First Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, December 1 – First Sunday of Advent
8:00 A.M. Michael Hosey
9:30 A.M. Lucy & Rocco Bova
11:00A.M. Joseph Spiteri
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro

MONDAY, December 2–Weekday
9:00 A.M. John Marchesona

TUESDAY, December 3-Saint Francis Xavier
9:00 A.M. Bruna Giordano

WEDNESDAY, December 4-Saint John Damascene
9:00A.M. Dumica Vlakancic Family

THURSDAY, December 5–Weekday
9:00 A.M. Eileen Flynn

FRIDAY, December 6-Saint Nicholas
9:00 A.M. Samame Wierman (Living)

SATURDAY, December 7-Saint Ambrose
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Antonina Kos
George Seavrou
Margaret McCarthy
John McCarthy
Living & Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary

5:00P.M. Raymond Loud

SUNDAY, December 8– Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. Antonio Carlino
11:00 A.M. The Szetela Family
12:30P.M. Rino Del Carro
Giuseppe Carlino
Eleona & Libera Manocchio
Angela & Antonio Iadovito

Today's Readings

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-26

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption is drawing near....Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." **(Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)**

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 8:5-1

TUESDAY: Isaiah 11:1-10
Luke 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 25:6-10A
Matthew 15:29-37

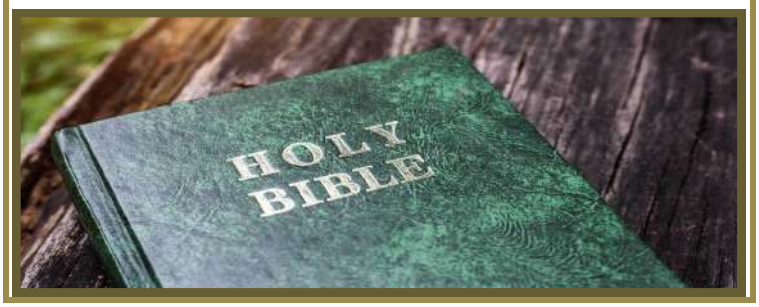
THURSDAY: Isaiah 28:1-6
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY: Isaiah 29:17-24
Matthew 9:27-31

SATURDAY: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26
Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

Have you ever wondered about the end of the world or more importantly what our response to such an event might be? The end of the world is a fascination shared by many people. Predictions about how and when the world might end are often commonplace in popular tabloids and magazines. In today's Gospel, even Jesus offers a scenario as to how the world might end. He tells his disciples that the sun, moon and stars will be in dismay; the seas will roar; and the heavens will be shaken. He warns that when all this happens the end is near. He then admonishes his listeners to remain alert and vigilant, steadfast in faith and persistent in strength.

If we know the world was going to end today, what would our priorities be in those last waning hours? What would be important and critical to accomplish in the time that was left? Upon a closer look, answers to such questions are offered in today's Gospel.

If the world were to end today it would be important to reconcile any anger harbored towards anyone. We must strive and hope for peace and harmony at all times. Reconciliation cannot happen if anger is present. And so, in anticipation of the world ending, it is important to resolve those feelings of anger. It would also be important to find out if we owed anything to anyone. Perhaps not so much money or borrowed items but more to ask if an apology, forgiveness or pardon was owed to someone in our lives.

Further, if the world were to end, it would be important for each of us to ask: *Did I, through my words and actions, contribute to the goodness and harmony of the world simply because it was the right thing to do?* And finally, if the world were to end, it would be important to recognize our belief in God. Did my actions and words, thoughts and desires indeed reveal a true and authentic belief and faith in God?

