Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, August 11 – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Holy Name
10:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
12:00 P.M. Alfonso Annibale

MONDAY, August 12– St. Jane Frances de Chantal
9:00 A.M. Peter Ferrante

TUESDAY, August 13-Saint Pontain
9:00 A.M. Zore Ivanschitz

WEDNESDAY, August 14-Saint Maximilian Kolbe
9:00A.M. Angelo Rosa Sferrazza Family

THURSDAY, August 15-The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9:00 A.M. Siobhan McDermett
11:00A.M. Elia Filomena Cinquemani
7:30P.M. Catherine Finerty

FRIDAY, August 16-Saint Stephen of Hungary
9:00 A.M. Michelle Wierman (Living)

SATURDAY, August 17-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
The McHale Family
John McCann Sr.
Elizabeth McCann

5:00P.M. Anne Thompson

SUNDAY, August 18– Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Msgr. Stefan Geosits
10:00 A.M. Evelyn Singura
12:00 Noon For the People of St. Francis

Today's Readings

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 19:4-8
Ephesians:4:30-5:2
John 6:41-51

"So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." **John 6:41-51**

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28c
Matthew 17:22-27

TUESDAY: Ezekiel 2:8-3:4
Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

WEDNESDAY: Ezekiel 9 1-7; 10:18-22
Matthew 18:15-20

THURSDAY: Revelation 11:19a;12:1-6a, 10ab
1 Corinthians 15:20-27
Luke 1:39-56

FRIDAY: Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63
Matthew 19:3-12

SATURDAY: Ezekiel 18, 1-10:6-10
Matthew 19:13-15

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

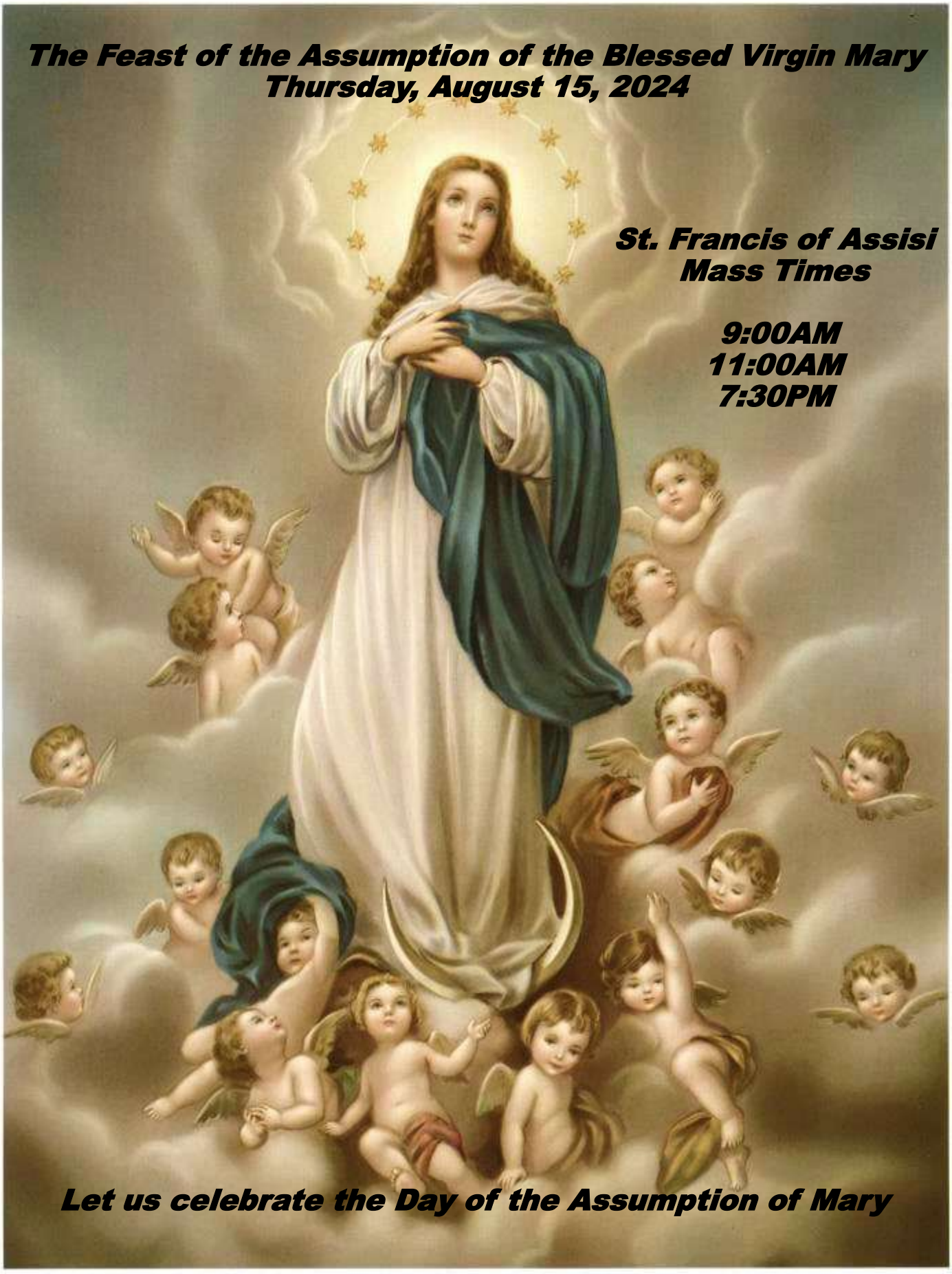
Proverbs 9:1-6
Ephesians:5:15-20
John 6:51-58

