The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, December 29 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
8:00 A.M. Benedetta Galati
9:30 A.M. Christmas Novena
11:00A.M. Philomena McPartland
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Jennifer Ronacher
The Angelo Sferrazza Family

MONDAY, December 30–Octave of the Nativity
9:00 A.M. Christmas Novena

TUESDAY, December 31-New Years Eve
9:00 A.M. Dr. Arthur Gualtieri
5:00 P.M For the People of St. Francis

WEDNESDAY, January 1– Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God
9:00 A.M. Christmas Novena
11:00 A..M The Coyle Family

THURSDAY, January 2–Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen
9:00 A.M. John Purich

FRIDAY, January 3-The Holy Name of Jesus
9:00 A.M. Christmas Novena

SATURDAY, January 4-Saint Elizabeth Seton
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Christmas Novena
John Betancourt
Sister Agnes Conlon
John McCarthy
Margaret McCarthyu
Living & Deceased Members of The Legion of Mary
Grace & Eliseo DaCorta
Stephen DaCorta
The DaCorta Family
The Colusso Family
The Mezey Family
Henri Chlesa
Riccardo Navarro

5:00P.M. Patrick Farrell

SUNDAY, January 5– Epiphany of the Lord
8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Giuseppe Dolce
11:00 A.M. William Corcoran
12:30P.M. Nancy Manganaro
Onorino Persic

Today's Readings

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:41-52

(Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents[l] saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor. (**Luke 2:41-52)**

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: 1 John:2:12-17
Luke 2:36-40

TUESDAY: 1 John 2:18-21
John 1:1-18

WEDNESDAY: Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

THURSDAY: 1 John 2:22-28
John 1:19-28

FRIDAY: 1 John 2:29-3:6
John 1:29-34

SATURDAY: 1 John 3:7-10
John 1:35-42

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

The Scriptures tell us a lot about Jesus, especially how he came into the world and how he left it. Although Scripture doesn't say much about Jesus' childhood, today's Gospel is one notable exception. Luke gives us a glimpse of the tension in Jesus, being the son of Mary and Joseph, and at the same time recognizing he was God's Son and therefore had to be about his Father's business.

Jesus' response to Mary's expression of concern, after he was found in the Temple, might come across at first glance as cold and uncaring. That being said, the fact that there was tension in Jesus' family makes it clear that the Holy Family was real because our families experience tension, too.

Four days ago on Christmas, we celebrated the mystery of the Incarnation, when the Divine Word became flesh in the person of Jesus. Today, on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we celebrate how the Word became flesh, the same way you and I come into the world, by being born into a family.

Jesus' coming into the world as the son of Mary and Joseph shows that the family is an important building block both in the Church and in the world. The Holy Family living in love and unity with God and one another is the model all Christian families seek to imitate.

Though the life of any family includes challenges and stress, the life of the Holy Family encourages us to invest ourselves in the relationships that make up family life. And each member of the Holy Family provides a model of certain values and virtues we can strive to imitate.

