Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, November 17 – Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. Joseph Cseri
9:30 A.M. Nestazio Pesa
11:00A.M. Philamena McPartland
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Concetta Di Pompo
Nicola Cicolini
Antonio Bruno

MONDAY, November 18– The Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul

9:00 A.M. Simon Fenech

TUESDAY, November 19-Weekday

9:00 A.M. Colan Brady

WEDNESDAY, November 20-Weekday

9:00A.M. Antonio Carlino

THURSDAY, November 21–The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 A.M. Wilfredo Matias

FRIDAY, November 22-Saint Cecilia

9:00 A.M. Victoria Fuselli

SATURDAY, November 23-Saint Clement

9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Lena Busuttil

5:00P.M. Marie Conlon

SUNDAY, November 24– Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. Michael Reiter
9:30 A.M. Francis Gauci
11:00 A.M. Gloria Montell
12:30P.M. Rino Del Carro
Nancy Manganaro
Cesare & Concetta De Grandis
Giuseppe & Concetta Saracini
The Cicconetti Family
The Zulli Family
The Sarchese Family

Today's Readings

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daniel 12:1-3
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and put forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and that hour know no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. **(Mark 13:24-32)**

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5 1:1-9
Luke 18:35-43

TUESDAY: Revelation 3:1-6, 14-66
Luke 19:1-10

WEDNESDAY: Revelation 4:1-11
Luke 19:11-28

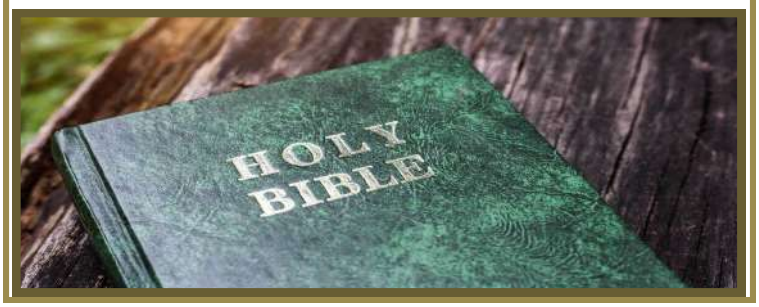
THURSDAY: Revelation 5:1-10
Luke 19:41-44

FRIDAY: Revelation 10:8-11
Luke 19:45-48

SATURDAY: Revelation 11:4-12
Luke 20:27-40

Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daniel 7:13-14
Revelation 1:5-8
John 18:33b-37



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

We are approaching the end of the Liturgical Year. We can look back over the course of the year and discover that we have celebrated our entire story, from creation to the end times. Most importantly, we participated in the cycle of the Church year as it rotates around the center of our faith, Jesus Christ, from his first coming as an infant, to his death and resurrection, and we look with hope to his coming in glory.

In the readings, we hear of cosmic signs like the dead rising and stars falling from the sky. That might sound like science fiction. But make no mistake; this is not fiction. Christ reminds us that his *words shall not pass away.*

In the Gospel, Jesus describes these signs leading to his coming again, the sun being darkened and the stars falling from the sky.

We can well imagine that upon hearing this, his disciples were struck with fear or confusion. Jesus knows this and so as in other parables, he speaks about something they can understand: a fig tree. *When the fig branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that He is near.* Jesus uses this simple image of the fig tree, and the way it comes to life in the summer. It is not an image of crisis or violence. It is a sign of new life after winter.

In our lives, we all experience difficult times. We even use the phrase "our whole world is coming to an end" to describe our tribulations. Our crises feel like they take on cosmic proportions. But Jesus assures us, *When you see these things happening, know that I am near.*

