Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, September 15 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Raymond Barry
9:30 A.M. Maria Samu
11:00A.M. Concetta Gandolfo
12:30 P.M. Michael Turturro
Rino Del Carro
Raffaella & Filippo Giordano

MONDAY, September 16– Saintsts Cornelius and Cyprian
9:00 A.M. Mary Cancian

TUESDAY, September 17-Saint Robert Bellermine
9:00 A.M. Marko Marusic

WEDNESDAY, September 18-Weekday
9:00A.M. Jela Jakulj

THURSDAY, September 19–Saint Januarius
9:00 A.M. Anna Lombardi

FRIDAY, September 20-St Andrew Kim Tae-gon and St. Paul Chong Ha-sang
9:00 A.M. Philomena McPartland

SATURDAY, September 21-Saint Matthew, Apostle
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society

5:00P.M. Francine Nicholoch Tortorella

SUNDAY, September 22– Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Raymond Barry
9:30 A.M. Yadira & Juan Yepez
11:00 A.M. William Saley
12:30P.M. Rino Del Carro

Today's Readings

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 50:4c-9a
James 2:14-18
Mark 8:27-35

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. **Mark 8:27-35**

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33
Luke 7:1-10

TUESDAY: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a
Luke 7:11-17

WEDNESDAY: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3
Luke 7:31-35

THURSDAY: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 7:36-50

FRIDAY: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 8:1-3

SATURDAY: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
Matthew 9:-913

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 50:4c-9a
James:2:14-18
Mark 8:27-35

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

What is faith without good works? How many times do we put faith in something without knowing whether or not it works properly?

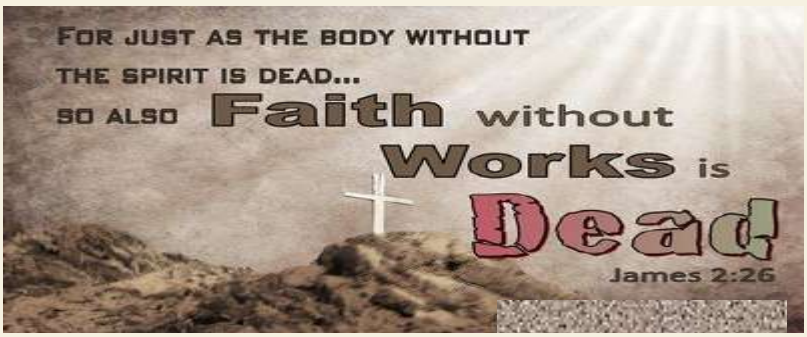
In today's second reading, James puts a special emphasis on making sure that the community he is writing to understands that their faith cannot be empty or shallow. They must put their faith into action if it is to mean anything at all. How do we contribute to our parish organizations? Do we volunteer to help our parish programs? Do we contribute to the poor boxes at the doors of the Church for the St. Vincent DePaul Society? Do we volunteer to help in soup kitchens or food banks if we are able? Do we support the missions with our prayers and contributions? We must be willing to put our faith into action if we really want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

What happens when we put our faith into *action?* Sometimes it means we may be ridiculed because we want to do more than occupy a pew on Sunday. In our first reading, we hear Isaiah say that the Lord God is our help, therefore we will not be disgraced. Yet, what happens when we take a stand to defend our faith against those things that require us to compromise what we believe?

In today's Gospel, Jesus is rebuked by Peter for proclaiming that he must die and rise after three days. Jesus tells Peter: *Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking as God does, but as human beings do.* Peter will give his life for the sake of the Gospel because he knows that his reward is not in this life, but in the life of the world to come. How many times do we read in the book of the Acts about the good works of Peter? He puts his faith into action by not only teaching, but also by calling on the name of Jesus to heal the sick.

