Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

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
4:00 P.M. St. Anthony Abate

MONDAY, July 1– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Marie Montana

TUESDAY, July 2-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Eugenia Madonna

WEDNESDAY, July 3-Saint Thomas the Apostle
9:00A.M. Sylvester Guerriero

THURSDAY, July 4—Weekday
9:00 A.M. John Marchassalla (40th Anniversary)

FRIDAY, July 5-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Armando & Assunta Sorgini

SATURDAY, July 6-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
John McCarthy
Margaret McCarthy
Living and Deceased Members of The Legion of Mary
5:00P.M. Marie Thompson

SUNDAY, July 7– Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
10:00 A.M. Evelyn Singura
12:00 Noon Sister Claire Smith

Today's Readings

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24
2 Corinthians:8:7, 9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-43

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat. (Mark 5:35-43)

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Amos 2:6-10, 13-16
Matthew 8:18-22

TUESDAY: Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12
Matthew 8:23-27

WEDNESDAY Ephesians 2:19-22
John 20:24-29

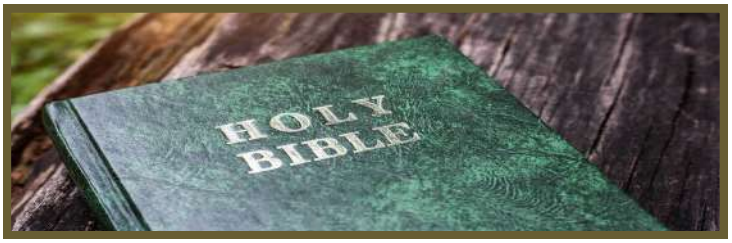
THURSDAY: Amos 7:10-17
Matthew 9:1-8

FRIDAY: Amos 8:4-6, 9-12
Matthew 9:9-13

SATURDAY: Amos 9:11-15
Matthew 9:14-17

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 2:2-5
2 Corinthians:12:7-10
Mark 6:1-6a



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.

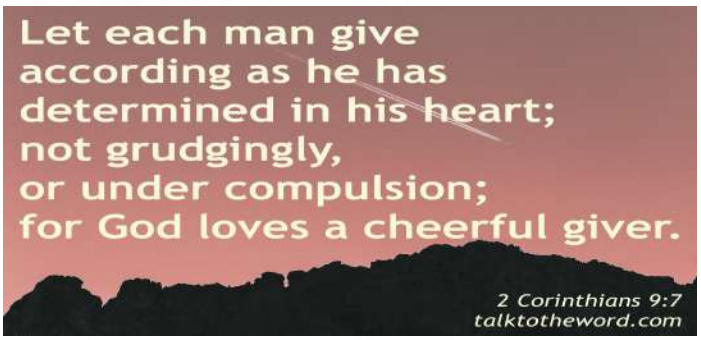
First and foremost, I am so grateful for the many sacrifices each of you make to support our parish. We can not survive without your generosity. I am in the process of preparing the parish budget for 2024-2025 and I have spoken to you about the possibility of increasing your Offertory Gift. I believe 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.

