Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, October 20 – Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. The Giosits Family
9:30 A.M. Evelyn Singura
11:00A.M. Manuel Delgado
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Giuseppe Grifonetti

MONDAY, October 21– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Steven Hafner

TUESDAY, October 22 Saint John Paul II
9:00 A.M. Mary Ley

WEDNESDAY, October 23-Saint John of Capistrano
9:00A.M. Michael Marchassalla

THURSDAY, October 24–St. Anthony Mary Claret
9:00 A.M. Alexander Nunez

FRIDAY, October 25-Weekday
9:00 A.M. The Purich Family

SATURDAY, October 26-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
D'Ercole Mincone

5:00P.M. Saverio Giordano

SUNDAY, October 27– Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Joie Eiaw
9:30 A.M. Nicola Cicolini
11:00 A.M. Yadira Yepez & Cesar Hernandez
(25th Wedding Anniversary)
12:30P.M. Rino Del Carro
Nancy Manganaro
Angela Cannavo

Today's Readings

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 53:10-11
Hebrews 4:14-16
Mark 10:35-45

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." He replied, "What do you wish [me] to do for you?" They answered him, "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left." Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" They said to him, "We can." Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John. Jesus summoned them and said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Mark 10:35-45**

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Ephesians 2:1-10
Luke 12:13-21

TUESDAY: Ephesians 2:12-22
Luke 12:35-38

WEDNESDAY: Ephesians 3:2-12
Luke 12:39-48

THURSDAY: Ephesians 3:14-21
Luke 12:49-53

FRIDAY: Ephesians 4:1-6
Luke 12:54-59

SATURDAY: Ephesians 4:7-16
Luke 13:1-9

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 31:7-9
Hebrews:5:1-6
Mark 10:46-52

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

Among all of our readings today, our Gospel seems to dominate; so much so, that we could fail to notice or pay attention to the words of our first reading from the prophet Isaiah. In many ways this short passage, taken from the Song of the Suffering Servant, sets the scene for the second reading and the Gospel. Taken together, all of our Scripture passages point to one common question: ***Does suffering have meaning?***

Surrounded by the impact of suffering, we often seek to try to explain it or at least understand it, even when no such explanation is possible. As people of faith, suffering seems to go against our most basic image of a loving and caring God, and we find ourselves wondering: *How could a loving God let this happen?* Throughout history, humanity has struggled with this question and has come up with a variety of answers, some of which are helpful, others simply not so.

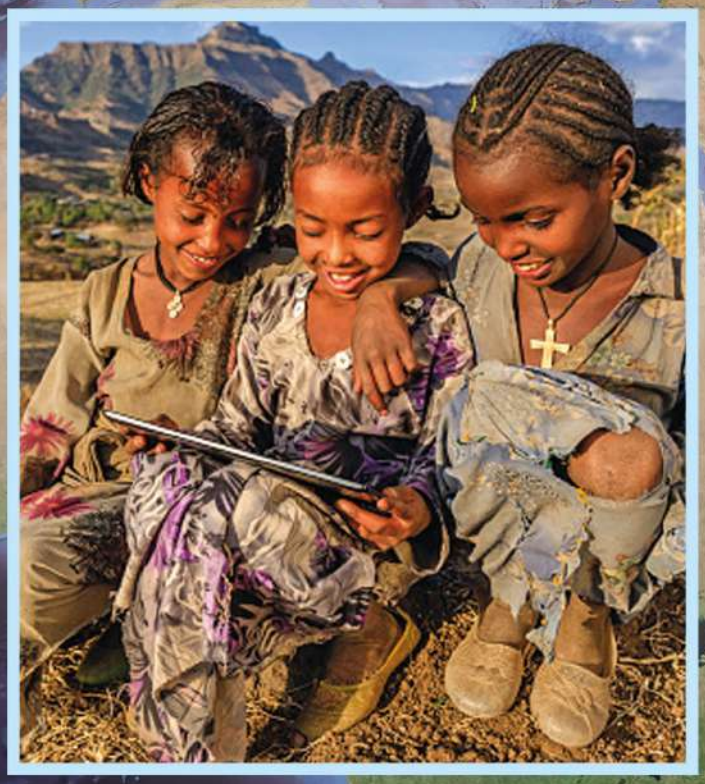
Some see it as a moment of grace whereby God strengthens our inner beings. Others are happy to see it as a great mystery, beyond their comprehension. However we see it, we have to admit that in moments of personal suffering, these explanations may not bring comfort or justification.

