Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, August 25 – Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Maria Samu
10:00 A.M. John Purich
12:00 P.M. Mrs. Grace Fulop

MONDAY, August 26– Weekday
9:00 A.M. William Krahe

TUESDAY, August 27-Saint Monica
9:00 A.M. Johanna Stehle

WEDNESDAY, August 28-Saint Augustine
9:00A.M. The Gavila Family

THURSDAY, August 29-The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
9:00 A.M. Paul Eiaw

FRIDAY, August 30-Weekday
9:00 A.M. The Zorovich Family

SATURDAY, August 31-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
James P. Dugan
Carmen Pierce

5:00P.M. The Ambrose Vigano Family

SUNDAY, September 1– Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
10:00 A.M. Anna Lombardi
12:00 Noon Jorge Enrique Mesa

Today's Readings

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b
Ephesians 5:21-32
John 6:60-69

On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." **John 6:60-69**

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5
Matthew 23:13-22

TUESDAY: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a
Matthew 23:23-26

WEDNESDAY: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18
Matthew 23:27-32

THURSDAY: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Mark 6:17-29

FRIDAY: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25
Matthew 25:1-13

SATURDAY: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 25:14-30

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
James:1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Tuesday, August 27, 2024
The Feast of
Saint Monica

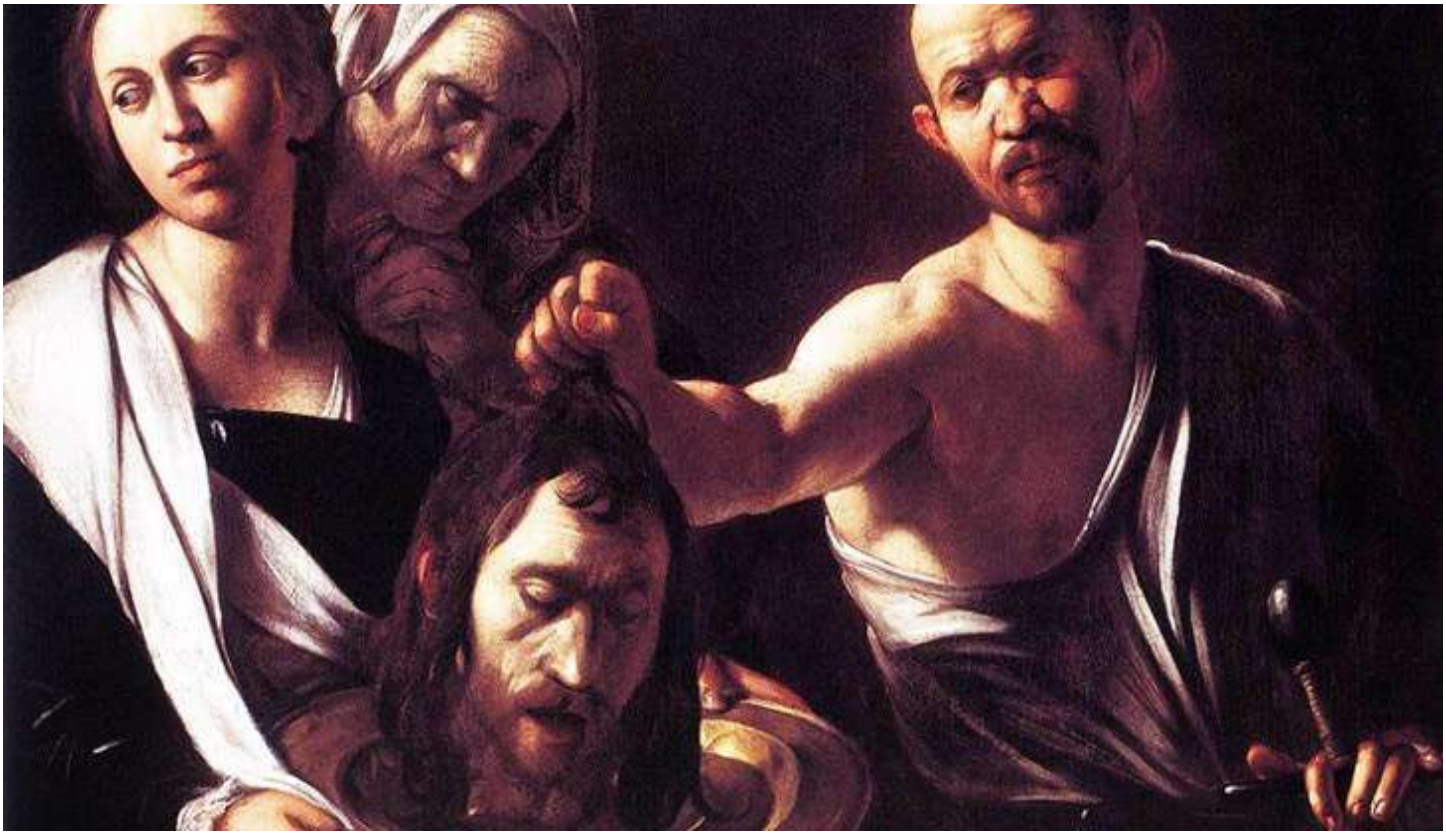
Although Monica was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his baptism. Monica had at least three children who survived infancy. The oldest, Augustine, is the most famous. At the time of his father's death, Augustine was 17. Monica was distressed to learn that her son had accepted the Manichean heresy—"all flesh is evil"—and was living an immoral life. One night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would return to the faith. From that time on, she stayed close to her son, praying and fasting for him. In fact she often stayed much closer than Augustine wanted. When he was 29, Augustine decided to go to Rome to teach rhetoric. Monica was determined to go along. One night he told his mother that he was going to the dock to say goodbye to a friend. Instead he set sail for Rome. Monica followed him. She arrived in Rome only to find that he had left for Milan. Although travel was difficult, Monica pursued him to Milan. In Milan, Augustine came under the influence of the bishop, St. Ambrose, who also became Monica's spiritual director. She accepted his advice in everything and had the humility to give up some practices that had become second nature to her. Monica became a leader of the devout women in Milan . She continued her prayers for Augustine during his years of instruction. At Easter 387, St. Ambrose baptized Augustine and several of his friends. Soon after, his party left for Africa. Monica knew her life was near the end. She told Augustine, "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." She became ill shortly after and suffered severely for nine days before her death.