Today's readings offer us a great deal to think about. It is not enough for us to come to Church and take our place in a pew and put our donation in the collection basket. No, there is much more to being a Catholic. We must put into action what we proclaim in our lives. James told his community to *demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.* Let us be active Catholics and put our faith into words. In a few moments we will pray our Profession of Faith, may it be one that we truly believe and put into action in our lives.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca



THE SORROWS OF MARY

1st The Prophecy of Simeon

2nd The Flight Into Egypt

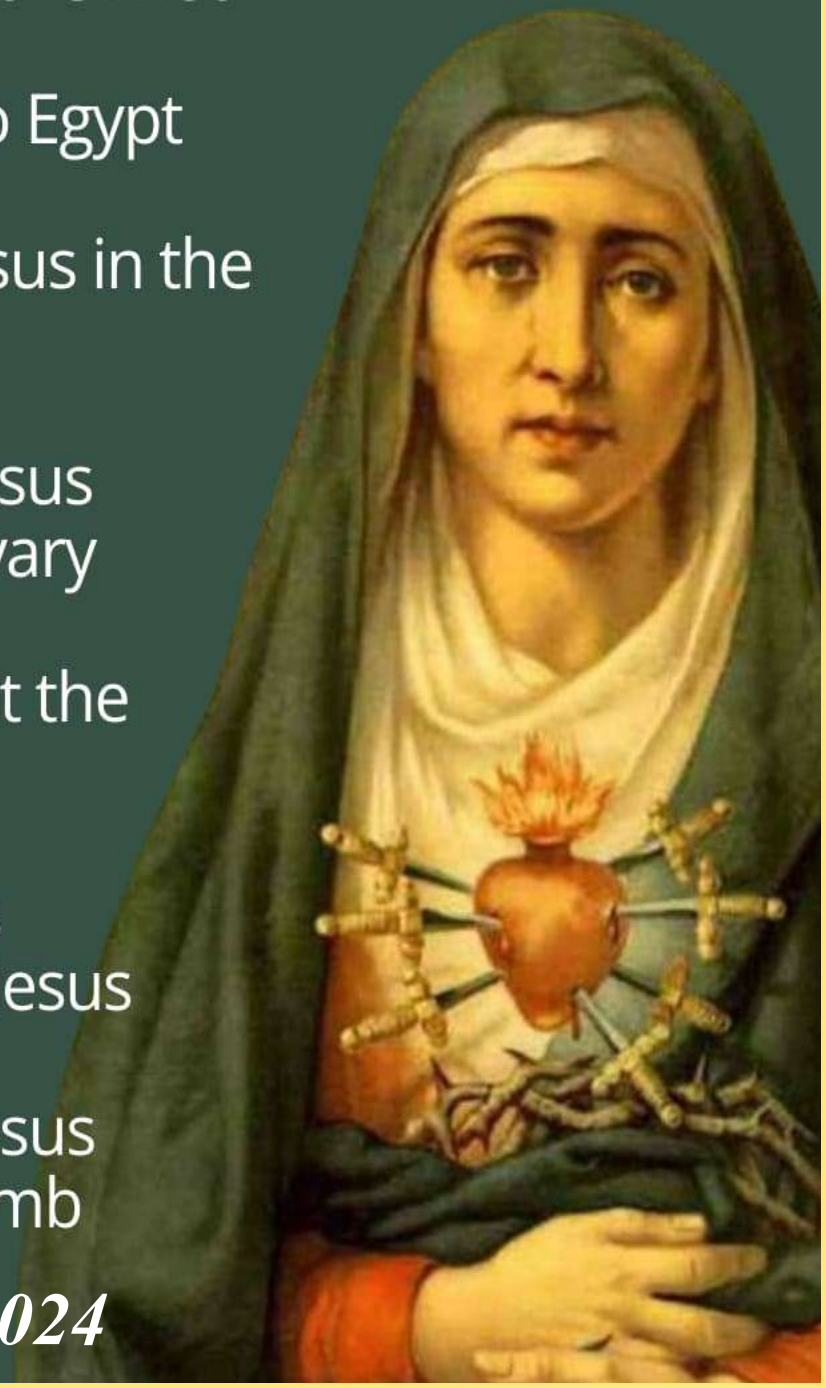
3rd The Loss of Jesus in the Temple

4th Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary

5th Mary Stands at the Foot of the Cross

6th Mary Receives the Dead Body of Jesus

7th The Body of Jesus is Placed in the Tomb



September 15, 2024

Monday, September 16, 2024
The Feast of Saint Cornelius and Saint Cyprian

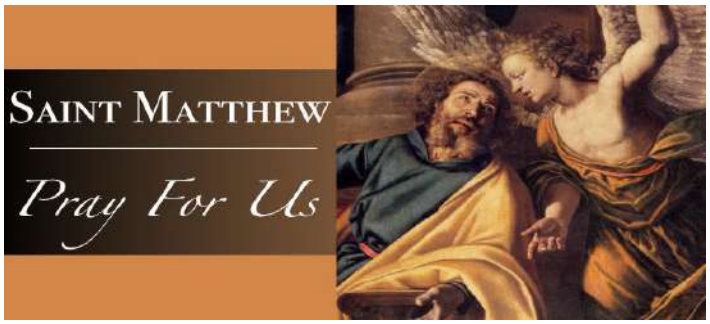
There was no pope for 14 months after the martyrdom of Saint Fabian because of the intensity of the persecution of the Church. During the interval, the Church was governed by a college of priests. Saint Cyprian, a friend of Cornelius, writes that Cornelius was elected pope "by the judgment of God and of Christ, by the testimony of most of the clergy, by the vote of the people, with the consent of aged priests and of good men." The greatest problem of Cornelius's two-year term as pope had to do with the Sacrament of Penance and centered on the readmission of Christians who had denied their faith during the time of persecution. Two extremes were finally both condemned. Cyprian, primate of North Africa, appealed to the pope to confirm his stand that the relapsed could be reconciled only by the decision of the bishop. In Rome, however, Cornelius met with the opposite view. After his election, a priest named Novatian (one of those who had governed the Church) had himself consecrated a rival bishop of Rome—one of the first antipopes. He denied that the Church had any power to reconcile not only the apostates, but also those guilty of murder, adultery, fornication, or second marriage! Cornelius had the support of most of the Church (especially of Cyprian of Africa) in condemning Novatianism, though the sect persisted for several centuries. Cornelius held a synod at Rome in 251 and ordered the "relapsed" to be restored to the Church with the