Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, April 14 – Third Sunday of Easter
8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. Vito Silletti
11:00 A.M. The Anton Zgaljic Family
12:30 P.M. For the People of St. Francis
Rino Del Carro
Etta Bassi
Matteo Ferrara

MONDAY, April 15-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Francesco Merendino

TUESDAY, April 16-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Elia Filomena Cinquemani

WEDNESDAY, April 17–Weekday
9:00A.M. Christopher Gavila (Living)

THURSDAY, April 18-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Damiano Giuseppina DiGioia

FRIDAY, April 19-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Paul Vallone

SATURDAY, April 20—St. Martin
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Susan Camenzuli

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

SUNDAY, April 21– Fourth Sunday of Easter
8:00 A.M. Earl Ferguson
9:30 A.M. John S. Mondello
11:00 A.M. Mary Cunnane
12:30 P.M. Giovanna Chiarelli
Antonio Connetta
Rino Del Carro
Angela Cannavo
Catherine Aprea

Today's Readings

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
1 John 2:1-5a
Luke 24:35-48

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Acts 6:8-15
John 6:22-29

TUESDAY: Acts 7:51-8:1a
John 6:30-35

WEDNESDAY Acts 8:1b-8
John 6:35-40

THURSDAY: Acts 8:26-40
John 6:44-51

FRIDAY: Acts 9:1-20
John 6:52-59

SATURDAY: Acts 9:31-42
John 6:60-69

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:8-12
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

Christ is risen! Yes, we are still celebrating Easter. As we do so, we may find it difficult to imagine what life was like for the followers of Jesus after His death. Many of them were not present for His death and burial. Only a few went to the tomb on the third day to anoint His body. Many must have wondered who they would follow now, or what their time with Jesus would mean, now that He was no longer with them. And then, lo and behold, as the women at the tomb came to realize on that first Easter morning, He was raised from the dead, and a whole new world opened up for them.

Of course, not all of His followers saw Jesus that first Easter day, and most of the appearances after the Resurrection seem to begin in doubt and end in faith. We only need to hear the reaction of the disciples in today's Gospel to know the truth in that statement.

There may be some Catholic today who are unfamiliar with doubt such as this. They may have believed all their lives, without raising many questions about the reality of the Crucifixion and subsequent Resurrection. However, for the Apostles and other early disciples, their faith was not nurtured by the experience and teachings of others, but was born from the experience of knowing and interacting with Jesus face-to-face.

But whether we have come to faith easily or through the pain of doubt, today's Gospel can give us reason to rejoice. Jesus does not ask our faith to be perfect, but for us to be open to His love. He is ready to help us grow in our understanding of His offer of salvation and all that He went through so we could be reconciled with God. Jesus did not lose patience with the Apostles, and does not lose patience with us.

Today we are reminded of Jesus as the Suffering Servant, the one who would suffer and die, bearing the sins of the world. We hear that Christ opened the word to the disciples. Indeed, He is the incarnate and living Word of God. So, who better than Christ to open the minds of His followers, including us, to understand God's plan of salvation? Through Christ's suffering, death, Resurrection and Ascension, the sins of the world were forgiven, and the gates of heaven opened for all who follow Him. Thus, the Resurrection marks the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation made to Adam and Eve, and restated throughout salvation history.

At the end of today's reading, we are told that Jesus reminded His disciples that they were witnesses to the fulfillment of the Scriptures. So, too, are we to be witnesses; witnesses that the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus called us out of darkness and into His wonderful light. As witnesses of these things, we share in the mission of the Church, to do our part in helping to bring souls to Christ. Let us be about this work.

All Blessings of the Risen Lord,
Msgr. Maresca

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.

Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024

"Peace be with you"

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:

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

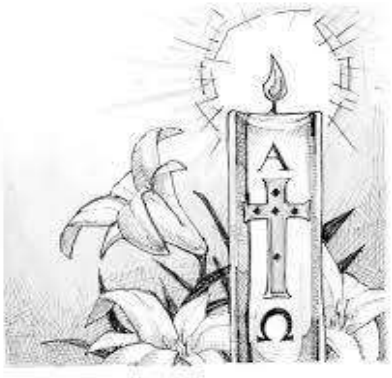
Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises of salvation, and he has come to save us-body and soul. Our physical and spiritual realities are infused with one another, integrated within our creation as *Imago Dei*-made in the image of God. Christ was raised, body and soul, by the Father, and his glorified body was seen by the Apostles and many others. Through him we will be reunited to God, our Father and Creator, on the last day. As we profess in our creed, we look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

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.