Sunday, August 11, 2024
The Feast of
Saint Claire of Assisi

St. Clare of Assisi was born into the nobility of Assisi on July 16, 1194. She was known by members of her household to be a sensitive child, prayerful and kind. After hearing St. Francis preach, she confided in him her desire to live for God. On the evening of Palm Sunday, in the year 1212, Clare secretly left her stately home with her cousin Pacifica, never to return. In the Church of 'Our Lady of the Angels', Francis, clothed Clare in sackcloth and cut off her hair, signaling her renunciation of the world. She took the veil of religious life from Francis and from that moment vowed to live her life entirely in the service of Jesus, her heavenly spouse. St. Clare followed her path unwaveringly, adopting the rule of St. Benedict tempered with Francis's preaching of poverty. She soon gathered a large female following at San Damiano and Francis urged her to set up a convent there. She did so and became abbess of the new community known as the Poor Clares. Clare's mother and sisters later joined the order, and there are still thousands of members today. Little is known about St. Clare's life in the cloister. We know she became a living example of the poverty, humility, and mortification expounded by St. Francis. Like St. Francis, Clare was known for her many miracles. Among her most famous feats is using a consecrated Host to ward off invaders. She displayed the Sacrament in a monstrance at the convent gates, and prayed before it; the attackers left. Toward the end of her life on Christmas Eve 1252, Clare was upset that her illness was keeping her from Mass in the new Basilica of St. Francis. Suddenly, she was blessed with a vision of the Mass on her wall, both hearing and seeing it miraculously from several miles away. Because of this vision, she has been pronounced the patron saint of television and the patron of sore eyes.