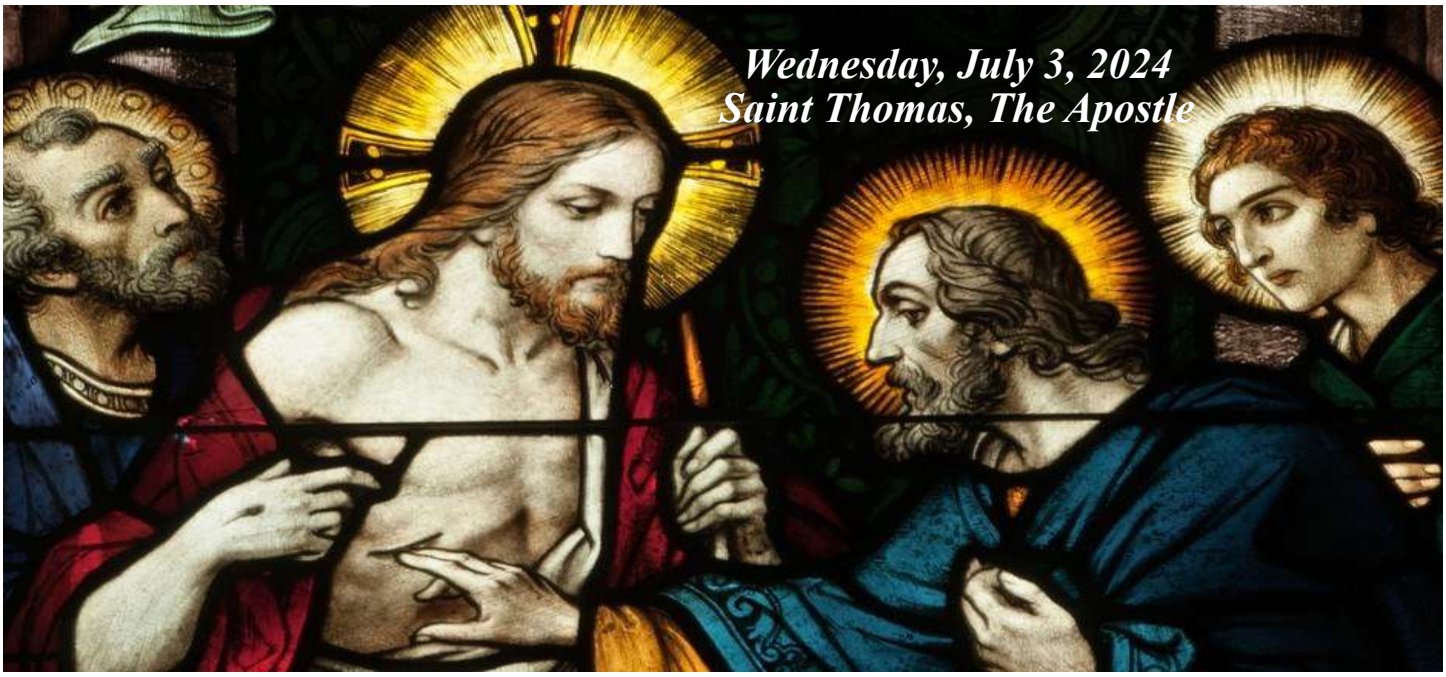
Before any cuts are made, I again want to ask for your help in this important matter. I know you understand your finances better then anyone. You know your limits. However, I would like you to consider the possibility that each ***working person*** give one hour's wage in the Offertory Collection each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