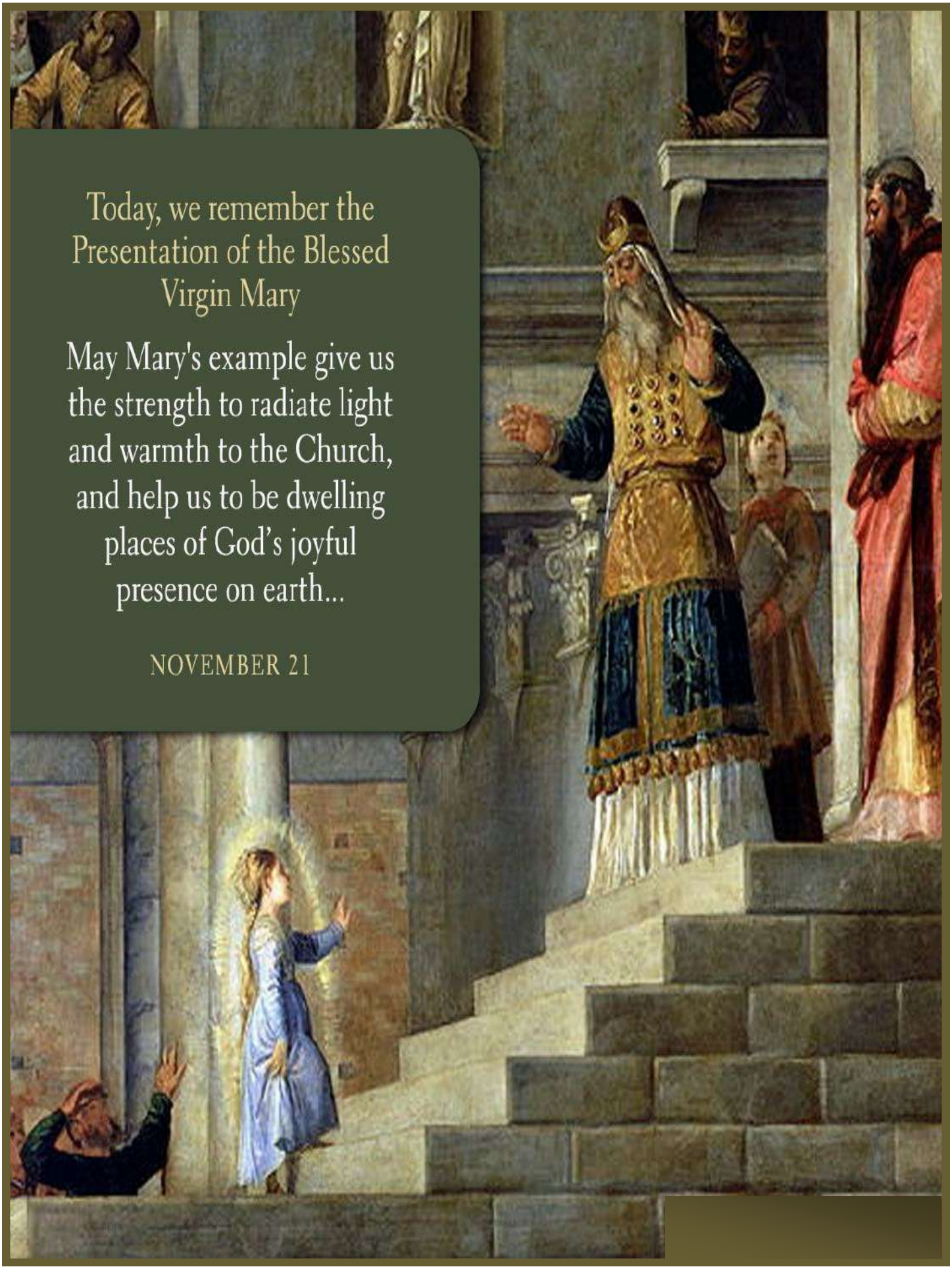
Our times of personal trial teach us how to be faithful and faith-filled. We may not always get it right, but these times prepare us for *that time,* the days that Jesus describes.

We need not be afraid. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us we have an eternal high priest who, through his own sacrifice, gives us his body and blood. We are being perfected through this body and blood for his coming again.

Our story does not have a scary ending. While this year is coming to an end, our story, the story we hear and celebrate and live from one Church year to the next, is never ending. We profess it: *He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.*

So, as we prepare to receive his body and blood, let our prayer be the words of today's psalm: *Lord, show us the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, the delight to be at your right hand forever.*

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca


Today, we remember the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
May Mary's example give us the strength to radiate light and warmth to the Church, and help us to be dwelling places of God's joyful presence on earth...
NOVEMBER 21

Friday, November 22, 2024
The Feast of
Saint Cecilia

St. Cecilia lived during the Roman Empire in the 3rd century and was born to a wealthy Roman family. She vowed her virginity to Christ, but her parents married her off anyway. She then converted her husband to the Christian faith, and he in turn respected her virginity and converted his brother. The story of how she converted her husband is quite remarkable. On her wedding night she made her vow known to him, and informed him that an angel guarded her purity. Her husband replied that he would believe her and honor her vow if he could also see her angel. Cecilia instructed him to first be baptized, and afterwards he was able to see her angel. The angel then crowned Cecilia with a chaplet of rose and lily. Together her husband and his brother took up the task of burying martyred Christians, which was illegal, and resulted in their martyrdom. St. Cecilia responded by burying her husband and converting hundreds of people through her Christian witness and strength of faith. This, and her refusal to worship false gods, resulted in her being arrested. According to legend, St. Cecilia was not martyred easily. They first attempted to suffocate her, but it did not affect her. Then they attempted to behead her, but they were again unsuccessful despite three blows to the neck. She instead bled to death for three days as she continued to preach, and fellow Christians collected her blood in sponges and napkins as relics. She was buried by Pope Urban and his deacons.