Advent is a time to look towards the end of time and the coming of Christ. It is a time of expectation and faith, of hope and confidence in the goodness of people; a time to recognize the presence of Christ as we look forward to commemorating his coming into the world and our lives. The readings today urge us to realize what is before our eyes, *the love of God,* and to encourage others to acknowledge this love as well. Our call is to be watchful and alert as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ here and now, and his return at the end of time.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

Tuesday, December 3, 2024
The Feast of
Saint Francis Xavier

Jesus asked, “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” (Matthew 16:26a). The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honor before him. Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope. From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he labored to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malayans, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India. Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy. Xavier went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct, and to baptize, and to establish missions for those who were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

Saturday, December 7, 2024
The Feast of
Saint Ambrose

Ambrose emerges as the man of action who cut a furrow through the lives of his contemporaries. Even royal personages were numbered among those who were to suffer crushing divine punishments for standing in Ambrose’s way. When the Empress Justina attempted to wrest two basilicas from Ambrose’s Catholics and give them to the Arians, he dared the eunuchs of the court to execute him. His own people rallied behind him in the face of imperial troops. In the midst of riots, he both spurred and calmed his people with bewitching new hymns set to exciting Eastern melodies. In his disputes with the Emperor Auxentius, he coined the principle: “The emperor is in the Church, not above the Church.” He publicly admonished Emperor Theodosius for the massacre of 7,000 innocent people. The emperor did public penance for his crime. This was Ambrose, the fighter sent to Milan as Roman governor, and chosen while yet a catechumen to be the people’s bishop. There is yet another side of Ambrose—one which influenced Augustine of Hippo, whom Ambrose converted. Ambrose was a passionate little man. We can picture him as a frail figure clasping the codex of sacred Scripture. This was the Ambrose of aristocratic heritage and learning. Augustine found the oratory of Ambrose less soothing and entertaining but far more learned than that of other contemporaries. Ambrose’s sermons were often modeled on Cicero, and his ideas betrayed the influence of contemporary thinkers and philosophers. His sermons, his writings, and his personal life reveal him as an otherworldly man involved in the great issues of his day. Humanity for Ambrose was, above all, spirit. In order to think rightly of God and the human soul, the closest thing to God, no material reality at all was to be dwelt upon. He was an enthusiastic champion of consecrated virginity. The influence of Ambrose on Augustine will always be open for discussion. Neither is there any doubt that Saint Monica loved Ambrose as an angel of God who uprooted her son from his former ways and led him to his convictions about Christ. .

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, Leonardo Di Marco and Michelle Yashita.

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.

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

"We are the clay and you the potter, we are all the work of Your hands"

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

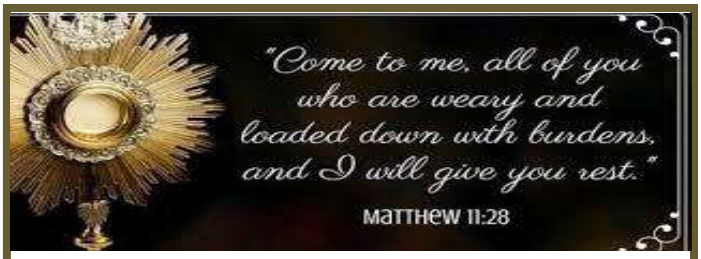
Parish Mission Statement

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:

Prepare for the coming of the Lord.

As we begin Advent, our readings today offer wisdom in discerning what it means to prepare our hearts for the Lord. They are beckoning us to wake up and be attentive to what is around us, for God's time is at hand. We have the blessing of this season to prepare for the coming of the Lord, and to allow our hearts to be transformed.