The Easter Candle Continues to 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

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.

The novena to the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the First Pentecost. It is still the only novena officially prescribed by the Church. Addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light, strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian. The intention of this novena is for us **to pray that the Holy Spirit unites us in faith, hope, and love.**

More information regarding the Novena to the Holy Spirit will be in the Bulletin in the coming weeks.

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 18. The scripture reading for that week is Romans 7:1-8:13) . 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.

"Hence, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed you from the law of sin and death"(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!

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Weekly Offering

Thank you for your continued generosity of giving each week. Your weekly offering helps us pay our monthly bills.

Sunday 4/6-7/24: **$5,058.00**
2nd Collection-Fuel ***$965.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Mass Attendance for the April 6/7, 2024:

5:00PM	102
8:00AM	160
9:30AM	292
11:00AM	125
12:30PM	135

Total in Attendance: 414

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

WILDCATS

This Saturday our Lady Wildcats peewee division won their game with a score of 1-0. A goal was made by Arden G. Our Middle School Girls team tied on Saturday, but won their Sunday match with a score of 2-1. A goal was made by Yumi D. & Charlotte K.

Our boys teams had wins this weekend as well. Our Squirt division won on Sunday with a score of 2-1. Goals were made by Daniel M. & Thomas R., great goal keeping was done by Jace H.

Our football teams each played this Sunday. Our Peewee division tied with a score of 12-12. Touchdowns were made by Arden G. & Patrick H. Our Rookie team bought home a W with a score of 13-6. touchdowns were made by Christian D. with an extra point made by Yanni S. and a 2nd touchdown was made by Hudson G.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2024

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

As you are aware the Annual Catholic Appeal for 2024 is underway. Our goal remained the same from last year $41,679. I am very grateful to all those who supported the appeal last year. Because of your support and generosity we went over goal by about $3,000.

This year we are off to a good start. As of Monday, April 8th we have pledged $24,547 towards our goal. If you have not contributed to the appeal, please prayerfully consider what you are able to contribute to help us reach our goal.

THANK YOU for all the sacrifices you make to support this appeal.

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

Money goes back to your local parish

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718-491-2525

Visit Us at svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org

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

April 14-April 20

Sunday, April 14
9:30AM-Children's Liturgy
10:40AM-CCD

Monday, April 15
12:00-3:30PM Golden Age
3:00-3:45 Children's Choir
7:00PM-Adult Choir

Tuesday, April 16
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 17
3:00-4:30PM-Drama Club

Thursday, April 18
10:00-11:30am-Legion of Mary
6:00PM-I.A.C.A.
7:20-Scripture Study

Friday, April 19

Saturday, April 20
9:00AM Penence Retreat-Church & MCH
6:00-7:30PM—Youth Group Meeting

NEXT WEEK

April 21-April 27

Sunday, April 21
9:30AM-Pre-Communion Mass
10:40AM-CCD

Monday, April 22
Earth Day Event-SY
12:00-3:30PM Golden Age
3:00-3:45 Children's Choir
7:00PM-Adult Choir

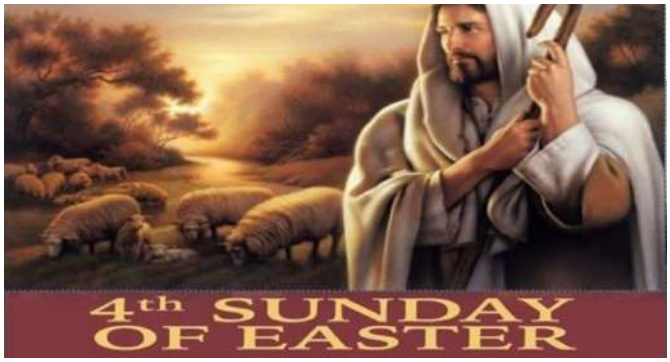
Tuesday, April 23
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 24
3:00-4:30PM-Drama Club

Thursday, April 25
10:00-11:30am-Legion of Mary
6:00PM-I.A.C.A.
7:20-Scripture Study

Friday, April 26

Saturday, April 27



Growing in FAITH™

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

April 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Gemma Galgani

Born in Tuscany to a devout family, St. Gemma was attracted to prayer early on, mystically conversing with Jesus, Mary, and her Guardian Angel. Although she was hard working, kind, and a good student, her ecstasies earned her ridicule. She received the stigmata (wounds of Christ) in her body. She lost half her family to tuberculosis and struggled with poor health herself. Although this prevented her from entering the Passionist Order, she was posthumously accepted by them. .

