Third Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 A.M. James & Josephine Hosey
9:30 A.M. The Dudek Family
11:00A.M. Bridgit Xanthos
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Fillipo Calogera
Maria Volpe

MONDAY, December 16–Weekday
9:00 A.M. Edward Lisciandro

TUESDAY, December 17-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Margaret Conlon

WEDNESDAY, December 18-Weekday
9:00A.M. The Papa Family

THURSDAY, December 19–Weekday
9:00 A.M. Grace McDermett

FRIDAY, December 20-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Carmela M. Pennacchio

SATURDAY, December 21-Saint Peter Canisius
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Juan Francisco Garcia

5:00P.M. Agnes McNulty

SUNDAY, December 22- Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00 A.M. The Teklits Family
9:30 A.M. Anna Balint
11:00 A.M. Victoria Marino
12:30P.M. Rino Del Carro

Today's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages. "As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,' John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

(Luke 3:10-18)

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a
Matthew 21:23-27

TUESDAY: Genesis 49:2, 8-10
Matthew 1:1-17

WEDNESDAY: Jeremiah 23:5-8
Matthew 11:18-25

THURSDAY: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a
Luke 1:5-25

FRIDAY: Isaiah 7:10-14
Matthew 11:16-19

SATURDAY: Song of Songs 2:8-14
Luke 1:39-45

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel, the crowds ask John the Baptist, *What should we do?* Christians have asked that question for centuries, as if we could achieve salvation and redemption by ourselves. It is easy to form the impression that whether or not we will go to heaven is tied to the sum of our activities in life, rather than our lives being an expression of gratitude for what we have been given.

Jesus came into our world because we could not save or redeem ourselves. Our efforts, measured against the infinity of God, would never begin to be sufficient. Our humanity can be redeemed only through one who was human, yet divine. In Jesus, God took on our humanity so that he, the infinite and divine, could render a service by which our sins and transgressions could be redeemed.

And what was this service? Nothing less then the passion and death of our Lord. A person can give nothing greater than their very lives. What more would they have? Jesus tells the Apostle, Philip, *When you see me you see the Father. (John 14:9)* When Jesus loves, forgives, suffers and dies, God takes those things upon himself. We might ask ourselves why would God ever do this for us. We are not even sure we would give our lives for another. Why would God do that? Why would he think that was necessary? St. Paul tells us in the letter to the Philippians that the peace of God is beyond all understanding, and cannot be figured out using human criteria. It just is!

God wants us to be convinced of his love for us. In Christ, he gave all he had to give, his very self. We are called to accept God's gift. God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8), and we should be ever grateful for that. As a God who is love (1 John 4:8), a love beyond words, our response should be to rejoice and strive to imitate Christ as a sign of our gratitude. Anything more would be pretentious and unfruitful.

All God's Blessings of the Advent Season,
Msgr. Maresca

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, Rick Simonsen, Aubrey Madden, Madison Millett, Leonardo Di Marco and Michelle Yashita and the Polychronakis Family & Victor Di Donato.

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.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,, because the Lord has anointed me"

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

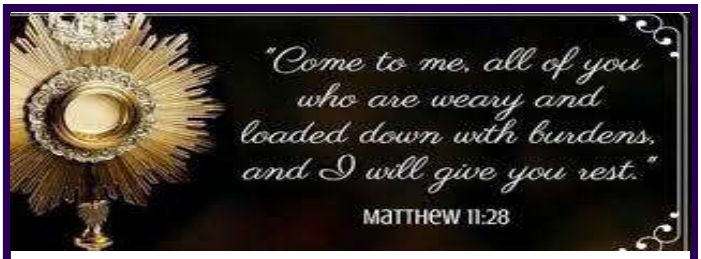
Parish Mission Statement

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 Lord rejoices over us.

According to the prophet Zephaniah, the Lord rejoices-yes *rejoices*-over us in gladness, and Saint Paul says to have *no anxiety at all*. If we trust in the unconditional love God has for us, our hearts and minds will know the true peace that only He can give.