Little is recorded of St. Thomas the Apostle. Thomas was probably born in Galilee to a humble family, but there is no indication that he was a fisherman. He was a Jew, but there is no account of how he became an apostle to Christ. Nevertheless, thanks to the fourth Gospel his personality is clearer to us than some of the other Twelve. Thomas' name occurs in Matthew (10:3), Mark (3:18), Luke (6) and Acts of the Apostles (1:13), but in the Gospel of John he plays a particularly distinctive part. Thomas is often condemned for his lack of belief, but Thomas was equally courageous, willing to stand by Jesus in dangerous times. He also relentlessly sought the Truth. Like an inquisitive child, he constantly asked questions. And, his wonderful profession, "My Lord and my God," is the clearest declaration of Jesus' divinity in Holy Scripture. When Jesus announced His intention of visiting the recently deceased Lazarus in Judea—a few miles from Jerusalem and dangerously close for someone as unpopular as He—Thomas said to his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). When the worried disciples wanted to keep Jesus from going for fear He would be stoned, Thomas, in a moment of bravery not often expressed by the Apostles before Pentecost, rallied the others to stay by their Master. Later, in John 14:1-5 it was St. Thomas who raised an objection prior to the Last Supper: *"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."* Thomas said to Him, *"Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"* With the keenness typical of the Twelve, Thomas misunderstands Jesus' reference to His death and resurrection. Thomas' question provides Jesus an opportunity to teach one of the most profound and difficult truths of His ministry. Jesus said to Thomas: (John 14:6) *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."* Lastly, and more famously, St. Thomas is remembered for being absent from the Upper Room the first time Jesus appeared to the disciples after His Resurrection. Thomas dismissed the accounts of the others by saying, *"Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe"*(Luke 20:25). Eight days later Thomas made his act of faith. He fell at the feet of Jesus and said, *"My Lord and my God!"* and Jesus replied, *"Because you have seen me, Thomas, you believed. Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believe"* (John 20:25-29). This incident gave rise to the expression "doubting Thomas." Accounts of Thomas' missionary activities are unreliable, but the most widely accepted report holds that he preached in India, although he was reluctant to start the mission. According to the *Acta Thomae*, the apostles divided up the world for their missionary labors, and India fell to Thomas. However, Thomas claimed that he was not healthy enough and that a Hebrew could not teach Indians; even a vision of Christ could not change his mind. Christ then appeared to a merchant and sold Thomas to him as a slave for his master, a king who ruled over part of India. One story suggests that Thomas offered to build a palace for the Indian king that would last forever. The king gave him money, which Thomas gave to the poor. Asked to show his progress, St. Thomas explained that the palace he was building was in heaven, not on earth. Ultimately, after giving into God's will, Thomas was freed from slavery. He planted seeds for the new Church, forming many parishes and building many churches along the way. To this day, Saint Thomas is venerated as the Apostle of India. In fact, there exists a population of Christians along the Malabar Coast, on the western coast of India, who lay claim to conversion by St. Thomas. Their tradition holds tat he was martyred during prayer by a spearing on the "Big Hill" near Madras, and was buried in Mylapore, on the east coast of India. Ultimately, St. Thomas' remains were transported to Ortona, Italy, where they reside today.

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.

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 30, 2024

"She fell down before Jesus and told Him the whole truth."

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

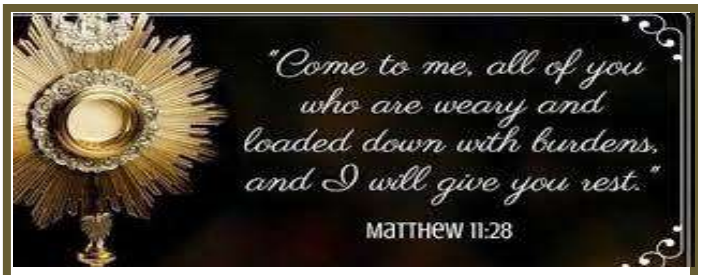
St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Catholic community that is centered in Jesus, gathers in worship and witnesses the Gospel message. The parish values and welcomes each person's gift of time, talent and treasure. As a faith-filled community, we are committed to minister to the spiritual, educational and material needs of all people.

FOCUS:

Jesus gives us what we truly need.

When a woman who had spent all her money on doctors to no avail and a father whose daughter grew worse by the day turn to Jesus for help, Jesus doesn't question why they did not come to Him first. Rather, He encourages the faith that led them to Him and gives them what they need. We, too, can have faith that will lead us to seek Jesus' help, for He is ready to encourage us as well, and give us what we most need.