As people of faith within the Roman Catholic tradition we oftentimes seek meaning through the lens of Sacred Scripture. Listen again to the words of Isaiah, *The Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity,* and in the words of the Letter to the Hebrews, Christ has been tested in every way, *let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.* At first glance we might not find solace here, but then when we look through the eyes of the suffering of Jesus, we see that these words do not seek to explain suffering but to help us realize that even in moments of pain and suffering good can emerge.

This theme of finding value in suffering can also be found in our gospel passage. The disciples are basking in the privilege and status of being chosen followers of Jesus, and so they seek the ultimate glory of special seats in the Kingdom. What they are surprised to hear is that leadership and authority are not about glory or special status but service and self-giving. Here, in a radical way, Jesus reverses the worldwide view of power. Here suffering and service, symbolized in the cup of suffering, become the hallmark of Christian discipleship.

In Christ we can begin to use suffering for a greater purpose, to learn from it and to join our sufferings with His for the justification of others. No moment of human suffering goes unnoticed by God. Indeed, that we suffer speaks of our human condition; how we suffer speaks of our faith in Christ. What gives us hope is that in Christ's suffering, he triumphed over sin and death in the Resurrection. Our hope is that we, too, will one day share in that victory with Him in heaven.

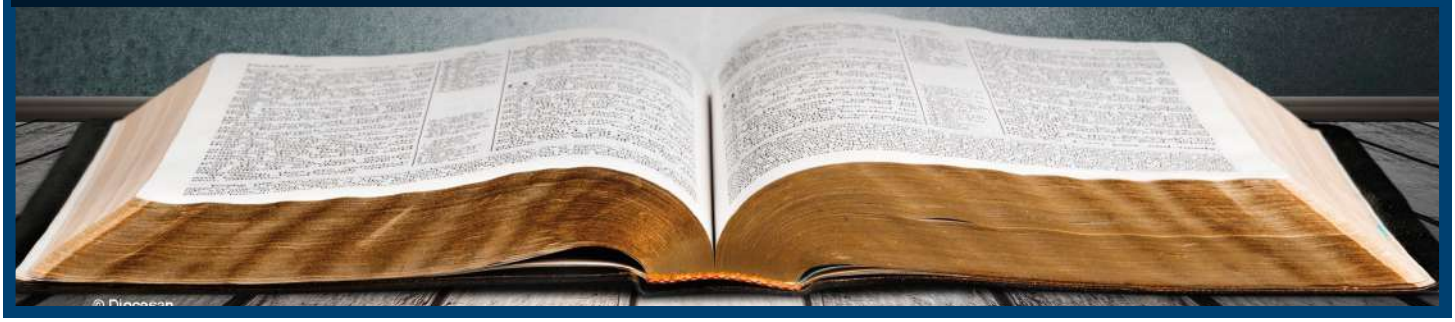
All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

World Mission Sunday is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas who share our faith. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

October 20, 2024



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, Madison Millett and Leonardo Di Marco.

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-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 20, 2024

"What do you wish for me to do for you?"

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

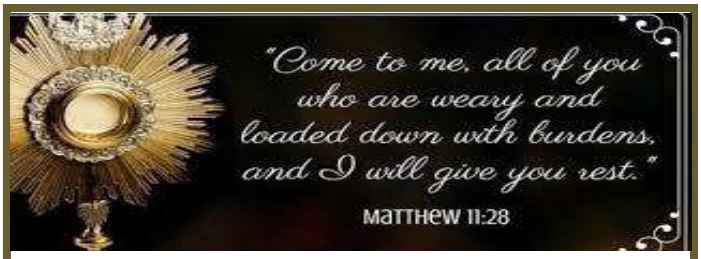
Parish Mission Statement

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:

The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

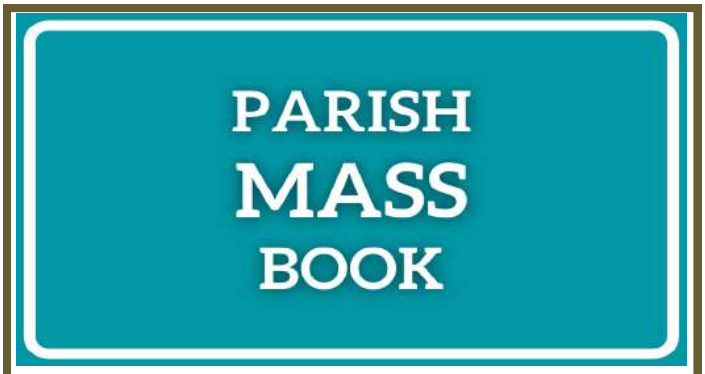
In contrast to the pressures to seek power, comfort and fame, our Church proclaims humble service. We are called to gaze on our king, enthroned on a cross, ornamented with wounds. We are told in no uncertain terms that the only path to greatness in the kingdom of God is the path of self-giving love..