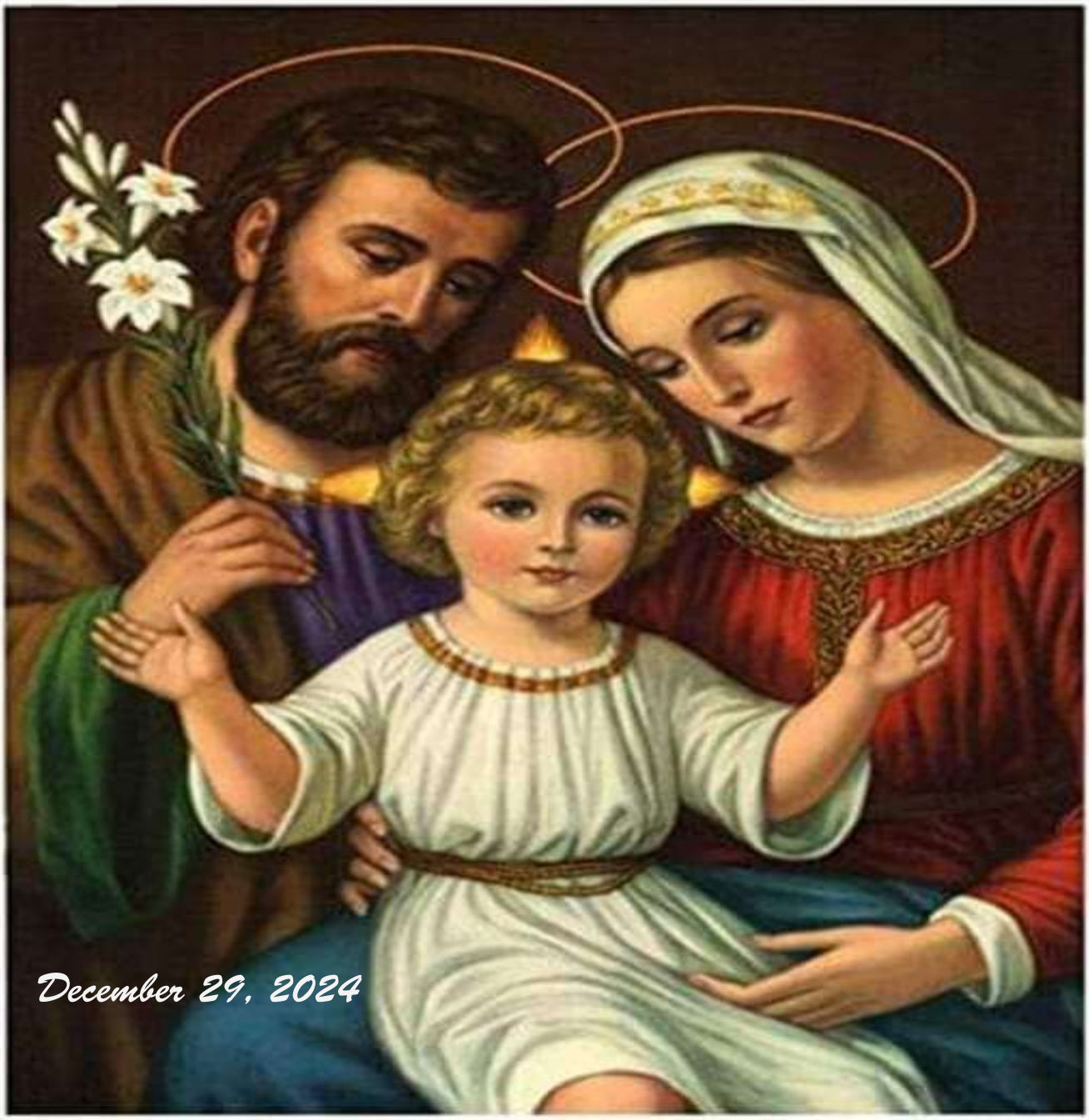
Joseph, a man of few words but bold action, exemplifies the virtue of fidelity, which is so critical for family life. Mary, a woman who pondered all things in her heart, displays the faith and trust that are essential ingredients of authentic family relationships. Jesus, who strove always to do God's will, even when it caused tension with his mother, exhibits the obedience to which all of us are called not only to God our Father, but to our respective parents and siblings as we work to build our lives together.

Like Jesus, each of us comes into the world as part of a family. And just as Jesus' life with Joseph and Mary helped shape the man he grew into, our family forms us. The ups and downs of family life give us opportunities to offer love and forgiveness to others.

Family life is most often and most profoundly deepened around the table where meals are shared. May our sharing of the Eucharistic meal nourish and deepen within each of us the desire to build good, loving families here on earth and live in perfect love and communion with God and the rest of the angels and saints in heaven.