Saturday, July 6, 2024, the 9:00am Mass will be an anointing Mass. All those who wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick are asked to participate in this Mass. All are invited to join us in prayer as we remember to pray for all those who are



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 22/23, 2024:

5:00PM	92
8:00AM	57
9:30AM	90
11:00AM	77
12:30PM	32

Total in Attendance: 348

VOCATION PRAYER

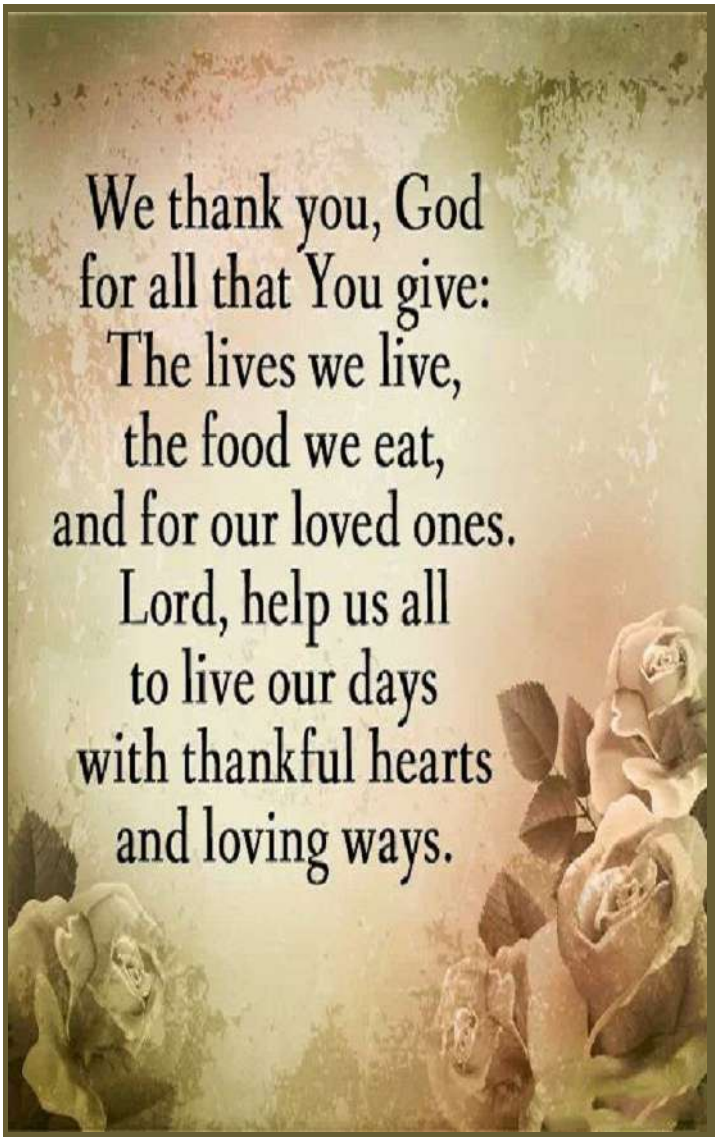
In this Year of Prayer, the Parish Council has suggested that we as a parish pray the prayer for Vocations found on the back cover of the missalette.
We will pray the prayer every Sunday before the final blessing of Mass.
Vocations to the priesthood are needed throughout the country. Here in our own 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:	**$4,719.00**
2nd Collection-Peter's Pence	***$ 492.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Next weekend, July 6th and 7th, the second collection will be for air conditioning to help keep our church cool during the summer months.

Please be as generous as you means allow. Thank you for your generosity and support.

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

In observance of Independence Day, The Rectory office will be closed all day Thursday, July 4th and Friday, July 5th. The office will reopen on Saturday, July 6th at 9:00AM.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS 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

NEXT WEEK

July 7-July 13

Sunday, July 7
2nd Collection-Air Conditioning

Monday, July 8

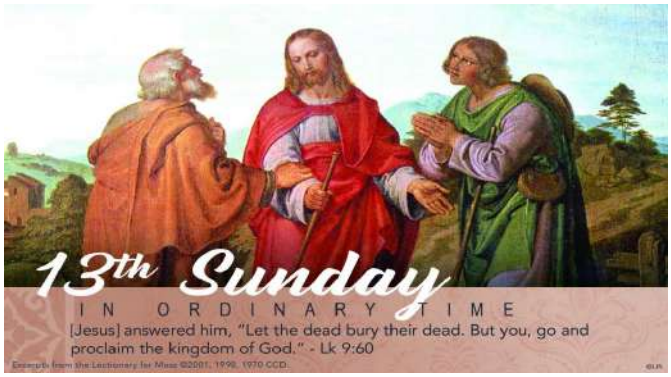
Tuesday, July 9
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, July 10
7:00PM Baptism Class

