Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, June 23 – Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Lucia Borgia
9:30 A.M. Joseph Kaufmann
11:00 A.M. Paul Scavetta
12:30 P.M. For the People of St. Francis
Rosa Santa Gambino
Rino Del Carro

MONDAY, June 24– The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
9:00 A.M. John Purich

TUESDAY, June 25-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Angelo Lina DiMarco

WEDNESDAY, June 26-Weekday
9:00A.M. Erundina Calvo

THURSDAY, June 27—St. Cyril of Alexandria
9:00 A.M. Maria Giuseppina Pedalino

FRIDAY, June 28-St. Irenaeus
9:00 A.M. Natale Palazzolo

SATURDAY, June 29-Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society

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

SUNDAY, June 30– Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. John Bretone
9:30 A.M. Mary Cilia
11:00 A.M. Manuel Delgado
12:30 P.M. Nancy Manganaro
Rosa Santa Gambino
Rino Del Carro

Today's Readings

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 38:1, 8-11
2 Corinthians:5:14-17
Mark 4:35-41

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" ***(Mark 4:26-34)***

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Isaiah 21:1-16
Acts 13:22-26
Luke 1:57-66, 80

TUESDAY: 2 Kings 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a
Matthew 7:6, 12-14

WEDNESDAY 2 Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3
Matthew 7:15-20

THURSDAY: 2 Kings 24:8-17
Matthew 7:21-29

FRIDAY: 2 Kings 25:1-12
Matthew 8:1-4

SATURDAY: Acts 12:1-11
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
Matthew 16:13-19

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2z:23-24
2 Corinthians:5:14-17
Mark 5:21-43

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
21-17 45th Street, Astoria, NY 11105 Phone: 718-728-7801 Fax: 718-728-7853

My Dear Parishioners,

As summer approaches and things are winding down, I want to share some thoughts with you regarding our parish budget.

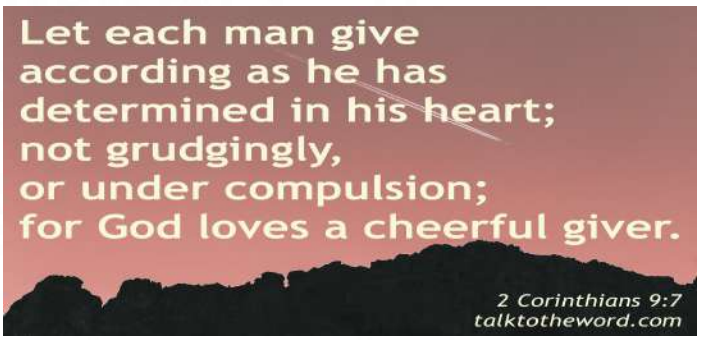
First and foremost, I am so grateful for the many sacrifices each of you make to support our parish. We can not survive without your generosity. I am in the process of preparing the parish budget for 2024-2025 and I have spoken to you about the possibility of increasing your Offertory Gift. I believe we need to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in what we can give to show our gratitude to God for all our parish means to each of us. As you know, we do not receive any financial assistance from the Diocese or from the government. We are responsible to pay our own parish expenses. As of today, our parish is approximately $25,000 in the red.

Before any cuts are made, I again want to ask for your help in this important matter. I know you understand your finances better then anyone. You know your limits. However, I would like you to consider the possibility that each ***working person*** give one hour's wage in the Offertory Collection each week.

I trust in you and pray that the Lord will guide your decision.

Thank you again for all you do.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Brooklyn

310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215

June 7, 2024

Dear Pastors and Administrators,

As you know we are coming up on the conclusion of this year's Deanery visits. Monsignor Joseph Grimaldi, your local Regional Episcopal Vicar and I have listened to your suggestions and concerns, and the conversations have personally been very encouraging to me.

As we look to the new pastoral year, I am committed to implement our Reconfiguration Process, with its three different stages throughout our diocese, in order to effectively utilize our financial and clergy personnel resources. The purpose of the Reconfiguration Process is to strengthen the relationship that already exists among parish communities in particular areas of our diocese and to enhance the varied ministries that each parish offers, while collaborating, partnering or merging with another parish.