Wednesday, August 28, 2024
The Feast of
Saint Augustine

A Christian at 33, a priest at 36, a bishop at 41: Many people are familiar with the biographical sketch of Augustine of Hippo, sinner turned saint. But to get to really know the man is a rewarding experience. There quickly surfaces the intensity with which he lived his life, whether his path led away from or toward God. The tears of his mother, the instructions of Ambrose and, most of all, God himself speaking to him in the Scriptures, redirected Augustine's love of life to a life of love. Having been so deeply immersed in creature-pride of life in his early days and having drunk deeply of its bitter dregs, it is not surprising that Augustine should have turned, with a holy fierceness, against the many demon-thrusts rampant in his day. His times were truly decadent: politically, socially, morally. He was both feared and loved, like the Master. The perennial criticism leveled against him: a fundamental rigorism. In his day, Augustine providentially fulfilled the office of prophet. Like Jeremiah and other greats, he was hard-pressed but could not keep quiet. "I say to myself, I will not mention him/I will speak in his name no more/But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart/imprisoned in my bones/I grow weary holding it in/I cannot endure it" (Jeremiah 20:9).Augustine is still acclaimed and condemned in our day. He is a prophet for today, trumpeting the need to scrap escapisms and stand face-to-face with personal responsibility and dignity. Augustine is still acclaimed and condemned in our day. He is a prophet for today, trumpeting the need to scrap escapisms and stand face-to-face with personal responsibility and dignity.

Prayer to St. Augustine

Glorious Saint Augustine, I boldly ask for your intercession confident in your boundless wisdom and compassion. May this devotion lead me to a life dedicated to fulfilling the will of God that I may one day be deemed worthy of sharing His Kingdom with you and all the saints for all eternity. St. Augustine, pray for us.