Wednesday, August 14, 2024
The Feast of
Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Maximilian Kolbe entered the minor seminary of the Conventual Franciscans in Lvív–then Poland, now Ukraine– near his birthplace, and at 16 became a novice. Though he later achieved doctorates in philosophy and theology, he was deeply interested in science, even drawing plans for rocket ships. Ordained at 24, Maximilian saw religious indifference as the deadliest poison of the day. His mission was to combat it. He had already founded the Militia of the Immaculata. He dreamed of and then founded *Knight of the Immaculata,* a religious magazine under Mary's protection to preach the Good News to all nations. For the work of publication he established a "City of the Immaculata"—Niepokalanow—which housed 700 of his Franciscan brothers. He later founded another one in Nagasaki, Japan. His love of God was daily filtered through devotion to Mary. In 1939, the Nazi panzers overran Poland with deadly speed. Niepokalanow was severely bombed. Kolbe and his friars were arrested, then released in less than three months, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. In 1941, Fr. Kolbe was arrested again. The Nazis' purpose was to liquidate the select ones, the leaders. The end came quickly, three months later in Auschwitz, after terrible beatings and humiliations. A prisoner had escaped. The commandant announced that 10 men would die. He relished walking along the ranks. "This one. That one." As they were being marched away to the starvation bunkers, Number 16670 dared to step from the line. "I would like to take that man's place. He has a wife and children." "Who are you?" "A priest." No name, no mention of fame. Silence. The commandant kicked Sergeant Francis Gajowniczek out of line and ordered Fr. Kolbe to go with the nine. In the "block of death" they were ordered to strip naked, and their slow starvation began in darkness. By the eve of the Assumption, four were left alive. The jailer came to finish Kolbe off as he sat in a corner praying. He lifted his fleshless arm to receive the bite of the hypodermic needle. It was filled with carbolic acid. They burned his body with all the others. Fr. Kolbe was beatified in 1971 and canonized in 1982.


The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday, August 15, 2024
St. Francis of Assisi
Mass Times
9:00AM
11:00AM
7:30PM
Let us celebrate the Day of the Assumption of Mary

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.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 11, 2024

"I will raise him on the last day."

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:

Those who receive the Eucharist with eyes of faith can rejoice in Jesus' promise of eternal life.

In the Eucharist, the Lord has given us a great gift: his whole self-body, soul and divinity. This can be challenging to accept since our eyes see what looks like bread. But those who see and receive this gift with the eyes of faith, trusting in the Lord's words that he is *the bread of life,* can rejoice in his promise of eternal life.

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.

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

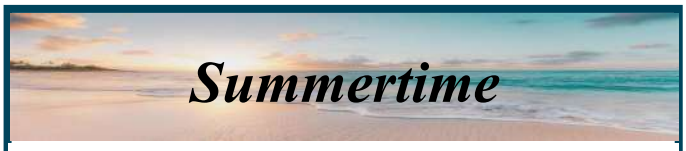
Thank you for your continued generosity of giving each week. Your weekly offering helps us pay our monthly bills.

Sunday 8/3-8/4: $0.00
2nd Collection—Maintenance & Repair

The collection totals will be updated in the August 18th Bulletin.

School parents must use church envelopes.

Next weekend, August 17th and 18th, the second collection will be for air conditioning to help keep our church cool in the summer months.



Summer is here. 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 your-selves, 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 July 31st, we have pledged $28,856.76 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, 80 parishioners or 27.34% of our parish have supported the appeal.

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

Msgr. Maresca

Mass Attendance for the August 3/4, 2024:

5:00PM
8:00AM
10:00AM
12:00PM

Attendance numbers will be updated in the August 18th Bulletin.

PLEASE NOTE

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

August 11-August 17

Sunday, August 11
8:00AM Holy Name Mass

Monday, August 12

Tuesday, August 13
6:30PM-AA Meeting

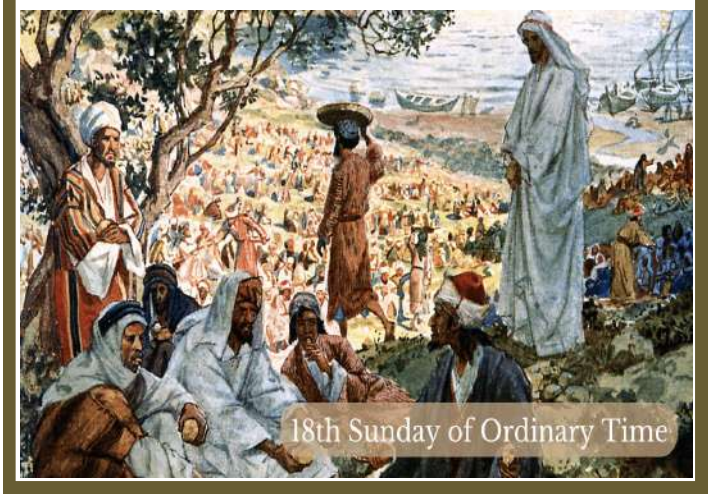
Wednesday, August 14
7:00PM Baptism Class