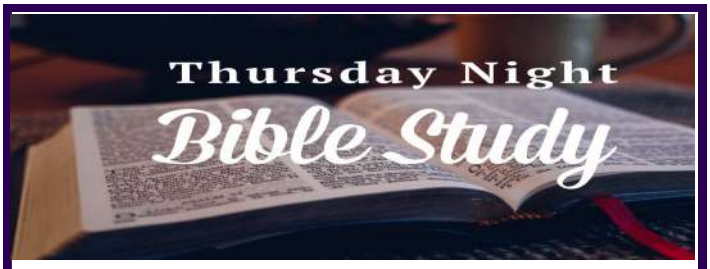
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before the 9:00AM Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 8:00AM each morning, Monday through Saturday, giving parishioners an opportunity for private prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:30AM the rosary will be prayed by parishioners.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

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.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, saying to Zion, "Your God is Kingf" (Isaiah 52:7)

Dear SFA Friends and Family

The SFA Scripture Study Group will be on winter recess until January 9th. We will begin a new study in January on the Gospel Letters written by James, Peter and Jude. We hope you will join us then.

All are Invited … ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

The season of Advent 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 is a sign in the back of the church. 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

Memorials for the Week of December 15, 2024

ALTAR WINE

In Loving Memory of
Giacinta Ciancio

ALTAR BREAD

In Loving Memory of
Giacinta Ciancio

ALTAR CANDLES

In Loving Memory of
Giacinta Ciancio
From
The Cinquemani Family

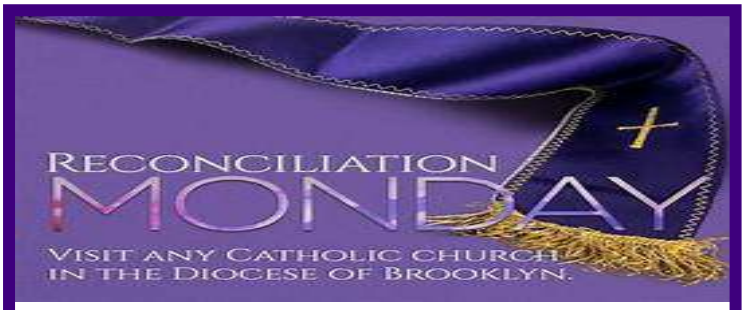
THE TRADITION OF THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

Pope Benedict XVI

Following a beautiful and firmly-rooted tradition, many families set up their crib immediately after the feast of the Immaculate Conception, as if to relive with Mary those days full of trepidation that preceded the birth of Jesus. Putting up the crib at home can be a simple but effective way of presenting faith, to pass it on to one's children. The crib helps us contemplate the mystery of God's love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem Grotto.

St. Francis of Assisi was so taken by the mystery of the Incarnation that he wanted to present it anew at Greccio in the living nativity scene, thus beginning an old, popular tradition that still retains its value for evangelization today. Indeed, the crib can help us understand the secret of the true Christmas because it speaks of the humility and merciful goodness of Christ, who *though he was rich he made himself poor* for us (2Cor 8:9). His poverty enriches those who embrace it, and Christmas brings joy and peace to those who, like the shepherds in Bethlehem, accept the angel's words: *Let this be a sign to you: in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes (*Lk 2:12*)*. This is still the sign for us too, men and women of the third millennium. There is no other Christmas.

SEASON OF HOPE...



Monday, December 16th, is
Reconciliation Monday.
Confessions will be heard from
3:00-5:00PM
6:00-8:00PM.

All are encouraged to make use of the wonderful Sacrament to experience the Mercy of God.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

The Advent Wreath Candle will burn in memory of :

Rose & Denis Sweeney
Lucia, Ralph & Donny Borgia
Linda Zuliani
Rosemary Zuliani-Conroy

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Adult classes have begun for those who need the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you need to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or need to be fully initiated into the Church (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) please call Sister Francesca Monday or Thursday, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Her number can be found on the front of the bulletin.

Thank you.

Next weekend, December 21st and 22nd, the second collection will be for fuel.

Thank you for your continued support.

