Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Mass Intentions

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
Rino Del Carro
Concetta Saracini

MONDAY, April 8-The Annunciation of the Lord
9:00 A.M. Linda Zuliani

TUESDAY, April 9-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Robert B. Cruz

WEDNESDAY, April 10–Weekday
9:00A.M. Tone Marusic

THURSDAY, April 11-St. Stanislaus
9:00 A.M. Joseph Salamone

FRIDAY, April 12-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Marie Salamone

SATURDAY, April 13—St. Martin
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
The McHale Family

5:00P.M. The Devane Family

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

Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

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

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

TUESDAY: Acts 4:32-37
John 3:7b-15

WEDNESDAY Acts 5:17-26
John 3:16-21

THURSDAY: Acts 5:27-33
John 3:31-36

FRIDAY: Acts 5:34-42
John 6:1-15

SATURDAY: Acts 6:1-7
John 6:16-21

Third Sunday of Easter

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

We tend to be a very skeptical and doubtful culture. Many people believe only what they can see and touch. Many do not trust the government, their neighbors, or even that God loves them. There is only one way to overcome doubt. And that is through faith. In spiritual matters, no one can give you faith except God. Others can lead you there, others can show you how to nurture it, still others can point you in the right direction, but inevitably you have to believe through God's grace and your own free will. You have to make that conscious leap from doubt to faith.

Remember the words of Jesus to the Apostles at the Last Supper, *What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will understand later.* Many people want answers, but no answer will satisfy them. *What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will understand later.* We have got to keep those words in mind as we stumble through life carrying our own crosses. We understand very little, even though we think we know so much.

Most or us, at different times in our lives, are not unlike the Apostle Thomas, and that is not necessarily a negative thing. But, if we remain in doubt, and not search for the truth, we cannot grow in our faith. If we only believe those things that we can see or fully understand, we cannot begin to experience the glories of creation, or the mysteries of our faith. If we stay in that place of doubt, then Jesus can become for us someone who has no power in our lives. And our faith and hope wither.

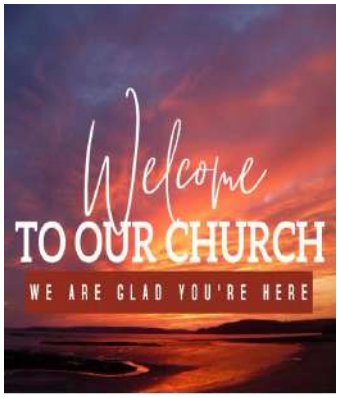
In today's Gospel we see an example of God's mercy, as Jesus speaks gently to Thomas, acknowledging his doubt and helping to bolster his faith, Jesus was patient with Thomas. He met him where he was in his faith. He does the same for each of us and all who struggle with doubts. This Gospel also provides us with a model of how we are to help others to understand the depths of God's mercy and love, and to turn to the Lord with trust.

We show others the way by our own lives of love and mercy. This is the witness of our faith, which is to help lead others to Christ. So many have judged others in the name of the Lord while forgetting that Jesus did not come to condemn people, but to save them. Listen to his teaching in another part of John's Gospel: *I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved … I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly (Jn10:9-10).* Jesus wants to save all of us. So, let us rejoice and be glad, for God sent His beloved Son, Jesus, who offers all of us salvation through His Divine Mercy.

All Blessings of the Risen Lord,
Msgr. Maresca

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "**Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!**" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.** And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, **"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."** And the angel departed from her." **(Luke 1:26-38)**

Welcome New Parishioners



We welcome those who registered in our parish during the month of March 2024.

Eric Pilla
Chodacki Maia
Sophia Hidalgo-Contes
Matthew Bremer
Ivan Velasquez
Emanuel & Kristen Quinones

Baptisms

We welcome those who were Baptized in our parish during the month of March 2024.

Nicholas Michael Sporton
Evan James Norkunas
Emilia Isabel Norkunas

Purgatorials

The following names have been enrolled in our Purgatorial Society for the month of March 2024. Please remember to continue to pray for their families.

Sam Farrugia
Denise Brindle

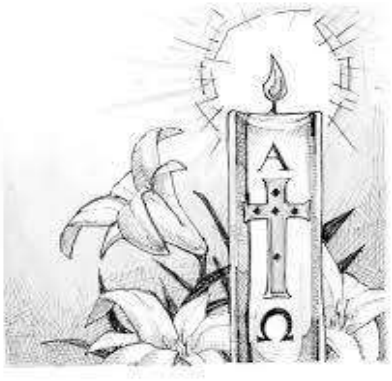
Recently Deceased

The following have passed away during the month of March 2024. We continue to pray for the recently deceased members of our parish.