usual "medicines of repentance." The friendship of Cornelius and Cyprian was strained for a time when one of Cyprian's rivals made accusations about him. But the problem was cleared up. A document from Cornelius shows the extent of organization in the Church of Rome in the mid-third century: 46 priests, seven deacons, seven subdeacons. It is estimated that the number of Christians totaled about 50,000. He died as a result of the hardships of his exile in what is now Civitavecchia.

Tuesday, September 17, 2024
The Feast of Saint Robert Bellarmine

When Robert Bellarmine was ordained in 1570, the study of Church history and the fathers of the Church was in a sad state of neglect. A promising scholar from his youth in Tuscany, he devoted his energy to these two subjects, as well as to Scripture, in order to systematize Church doctrine against the attacks of the Protestant Reformers. He was the first Jesuit to become a professor at Louvain. His most famous work is his three-volume *Disputations on the Controversies of the Christian Faith*. Particularly noteworthy are the sections on the temporal power of the pope and the role of the laity. Bellarmine incurred the anger of monarchists in England and France by showing the divine-right-of-kings theory untenable. He developed the theory of the indirect power of the pope in temporal affairs; although he was defending the pope against the Scottish philosopher Barclay, he also incurred the ire of Pope Sixtus V. Bellarmine was made a cardinal by Pope Clement VIII on the grounds that "he had not his equal for learning." While he occupied apartments in the Vatican, Bellarmine relaxed none of his former austerities. He limited his household expenses to what was barely essential, eating only the food available to the poor. He was known to have ransomed a soldier who had deserted from the army and he used the hangings of his rooms to clothe poor people, remarking, "The walls won't catch cold." Among many activities, Bellarmine became theologian to Pope Clement VIII, preparing two catechisms which have had great influence in the Church. The last major controversy of Bellarmine's life came in 1616 when he had to admonish his friend Galileo, whom he admired. He delivered the admonition on behalf of the Holy Office, which had decided that the heliocentric theory of Copernicus was contrary to Scripture. The admonition amounted to a caution against putting forward—other than as a hypothesis—theories not yet fully proven. This shows that saints are not infallible.