The story of Saint Cecilia is one of courage, evangelization, and love of God in the midst of persecution and strife. St. Cecilia is typically portrayed in art, statues, rosaries, and medals with a harp or other musical instruments. St. Cecilia gifts remind us to invoke the prayers of Saint Cecilia for those musicians lifting their talents up to God.

Saturday, November 23, 2024
The Feast of
St. Clement, Pope and Martyr

Little is known of this apostolic father beyond a few facts. He was a disciple of S. Peter, and perhaps of S. Paul. It is thought that the Clement whom S. Paul praises as a faithful fellow- worker, whose name is written in the Book of Life [Philippians 4:3], was Clement. According to Tertullian, Clement succeeded S. Peter immediately in the episcopal government of the Church at Rome. But in the list of bishops given us by Irenaeus and Eusebius he occupies the third place after the apostle, that is, after Linus and Cletus. It is, however, probable that the Church at Rome had at first two successions, one Petrine, the other Pauline, but that they speedily merged into one; and this will account for the confusion in the lists of the first bishops of Rome. Clement probably was Petrine, and Cletus Pauline bishop, the former ruling the converted Jews, the latter the Gentile converts. We know nothing of the events of his pontificate, except that there was a schism at Corinth, which drew forth a letter from him which is preserved. The legend of the martyrdom of S. Clement relates that, in the reign of Trajan, when Mamertinus was prefect of the city, and Toractianus count of the offices, a sedition arose among the rabble of Rome against the Christians, and especially against Clement, bishop of Rome. Mamertinus interfered to put down the riot, and having arrested Clement, sent him to the emperor, who ordered his banishment to Pontus, where he was condemned to work in the marble quarries. He found many Christians among his fellow-convicts, and comforted and encouraged them. The only spring of drinking water was six miles off, and it was a great hardship to the convicts to have to fetch it all from such a distance. One day Clement saw a lamb scraping at the soil. He took it as a sign that water was there; dug, and found a spring. As Clement succeeded in converting many pagans, he was sent to Aufidianus, the prefect, who ordered him to be drowned in the sea with an old anchor attached to his neck. His body was recovered by his disciple Phoebus. The relics of S. Clement were translated to Constantinople (860) by S. Cyril on his return from his mission to the Chazars,. Some of the relics found their way to Rome, and were deposited in the church of San Clemente, where they are still reverently preserved. These consist of bones, some reddened earth, a broken vase containing some red matter, and an inscription stating that these are the relics of the Holy Forty Martyrs of Scilita, and also of Flavius Clement.

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.

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 17, 2024

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away"

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

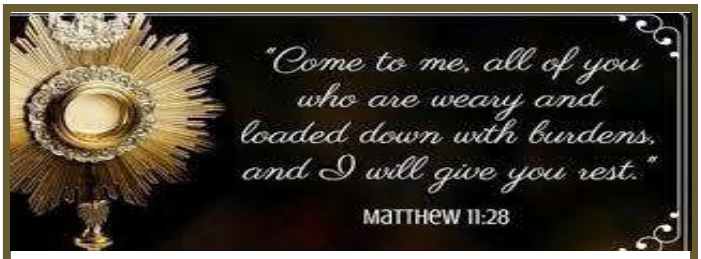
Parish Mission Statement

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 end of the world is coming; let us prepare.

No one knows when the world will end, but if we wait to prepare for it, it may be too late. When we ask for forgiveness and receive God's mercy, we are preparing and living for Him. If we live for Him, then we will live on forever when the end comes. Choosing not to live for Him results in disgrace when the end comes. The Lord does not desire that for us—He loves us and wants us to be with Him. It's a free, open, and generous invitation. Take hold of it!



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.

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!

PARISH MASS BOOK

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.

All Announced Masses are $15.00
After July 1, 2025 Masses will be **$20.00**
Purgatorial Mass Cards are $30.00
Memorials (Altar Bread, Wine, Sanctuary Lamp and Altar Candles) are $75.00
Altar Flowers are $100.00

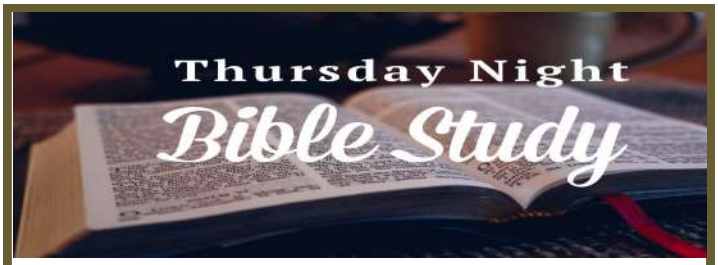
Welcome to Our Church

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 November 9/10, 2024:

5:00PM	92
8:00AM	50
9:30AM	88
11:00AM	101
12:30PM	50

Total: 381



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

"Behold, the man!"
(John 19:5)

The Gospel according to John

Dear SFA Friends and Family

All are Invited … ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us on Thursday, November 21st, at 7:20-8:50pm in the St. Joseph room of the Rectory. This week's study will be from the Book of Glory, John 18:1-19:37.