Manuel Delgado
Giovanna DiIorio
Peter J. Spinosa
Giovanni Chiarelli
Giovanna Sicari
Lorraine Long
Anthony Cima
Anne Virga
Beatrice D'Angelo

We ask for your mercy and grace for them, and for all the faithful departed. May they rest in peace and enjoy the fullness of your love and presence.

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

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.

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

"As the Father has sent Me, so I send 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 are called out to live God's mercy.

In today's Gospel, Jesus confers His divine power to forgive sins on the Apostles through the Holy Spirit. This forgiveness is still available to us in the sacraments. The gift of God's mercy calls us to also perform acts of mercy to ensure that, as in the earliest communities of believers, no one among us is in need

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.

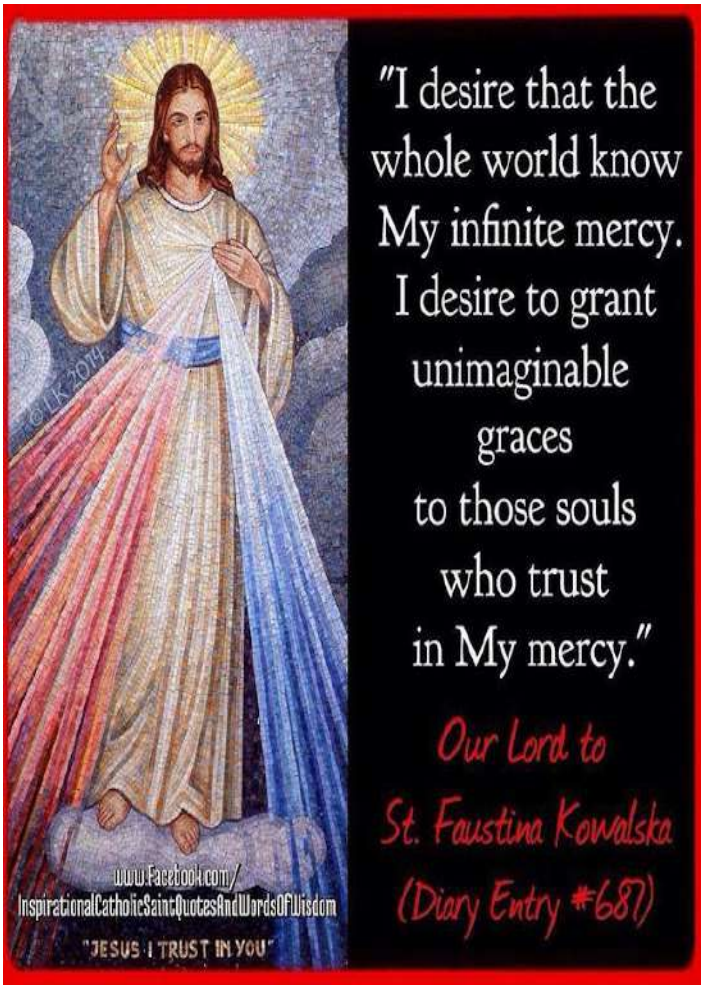
What a wonderful way to begin our day praying before the Blessed Sacrament in silence or praying the Holy Rosary.

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 April 7, 2024

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Loving Memory of
Dr. Rosario &
Mrs. Stella Gualtieri
Requested by
The Thompson Family



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!

Holy Name Society

"The Holy Name Mass will be on Sunday, April 14, 2024 @ 8:00 AM. After Mass, we will meet in the school basement with a presentation on **"Is Easter Over? Now what?"**. In addition to our membership, all parishioners are invited to attend this free critical talk. A continental breakfast will be served. We look forward to seeing everyone."

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.

Holy Thursday:	***$ 790.00***
Good Friday-Holy Land:	***$ 656.00***
Easter Sunday 3/31/24:	**$5,258.00**
2nd Collection-SeniorPriests	***$1,446.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Easter Triduum—2024

Holy Thursday	7:30pm	193
Good Friday	3:00pm	253
	7:30pm	94
Holy Saturday	7:30pm	225

Total in Attendance: 765

Mass Attendance for the Easter Sunday March 31, 2024:

8:00am	120
9:30am	290
11:00am	358
12:30pm	110

Total in Attendance: 878

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

Strengthening the Church at Home

Next weekend, April 13th and 14th, The second collection will be for Catholic Home Missions. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

50/50 March 2024 Winners

First Prize
Mr. & Mrs. Claude Vella

Second Prize
Ms. Milvic Pena

Third Prize
Mr. Andrew Iocco

Congratulations!