Collaboration, partnerships, or parish mergers are taking place in many dioceses and a number of parishes share their pastor with at least one other parish with that number growing. The issues we face here in our diocese, though unique in their own ways, are similar to what is happening throughout the country. We are one family in faith.

With this in mind, pastors in each deanery have been tasked to discuss and adjust their Mass schedules in collaboration with the other parishes in their deanery this coming Fall. You are also strongly encouraged to work with neighboring parishes outside your assigned deanery, if pastorally necessary. **To that effect, I am asking that no Mass intentions be taken after June 30, 2025. It is essential that every parish share in this commitment.**

You will hear more about this process in the coming months, and you are encouraged to engage actively in the consultation opportunities at the deanery level. Please provide your thoughts and ideas to your Dean. This is an important moment for new opportunities in our diocese. It is crucial that this process be rooted in prayer and open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I ask that you be faithful to patient discernment and committed to creating a plan with your Parish Leadership, Dean and Regional Vicar that will set the roadmap for the future vitality and vibrancy of all our parishes in Brooklyn and Queens.

Thank you for your cooperation as we embark in this new phase of reconfiguration in our diocese. Be assured of my continued prayers for each of you and parish communities.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ Robert J. Brennan

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Brooklyn.

Monday, June 24, 2024
The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Solemnity

Jesus called John the greatest of all those who had preceded him: “I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John….” But John would have agreed completely with what Jesus added: “[Y]et the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he” (Luke 7:28). John spent his time in the desert, an ascetic. He began to announce the coming of the Kingdom, and to call everyone to a fundamental reformation of life. His purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus. His baptism, he said, was for repentance. But one would come who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John was not worthy even to untie his sandals. His attitude toward Jesus was: “He must increase; I must decrease” (John 3:30).

John was humbled to find among the crowd of sinners who came to be baptized the one whom he already knew to be the Messiah. “I need to be baptized by you” (Matthew 3:14b). But Jesus insisted, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15b). Jesus, true and humble human as well as eternal God, was eager to do what was required of any good Jew. Jesus thus publicly entered the community of those awaiting the Messiah. But making himself part of that community, he made it truly messianic.

The greatness of John, his pivotal place in the history of salvation, is seen in the great emphasis Luke gives to the announcement of his birth and the event itself—both made prominently parallel to the same occurrences in the life of Jesus. John attracted countless people to the banks of the Jordan, and it occurred to some people that he might be the Messiah. But he constantly deferred to Jesus, even to sending away some of his followers to become the first disciples of Jesus. Perhaps John’s idea of the coming of the Kingdom of God was not being perfectly fulfilled in the public ministry of Jesus. For whatever reason, when he was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the Messiah. Jesus’ answer showed that the Messiah was to be a figure like that of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah. John himself would share in the pattern of messianic suffering, losing his life to the revenge of Herodias.

Feast Day of
Saints Peter and Paul
Saturday, June 29, 2024

On June 29 the Church celebrates the feast day of Sts. Peter & Paul. As early as the year 258, there is evidence of an already lengthy tradition of celebrating the solemnities of both Saint Peter and Saint Paul on the same day. Together, the two saints are the founders of the See of Rome, through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there. Peter, who was named Simon, was a fisherman of Galilee and was introduced to the Lord Jesus by his brother Andrew, also a fisherman. Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Petrus in Latin), which means 'Rock,' because he was to become the rock upon which Christ would build His Church. Peter was a bold follower of the Lord. He was the first to recognize that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and eagerly pledged his fidelity until death. In his boldness, he also made many mistakes, however, such as losing faith when walking on water with Christ and betraying the Lord on the night of His passion. Yet despite his human weaknesses, Peter was chosen to shepherd God's flock. The Acts of the Apostles illustrates his role as head of the Church after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Peter led the Apostles as the first Pope and ensured that the disciples kept the true faith. St. Peter spent his last years in Rome, leading the Church through persecution and eventually being martyred in the year 64. He was crucified upside-down at his own request, because he claimed he was not worthy to die as his Lord. He was buried on Vatican hill, and St. Peter's Basilica is built over his tomb.