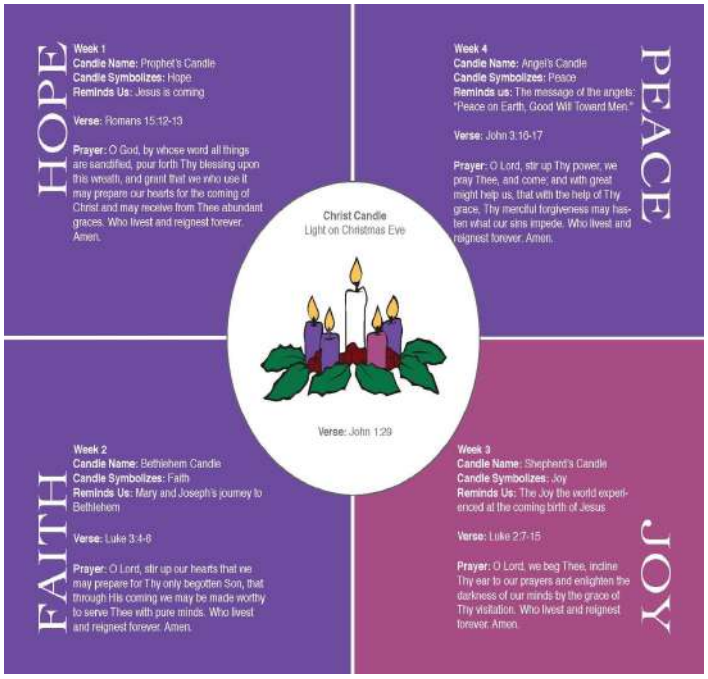
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before the 9:00AM Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 8:00AM each morning, Monday through Saturday, giving parishioners an opportunity for private prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:30AM the rosary will be prayed by parishioners. 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.

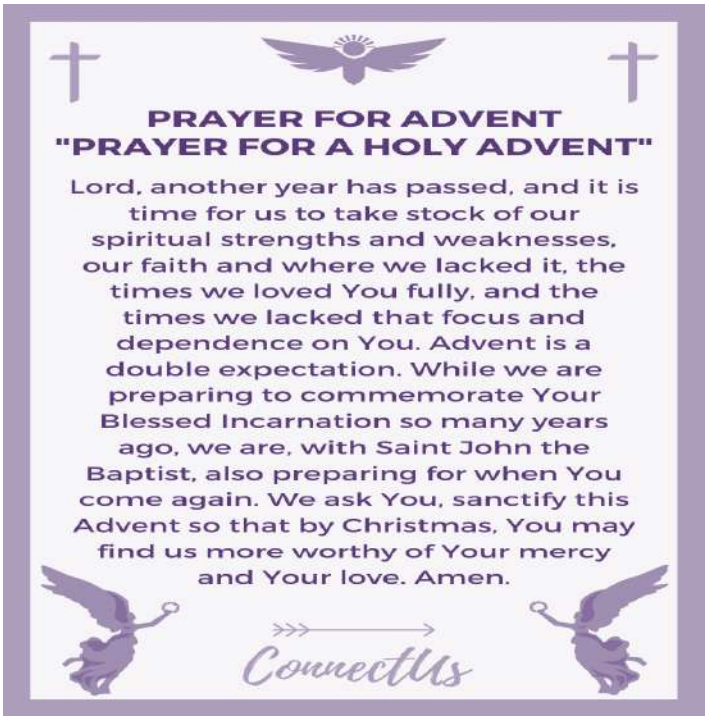
What a wonderful way to begin our day praying before the Blessed Sacrament in silence or praying the Holy Rosary.

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.

If anyone would like to memorialize the Advent Wreath Candles please stop by the Rectory.

The donation is $75.00 per candle.





The season of Advent will begin on the weekend of November 30th/ December 1st. It is a 4-week period of waiting and preparing for the feast of Christmas. During the Season of Advent, on of the beautiful signs we have in our church is the Advent Wreath. The wreath, which has 4 candles, is placed in the church and each week a candle is lit to remind us of our waiting and preparing for the birth of Christ.