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. 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.



2025 Mass Book

The 2025 Mass Book is now open.

Per Bishop Brennan's instructions, we will be taking Mass Intentions from January 1 to June 30, 2025.

- Weekday Mass (Monday through Saturday) 9:00AM.
- Saturday, the 9:00AM Mass is a multiple intention Mass. The first Saturday of the month is the Anointing Mass.
- Sunday, 12:30PM Mass (Italian Mass) is multiple intentions

All Announced Masses are $15.00
Purgatorial Mass Cards are $30.00
Memorials (Altar Bread, Wine, Sanctuary Lamp and Altar Candles) are $75.00
Altar Flowers are $100.00

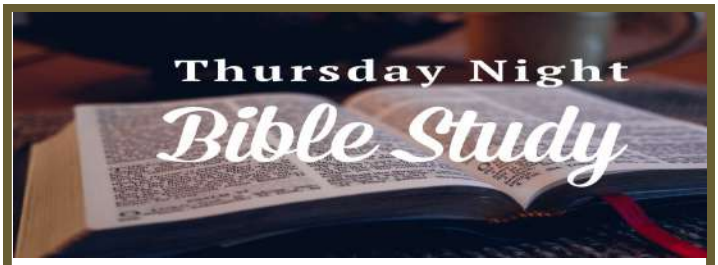
Welcome to Our Church

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.

Mass Attendance for October 12/13 , 2024:

5:00PM	88
8:00AM	53
9:30AM	83
11:00AM	92
12:30PM	48

Total: 364



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

He said, "I do believe Lord,." and the healed man worshipped him (John 9:38)

The Gospel according to John

Dear SFA Friends and Family

All are Invited … ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us on Thursday, October 24th, at 7:20-8:50pm in the St. Joseph room of the Rectory. This week's study will be from the Book of Signs, John 9-10.

The Gospel readings and study will be conducted using the Little Rock Scripture Study program. Study booklets will be provided.

If you are interested in joining the study group or would like further information, please contact us through the Rectory at **(718) 728-7801.** Please be sure to leave your name and contact information.

Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture

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 10/12-10/13:	$4,227.00
2nd Collection-Maintenance	*$1,151.00*

School parents must use church envelopes.

Do You Enjoy Singing?

Then use your voice to praise the Lord!
Join the St. Francis of Assisi Choir.
We meet every Monday evening at 7:00PM in the choir loft in church.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

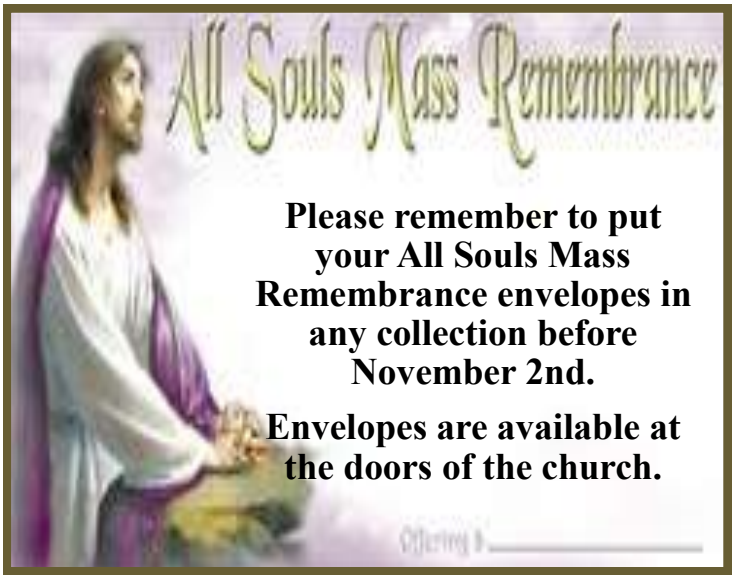
Have an idea or question for our St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council?
Email us at
sfaparishcouncil@sfaacademy.org
We look forward to hearing from you!

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 October 16th, we have pledged $32,701.76 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, 33.45% of our parishioners have supported the appeal.