Thursday, July 11
10:00AM—Legion of Mary

Friday, July 12

Saturday, July 13



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

JULY 2024
LECTOR SCHEDULE

	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	JULY 6 - 7	JULY 13 - 14	JULY 20-21	JULY 27 - 28
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Dolores Ratkowski	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski	Debbi Skinner
Sunday 8:00 A.M.	Carol Hickey	Andrew Soltesz	Carol Hickey	Rob Laucella
Sunday 10:00 A.M.	Josephine Corso	Martha O'Toole	Patrick O'Toole	Maria Brooks
Sunday 12:00 P.M.	Sharon Costanza	Jane Di Donato	Jane Di Donato	Jane Di Donato

***** REMINDER *****
Once you are scheduled, if you cannot fulfill your assignment, please make every effort to call and get a replacement. Thank you

★ GOD BLESS AMERICA ★

Happy 4TH OF JULY

A Prayer for America

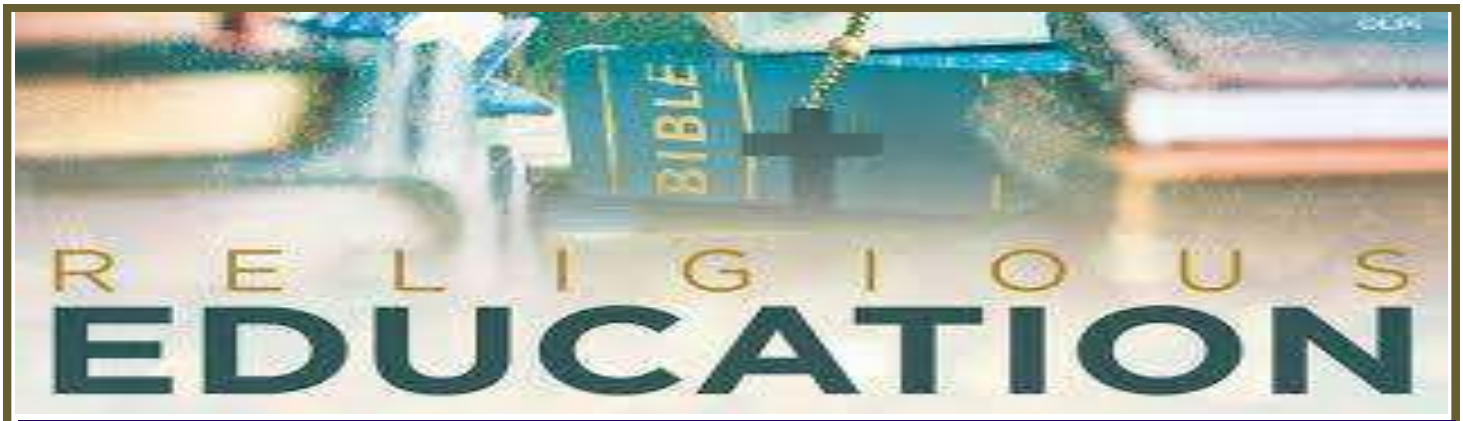
Heavenly Father

We, the people, in the
land of the free and
the home of the brave,
desperately need You.
Oh that we would leave our ways
of seeking to be blessed
and instead seek to bless others.
We beg for Your guidance and wisdom
for our leaders.
We ask You to protect our land
from enemies, both within and without.
And we praise you for the freedom
we have through the blood of Your Son.
May Your plan be the desire of our nation.
Amen

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

St. Francis of Assisi

Fall Festival

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 28, 2024