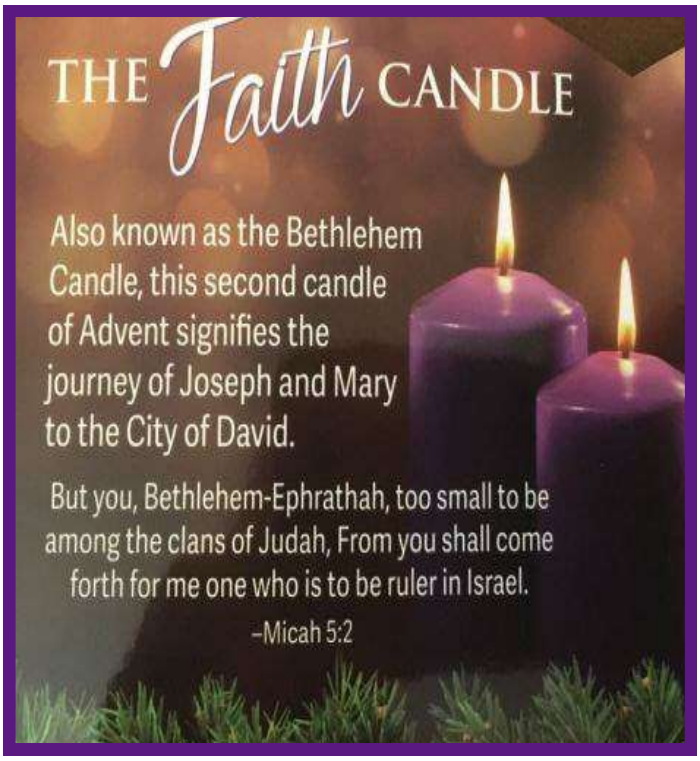
This year, you are invited to be part of the candle lighting ceremony. You can sign up as a family or individually. The candle lighter(s) would sit toward the front of the church and at the beginning of each mass, the priest will call you up to light the candle(s) for that week of Advent.

There will be a sign in the back of the church this weekend. Any families, individuals or groups are invited to sign up at any of the masses to light the advent wreath. Please sign up for one of the weekend Masses to participate in the Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony.

Join us as we renew our desire, anticipation and hope for Christ's coming again.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Saturday, December 7, 2024, the 9:00am Mass will be an anointing Mass. All those who wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick are asked to participate in this Mass. All are invited to join us in prayer as we remember to pray for all those who are in need of God's healing power.



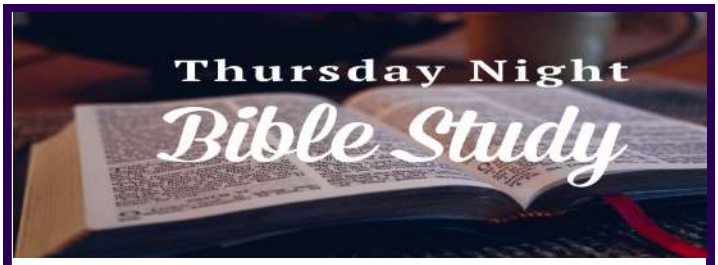
Holy Name Society

On Sunday, December 8th, the 8:00am Mass is the Holy Name Mass. The mission of the Holy Name Society is to promote devotion and reverence for the Holy Name of God and Jesus. What better way than to participate in the Holy Name Monthly Mass. All are invited to join in this celebration.

Mass Attendance for November 23/24, 2024:

5:00PM	92
8:00AM	62
9:30AM	258
11:00AM	85
12:30PM	50

Total: 547



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

"These signs are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name" (John 20:31)

The Gospel according to John

Dear SFA Friends and Family

All are Invited … ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us on Thursday, December 5th, at 7:20-8:50pm in the St. Joseph room of the Rectory. This week's study will be from the Passion Narrative, John 19:38-21:25.

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

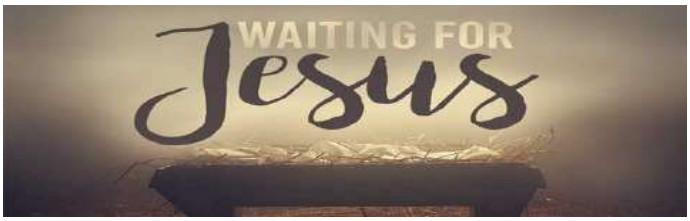
Thank you for your continued generosity of giving each week. Your weekly offering helps us pay our monthly bills.