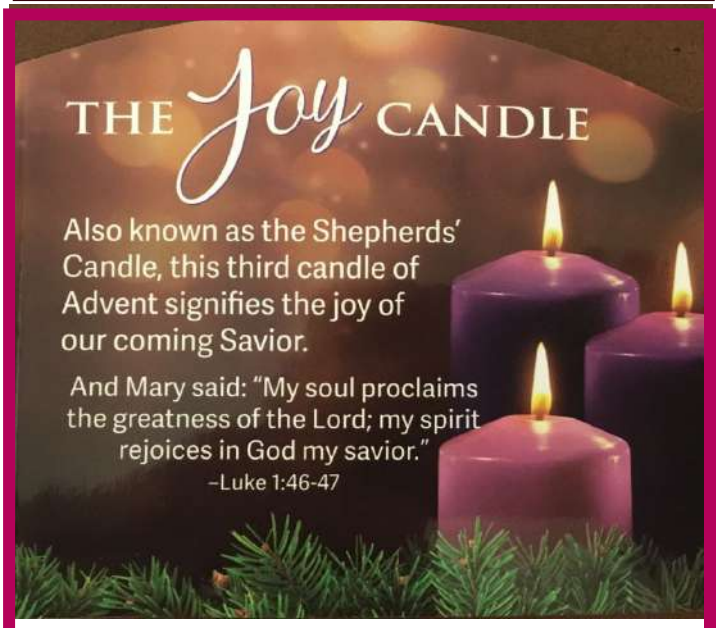
Our parish Christmas tree will be lit after the 5:00PM Mass on Saturday, December 21st.
This year pushing the button to light our tree will be Alice Santelli.

Please join us for this festive celebration.

Mass Attendance for December 7-8, 2024:

5:00PM	92
8:00AM	49
9:30AM	248
11:00AM	101
12:30PM	50

Total: 540



The central theme of today's readings is the command "Rejoice!" We are to do so mainly by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, by our renewal of life, and by our faithful doing of God's will. Today is called "*Gaudete"* Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" *("Rejoice in the Lord always*"). Today we light the rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose-colored vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior**.** We rejoice because a) we are celebrating the day of Christ's birth, b) we recognize Jesus' daily presence in our midst, and c) we wait for Christ's return in glory.

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 12/7-12/8	**$5,158.00**
Religious Retirement	***$1,014.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Parish Office Schedule

Saturday, December 21st–
9:00AM to 2:00PM

Tuesday, December 24th–
Close at 5:00PM
Wednesday December25th Closed
Thursday, December 26th –=Closed
Friday, December 27th–
9:00AM-12:00PM
1:00PM-5:00PM

Saturday, December 28th
9:00AM-2:00PM

Please Note: There will be no evening hours on December 24th and 31st.

Wednesday, January 1st–Closed

The Rectory will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd at 9:00AM.

Please Note: There will be no evening hours on January 2nd.

Regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 6, 2025.

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 15-December 21

Sunday, December 15
9:30AM-Children's Liturgy
9:30AM Pre-Confirmation Name Mass
10:40 CCD

Monday, December 16
3:0PM Children's Choir
Reconciliation Monday-Confessions
3:00-5:00PM
6:00-8:00PM
7:00PM Adult Choir

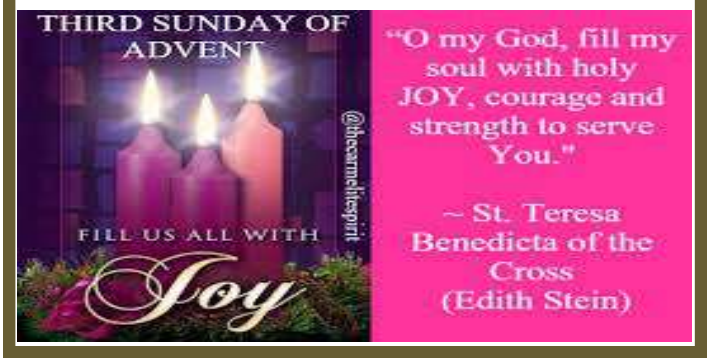
Tuesday, December 17
6:30PM-AA Meeting
6:30PM Christmas Show-MCH

Wednesday, December 18

Thursday, December 19
10:00AM-Legion of Mary
6:00PM IACA-Christmas Party
6:30PM-Christmas Show-MCH

Friday, December 20

Saturday, December 21
Parish Christmas Tree Lighting after 5:00PM Mass



NEXT WEEK

December 22-December 28

Sunday, December 22
9:30AM-Children's Liturgy
10:40 CCD

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24
4:00PM-Family Mass
6:00PM Vigil Mass