We are one Body

On the road to Damascus, Jesus told Saul that when he attacked Christians, he attacked Jesus. *"I am Jesus whom you are persecuting"* (Acts 26:15). Our Lord cannot be separated from the members of his Body. We stand united with all who suffer for Christ.

"He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:84).

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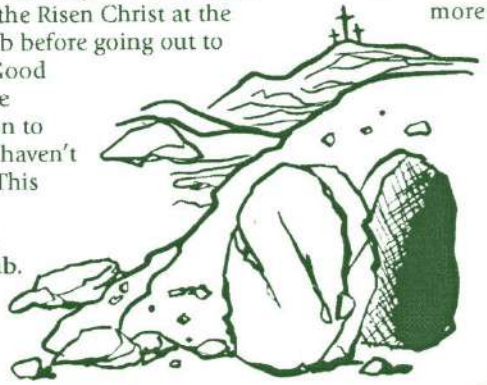
This Easter, meet Christ at the empty tomb

The Resurrection, more than Jesus' other miracles or teachings, shows His divinity and His Lordship over creation, and His victory over death. Every Easter Sunday, we're called to encounter the Risen Christ at the empty tomb before going out to bring the Good News of the Resurrection to those who haven't yet heard. This Easter:



Visit the empty tomb. Scripture is *"living and active"* (Hebrews 4:12), so the events of Jesus' life can still impact us today when we pray with them. During the Easter season, read through John 20:1-18, and picture yourself there. Read with an open heart. No one who meets the Risen Christ remains unchanged.

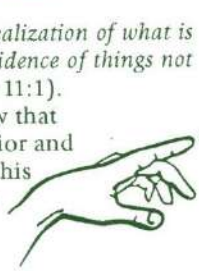
Renew your commitment to Him. Can you remember a moment when Christ called your name and invited you to follow Him? Renew your commitment to follow Christ more faithfully this Easter. Commit to daily prayer. Offer your errands for the souls in Purgatory. Resolve to go to Confession more often. Don't let anything get in the way of weekly Mass.

"Go to my brothers and tell them" (John 20:17). Our job is to make more disciples for Jesus (Matthew 28:19). Invite someone to Mass, pass on inspiring spiritual reading, answer questions about our Faith, be ready to talk about your love for God and your hope for eternity (1 Peter 3:15).

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics need faith?

"Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Christians know that Jesus is our Savior and our lives are in his hands. We also know that by virtue of his suffering, death, and Resurrection, we have hope of sharing in his glory in Heaven. He said so.



It is through faith that all the other virtues flow. Through faith we believe, *"For with God, nothing will be impossible"* (Luke 1:37).

3 Ways to be a better communicator

When people encountered Jesus, they knew they were heard, seen, known, and loved by the Father. A large part of this was how He conversed with them. As Christ's disciples aiming to convey the same message, we can become better communicators with these three skills:

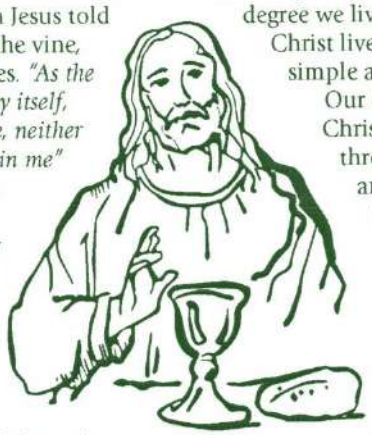
Know which conversation you're having. There are three types of conversations: social, emotional, and practical. Maybe someone offered a solution in which a listening ear was needed or made a corny joke at the wrong time. When in doubt, say something like: "Do you want me to fix this or just listen?"

Ask good questions. Jesus asked questions about people's values, past experiences, and perceptions. Ask open-ended questions, find out what interests them, ask their opinion on a given topic. Seek to understand them. You don't have to agree.