St. Paul was the Apostle of the Gentiles. His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church. Before receiving the name Paul, he was Saul, a Jewish pharisee who zealously persecuted Christians in Jerusalem. Scripture records that Saul was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen. Saul's conversion took place as he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christian community there. As he was traveling along the road, he was suddenly surrounded by a great light from heaven. He was blinded and fell off his horse. He then heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He answered: "Who are you, Lord?" Christ said: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Saul continued to Damascus, where he was baptized and his sight was restored. He took the name Paul and spent the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel tirelessly to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world. Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome, where he was beheaded in the year 67. He is buried in Rome in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

In a sermon in the year 395, St. Augustine of Hippo said of Sts. Peter and Paul: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."

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, Alex Humen, Rick Simonsen, Aubrey Madden and Madison Millett.

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.

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.

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:

God's love for us is more powerful than any challenge we face.

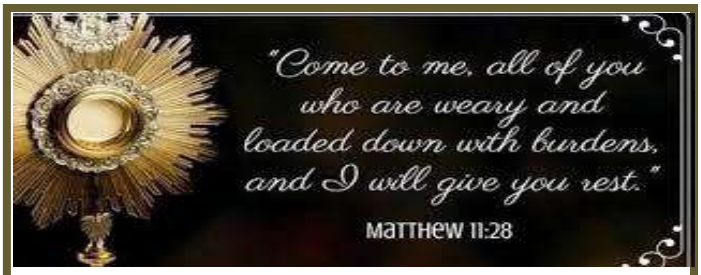
The readings today reflect God's profound love for us, even in the face of turbulent times. When our faith is challenged or we are distraught, we must trust that Hod is with us always and have complete faith that His love is more powerful than the storms of our lives.

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 23, 2024

"He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who for their sake died and was raised."

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



Eucharistic Adoration has concluded for the summer. I am grateful for our Deacons and their support in this service. Also, I appreciate all those who come to spend some time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Adoration will resume on Tuesday, September 3rd at 8:00AM to 8:50AM.

Mass Attendance for the June 15/16, 2024:

5:00PM	85
8:00AM	62
9:30AM	105
11:00AM	95
12:30PM	46

Total in Attendance: 393

VOCATION PRAYER

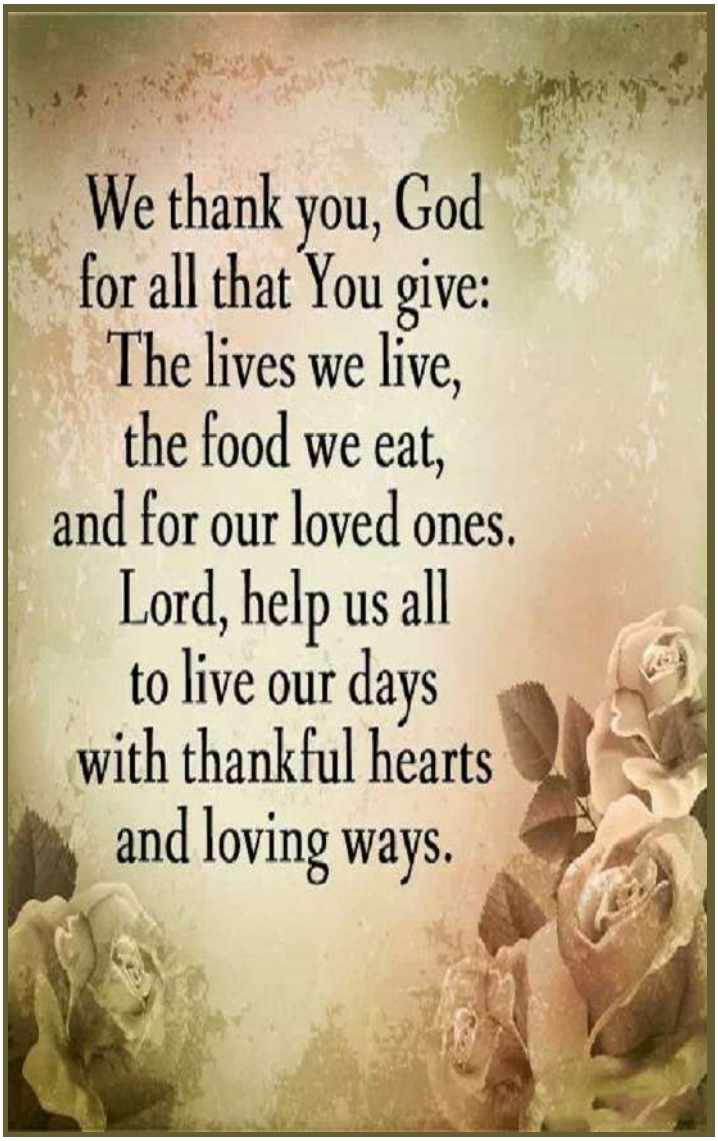
In this Year of Prayer, the Parish Council has suggested that we as a parish pray the prayer for Vocations found on the back cover of the missalette.
We will pray the prayer every Sunday before the final blessing of Mass.
Vocations to the priesthood are needed throughout the country. Here in our own Diocese of Brooklyn, vocations are vital for the continuation of the Eucharist which is central to our lives as Catholics.