Friday, September 20, 2024
The Feast of St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon and St. Paul Chong Ha-sang

The first native Korean priest, Andrew Kim Taegon was the son of Christian converts. Following his baptism at the age of 15, Andrew traveled 1,300 miles to the seminary in Macao, China. After six years, he managed to return to his country through Manchuria. That same year he crossed the Yellow Sea to Shanghai and was ordained a priest. Back home again, he was assigned to arrange for more missionaries to enter by a water route that would elude the border patrol. He was arrested, tortured, and finally beheaded at the Han River near Seoul, the capital. Andrew's father Ignatius Kim, was martyred during the persecution of 1839, and was beatified in 1925. Paul Chong Hasang, a lay apostle and married man, also died in 1839 at age 45. Among the other martyrs in 1839 was Columba Kim, an unmarried woman of 26. She was put in prison, pierced with hot tools and seared with burning coals. She and her sister Agnes were disrobed and kept for two days in a cell with condemned criminals, but were not molested. After Columba complained about the indignity, no more women were subjected to it. The two were beheaded. Peter Ryou, a boy of 13, had his flesh so badly torn that he could pull off pieces and throw them at the judges. He was killed by strangulation. Protase Chong, a 41-year-old nobleman, apostatized under torture and was freed. Later he came back, confessed his faith and was tortured to death. Christianity came to Korea during the Japanese invasion in 1592 when some Koreans were baptized, probably by Christian Japanese soldiers. Evangelization was difficult because Korea refused all contact with the outside world except for taking taxes to Beijing annually. On one of these occasions, around 1777, Christian literature obtained from Jesuits in China led educated Korean Christians to study. A home Church began. When a Chinese priest managed to enter secretly a dozen years later, he found 4,000 Catholics, none of whom had ever seen a priest. Seven years later there were 10,000 Catholics. Religious freedom came to Korea in 1883. Besides Andrew and Paul, Pope John Paul II canonized 98 Koreans and three French missionaries who had been martyred between 1839 and 1867, when he visited Korea in 1984. Among them were bishops and priests, but for the most part they were lay persons: 47 women and 45 men.



Saturday, September 21, 2024
The Feast of Saint Matthew Apostle & Evangelist

Matthew was a Jew who worked for the occupying Roman forces, collecting taxes from other Jews. The Romans were not scrupulous about what the "tax farmers" got for themselves. Hence the latter, known as "publicans," were generally hated as traitors by their fellow Jews. The Pharisees lumped them with "sinners" (see Matthew 9:11-13). So it was shocking to them to hear Jesus call such a man to be one of his intimate followers. Matthew got Jesus in further trouble by having a sort of going-away party at his house. The Gospel tells us that many tax collectors and "those known as sinners" came to the dinner. The Pharisees were still more badly shocked. What business did the supposedly great teacher have associating with such immoral people? Jesus' answer was, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners" (Matthew 9:12b-13). Jesus is not setting aside ritual and worship; he is saying that loving others is even more important. No other particular incidents about Matthew are found in the New Testament.

From such an unlikely situation, Jesus chose one of the foundations of the Church, a man others, judging from his job, thought was not holy enough for the position. But Matthew was honest enough to admit that he was one of the sinners Jesus came to call. He was open enough to recognize truth when he saw him. *And he got up and followed him.* (Matthew 9:9b).