Thursday, August 29, 2024
The Passion of
Saint John the Baptist

The drunken oath of a king with a shallow sense of honor, a seductive dance and the hateful heart of a queen combined to bring about the martyrdom of John the Baptist. The greatest of prophets suffered the fate of so many Old Testament prophets before him: rejection and martyrdom. The "voice crying in the desert" did not hesitate to accuse the guilty, did not hesitate to speak the truth. But why? What possesses a man that he would give up his very life? This great religious reformer was sent by God to prepare the people for the Messiah. His vocation was one of selfless giving. The only power that he claimed was the Spirit of Yahweh. "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11). Scripture tells us that many people followed John looking to him for hope, perhaps in anticipation of some great messianic power. John never allowed himself the false honor of receiving these people for his own glory. He knew his calling was one of preparation. When the time came, he led his disciples to Jesus: "The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God.' The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus" (John 1:35-37). It is John the Baptist who has pointed the way to Christ. John's life and death were a giving over of self for God and other people. His simple style of life was one of complete detachment from earthly possessions. His heart was centered on God and the call that he heard from the Spirit of God speaking to his heart. Confident of God's grace, he had the courage to speak words of condemnation, repentance, and salvation. Each of us has a calling to which we must listen. No one will ever repeat the mission of John, and yet all of us are called to that very mission. It is the role of the Christian to witness to Jesus. Whatever our position in this world, we are called to be disciples of Christ. By our words and deeds, others should realize that we live in the joy of knowing that Jesus is Lord. We do not have to depend upon our own limited resources, but can draw strength from the vastness of Christ's saving grace. John the "Forerunner," as he is commonly referred to in the Orthodox Church, is one of the greatest saints of all time, one of the only saints whose birthday is celebrated by the Catholic Church. He had his own following before Jesus began his public ministry, and yet deemed himself not "worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of [Jesus'] sandals" (Mark 1:7).

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.

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 25, 2024

"You have the words of eternal life."

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:

Master to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

It can be challenging to be people of faith. Accepting and understanding the magnitude of the Lord's love for us, including the mystery of Jesus handing Himself over for us, may be difficult at times. But faith is a gift, so although we may struggle, we can trust God to grant us the grace we need to commit to serving Him and following His Son.

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.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

PLEASE NOTE that Church will open after Labor Day at 7:30AM.

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 8/17-8/18: $3,500.00

2nd Collection—Air Conditioning *$1,283.00*

School parents must use church envelopes.

Next weekend, August 31st and September 1st, the second collection will be for air conditioning to help keep our church cool in the remaining summer months.

Summer is winding down. May I ask you to please continue your weekly offering. Your support is essential for the parish during this time. As you know, like yourselves, we still have our monthly bills to be paid. I appreciate your attention to this important matter. For your information our fiscal year ends August 31st and the new fiscal year begins September 1st.

I hope each of you found time to rest and relax during these months.

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 August 17/18, 2024:

5:00PM	66
8:00AM	47
10:00AM	66
12:00PM	82

Total: 261

Cook Position

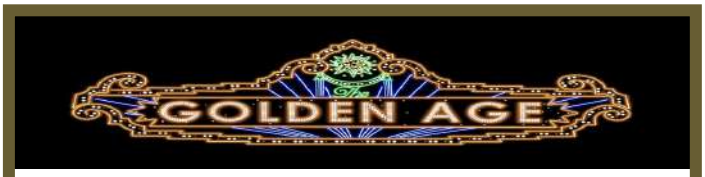
Immaculate Conception Rectory is looking for a weekend cook, Saturday and Sunday. It is part time. If you are interested please call the rectory at 718-728-1613.

Attention All Societies

The 2024/2025 Parish Calendar is available for pickup.

Please have one member of each society stop by the Rectory during business hours to pick up your copy of the calendar.

Thank you.



Golden Age Meetings resume on Monday, September 9th, at 12:00 noon to 3:30pm. We meet in Msgr. Campbell Hall which is located in the basement of the church. Use the entrance on the 45th Street side.

Anyone 60 years or older are welcome to join us. Members pray together, play cards and Bingo. Each week refreshments are served. Why not join us and bring a friend.

On behalf of St. Francis of Assisi Parish Families, I want to thank Fr. Victor and Fr. Aloysius for their time with us this summer.
We assure them of our prayers as they return to their ministries.

Msgr. Maresca

L'Azione Cattolica di S. Francesco D'Assisi
Si riaprirera
Giovedi 12, Settembre 2024
Dalle 6-8:50 pm
Nel sotterraneo della canonica
sieti tutti invitati a partecipare
A questi incontri settimanale
per incontrare nuovi amici
e trascorrere una serata insieme in preghiera.