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.

PLEASE NOTE

BAPTISMS FOR JULY WILL BE SUNDAY, JULY 28TH AT 1:00PM.

BAPTISMS FOR AUGUST WILL BE SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH AT 1:00PM.



PRACTICAL TIPS ON FINDING A CATHOLIC CHURCH WHILE ON VACATION

One of the most reliable places online to find a Catholic church is MassTimes.org. You are able to enter in any address in the world and find the nearest church. Included in the results is the ability to search by a specific Mass time if you have a limited window when you can attend Mass. They also have an app for mobile devices that is extremely helpful.

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 6/15-6/16: **$3,717.00**

School parents must use church envelopes.

Summertime

As the summer is upon us, many go away or are out of town for the weekends. May I ask you to please continue your weekly offering. Your support is essential for the parish during the summer months. As you know, like yourselves, we still have our monthly bills to be paid. I appreciate your attention to this important matter. If you plan to go away for the summer, please hand in your envelopes before you leave. For your information our fiscal year ends August 31st and the new fiscal year begins September 1st.

I want to wish each of you a restful and relaxing summer.
THANK YOU for all you do in supporting our parish.

Msgr. Maresca

Annual Catholic Appeal 2024
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Thank you to all who have supported the Annual Catholic Appeal. I appreciate your sacrifices and generosity in the appeal. As of June 10th, we have pledged $26,466.76 towards our goal of $41,679.00. If you have not contributed to the appeal please prayerfully consider a gift to help us reach our goal. To this date, 67 parishioners or 24.10% of our parish have supported the appeal.

I appreciate all of your support and assure you of my prayers.

Msgr. Maresca

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn
Money goes back to your local parish

My Car Went To Heaven

DONATE YOUR AUTO
Running or Not

• IRS Tax Deduction • Free Towing
• Any Condition • Any Model

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

June 23-June 29

Sunday, June 23

Monday, June 24
Summer Office Hours Begin
Church Opens at 8:00AM

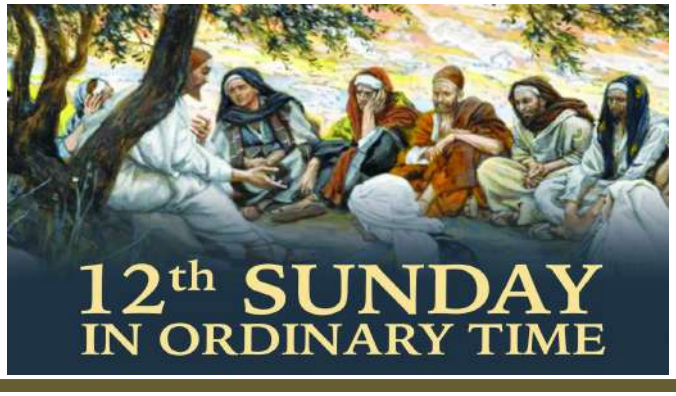
Tuesday, June 25
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, June 26

Thursday, June 27
10:00-11:30AM Legion of Mary

Friday, June 28

Saturday, June 29



NEXT WEEK

June 30-July 6

Sunday, June 30
Baptism 1:30PM

Monday, July 1

Tuesday, July 2
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, July 3

Thursday, July 4
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY
Rectory Office Closed All Day

Friday, July 5
Rectory Office Closed Day

Saturday, July 6
9:00AM Anointing Mass

St. FRANCIS of ASSISI
SUMMER SCHEDULE

Beginning June 24th until September 3rd

Adoration

There will be No Adoration beginning June 24th.
Adoration will resume on September 4, 2024