Prayer to Saint Matthew

O Glorious St. Matthew, in your Gospel you portray Jesus as the longed-for Messiah who fulfilled the Prophets of the Old Covenant and as the Lawgiver who founded a Church of the New Covenant. Obtain for us the grace to see Jesus living in His Church and to follow His teaching in our lives on Earth so that we may live forever with Him in heaven. Amen

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-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2024

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself."

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

FOCUS:

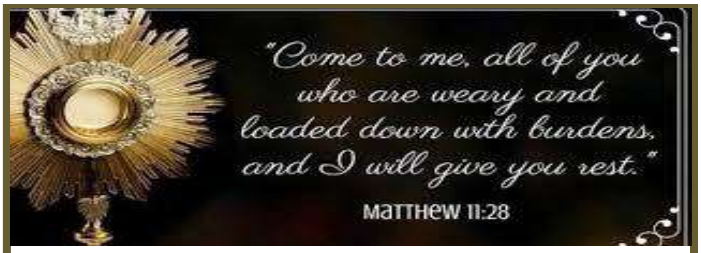
Our lives must demonstrate our belief in Christ.

Today we hear the question that is the center of the entire Gospel. Who is Jesus and what does it mean to follow Him? We would do well to reflect on this question from time to time. Who do we say that Jesus is, and how do our actions demonstrate this belief?

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.



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.

Celebrate Catechetical Sunday

September 15, 2024

A Prayer for Catechists

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists.
We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church.
Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word.
Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.
Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.

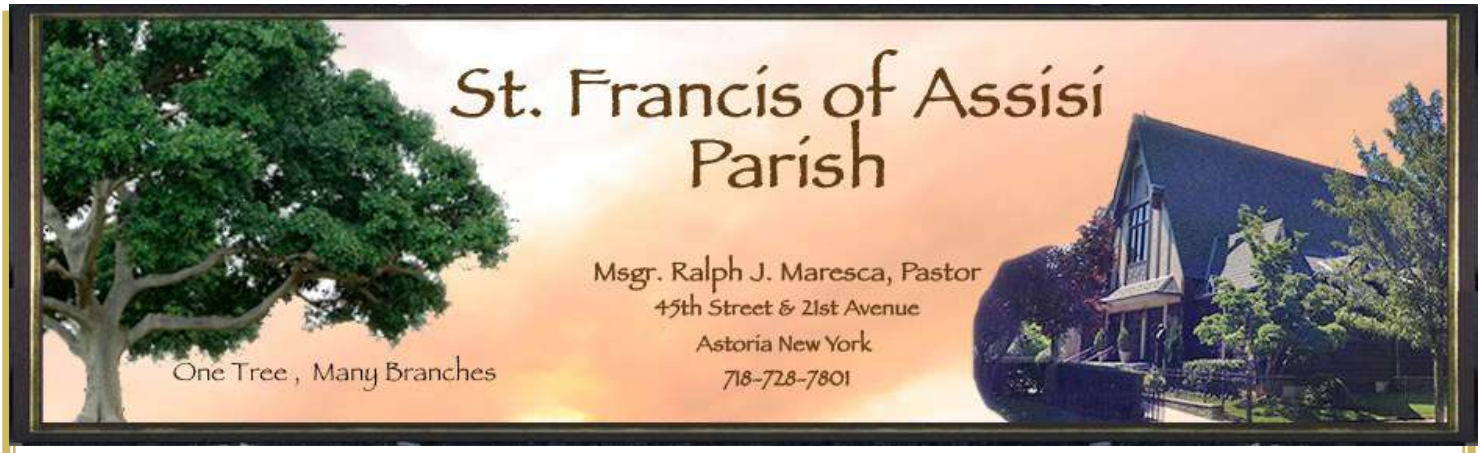
We pray this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen

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.

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.



Introducing Our St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council!

Dear Parishioners,

We are excited to introduce the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council, a dedicated group of clergy, staff, and laity committed to enhancing our parish community.