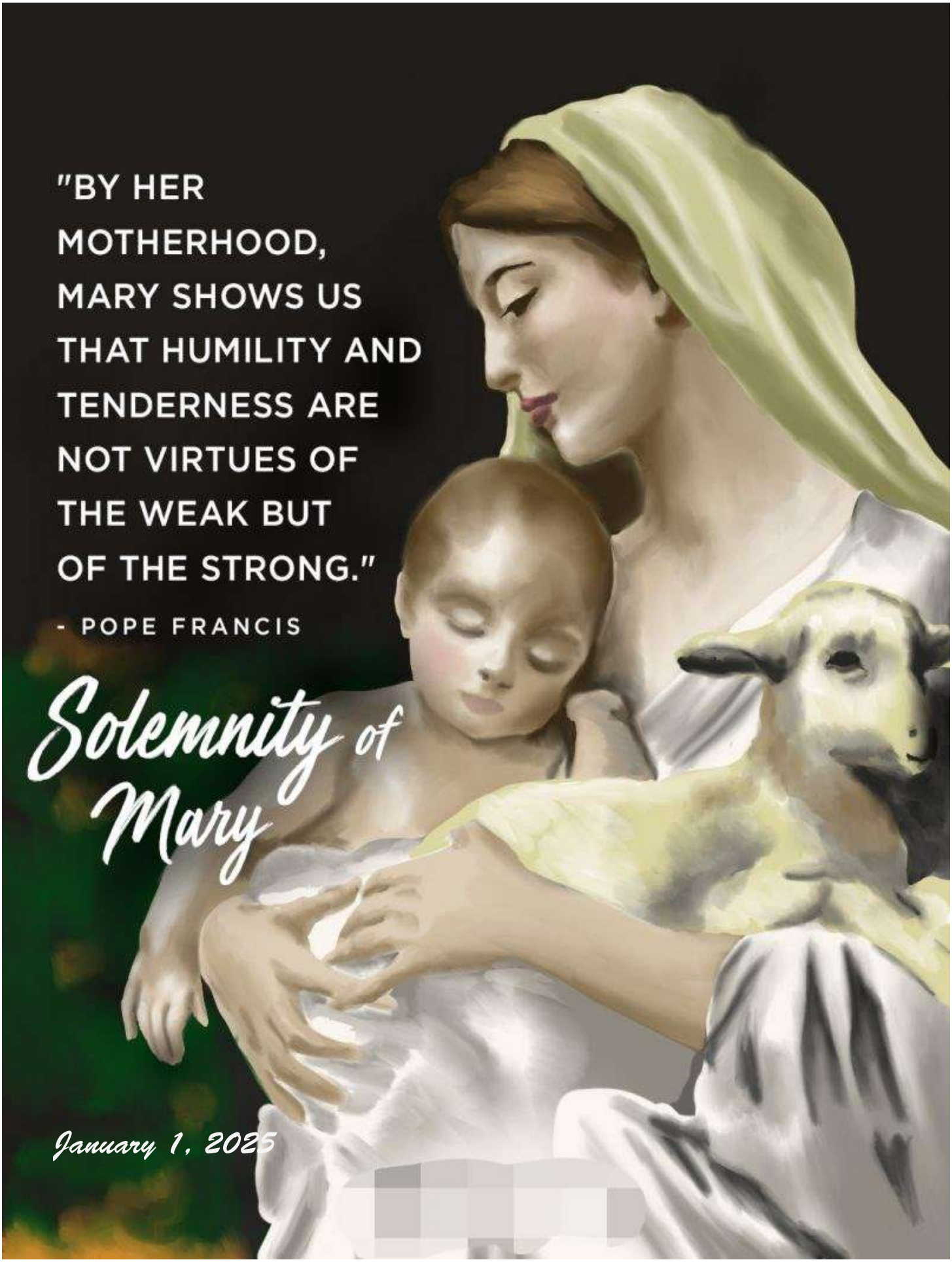
All God's Blessings of the Newborn King,
Msgr. Maresca

HAPPY FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



God our Father, in the Holy Family of Nazareth you have given us the true model of a Christian home. Grant that by following Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their love for each other and in the example of their family life, we may come to your home of peace and joy.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph pray for our families!


