are vital for the continuation of the Eucharist which is central to our lives as Catholics.
As you know there are discussions taking place in all the Deaneries about Parish Partnerships. There are many factors to be considered: few vocations to staff parishes, poor attendance, financial difficulties and others.
Let us pray to the Lord that men will respond to the call of the Lord to give their life in service to the Church as a priest.

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.

8:00AM to 3:00PM

Youth Event
Family Catechesis
Eucharist Procession
Mass

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.

Sunday3/24-25/24:	**$5,805.00**
2nd Collection-Easter Gift	***$7,133.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Mass Attendance for the Weekend of March 23-24, 2024:

5:00pm	96
8:00am	90
9:30am	256
11:00am	390
12:30pm	175

Total in Attendance: **1007**

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

Next weekend, April 6th and 7th, The second collection will be for fuel.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

I want to express my thanks to the members of our Youth Group who filled the Holy Water bottles for Easter Water. They are Valentina O., Mina R., John M., Louis M., Dakota D., Fiona L., Sofia C., Simone C., Anna G. Also, I'm grateful to Kelsey and Nick Mistretta and Kara Clouss for their leadership in overseeing this project.

Msgr. Maresca

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS 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

Monday, April 1st-Closed All Day
The Rectory will close at 5:00PM
on April 2nd-April 4th.

NEXT WEEK

April 7-April 13

Sunday, April 7
1:30 Baptisms

Monday, April 8
12:00-3:30PM Golden Age

Tuesday, April 9
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 10
3:00-4:30PM-Drama Club
7:00PM-Baptism Class

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

Friday, April 12

Saturday, April 13
Bunny Hop-MCH
Spring Fling-MCH

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Presents

Middle School Honor Students 2nd Trimester

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Christopher Blaslov – Grade 8
Vanessa Blaslov – Grade 6
Simone Cabeca – Grade 8
Theodoros Chronas – Grade 7
Niculae Cardoso-Marques – Grade 6
Harrison Goldberg – Grade 8
Emma Gomez- Orbegoso – Grade 7
Declan Higgins – Grade 6
Amir Hussain – Grade 7
George Koumarnetos – Grade 8
Louis McElwaine – Grade 8
Sophie Payan – Grade 6
Nathan Rodrigues – Grade 8
Arianna Soberal – Grade 6
Joseph Zilinski – Grade 8

FIRST HONORS

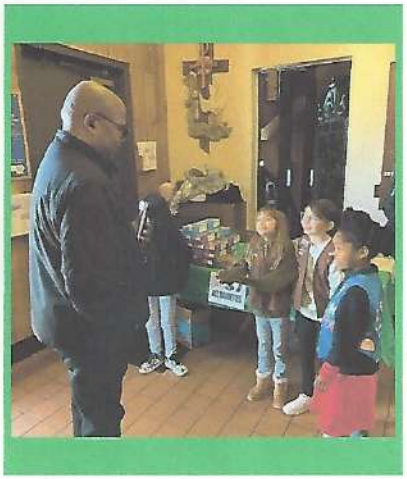
Franco Brizuela – Grade 7
Milania Chiarelli – Grade 6
Isabela Christoph – Grade 6
Christian Duran – Grade 7
Luca Ferrara – Grade 8
Chiara Goldberg – Grade 7
Kate Loughnane – Grade 6
Sean McLawhorn – Grade 7
Andrew Strat – Grade 7
Siobhan Tringali – Grade 7

SECOND HONORS

Sofia Cleghorn – Grade 7
Dakota Diaz – Grade 7
Hudson Geiger – Grade 7
Fiona Longuinho – Grade 7
Sophia McCloskey – Grade 6
John McElwaine – Grade 6
Tarek Mohammed – Grade 7
Sophia Short – Grade 6
Nikoleta Vartholomos – Grade 6

Congratulations!

THANK YOU!



The SFA Girl Scout Program would like to thank the parishioners and families of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, and all those that braved the rain and cold weekend, for supporting our annual Palm Sunday Cookie Sale. We raised over $4000 thanks to your generous spirit. Thank you to our volunteers and troop leaders, and of course our girl scouts for working so hard to make the sale a success.

Thank you to Fr. Del for his encouragement, and last but not least, a special thank you to our pastor, Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca for his continued guidance and support of our program.

"Girl Scouts make the world a better place."

APRIL 2024
LECTOR SCHEDULE

	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
	APRIL 6-7	APRIL 13-14	APRIL 20-21	APRIL27-28
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski
Sunday 8:00 A.M.	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz
Sunday 9:30 A.M.	Josephine Corso	Martha O'Toole	Maria Brooks	Patrick O'Toole
Sunday 11:00 A.M.	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	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

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

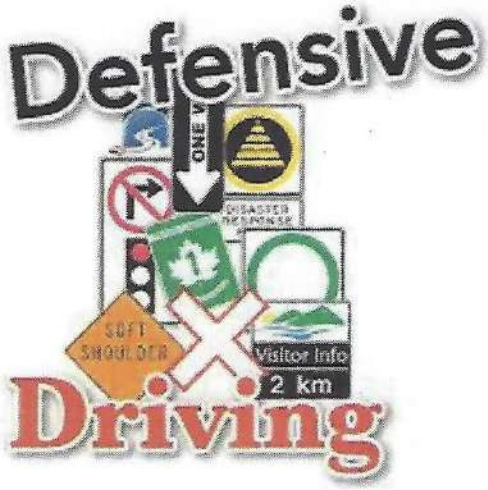
www.PetersWay.com

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

ASTORIA HOMEOWNERS, TENANTS & BUSINESS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

21-20 49th Street, Astoria, NY 11105 (718) 721-3690

Email: betterastoria@gmail.com Website: www.betterastoria.com



Join us for a Defensive Driving Course

Saturday, April 13, 2024

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Pistilli Grand Manor

45-02 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria, NY

Please use side entrance on 45th St. right before the parking garage.

Fee: $30.00

Includes Pizza Lunch & Water

This is a New York State approved Defensive Driving Course

By completing this course, you are eligible for a mandatory 10% reduction in your insurance premiums for 3 years! Or it can also provide up to a 4-point reduction from your driving record.

Space is limited, please email us today at betterastoria@gmail.com to reserve your spot or Rudy at (917) 992-4085.