The council serves as an advisory body to our pastor, focusing on:

- **Facilitating Communication: Ensuring open dialogue and addressing parishioners' concerns.**
- **Supporting Ministry and Outreach: Empowering our ministries, fundraising activities, and outreach programs to make a meaningful impact.**

We invite all parish members to engage with the council and contribute their talents and ideas. So, you can put our faces with our names, a poster with our photos will be in the church vestibule for the months of September and October. Please reach out with your thoughts, questions, and ideas at sfaparishcouncil@sfaacademy.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Yours in Christ,

The Parish Council

Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca, Pastor, Nicolino (Nick) Scarlatto, Deacon, Nancy Annunziata, Catherine (Cathy) Bala, Maria Bruno, Josephine Corso, Carol Hickey, Theresa Kubina, Josephine Lanzara, Kelsey Mistretta, Andrew Soltesz

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 9/7-9/8:	$5,004.00
2nd *Collection-Catholic University*	*$ 393.00*

School parents must use church envelopes.

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 September 4th, we have pledged $31,051.76 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, 30.22% of our parishioners have supported the appeal.

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

Msgr. Maresca

Catholic Youth Organization
Children are at the heart of our mission

Weekend Soccer Scores

Girl's Sub Novice vs SFDS lost 9-2. Good team spirit though

Boy's Sub-Novice vs St. Andrew lost 3-2. SFA played awesome! The first game on the bigger field with bigger nets.

Intermediate Girls won 5-3. we are especially impressed because we only had 7 girls and our opponent played 11 in the second half.

Girl's Novice Tied SFDS 1-1 Cory Soborol scored a goal

Boys Novice won 9-1 vs Hope. Great team play all around. Very proud of the team's start.

- **Giorgio Marchesi 4 goals**
- **Matthew Coka 2 goals**
- **Colin Vella 1 goal**
- **Joseph Salam 1 goal**
- **AJ Leska 1 goal**

Boy's Intermediate lost 8-0 vs Hope. We saw strong performances by Hudson Geiger, Christian Duran, and Dariel Lelia. George Sfirogianakis almost scored a goal, but Hope's goalie made a great save.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Next weekend, September 21/22, the second collection will be for Catholic Education.

Please be as generous as your means allow.

Mass Attendance for September 7/8 , 2024:

5:00PM	92
8:00AM	64
9:30AM	86
11:00AM	105
12:30PM	47

Total: 394

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

September 15-September 21

Sunday, September 15
Catechetical Sunday
10:40CCD

Monday, September 16
12:00-3:30PM Golden Age-MCH
7:00PM Adult Choir

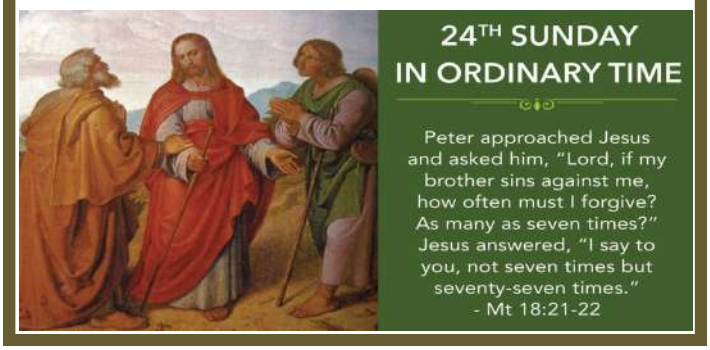
Tuesday, September 17
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, September 18