Church Hours

Church Opens

Monday thru Saturday—8:00am
Sunday—7:30am

Mass Schedule

(July & August)

Monday thru Friday—9:00am
Saturday—9:00am & 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am & 12:00noon
(NO Italian Mass During July & August)

Rectory Hours

Monday thru Thursday—9:00am—12:00pm
1:00pm—5:00pm
Friday 9:00am –12:00pm * 1:00pm—3:00pm
NO EVENING OFFICE HOURS

CLOSED SUNDAY

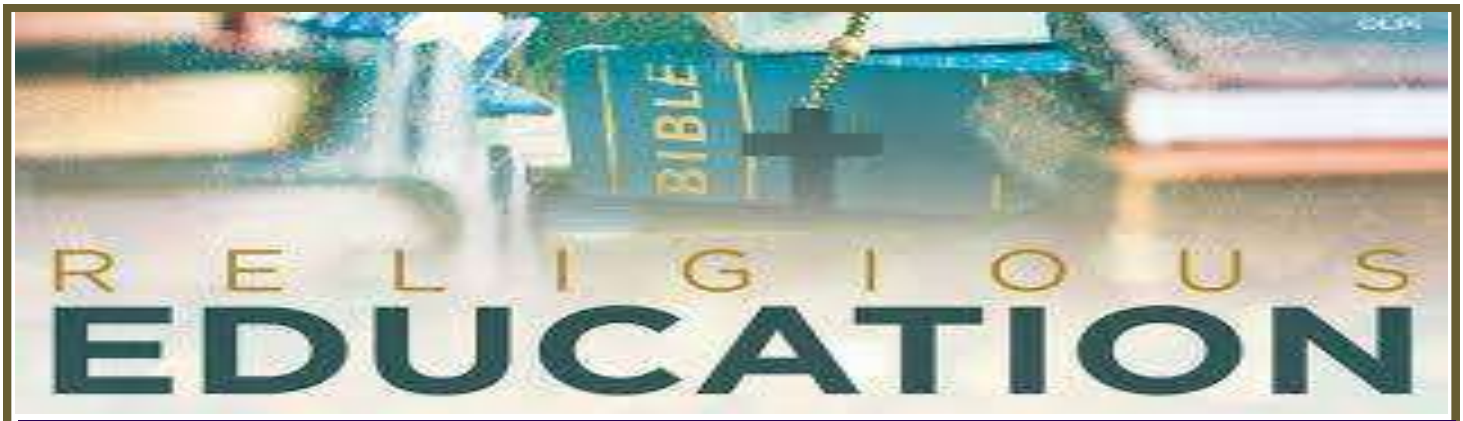
THANK YOU TO OUR GIRL SCOUT TROOP 4194 FOR DECORATING THE PLANTERS IN FRONT OF CHURCH. THEY DID A VERY NICE JOB. THE GIRLS OF TROOP 4194 ARE:

Thalia Ciafos
Ava Ciccimarra
Lea Ciccimarra
Rena DiVittorio
Ava Doran
Arden Geiger
Maria Kubina
Elira Kurdina
Michaela Soberal
Corynne Soberal

PRE-K FOR ALL

Openings available for our 2024-2025 Free Pre-K for All Program
for children living in NYC and born in 2020.
For more information, contact the Program Director,
Mrs. Nancy Annunziata at:
NAnnunziata@sfaacademy.org or 718-726-9405 ext. 3

@sfaca3kprek



If you have a child beginning first grade in public school, it is time to register for Religious Education. Diocesan guidelines require ***two years*** of instructions prior to the reception of a Sacrament. If your child is already in the first grade and missed this year, call the Office of Religious Education to set up an appointment to discuss the options.

Sister Francesca, Director of Faith Formation,
(718) 278.0259 or dre@sfaacademy.org

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO…

Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not
celebrated the Sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation?

Then **RCIA** (**R**ite of **C**hristian **I**nitiation of **A**dults) is what you're looking for! Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of the Church as well as prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season.

For information please contact our
Director of Faith Formation, Sister Francesca at
(718) 278.0259 or dre@sfaacademy.org