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

Msgr. Maresca



Please remember to put your All Souls Mass Remembrance envelopes in any collection before November 2nd.

Envelopes are available at the doors of the church.

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

For each car, truck or van, running or not, The Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn will give back to St. Francis of Assisi $50/100 per vehicle. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that they would like to dispose of.

Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at **(718) 491-2525.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

October 20-October 26

Sunday, October 20
9:30 Children's Liturgy
10:30AM Parent Penance Meeting
10:40AM-CCD

Monday, October 21
12:00PM Golden Age
3:00PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, October 22
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, October 23
3:00PM Drama Club-MCH

Thursday, October 24
10:00AM—Legion of Mary
3:30PM Jiu Jitsu-MCH
6:00PM IACA
7:20PM Scripture Study

Friday, October 25
4:00PM Trunk or Treat
6:00PM Halloween Dance

Saturday, October 26

NEXT WEEK

October 27-November 2

Sunday, October 27
9:30 Pre-Communion Enrollment Mass
10:40AM-CCD
1:30PM Baptisms

Monday, October 28
12:00PM Golden Age
3:00PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, October 29
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, October 30
3:00PM Drama Club-MCH

Thursday, October 31
10:00AM—Legion of Mary
6:00PM IACA
7:20PM Scripture Study

Friday, November 1
ALL SAINTS' DAY
Masses at 9:00AM & 11:00AM

Saturday, November 2
ALL SOULS' DAY
10:30am All Souls' Mass
6:00PM Youth Group Meeting

Save the Date

October 19th ,2025

95th Anniversary Celebration

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Come celebrate
"95 Years of Faith and Family"

Join us as we honor
Mrs. Maria Bruno and Mr.& Mrs. Phil Mincone

Our celebration begins at the 9:30 Family Mass and continues with a Dinner Dance at Russo's on the Bay!

RUSSO'S ON THE BAY

Contact Co Chairs: Nancy Annunziata, Nannunziata@sfaacademy.org or Maria Kyriakopoulos, MKyriakopoulos@sfaacademy.org for additional information.

I CAME SO THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE

During the Easter Vigil liturgy, the single flame of the Easter candle shines through the darkness. That small flame spreads as each person's candle is lit and the light of Christ is shared with others. Before we know it, the entire Church is ablaze with the warm glow of candlelight and the darkness has been vanquished.

We are each called by God to be that light of Christ that breaks through the darkness. We are called to be his disciples, continually transformed by our encounter with him and sharing in his mission. Jesus came that we might have *life*.

Part of the impetus for the Eucharistic Revival was a concern that some Catholics do not believe, or at least do not understand, that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. Even though our human senses perceive bread and wine, the Eucharist is Jesus—body, blood, soul, and divinity. Similarly, many people do not realize or acknowledge the sanctity of human life when it is hidden in the womb. Both instances call for us to help others recognize these sacred gifts that may not be perceivable through our human senses. We need to help others understand that just because something may not be apparent to our eyes does not mean that it is not there or that it is not important.

We live in a society that rejects those who are weak, fragile, or vulnerable. Yet, it is precisely within these conditions that a person is most in need of our care and protection. Pope Francis reminds us that "every child who, rather than being born, is condemned unjustly to being aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who even before he was born, and then just after birth, experienced the world's rejection."[1]

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

John 1:5

The U.S. bishops have affirmed that, while it is important to address all the ways in which human life is threatened, "abortion remains our pre-eminent priority as it directly attacks our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, destroying more than a million lives each year in our country alone."[2]

As Pope St. John Paul II wrote, "we are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life'. ...we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life."[3]

"I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Matthew 28:20

In the face of challenges such as abortion and physician-assisted suicide, we may feel that we are not equal to the task of overcoming the darkness. Yet, we are not alone. Jesus tells us, "I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

The God who became man to save us still dwells among us. For Christ is "the light [that] shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). He is the one who overcame death and continually raises us to new life. He remains close to us always, seeking us out in each moment of our lives.

Jesus gave his very flesh to give us the gift of eternal life and invites us to the most profound experience of this gift in our celebration of the Eucharist. When we meet Jesus in the Eucharist, this encounter has the power to change us. The Eucharist has the power to transform the depths of our hearts and the heart of our culture. United to the power of his Eucharistic Presence, may we work to ensure that each person has life—and has it in abundance.

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1 Pope Francis, "Address of Holy Father Francis to Participants in the Meeting Organized by the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations," September 20, 2013 (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2013).
2 *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*, Introductory Letter, p. 8. (Washington, D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2024).
3 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), no. 28.