Italian American Catholic Action returns to its weekly meetings starting Thursday Sept 12, 2024
From 6-8:50 pm rectory basement all invite to participate in this wonderful meetings to meet old and new friends and enjoy each other friendship in prayer.

In Celebration of
Labor Day
The Rectory Office
Will be **Closed** on
Saturday, August 31st &
Monday, September 2nd
The Office will open on
Tuesday, September 3rd at 9:00am.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

August 26-August 31

Sunday, August 25
1:00PM Baptism

Monday, August 26

Tuesday, August 27
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, August 28

Thursday, August 29
10:00AM—Legion of Mary

Friday, August 30

Saturday, August 31
Holiday Weekend-Rectory Office Closed All Day

2nd Time:

Tracy Martin
St. Francis of Assisi
Astoria, NY

And

Andrew Sacramone
St. Joseph Church
Astoria, NY

NEXT WEEK

September 1-September 7

Sunday, September 1

Monday, September 2
LABOR DAY-Rectory Office Closed All Day

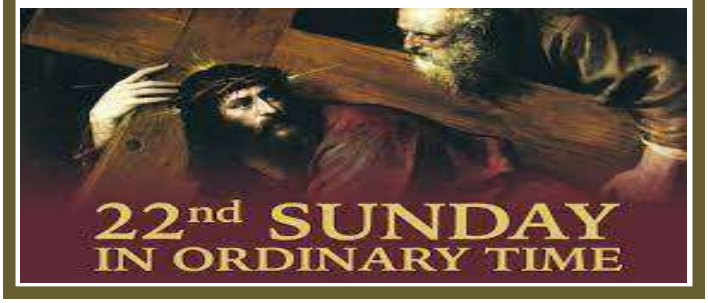
Tuesday, September 3
8:00AM-Adoration Resumes
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, September 4

Thursday, September 5
CLASSES BEGIN K-8
10:00AM—Legion of Mary
3:30PM-CYO Sign-Up-MCH

Friday, September 6

Saturday, September 7
9:00AM-Anointing Mass



SEPTEMBER 2024
LECTOR SCHEDULE

	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	SEPTEMBER 7-8	SEPTEMBER 14-15	SEPTEMBER 21-22	SEPTEMBER 28-29
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Dolores Ratkowski	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski	Debbi Skinner
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.	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	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

Discover the Faces Behind Our Parish!

Greetings, beloved parish family!

We are excited to introduce a new bulletin series, **"One Tree, Many Branches,"** where we highlight the dedicated staff, employees, and laity who keep our parish thriving.

Each month, we'll feature a different team member, sharing their personal stories and contributions.

Join us in celebrating the incredible individuals who make our parish a vibrant and welcoming place. Look for these inspiring stories every second week of the month.

In gratitude,
The St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council

SCHEDULE OF MASSES & RECTORY HOURS
September 2024 to June 2025

Adoration

Adoration will resume on September 4, 2024
Monday to Saturday
8:00am to 8:50am

Church Hours

Church Opens Monday thru Sunday—7:30am

Mass Schedule

Monday thru Friday—9:00am

Saturday—9:00am & 5:00pm

Sunday— 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
& 12:30pm (Italian)