Wednesday, December 25
Rectory Office Closed
Masses at 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM and 12:30PM (Italian)

Thursday, December 26
Rectory Office Closed

Friday, December 27
Rectory Office Open 9:00AM-12:00PM
1:00PM-5:00PM

Saturday, December 28
Rectory Office Open 9:00AM-2:00PM

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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Dear Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi,

Greetings and the peace of Christ be with you! We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirits. We are deeply grateful to those of you who have stayed connected with the Church, your presence keeps our parish vibrant and growing. We want to remind some of you of the profound joy and grace that comes with being physically present to celebrate the Eucharist in the Lord's house.

Here are some of the many reasons why we hope you will return to Mass:

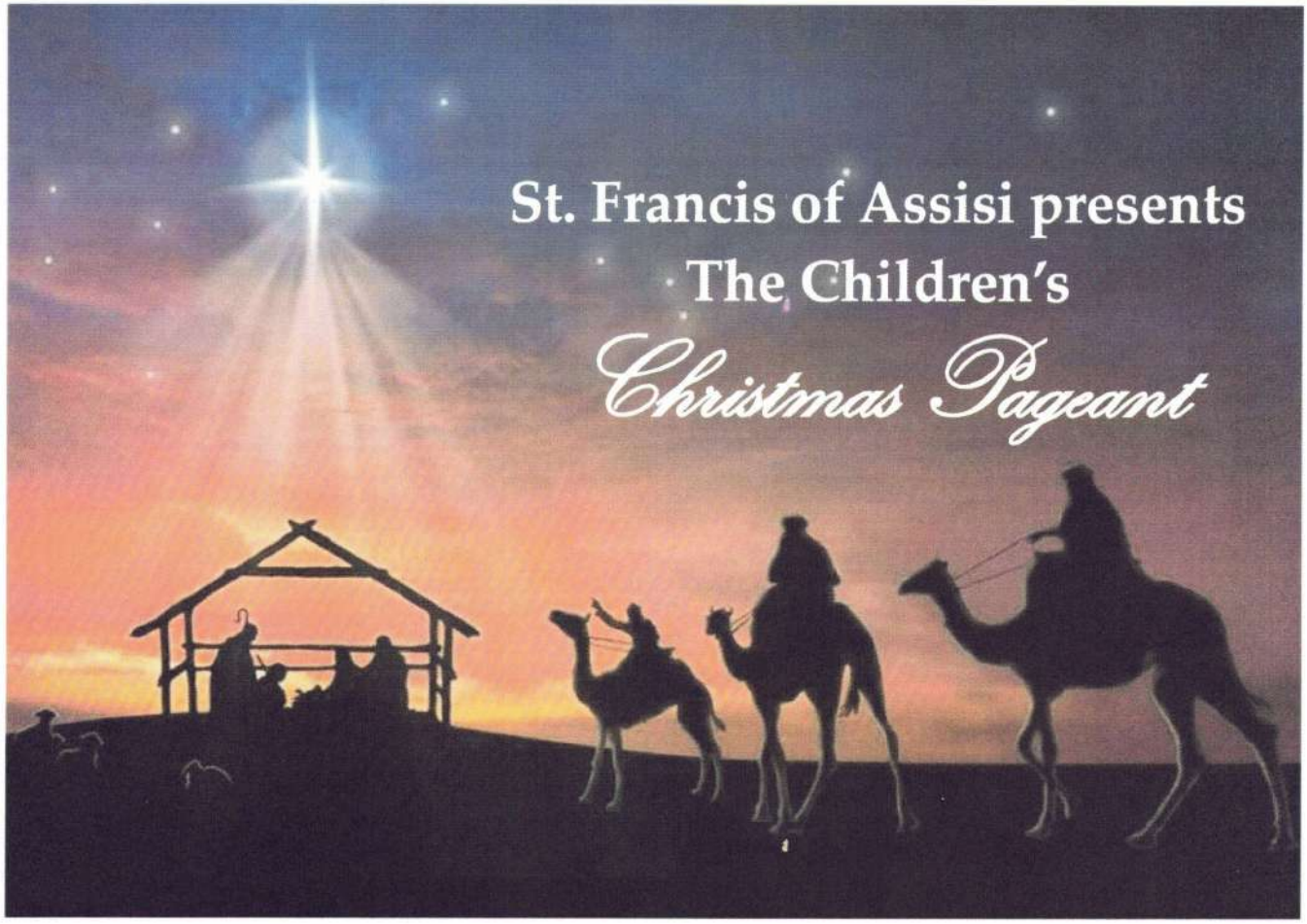
- In the Holy Eucharist, we receive the true Body and Blood of Christ, a gift that sustains our faith, fills us with God's grace, and gives us strength to be faithful disciples of Christ. There is no substitute for this intimate encounter with Jesus.
- Being together allows us to share in one another's joys and burdens. We need each other's presence, prayers, and fellowship.
- Attending Mass is not only an act of worship but also an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God. The homily, prayers, and sacred music all help us grow in our understanding of faith and keep us spiritually anchored in these challenging times.
- Your presence at Mass also helps support the vital ministries of St. Francis of Assisi, from outreach programs to education and community events. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those in need and spread the Gospel in our neighborhood.
- In the midst of our busy and sometimes overwhelming lives, the Church offers a sacred space for quiet reflection and communion with God.