Sunday 11/23-11/24 $3,442.00

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!



Next weekend, December 7th and 8th, the second collection will be for the Religious Retirement Fund.

Please be as generous as your means allow.

Thank 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 November 4th, we have pledged $33,411.76 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, 34.17% of our parishioners have supported the appeal.

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

Msgr. Maresca

Christmas Flower Envelopes can be returned in any collection. Please be sure to write the name(s) legibly. The list of names will be printed in the Bulletin. Thank you.

Christmas Mass Remembrance Envelopes can be returned in any collection. Please mark the envelope with the name(s) of those you want remembered, living or deceased, in the Christmas Novena of Masses. Those envelopes will be placed on the altar for the Novena of Masses.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

December 1-December 7

Sunday, December 1

Monday, December 2
7:00PM HAA Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 3
3:00PM SFA Singers
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 4
3:00PM Drama Club

Thursday, December 5
10:00AM-Legion of Mary
3:30PM Jiu Jitsu
6:00PM IACA
7:20PM Scripture Study

Friday, December 6

Saturday, December 7
9:00AM Anointing Mass

NEXT WEEK

December 8-December 14

Sunday, December 8
8:00Am Holy Name
9:30AM Pre-Communion Banner Mass
10:40 CCD

Monday, December 9
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION-SOLEMNITY
Masses at 9:00AM, 11:00AM & 7:30PM
12:00PM Golden Age
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, December 10
3:00PM SFA Singers
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 11
3:00PM Drama Club
6:00PM Girl Scout Caroling
7:00PM Baptism Class

Thursday, December 12
10:00AM-Legion of Mary
1:00PM 3K Winter Celebration
3:30PM Jiu Jitsu
6:00PM IACA
7:20PM Scripture Study

Friday, December 13
1:00PM PreK winter Celebration

Saturday, December 14
10:00AM Pancakes & PJ,s

DECEMBER 2024
LECTOR and MINISTER SCHEDULE

	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 30 DECEMBER 1	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 7-8	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 14-15	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 21-22	HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH DECEMBER 28-29
LECTORS					
Saturday 5:00PM	Dolores Ratkowski	Debbi Skinner	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski	Debbi Skinner
Sunday 8:00AM	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella
Sunday 9:30AM	Josephine Corso	Martha O'Toole	Maria Brooks	Josephine Corso	Patrick O'Toole
Sunday 11:00AM	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	Jane Di Donato	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey
Sunday 12:30PM	Anna Marie Del Carro	Jackie Machia	Anna Maria Tenaglia	Concetta D'Angelo	Maria Bruno
MINISTERS					
Saturday 5:00PM					
Sunday 8:00AM	Sharon Costanza				Mininster Needed
Sunday 9:30AM	Theresa Mincone				
Sunday 11:00 AM		Kelsey Mistretta	Jane Esposito	Kelsey Mistretta	Jane Esposito
Sunday 12:30 PM		Antonella Tomosella	Giuseppina Sferazza	Nicolette Cosentino	