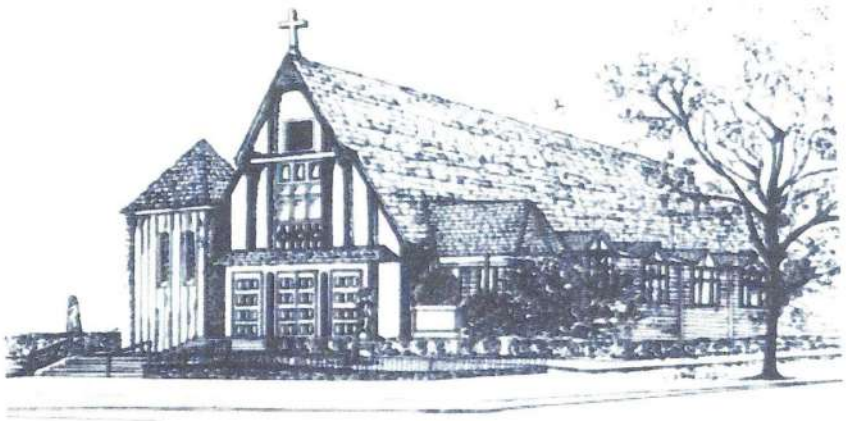
Rectory Hours

Monday , Wednesday, Friday—9:00am—12:00pm
1:00pm—5:00pm

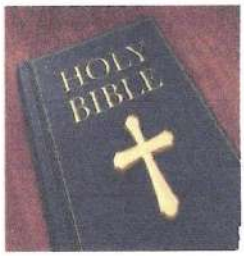
Tuesday and Thursday — 9:00am –12:00pm
1:00pm—9:00pm

Saturday— 9:00am—2:00pm

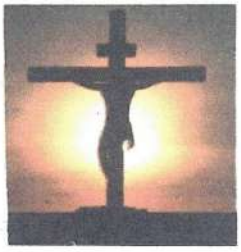
SUNDAY CLOSED



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY



**"I AM THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER BUT THROUGH ME."**
(Jn 14:6)



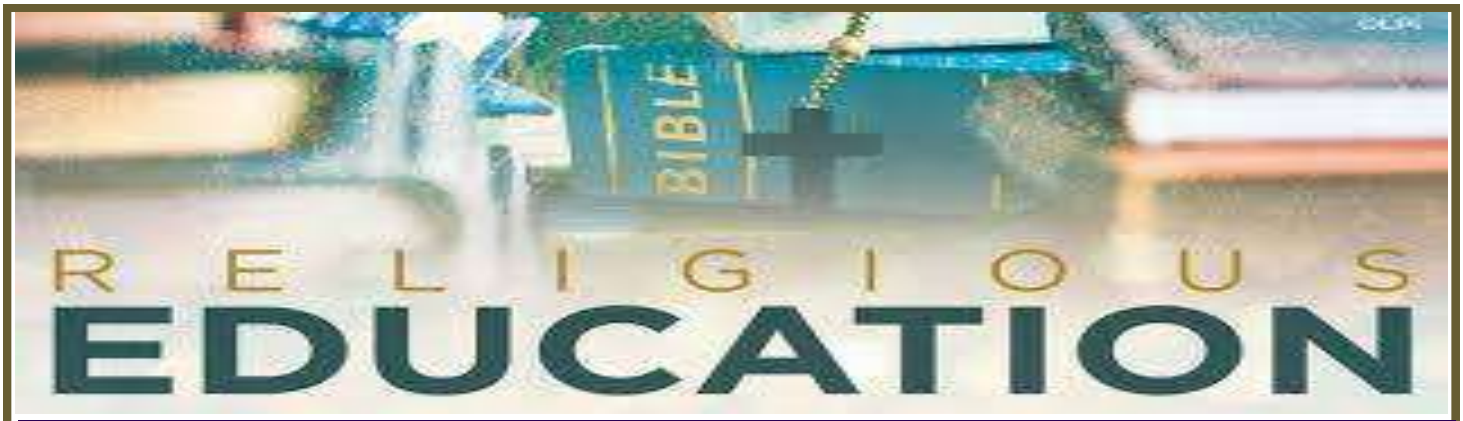
A fulfilled life is possible with God, even throughout challenging times. Christ work of salvation continues through each one of us. Understanding the love God has for us, our Parish of SFA invites you to a personal growth not only for the physical and intellectual world but for success with the spiritual knowledge of God's wisdom, with holy and positive anergy. His Words will lead you to serenity and happiness in any line of activity you might follow.

Bible Study in SFA is simple with the system of "Little Rock Scripture Study." It follows a gradual personal reading of Scripture, question/answer, sharing and video summarizing of the passage. This is a casual gathering that welcomes everyone, from the beginner to the more knowledgeable.

Join us to learn more about God's message and mission with **The Gospel of St. John.**

WHEN: On Thursday September 19, 2024
WHERE: SFA Rectory (lower level) St. Joseph Room.
TIME: Every Thursday night, from 7:20 pm to 8:50 pm

For any question: Please call the SFA Rectory at: (718) 728 7801



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