Thursday, September 19
10:00AM—Legion of Mary
6:00pm IACA
7:20PM Scripture Study

Friday, September 20
7:00PM Virtus Training-MCH

Saturday, September 21



NEXT WEEK

September 22-September 28

Sunday, September 22
10:40CCD

Monday, September 23
12:00-3:30PM Golden Age-MCH
7:00PM Adult Choir

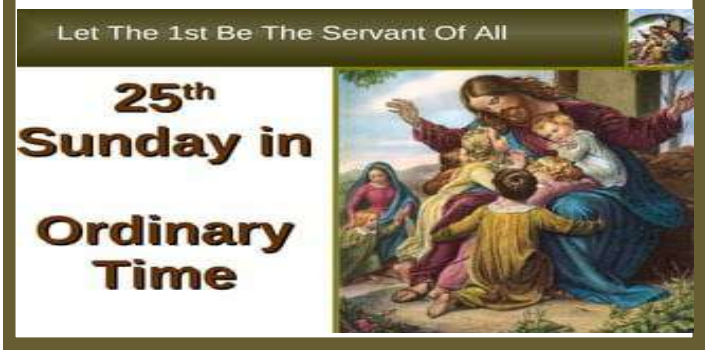
Tuesday, September 24
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, September 25

Thursday, September 26
10:00AM—Legion of Mary
6:00pm IACA
7:20PM Scripture Study

Friday, September 27
Festival Set Up

Saturday, September 28
SFA FALL FESTIVAL



WE NEED YOU!

SFA'S 15TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

OUR FALL FESTIVAL WILL BE HERE SOON!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE RETURN OF OUR SEASONED VOLUNTEERS AND INVITE AND ENCOURAGE NEW VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT!
VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU
WILL HELP MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

IF YOU WISH TO HELP,
PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM AND
RETURN IT AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE
OR EMAIL sfafestivalvolunteers@gmail.com
YOU WILL BE CONTACTED AS THE FESTIVAL DRAWS NEAR.
You have our heartfelt thanks!

JOIN IN THE SPIRIT OF THE DAY!

ANY SCHOOOL PARENT THAT VOLUNTEERS WILL EARN A SPECIAL DRESS DOWN DAY FOR THEIR CHILD(REN) ON A FUTURE DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

"YOU MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT YOU GET. YOU MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT YOU GIVE." - Winston Churchill

SFA FALL FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEET

PLEASE CHOOSE THE ACTIVITY(S) YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR AND THEN CHECK THE BOX FOR THE TIME(S) YOU WILL BE AVAILABLE.

	MORNING SET-UP 7-10am		FESTIVAL			CLEAN UP
	7-10	10-12	12-3	3-6	6-9	9-11
ANYWHERE I'M NEEDED		☐	☐	☐	☐	
INFLATABLE RIDES TICKET COLLECTING CROWD SUPERVISION		☐	☐	☐	☐	
FOOD CONCESSIONS COTTON CANDY POPCORN PRETZELS		☐	☐	☐	☐	
GENERAL SET UP	☐	☐				
CLEAN UP						☐

I AM (Check one):

☐ Parishioner
☐ School Parent
☐ School Alumni
☐ Other _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

PHONE _____ CELL _____ (TEXT Y/N?)

EMAIL _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS TO THE SCHOOL, RECTORY OR CHURCH AT YOUR EARLIEST. THANK YOU.

Astoria Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association

21-20 49th St. Astoria, NY 11105 (718) 721-3690

Facebook: Astoria, Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association Instagram: AstoriaHTBCA

Twitter: @betterastoria Website: www.betterastoria.com Email: betterastoria@gmail.com

Have an issue with city services? Get answers at our meeting

Tuesday , September 17, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Pistilli Grand Manor

45-02 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria, NY

**** Please enter on 45th Street side entrance, right before the parking garage ****

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Anthony Iuliano

Deputy Commissioner of Operations

Mayor's Office, Community Affairs Unit

Ido Shargal

Senior Advisor to Commissioner, Community Affairs Unit

Iggy Azzara

Chief, NYC Department of Sanitation

Deputy Inspector Seth Lynch

Commanding Officer, 114 Precinct

Join us and tell all your neighbors and friends. All are welcome!

Feel free to share throughout your social media ... Facebook, Instagram, Twitter /X