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

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca V.F., Pastor

Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **December** Light the first violet candle in the Advent wreath, symbolizing Hope. Reflect on God's faithfulness and the hope of salvation. (See 1 Peter 3:15 for inspiration.)	2 How will you draw closer to Christ during Advent? Will you deepen your faith through intentional prayer, heartfelt penance, generous almsgiving, or a renewed focus on the Sacraments?	3 Practice the Heroic Minute as proposed by St. Josemaría Escrivá. Get out of bed immediately when you wake (don't press the "snooze" button) and offer the day to God.	4 Set out the stable and the empty manger from your Nativity scene. Slowly add the figures throughout Advent.	5 Advent is a busy time for Catholic parishes. Call or email your parish office and ask how you can help.	6 Attend First Friday Mass, in honor of Jesus' Sacred Heart. Pray, "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours." And He will.	7 Perform a thorough examination of conscience today. Then attend Confession to ready your soul to greet the Savior.
8 Light two violet candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sit in silence and enjoy the quiet. Read Luke 2:1-7.	9 *Immaculate Conception* God preserved Mary from sin to be Jesus' mother. Attend Mass and pray a Rosary in her honor.	10 A loving gaze is one of the kindest gifts we can offer. Today, Look at everyone through eyes of compassion and kindness, letting love illuminate each encounter.	11 Ask Jesus to heal whatever keeps you from experiencing God's bountiful love.	12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe* To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, place a rose in a vase and pray for expectant mothers.	13 St. Francis de Sales said, "Have patience with all things, but... chiefly with yourself." Practice patience with everyone today, especially yourself.	14 Gather friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling at a nursing home or homeless shelter.
15 *Gaudete Sunday* Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy to mark the halfway point of Advent.	16 Reach out to your parish office to find out how you can make Christmas brighter for a family in need. Your kindness could be their Christmas miracle.	17 Put a lamp or candle in a window to welcome the Christ Child. Light it every night until Christmas.	18 Today, offer a small sacrifice out of love, just for God.	19 Visit the Blessed Sacrament, where Jesus promises to remain with us (Matthew 28:20). Renew your faith in His steadfast love.	20 Refusing to forgive can destroy our interior peace. Ask for the grace to let go and move on.	21 The King is coming! Tidy up your home and prepare to welcome Him.
22 Light all four candles in the wreath, including the last one for peace. Remember we are awaiting Christ and the peace He brings to those faithful to Him (Luke 2:14).	23 Read Luke 2:1-19 and decide how you can make room in your heart for Christ. What steps will you take to welcome His presence and live out His love each day?	24 Meditate on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary or pray Evening Prayer tonight to ready your heart for the birth of the Messiah.	25 *Rejoice!* Place the Christ Child in the manger and rejoice!	*"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn"* (Luke 2:1-7).		

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Growing in FAITH™

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

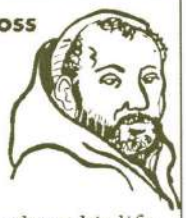
December 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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

One Minute Meditations

St. John of the Cross



Born in Castile, Spain, St. Juan de Yepes lived in poverty. St. John embraced poverty and suffering throughout his life. In 1563, he entered the Carmelite Order. He befriended St. Teresa of Ávila, who encouraged and supported him in his efforts at reform. He faced opposition and he was imprisoned in a tower. From this experience came the mystical poetry and inspired writings on the interior life that made him a Doctor of the Church.

Close to the Infant Jesus

"You are nowhere but close to the Infant Jesus, trembling with cold in the stable of Bethlehem…Therefore, I beg you to love the crib of the Child of Bethlehem…stay close to him and be sure that Jesus is in the midst of your hearts more than you could believe or imagine." St. Padre Pio

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory" (John 1:14).

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The best gifts come on Christmas

Christmas brings a joy that goes beyond presents—it's a season rich with the gifts God offers: love, hope, family, and the promise of Heaven. These gifts touch every heart, young and old, and hold profound meaning.

The gift of love. God chose to come into the world as a baby, sharing in our human experience. His love surpasses anything we could imagine. He invites us to embrace His love and let it transform us.

The gift of hope. Although we have moments of sin and can turn from God, the Child born on that first Christmas offers freedom from sin and the hope of a brighter future. This hope renews us and promises a better path forward.

The gift of family. Family provides strength, comfort, and support. Baptism welcomes us into Christ's divine family, where we are bound by an unbreakable connection. *"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God"* (1 John 3:1).

The gift of Heaven. The most awesome gift is Heaven itself. Without Jesus' miraculous birth, Heaven would be out of reach. He bridged the gap between Heaven and Earth, offering the promise of eternal joy. This Christmas, we can cherish the enduring gifts of love, hope, family, and Heaven that make the season truly meaningful.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics display nativity scenes?