During the Christmas season, we invite you to return home to St. Francis of Assisi Church! Our church provides us with a place where we can come together to give thanks to God, receive His grace, and be nourished by His Word and Sacrament. Our parish has taken steps to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all, and we look forward to seeing you.

Enclosed is a second copy of this letter. Please share it with a friend or neighbor. Let us together rekindle the flame of faith and worship together as God's family united in Christ's love.

In Christ's Peace,
The St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council

Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca. Pastor; Nicolino Scarlatto, Deacon; Nancy Annunnziata; Catherine Bala; Maria Bruno; Josephine Corso; Carol Hickey; Theresa Kubina; Josephine Lanzara; Kelsey Mistretta; Andrew Soltesz



Pageant Performed at Christmas Eve Family Mass
Celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan
December 24th at 4:00pm

If you would like your child to take part in this special liturgy, please email Mr. Dan Higgins at DHiggins@sfaacademy.org by **Monday, December 9, 2024**

Make sure to leave your child's name, grade & parent's cell number.

We are also in need of narrators (Grade 6 and above) for our pageant.

REHEARSALS ARE SCHEDULED FOR:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 3 - 4:00pm

Wednesday December 18, 2024 3 - 4:00pm

All school age children, including Pre-K 3 and 4 year-olds, are welcomed to participate!

Rehearsals will be held in the church.

"And you will have joy and gladness; and many will rejoice at His birth"

Worship Schedule

Confessions- Monday, December 16th
3:00-5:00PM
6:00-8:00PM

Saturday, December 21st
4:00-4:30PM

Schedule of Masses

Christmas Eve-Tuesday, December 24th

9:00AM
4:00PM ~ Family Mass
6:00PM ~ Christmas Mass

Christmas Day-Wednesday, December 25th

8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM & 12:30PM (Italian)

New Year's Eve-Tuesday, December 31st

9:00AM and 5:00PM Vigil Mass

New Year's Day-Wednesday, January 1st

9:00AM & 11:00AM

Come Home to St. Francis of Assisi for Christmas

JOIN OUR PARISH FAMILY AS WE CELEBRATE MASS EACH WEEKEND

Masses: Vigil on Saturdays 5pm

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

Let us worship together and give thanks and praise to God.

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.

Donations required to memorialize a wreath:

Outdoor Christmas Wreath: $65

Indoor Christmas Wreaths: $80

Payments should be submitted to the rectory before December 18th

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Name _____ ***Contact #*** _____

In Thanksgiving of _____

In Loving Memory of _____

From (optional) _____

- Please print neatly -

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.
~ Romans 12:4-7

Principal Liz Reilly: A Champion of Education in Our Community

We are truly blessed to have Liz Reilly as our SFACA Academy Principal, guiding us with dedication and heartfelt leadership. In just her second year, Liz has already made a profound impact on our students, parents, and faculty. Her passion for education and spiritual growth shines through in every aspect of her work.