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UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities | usccb.org/prolife

fb.com/usccbrespectlife @usccbprolife @ProjectRachel @walkingwithmoms

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Thank you to the following families and business for their generous donations to our 15th Annual Fall Festival

Agnanti Restaurant
Alba's Pizza
Alps Distributers
Astoria Pizza Factory
Astoria Bakery
Ayy Chihuahua
Corral Varela Family
Doll Face
Elite Pool & Fitness
Farenga & Sons
Ferrara Driving School
Forno Siciliano
Francesca's Hair Studio
Fritz Family
Go Pro Plumbing
Jack Jones
King Souvlaki
LaGuili Bakery
LGC Wine and Liquors
Loukoumi Taverna
Macoletta
Messina Asphalt Corp.
Murphy's Bar Astoria
Museum of the Moving Image
Old Fashioned Butcher Shop
O'Shea-Hoey Funeral Home
PortoBello Pizzeria
Pronto Pizzeria
Puzzles
Queens Room
Ridgewood Savings Bank
Rivercrest
Rosarios
S&S Calabro Pizza
Seek Coffee
Simicich Limberis Law Group
Spitfire
Swing Time Hair
TAP NYC
Trattoria L'Incontro

A special "Thank You"
to all the
St. Francis of Assisi CA Families
who donated to the
15th Annual Fall Festival
Basket Raffle Prizes

It was a success because
of your generosity.

Thank you!

SFACA HAA PRESENTS:

BINGO

Grocery

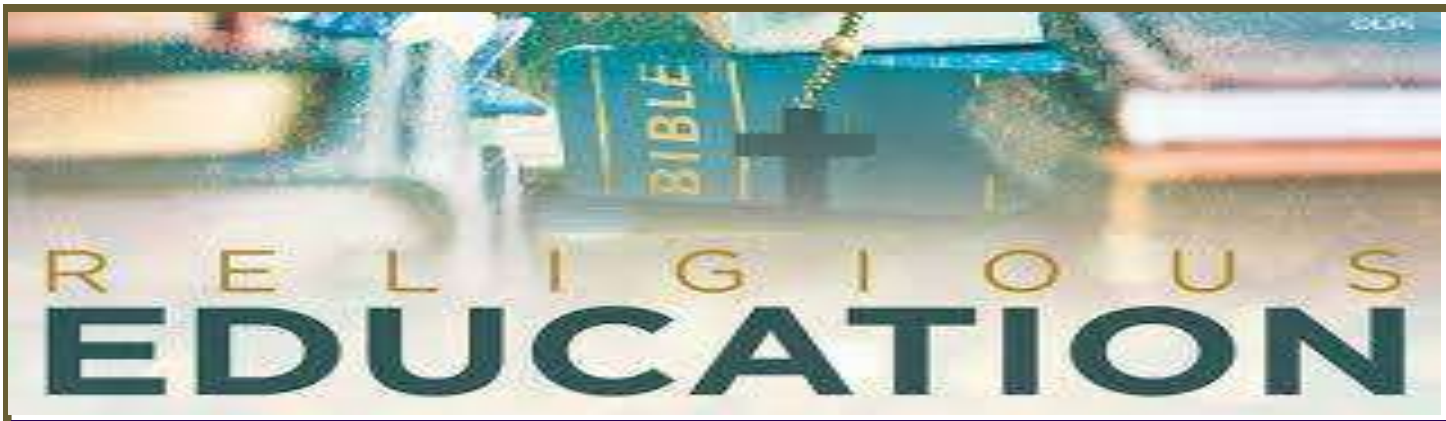
Friday, November 22, 2024

TICKET PRESALES:

Location: Door A to Lunchroom

WED	6:30 – 8:30PM	6 NOV
SUN	10:30– 12:30PM	10 NOV

MAX LIMIT: 1 Table Per Purchase



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

UNITED COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

* Note: Change Of Venue

Annual

CHILDRENS HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

Thursday, October 31, 2024

The Fun Starts at **5:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

CODE

20-30 Steinway Street, Astoria

Ghouls, Goblin's & Grown-Ups too!

But...

Please "Be in Costume!"

FREE! Hot Dogs Soda PopCorn Goodies Swing & Sing Prizes

Party is limited to children younger than 12years of age. Child or Children must be accompanied by an Adult for Admittance.

Information: 917-742-6975 (UCCA)