The tradition of displaying nativity scenes began with St. Francis of Assisi, who was awed that God humbled Himself to be born in humility and poverty. To illustrate, he displayed a manger scene in a cave near the Franciscans' chapel — complete with donkey and ox.

He celebrated Christmas Mass and, according to an eyewitness, the wax figure of the Christ Child came alive. This pious tradition continues, reminding us that *"the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"* (John 1:14).

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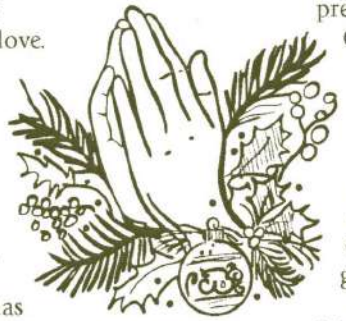
Two Advent practices for a joyful Christmas



Each Advent, God invites us to deepen our friendship with Him and draw closer to His love. The key to a joyful Christmas lies in responding to this invitation by dedicating daily time to God and helping those in need.

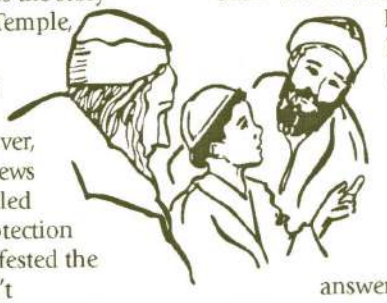
Do the one thing needful: Pope Francis encourages us to "waste time" with God through prayer, even for just 15–20 minutes. This could be offering daily prayers for a special intention, meditating on the Christmas Story a verse at a time, or simply being peacefully present to Him, who is always present to us. Continue spending time with Him after the season ends.

Go in haste to love: Just as Mary went *"with haste"* (Luke 1:39) to serve her cousin Elizabeth, we, too, are called to act quickly in love. While no one can do everything, everyone can do something. When we serve others even in small ways, we receive a greater gift in return (Matthew 25:40).

Embrace these practices for a deeper, more joyful Christmas open to God's love.

from Scripture — Luke 2:41-52, Love and obedience

The Feast of the Holy Family (December 29) includes the story of finding Jesus in the Temple, a story of love and obedience. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. They traveled in a large group for protection against bandits who infested the hill country. So it wasn't surprising that His parents didn't miss Jesus as they started the return trip. Upon discovering Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.



On the third day of searching, they found Jesus in the Temple. He was questioning the priests and amazing them with His understanding.

However, Mary asked how He could have caused His parents so much worry and Jesus replied, *"Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?"*

Though they were puzzled by His answer, Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth. He remained there in obedience to His parents until it was time for His public ministry. We learn from this story to obey not only God but also those in valid authority over us.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 1 - First Sunday in Advent. We anticipate Christ's birth and His coming on the Last Day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

December 4 – St. John Damascene (749). A Doctor of the Church and the last of the Greek Fathers, St. John was born in Muslim-ruled Syria and was counselor to the caliph. He is known for his writings in favor of the use of sacred images for devotion.

December 9 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin, preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. Pope Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854. This year, it's still considered a holy day of obligation and Mass attendance is required.

December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents (1st century). Today, we remember the infants massacred by King Herod's soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). We also pray for the safety of unborn children.

Q & A How do I use an Advent Wreath?

The Advent Wreath is a circle of evergreen branches, symbolizing God's eternal and unending love. It includes three purple (violet) candles and one pink (rose) candle. On the first Sunday of Advent, and each night that week, the first purple candle, known as the Prophet's Candle, is lit to symbolize hope. On the second Sunday and throughout that week, light both the first and second purple candles.

The second candle, called the Bethlehem Candle, represents faith. The pink candle, lit during the third week, symbolizes joy and marks Gaudete Sunday. During the fourth week of Advent, all three purple candles and the pink candle are lit. The fourth candle, known as the Angel's Candle, represents peace.

Consider meditating on Scripture as you light the candles. Week 1 (hope) - Isaiah 9:2-7, week 2 (faith) - Micah 5:2-5a, week 3 (joy) - Luke 2:8-14, and week 4 (peace) - Luke 1:26-38.