Thursday, August 15
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9:00AM Mass
11:00AM Mass
7:30PM Mass

10:00AM—Legion of Mary

Friday, August 16

Saturday, August 17



NEXT WEEK

August 18-August 25

Sunday, August 18
2nd Collection—Air Conditioning

Monday, August 19

Tuesday, August 20
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, August 21

Thursday, August 22
10:00AM—Legion of Mary

Friday, August 23

Saturday, August 24

Growing in FAITH™

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

August 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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

One Minute Meditations

St. John Vianney

Difficulties with his studies almost cost St. John Vianney the priesthood. Ordained because of his goodness, he had a gift for reading souls. As the Curé (pastor) of Ars, France, he was confronted with people who were indifferent to Christ and comfortable in their lifestyles. To remedy this, he spent many hours fasting and praying. He spent as many as sixteen hours a day hearing confessions. His spiritual insight and good example reclaimed thousands of lapsed Catholics.

Don't avoid the fight

The ongoing battle for holiness can wear us down. The truth is that even if we fall a thousand times, we fight with Christ by our side. The effort pleases Him more than an easy and comfortable victory. He reminds us: Everyone who wants to be His disciple must take up their cross and follow Him.

"God dwells in our midst, in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar."
St. Maximilian Kolbe

Savor the fullness of Scripture

"To get the full flavor of an herb, it must be pressed between the fingers; so it is the same with the Scriptures. If you want to get the full flavor of the Scriptures, crush them by reading and meditation." St. John Chrysostom. Immerse yourself in God's Word to grow in holiness in this life and be happy in the next. Here's how:

Get a Catholic Bible: Ensure you have a Catholic Bible, which contains all the inspired books. The Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition (RSVce) is an excellent choice, offering clear translations and helpful footnotes. It's also available online.

Read and listen: The Holy Spirit is the ultimate guide to understanding Scripture. Pray for His guidance (John 16:13) and pay attention when a verse or word stands out to you. Reflect on these moments as they often serve as conversation starters with God in prayer.

Savor slowly: Praying with Scripture is like enjoying a fine meal. Take it slowly, savoring small portions to fully appreciate its richness. Choose a random or favorite verse and meditate on it deeply.

Keep a record: It's not necessary to journal daily, but keeping a regular prayer journal helps document lessons, thoughts, and Bible verses that strike you from your time in prayer. This "oasis" can be a source of encouragement during tough times.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have seven Sacraments?

Sacraments are "efficacious signs, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church" to convey grace (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). Grace is a share in God's divine life. Just as food, rest, and medicine maintain our bodies, the Sacraments maintain our souls. The number of Sacraments was fixed at seven by the Council of Trent on March 3, 1547. These are Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Confession, Holy Orders, Matrimony, and Anointing of the Sick. Each has its roots in the New Testament Scriptures.

© Copyright 2024 Success Publishing & Media, LLC

Use distractions to reconnect with God

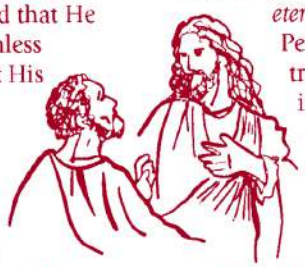
The strain of a busy life can distract us from making holiness our focus. Yet, we have no hope of achieving holiness or true happiness unless God remains our focus. Pope Francis reminds us, "If the events of our life... risk suffocating the gift of prayer within us, it is enough to contemplate a starry sky, a sunset, a flower, to reignite the spark of thanksgiving." Use moments of distraction as opportunities to reconnect with God.