Really listen. Recall the rich young man whom Jesus looked at with love before challenging him to follow Him (Mark 10:21). Avoid checking your phone or thinking about your next response. Give the gift of your full attention.

from Scripture — John 15:1-8, Bearing fruit that will last

This Gospel passage takes us back to the Last Supper, when Jesus told His disciples that He is the vine, and they are the branches. *"As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me"* (John 15:4). This shows the closeness of the friendship and intimacy Christ wants to draw us into.



Yet, this isn't just a luxury for the few, but a vital necessity for all. *"For apart from me you can do nothing"* (15:5). As Jesus is who He says He is (God), then we can only have a truly fulfilling, meaningful, fruitful life to the degree we live in Christ and Christ lives in us. It really is as simple as that.

Our connection with Christ is nourished through daily prayer and the Eucharist, and is healed in Confession. We are part of the Vine when we humbly obey Christ's commands, carry out our duties and acts of kindness with love, and offer our sufferings to God. Only then will our lives bear lasting fruit.

Feasts & Celebrations

April 2 – St. Francis of Paola (1507). St. Francis founded the Minim Friars who lived an ascetic life. Known as a miracle-worker, he also had the gift of prophecy. He died in Plessis, in a monastery built for him by the king.

April 8 – The Annunciation of the Lord (1st century). The angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary with the extraordinary news of her role as the mother of God. She had confidence in God's grace and trusted His wisdom.

April 24 – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (1622). In his native Prussia, St. Fidelis became a lawyer and championed the poor and oppressed. He joined the Franciscans. During the Protestant Reformation, St. Fidelis worked hard to bring people back to the Catholic faith, until his martyrdom.

April 27 – St. Zita (1271). Born in Monsagrati, Italy, St. Zita became the servant of the wealthy Fatinelli family. Famous for her miracles in helping the sick, the poor, and the imprisoned, she is the patroness of domestic workers.

Q & A — What is a Spiritual Communion?

Pandemic lockdowns that prevented us from attending Mass in person prompted the rediscovery of Spiritual Communion, the "ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him" (St. Thomas Aquinas). Thankfully, we have returned to in-person Mass attendance, but we can still benefit from this devotion.

Spiritual Communion keeps us connected to Christ and deepens our awareness of His love throughout the day. Best friends don't only see or speak to each other once a week or when they need something. They stay in contact daily. Certainly, we have no closer friend than God.

The saints encouraged frequent Spiritual Communion because the practice opens us to much-needed graces. St. Alphonsus Liguori encouraged making three Spiritual Communions during Mass – at the beginning, during the consecration, and at the end – even when we receive the Body and Blood.

Spiritual Communion isn't a substitute for Sacramental Communion. Instead, making frequent Spiritual Communion can enrich our experience when we do receive Communion in person.

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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

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Dear Friends,

We invite you to join us on a pilgrimage to Spain and Fátima to honor Our Lady! We'll begin in Madrid and explore the famed sites of Spain's regal capital. In Toledo, we'll take in the beautiful art and architecture, including one of El Greco's most famous paintings, The Burial of the Count of Orgaz, *at Santo Tomé. We'll stop in Ávila, visiting and praying at key sites associated with St. Teresa's life and work. Celebrate Mass in the Chapel that commemorates the "transverberation" or piercing of St. Teresa's heart.*

Our journey continues to Santiago de Compostela, the final destination of a large network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and coming together at the Cathedral of St. James the Apostle. Walk a portion of the "Camino de Santiago," (Pilgrim Way of St. James), ending at the cathedral to participate in the Pilgrim Mass at the Cathedral's high altar. Our pilgrimage concludes in Fátima, the site of one of the most famous apparitions of the Blessed Mother. On May 13, 1917, three young peasant children (Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco), all now Saints, received an apparition of the Blessed Mother. Today, Fatima is visited by pilgrims from around the world who search for and find the messages of peace left by Mary for the world. We will also visit Aljustrel, the hamlet where the three children lived, as well as Valinhos, where Our Lady appeared after the children's return from prison. This is sure to be an unforgettable journey. Please consider joining us!

Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca

This pilgrimage entails a lot of walking, stairs, hills, cobblestone roads, etc. Participants must be medically and physically fit for this type of travel. Package inclusions do not always meet the special needs of travelers with limited mobility or severe allergies. If you have concerns or health issues, please discuss with Peter's Way Tours before enrolling in the pilgrimage.