Liz partners closely with Msgr. Maresca and the Academy faculty to create a meaningful and enriching environment for our students. She does this "through sacramental preparation for our students, coordinating Holy Days of Obligation masses and special events that include blessings from Msgr for the students, like Ring Day and Student Council Installation." she explains.

Liz's daily responsibilities are extensive and diverse. She oversees every aspect of the school, ensuring that classes run smoothly, and the building is well-maintained. She prioritizes communication with parents and students, regularly checks in with teachers, and addresses any issues that arise. Liz explains, "I always want everyone to feel listened to and validated." Liz's personal touch is evident in the simple yet meaningful acts she performs, such as greeting students each morning. "I always open the door to the Middle School students in the morning to greet them as they come into the building, and I always make announcements wishing students Happy Birthday," she shares.

One of the biggest challenges Liz faces is multitasking. With numerous responsibilities demanding her attention, "there are often several things that come up that require me to deal with at the same time", she must prioritize tasks by importance. Despite these challenges, she finds joy in "seeing happy students who feel successful and are happy to come to school each day," she says. It is the most fulfilling part of her job.

Liz's role extends beyond the school. She attends Parish staff meetings and Deanery meetings. She oversees the school's portion of sacramental preparation and communicates with parents to achieve these goals. What is unique to her role is that she is the public face of the school, tasked with public speaking engagements and presentations. Her involvement ensures that the school remains connected with the broader goals and values of the church.

Reflecting on her time at St. Francis, Liz recalls the 8th grade Awards Night for the graduating class of 2024 as a particularly memorable experience. This event was a big moment for her because it marked the culmination of her first year, which felt very successful. "It was an honor being able to present them with awards and see them off to their next journey," she reminisces.

Liz Reilly is an invaluable asset to our community. We are grateful for all she does to nurture and guide our students, ensuring they grow both academically and spiritually.

Welcome to our bulletin series, "One Tree, Many Branches," where we highlight the dedicated staff, employees, and laity who keep our parish thriving. Have a suggestion for someone we should highlight? Please send us an email to sfaparishcouncil@sfaacademy.org

Dear Parishioners,

On Sunday, October 19, 2025 we will be celebrating the 95th Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. We give thanks to Almighty God for these past 95 years and the rich history our parish has created here in Astoria. I am delighted to celebrate this anniversary with each of you as we remember the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to the future.

The theme for the year will be "95 Years of Faith and Family". The committee is planning a special day to mark this milestone. Please mark your calendars to join us! We will begin our celebration at the 9:30am Family Mass. At Mass, we will be unveiling a new statue of Mother Theresa to be hung on the wall opposite the Holy Family. *Kindly contact the rectory if you would like to memorialize this statue in the name of a loved one. More information will follow in upcoming Bulletins.*

After mass, we will gather at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach. The cocktail hour will be from 12:30pm to 1:30pm with dinner to follow. We will have live entertainment and raffles. The cost for adults is $150 per person and for children, ages 5-12, $75per child and toddlers, ages 2-4 $30 per toddler. There will be a bus available at the cost of $20 per person that will leave from the front of St. Francis of Assisi Academy. The bus will fill up quickly, so if you plan on using it please make your reservations early.

At the Dinner Dance we will honor Mrs. Maria Bruno and Mr. and Mrs. Phil Mincone. These individuals have been long time parishioners and supporters of SFA. They unselfishly give of their time and talents to help our parish grow and prosper. We give thanks to Almighty God for the blessing they are to our parish family. Well done good and faithful servants!

Each week the Bulletin will contain new information and details about our Anniversary celebration. In our next Bulletin, you will find our Dinner Dance Reservation Form. Kindly spread the word about our 95th Anniversary! If you know of former parishioners who have relocated to other places, pass along the information and invite them to join us for this celebration. Let us give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

Sincerely in Christ,
Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca

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.

CYO St. Francis of Assisi

JIU JITSU

WINTER 2025

Thursdays 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Monsignor Campbell Hall
Grades K - 8

10 session $100
Jan 9, 23, 30
Feb 6, 13, 27
Mar 6, 13, 20, 27

Scan QR Code to Register

*** Spaces are Limited***

For more information, please email wildcats.sfa.jiujitsu@gmail.com