Combat tunnel vision: When confronted with a problem, it's okay to pause and troubleshoot. If discouragement dominates your thoughts and prayers, step outside yourself. Go for a walk, chat with a friend, read a psalm, or pray for the souls in Purgatory. These actions can help shift your focus and renew your perspective.

Cultivate holy wonder: Appreciating the beauty of creation can be a natural gateway to prayer. Stroll through a park, admire the flowers, or listen to the birds and the wind. Such beauty often reconnects us to God when words fail.

from Scripture — John 6:60-69, Live-giving truth

The sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel is foundational for Catholic understanding of the Eucharist. In this reading, Jesus declared that He is the Bread of Life and unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood, we will not have eternal life.



Jewish dietary laws strictly prohibited the consumption of blood, making Jesus' offer of His own shocking and offensive. His listeners failed to see beyond the graphic interpretation of His words and many abandoned Him.

Even the Apostles were troubled by this teaching. Yet, when Jesus asked if they too would leave, Peter spoke for the group, saying, *"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"* (John 6:68).

Peter recognized the divine truth and life-giving power in Jesus' teachings, despite their challenging nature.

As followers of Christ, we are reminded to echo Peter's words: *"Master, you have the words of eternal life."* This chapter not only emphasizes the importance of the Eucharist in Catholic faith but also highlights the need for trust and faith in Jesus' teachings, even when they are hard to understand.

Feasts & Celebrations

August 12 - St. Jane Frances de Chantal (1641). Born wealthy in Dijon, France, Jane married the Baron de Chantal and had four children. Widowed after only seven years, she founded the Order of the Visitation with St. Francis de Sales, for those unable to enter a convent.

August 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption. Declared a dogma of faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, this celebrates Mary's being taken up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life. Today is a holy day of obligation.

August 19 - St. John Eudes (1680). Born on a farm in Normandy, France, John became a priest and parish missionary. He founded the Congregation of Jesus and Mary (Eudists) in 1643 to promote devotion to the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts.

Aug. 24 – St. Bartholomew the Apostle (1st Century). Bartholomew is thought by some scholars to be the Apostle, Nathanael (John 1:46). After Jesus's Ascension, Nathanael spread Christianity to India and Armenia, where he was martyred.

Q & A — How do saints pray?

What do "holy people's" prayers sound like? We imagine sublime and poetic musings on God's perfection. In fact, the saints, while very holy, are also human and intimate with God. Here's a brief glimpse into some saintly prayers to inspire your own:

"If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few!" St. Teresa of Avila uttered this humorous phrase after being thrown from her cart into the mud. It reflects her candid and down-to-earth relationship with God.

"Beware of Philip, Lord. He may yet betray you." St. Philip Neri, known for his wisdom, humor, and impulsive nature, knew his own weaknesses. Rather than make excuses for himself, he confessed his errors and asked for increased graces to remain faithful to God.

"Jesus, may I put on a good face!" This prayer was recommended by St. Josemaría Escrivá to someone tasked with an "unpleasant and repulsive" chore. St. Josemaría said that sometimes the hardest cross can be fulfilling our toughest responsibilities with "a good face."

Our Mission
To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
http://www.growinginfaith.com
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