Enrollment Form • St. Francis of Assisi Parish • December 26, 2024–January 3, 2025 • Tour Code: 1165

Entry Requirements: It is the passengers responsibility to make sure they meet all requirements for the countries they are traveling to. Requirements can be found by visiting the countries' embassy websites. Please note that requirements, including COVID-related travel restrictions, may change after you enroll on this tour. The Terms & Conditions apply regardless of unexpected changes to travel requirements or health advisories.

Enrollment Deadline: May 1, 2024
($500 non-refundable deposit due)

Final Payment Deadline: September 10, 2024
(Non-refundable balance due)

Participant Information
(See Traveler Health Advisory section under Terms and Conditions to determine if your health status will affect your ability to participate in this tour.)

Please print your name exactly as it appears on your passport. Title: ❑Mr. ❑ Ms. ❑ Mrs. ❑Rev. ❑ Bro. ❑Sr. ❑Deacon ❑Other_____

First_____ Middle_____ Last _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile/Cell _____ Email_____

Country of Citizenship (if other than USA) _____ Date of Birth _____ M / F

Tour Costs and Preferred Method of Payment
(Please select one.)

All-Inclusive Package Pricing (Includes round-trip airfare from New York)

- ❑ I am submitting all payments by check to receive the cash discounted package price of **$3,695.00** per person, sharing a twin room
- ❑ I am paying with a credit or debit card. The all-inclusive package price is **$3,895.00** per person, sharing a twin room

Land Only Package Pricing (Does not include airfare or airport transfers)

- ❑ I am submitting all payments by check to receive the cash discounted package price of **$2,595.00** per person, sharing a twin room
- ❑ I am paying with a credit or debit card. The Land Only package price is **$2,795.00** per person, sharing a twin room

Room Assignments
(Standard hotel rooms provide two twin beds. Married couples may request a double bed. Single rooms are subject to confirmation. Please select one below.)

- ❑ I have a traveling companion and would like to room with (name): _____
- ❑ My spouse and I are requesting a double bed (Rooms with double beds are limited and are subject to confirmation.)
- ❑ I am requesting a roommate. I understand a single room may be assigned (plus an additional **$695.00**) if a roommate is not available.
- ❑ I am requesting a single room. Single rooms are limited. If confirmed a single supplement of **$695.00** will apply to total tour cost.

Deposit and Optional Travel Insurance
(Please select one. See Terms & Conditions for Peter's Way Tours' cancellation policy and travel insurance details.)

All tour deposits and insurance payments are non-refundable. Insurance may be purchased up until the final payment deadline. However, pre-existing conditions are covered ONLY when the insurance premium is paid with the tour deposit.

- ❑ **Enclosed is my $500 non-refundable deposit.** I am declining optional travel protection.
- ❑ **Enclosed is $778 ($500 deposit + $278 travel protection premium)** I am purchasing travel protection. View the plan terms and conditions by visiting: https://www.petersway.com/docs/PetersWayProtectionPlan.pdf

*Insurance premiums are based on your total tour costs (see Terms & Conditions). Premium adjustments may appear on your final invoice.

Credit/Debit Card Authorization
(Please select one.) ❑VISA ❑MasterCard ❑American Express ❑Discover

By completing this credit card authorization section, you authorize Peter's Way Tours to initially charge the tour deposit (or full balance if you are enrolling past the final payment deadline) plus the total insurance cost to your credit/debit card.

I acknowledge that by enrolling with a credit card, I am not eligible for the cash/check discounted price, even if I choose to submit subsequent payments by check.

Name on card:_____ Card Number:_____ Exp. Date:_____ Sec Code:_____

Billing Address:_____ City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Participant Name(s): _____, _____, _____

If the amount to be charged applies to more than one participant, please specify additional names.

I have read and accept all Terms & Conditions as outlined on this brochure.

Signature_____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature is required for minors under 18 years of age.

Please sign and submit one completed enrollment form per person (with your deposit plus optional travel protection costs).
Mail: Peter's Way Tours • 425 Broadhollow Road, Suite 204 • Melville NY 11747 | Fax: 516-605-1555 | Email: peter@petersway.com

All package pricing is based on a minimum of 25 paying participants. If the group does not reach this number, price or programming may be adjusted. Your group leader is solely responsible for any adjustments to package pricing, itinerary, and inclusions. They act on behalf of the group to modify travel plans as needed.