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS 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

NEXT 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

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

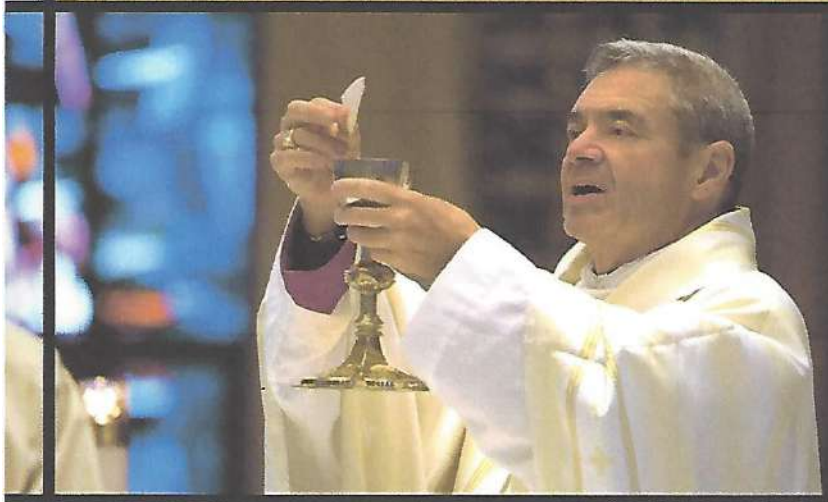
Saturday, April 20

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

"WHOEVER EATS THIS BREAD WILL LIVE FOREVER"



Alverlis
Vocalist, Guitarist, Singer, Songwriter, and Worship Leader

Diocesan Eucharistic Revival

EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL 2022 2025

Saturday, April 20, 2024
Louis Armstrong Stadium in
USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

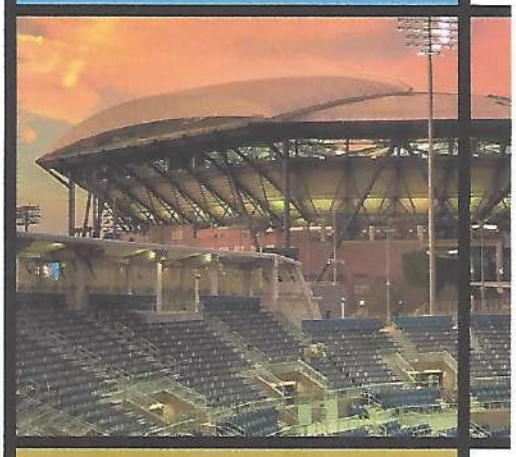
8:00 AM	Gates open (Greetings by Jornada Movement Music Ministry, Dragon Dance, and Caribbean Choir)
8:30 AM	Praise and worship with Alverlis followed by the Holy Rosary with high schools
9:00 AM	Arrival of Bishop Brennan with Queens Pilgrims
9:45 AM	Entrance Procession and Holy Mass
11:35 AM	Break
12:00 PM	Angelus, Adult and Neophyte Program, and praise and worship with Alverlis
1:00 PM	Witness Talks in various languages, Vocations Talk and Testimonials
2:00 PM	Break
2:15 PM	Procession of the Eucharist from the chapel
2:30 PM	Benediction and dismissal
3:00 PM	Event ends

Sponsored by:

Knights of Columbus · Peter's Way Tours · Associated Vincent Charities of Brooklyn · The Co-Cathedral of Saint Joseph

With appreciation to:

A Celebration of Catholic Families, the Joy of the Gospel and Eucharist.



Join the Diocese of Brooklyn for a day of prayer and worship.

Sign up now at your local parish.

For more details, scan the QR code or visit: dioceseofbrooklyn.org/ER

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!

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

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 Avila 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.

ASTORIA HOMEOWNERS, TENANTS & BUSINESS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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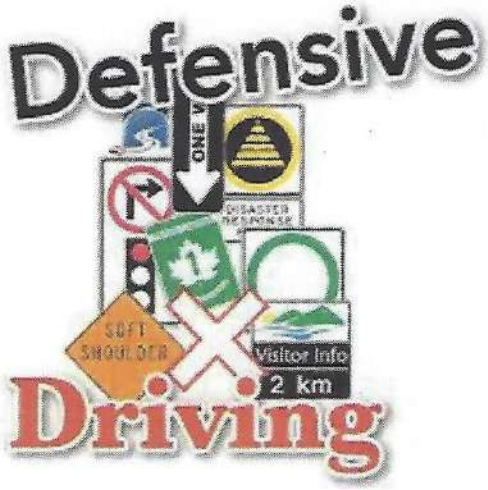

Join us for a Defensive Driving Course

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.

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

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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