© Copyright 2024 Success Publishing & Media, LLC

St. FRANCIS of ASSISI
SUMMER SCHEDULE

Beginning June 24th until September 3rd

Adoration

Adoration will resume on September 4, 2024

Church Hours

Church Opens

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

Mass Schedule

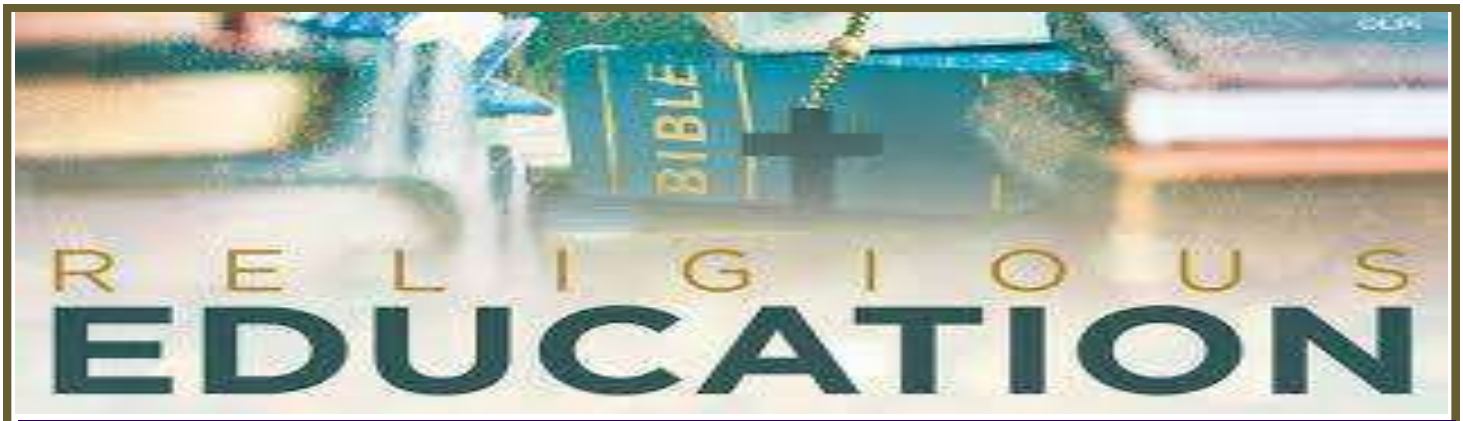
(July & August)

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



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?

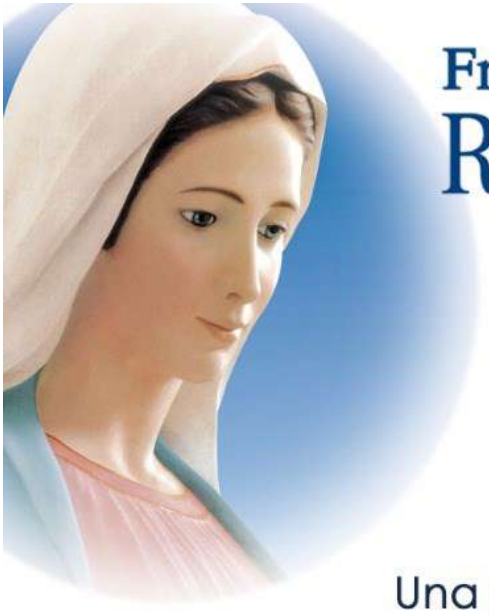
Then **RCIA** (**R**ite of **C**hristian **I**nitiation of **A**dults) is what you're looking for! Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of the Church as well as prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season.

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

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



Friends of RADIO MARIA New York

(718)417-0550

Sitete tutti invitati alla nostra

Giornata di Spiritualita'

SABATO 24 AGOSTO, 2024
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Una giornata di preghiera e riflessione per portare Pace, Amore, Gioia, e Speranza in ogni cuore!
Presentazione della vita di Mother Cabrini, visita al museo e negozio ricordi della Santa.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine

701 Fort Washington Ave., New York, NY 10040
Tel: (212) 923-3536

PROGRAMMA

10:00 am - Rosario
11:00 am - Santa Messa
12:00 pm - Consacrazione dei giovani e delle famiglie al Cuore Immacolato di Maria e di Gesù
12:30 pm - Pranzo al sacco
2:00 pm - Adorazione Eucaristica
3:00 pm - Benedizione Finale

Natale Tumminia animerà le celebrazioni con la sua bella voce

«Io posso tutto in Colui che mi dà forza!» - Saint Frances Cabrini

St. Francis of Assisi

Fall Festival

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 28, 2024