DAILY ITINERARY - Unexpected circumstances may cause changes to the outlined itinerary.

Flight Schedule on Iberia Airlines
from New York JFK International Airport

Date	Airline/Flight #	Departure City/Time	Arrival City/ Time
Dec. 26	Iberia #212	New York JFK/4:55 pm	----------
Dec. 27		----------	Madrid MAD/6:10 am
Jan. 3	Iberia #1142	Lisbon LIS/12:30 pm	Madrid MAD/2:55 pm
Jan. 3	Iberia #325	Madrid MAD/4:25 pm	New York JFK/7:10 pm

Flight itinerary subject to change without notice.

DAY 1 Thursday, December 26: Depart USA

Depart New York's JFK International International Airport via Iberia Airlines on an overnight flight to Madrid, Spain. Dinner, breakfast, and beverages will be served in flight. (D)

DAY 2 Friday, December 27: Arrive in Madrid

Arrive at Madrid International Airport. Go through Passport Control, claim our luggage, and meet a Peter's Way tour manager as we exit Customs. Board our private touring coach and we will be on our way to Spain's capital. Our orientation tour will allow us to appreciate the dimension and beauty of this city. We will discover its avenues such as Gran Vía, Paseo de la Castellana, and the Calle and Puerta de Alcalá with its famous fountains, Cibeles, Neptuno, Old Quarter, Puerta del Sol, and Main Square Plaza Mayor. We'll go on a journey through the history of Spain as we visit the Royal Palace, home to the Kings of Spain from Charles III to Alfonso XIII. Though it is no longer the royal family's home, it continues to be their official residence. Independent lunch.

Check-in at our hotel in Madrid. **Celebrate Mass before dinner.**

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Madrid. (B,D)

DAY 3 Saturday, December 28: Toledo

Breakfast at our hotel. *(Option to enjoy a free morning in Madrid for those who wish.)* This morning, we will depart Madrid on an excursion to Toledo, "the city of the three cultures," which refers to the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian communities that have flourished there. Toledo is also significant in the lives of both St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross. Upon arrival, we will take a walking tour starting at the Travesía de los Descalzos to the Plaza del Conde, where the Fuensalida Palace is located. Built by the first Fuensalida Count, Don Pedro López de Ayala, it is today the seat of the Regional Government. Continue to the Jewish Quarter, where we will visit the Tránsito Synagogue and El Greco's House and Museum, as well as other Mudejar-style buildings. Visit the Church of Santo Tomé to view one of El Greco's most famous paintings, *El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz (The Burial of the Count of Orgaz)*. **Celebrate Mass at Santo Tomé.** End our morning with a visit to the 13th-century cathedral. Somber but elaborate, it is ablaze with jeweled chalices, gorgeous ecclesiastical vestments, hundreds of historic tapestries, 750 stained-glass windows, and art by Tintoretto, Titian, Murillo, El Greco, Velasquez, and Goya.

Return to Madrid and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure before we gather for dinner at our hotel.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Madrid. (B,D)

DAY 4 Sunday, December 29: Ávila

Breakfast at our hotel. This morning, we will leave for Ávila. Before entering the city walls, we'll visit St. Vincent's Basilica, which stands on the traditional site of the martyrdom of St. Vincent. After the visit we'll continue through the old city walls. Independent lunch.

After lunch we'll explore Ávila, a World Heritage City completely encircled by 11th-century walls. This is the birthplace of St. Teresa, one of the greatest mystics and a "Doctor of the Church." During our stay in Ávila we will visit and pray at the key sites associated with her life and work. In 1572, John of the Cross traveled to Ávila at the invitation of Teresa to become her confessor and spiritual guide. He remained in Ávila until 1577. We will explore the similarities between St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross, especially their shared ardent desire to embrace the primitive Rule of Carmel. Upon arrival we'll visit the cathedral, which contains relics of St. Teresa, and the Convent of St. Teresa, built over the house where she was born. It contains her relics, along with those of her friend St. John of the Cross, in a small museum. Continue to the Monastery of the Incarnation, where Teresa lived for the first 27 years of her religious life and for three years during her term of prioress beginning in 1571. Here she had many mystical experiences. **Celebrate Mass in the Chapel**, which commemorates the "transverberation" or piercing of St. Teresa's heart. After Mass, visit the Convent of San Jose, the first monastery of Discalced Carmelites founded by St. Teresa. Check-in at our hotel in Ávila.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Ávila. (B,D)