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Advent Giving Trees

The Advent Giving Trees have been setup in the front and back of church and decorated with colored Tags.

Each color Tag identifies the charity that will receive the gifts.
Please tape the Tag to the ***unwrapped*** gift purchased and place it under the Giving Tree before or after any one of the Masses.

Yellow Tags—Catholic Charities
Blue Tags— Hour Children
Green Tags—Marguerite's Pantry
Purple Tags—Transfiguration

ALL GIFTS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024.

We thank you for always being so generous and helping.

You can take part in decorating St. Francis of Assisi Church by memorializing a Christmas wreath during the Christmas season.

Wreaths will adorn the walls inside of the church and fences outside that surround the Church.

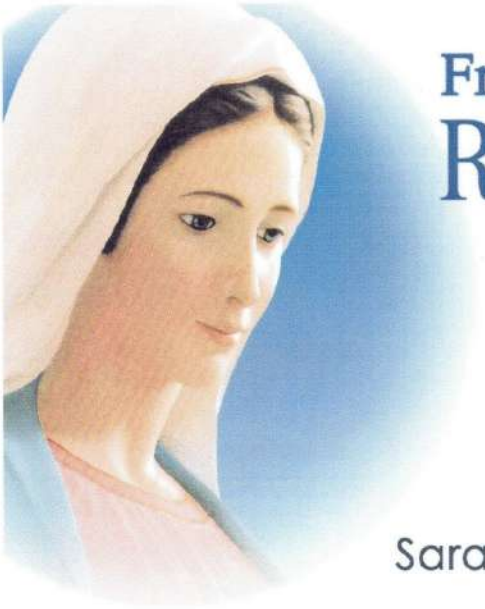
Small messages of dedication will be attached to each wreath.

ie: In Loving Memory of Jane Doe

Donations required to memorialize a wreath:

Outdoor Christmas Wreath:	***$65***
Indoor Christmas Wreaths:	***$80***

Payments should be submitted to the rectory by December 10, 2024



Friends of
RADIO MARIA New York

(718)417-0550
Anna Maria (347)448-1136

Siete tutti invitati ad una

GIORNATA DI SPIRITUALITA'

SABATO 14 DICEMBRE, 2024
10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Sara' una giornata di preghiera e di riflessione in preparazione per il Santo Natale

PROGRAM

10:00 am - Rosario
11:00 am - Santa Messa
12:00 pm - Pranzo al sacco
1:30 pm - Adorazione Eucaristica
2:30 pm - Presepe Vivente

Durante la celebrazione ci saranno sacerdoti a disposizione per le confessioni

Celebranti: Sua Eccellenza
Vescovo Emerito **Nichola Di Marzio**
Rev. Tarcisio Andro, Parroco

Basilica of Regina Pacis

1230 65th St, Brooklyn 11219
(718) 331-3870

Preghiera e contemplazione sull' arrivo di Gesu' nei nostri cuori

Join the Junior Legion of Mary Our Lady of Grace

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

21-17 45 TH Street, Astoria , New York 11105

Open to all children ages 7-17 and all schools. The Junior Legion of Mary is information. One hour, one day a week after school; all parents are welcome.

If you are interested please contact Marybeth at the rectory at (718) 728-7801. Please leave the name of parent, the name of the child and the child's grade and contact information. Objective; to enrich spiritual life and serve Jesus through Mary.

If you are 18 or above, you are welcome to join the Adult Legion of Mary. We meet every Thursday, at 10;00 o'clock in the rectory basement In the St Francis of Assisi room.

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.

UNITED COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Information: 917-742-6975

BE ALERT!!

BEFORE TOO LATE

Astoria/Astoria Heights

Business and Residential Community

"Bus To The Plane
From The Train" (at 31st Street)

PA/MTA

Informational Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 7PM

Katch Astoria

31-19 Newtown Avenue

Courtyard