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.

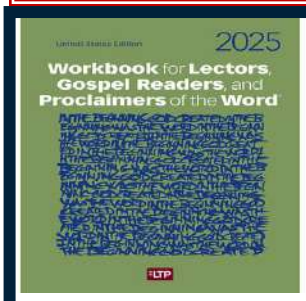
Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture

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 11/2-11/3	$5,232.00
Sunday 11/9-11/10	$4,641.00
2nd Collection—Fuel	*$1,032.00*

School parents must use church envelopes.



2025 Lector Workbook

The Lector Workbook for 2025 is available. All active Lectors can pick up their workbook in the sacristy.

Thank you all for your service.

Catholic Youth Organization
Children are at the heart of our mission

Weekend Soccer Scores for 11/2-3/24

Squirt boys won their last game 6-1 against St. Greg's
Good game. Noah scored 3, Luka M 1, Sebastian 1 and Liam 1

Playoffs –

Everyone played their hearts out this weekend but lost in the first round of the playoffs.

Novice boys lost 1-3 to Holy Child
Novice girls lost to blessed trinity 1-3
Roseandrea scored the only goal

Subnovice boys lost 0-5 to St. Anastasia
Subnovice girls lost 1-5 to SFDS

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

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!

Bishop Brennan has informed me that he does not have a priest to assign to St. Francis at this time. Since I am one person, please call to make an appointment if you need to speak with me.

I am grateful for your prayers and support at this time. Things will work out. Remember, "With God all things are possible."
Thank God for the wonderful priests who have worked out their schedule to assist with masses on the weekend. I thank you for your patience and cooperation at this time.

Msgr. Maresca

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

November 17-November 23

Sunday, November 17
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40 CCD

Monday, November 18
12:00PM Golden Age Mass
1:00PM Golden Age Meeting
3:00PM Children's Choir
6:00PM CYO EOY Party
7:00PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, November 19
3:00PM SFA Singers
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, November 20
3:00PM Drama Club-MCH

Thursday, November 21
10:00AM—Legion of Mary
3:30PM Jiu Jitsu
6:00PM IACA
7:20PM Scripture Study

Friday, November 22
Grocery Bingo

Saturday, November 23

NEXT WEEK

November 24-November 30

Sunday, November 24
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40 CCD

Monday, November 25
12:00PM Golden Age Meeting
3:00PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

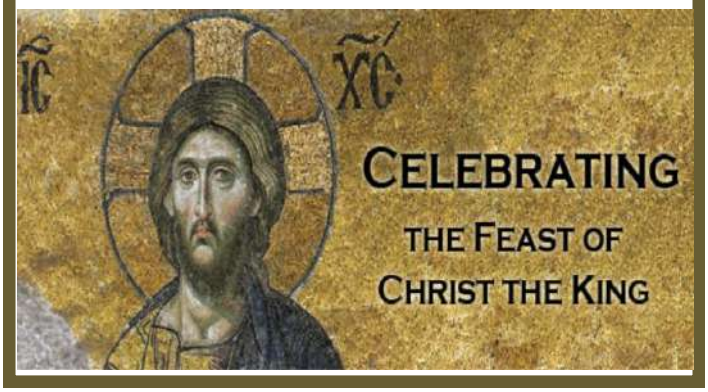
Tuesday, November 26
3:00PM SFA Singers
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, November 27
11:00AM—Thanksgiving School Mass
7:30PM-Thanksgiving Vigil Mass

Thursday, November 28
SCHOOL & RECTORY OFFICE CLOSECD
9:00AM Thanksgiving Mass

Friday, November 29
SCHOOL & RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 30



We Cordially Invite All of Our Parishioners to Celebrate Thanksgiving on Wednesday Evening, November 27th at 7:30P.M.

OR

Thursday, November 28th at the 9:00A.M. Mass

Please Note: At each Mass we will be collecting non-perishable goods to give to Marguerite's Pantry. Baskets will be in front of the sanctuary for you to place your goods. The collection taken up at each Mass will go to the St. Vincent DePaul Society to assist the poor and needy.

Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Advent Giving Trees

The Advent Giving Trees will be setup in the front and back of church and decorated with colored Tags on Friday, November 15, 2024.

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.

Oh Holy Night

Join Us on Saturday,
December 21st at 2:00 pm
Christian World Center
722 Deer Park Avenue, Dix
Hills NY

Ticket Price $150.00 includes Transportation, Show, and Dinner. Don't hesitate to contact Giuseppina Sferazza at (718) 808-2097 or Maria Bruno (917)943-7156. Only 40 tickets available. Tickets are non-refundable! All money is due the latest December 1st, 2024