DAY 5 Monday, December 30: León | Santiago de Compostela

Breakfast at our hotel. This morning we'll leave Ávila for Santiago de Compostela. En route we'll visit León. Late morning, arrive in the capital of Christian Spain at the start of the Reconquest. Visit the remarkable cathedral, one of the most beautiful in Spain. Daylight filters through over 12,000 square feet of stained-glass windows. Tradition requires that all pilgrims rest their hands on a small pedestal in the church to receive special protection for their pilgrimage. **Celebrate Mass in the cathedral.** Independent lunch in León.

We'll continue to Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain, the final destination of a large network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and coming together at the Cathedral of St. James the Apostle. Santiago de Compostela is one of the three important pilgrimage cities of Christianity along with Jerusalem and Rome. For centuries, pilgrims have been coming to Santiago de Compostela to venerate the tomb of St. James the Apostle. Check-in at our hotel.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Santiago de Compostela. (B,D)

DAY 6 Tuesday, December 31: Santiago de Compostela

Breakfast at our hotel. This morning, we will walk a portion of the "Camino de Santiago" (pilgrim way of St. James) from Avenida de los Concheiros to Cruz de San Pedro and on to Puerta del Carmen, Rua Casa Reales, and Azabacheria. Arrive at the cathedral in time to **participate at the Pilgrim Mass at the cathedral's high altar.** See the Botafumeiro, a large thurible that hangs by means of a system of pulleys from the main dome of the cathedral, one of the most well-known symbols of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. As it swings, incense fills the cathedral. Another impressive feature of the cathedral is the Portico de la Gloria, which is located just inside the main entrance. Through the centuries, millions of pilgrims have touched the central pillar. The relics of St. James repose in the high altar. Pilgrims can follow the centuries-old tradition of climbing the stairs behind the altar to kiss the shells that rest on the golden statue of the saint. Below the statue is the crypt that contains the bones of St. James in a silver reliquary. Independent lunch.

Free time to explore and visit the Church and Convent of San Francesco, commemorating the pilgrimage made here by St. Francis of Assisi between 1213 and 1215.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Santiago de Compostela. (B,D)

DAY 7 Wednesday, January 1: Porto | Fátima

Breakfast at our hotel. This morning, we will leave Santiago de Compostela and drive south across the northern border of Portugal, where the rural population still uses traditional farming methods. Enjoy spectacular views of the Rias Bajas, the deep fords of Galicia. Early afternoon, arrive in Porto. Independent lunch.

We'll explore Porto's historic center, the Ribeira district, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed area. Then, continue to Fátima, where the Blessed Mother appeared in 1917 to three simple shepherd children and exhorted mankind to pray for world peace. Check-in at our hotel in Fátima. **Celebrate Mass in Fátima.**

After dinner, gather in the Chapel of the Apparitions to pray the rosary, followed by the candlelight procession.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Fátima. (B,D)

DAY 8 Thursday, January 2: Fátima | Valinhos | Aljustrel

Breakfast at our hotel. After breakfast, we will **celebrate Mass in the Chapel of the Apparitions.** Afterward, our guide will take us on a tour of the Shrine of Fátima, built on the site of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fátima to the three shepherd children, Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco. Visit the tombs of the child saints of Fátima, the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, and the Basilica of the Holy Trinity. We will then visit Aljustrel, the hamlet where the three children lived, as well as Valinhos, where Our Lady appeared after the children's return from prison. We will also visit the church where the children were baptized. If time permits, we will follow the Stations of the Cross along the Via Sacra, built by Hungarian refugees, which culminates in the Chapel of Calvary.

Independent lunch. The rest of the day will be free for private devotions.

Dinner at the hotel restaurant. After dinner, gather in the Chapel of the Apparitions to pray the rosary, followed by the candlelight procession.

Overnight at our hotel in Fátima. (B,D)

DAY 9 Friday, January 3: Return to the USA

After an early breakfast at our hotel, we will be transferred to Lisbon International Airport for our return flight to the USA. Arrive home the same day.

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