"BY HER MOTHERHOOD, MARY SHOWS US THAT HUMILITY AND TENDERNESS ARE NOT VIRTUES OF THE WEAK BUT OF THE STRONG."
- POPE FRANCIS
Solemnity of Mary
January 1, 2025

Thursday, January 2, 2025
The Feast of
Sts. Basil & Gregory Nazianzen

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzen were among the most devoted defenders of the faith in the fourth century. Both were bishops and both are now saints and doctors of the Church. These two men met while studying in Caesarea Cappadocia and strengthened their tight friendship in Athens. After Basil's death, Gregory wrote of their bond, "We seemed to have one soul, inhabiting two bodies" (*Orationes of Saint Gregory* 43:20). Both saints came from families of saints. Basil's maternal grandmother was a martyr; his paternal grandmother, his parents, and three of his siblings are also saints. Gregory's father was converted to Catholicism by his wife. After his conversion, he was ordained a priest and then consecrated as Bishop of Nazianzen. He served as bishop for about forty-five years, living into his nineties. These saintly parents had three children, all of whom became saints. At the time that Saints Gregory and Basil lived, the Church, the body of Christ, was suffering from the pandemic of Arianism, a heresy that denied the divinity of Christ. This heresy was like a disease infecting the Church. Arianism entered the bloodstream of Christ's body and weakened every limb and muscle, causing convulsions, violent outbursts, and deep divisions among both bishops and the faithful. The clear teaching and brave episcopal leadership of Saints Basil and Gregory helped the Church to heal, to eradicate this heresy, and to restore unity of faith in the East. But not all warmly welcomed their efforts. They both suffered greatly. From the emperor, many bishops, and other clergy and laity, they received many abuses, calumnies, physical attacks, and threats. Through it all, they remained faithful to their preaching and calm and focused in their resolve, restoring a deeper and more ancient unity to Christ's faithful. Today, their voluminous writings are among the most inspiring, insightful, and convincing teachings of the early Church, particularly as they pertain to Christ's divinity and the Most Holy Trinity.

Saturday, January 4, 2025
The Feast of
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Mother Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. She opened the first American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage in the span of 46 years while raising her five children. Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton was born August 28, 1774. By birth and marriage, she was linked to the first families of New York. Reared a staunch Episcopalian, she learned the value of prayer, Scripture and a nightly examination of conscience. Her father, Dr. Richard Bayley was a great humanitarian, teaching his daughter to love and serve others. The early deaths of her mother in 1777 and her baby sister in 1778 gave Elizabeth a feel for eternity and the temporariness of life on earth. Far from being brooding and sullen, she faced each new "holocaust," as she put it, with hopeful cheerfulness. At 19, she married a handsome, wealthy businessman, William Seton. They had five children before his business failed and he died of tuberculosis. At 30, Elizabeth was widowed and penniless, with five small children to support. While in Italy with her dying husband, Elizabeth witnessed Catholicity in action through family friends. Three basic points led her to become a Catholic: belief in the Real Presence, devotion to the Blessed Mother and conviction that the Catholic Church led back to the apostles and to Christ. Many of her family and friends rejected her when she became a Catholic in March 1805. To support her children, she opened a school in Baltimore. From the beginning, her group followed the lines of a religious community, officially founded in 1809. The letters of Mother Seton reveal the development of her spiritual life from ordinary goodness to heroic sanctity. She suffered great trials of sickness, misunderstanding, the death of loved ones (her husband and two young daughters) and the heartache of a wayward son. She died January 4, 1821, and became the first American-born citizen to be beatified (1963) and then canonized (1975). She is buried in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

FEAST of the HOLY NAME of JESUS

January 3, 2025

Everything about our divine Lord is holy, including His Name. It was the Archangel Gabriel who first spoke the name of Jesus to His mother, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus" (Luke 1:31). The Archangel was only a messenger, so the name of Jesus was given to Him by the Father in Heaven.

Saint Peter was one of the first Apostles to speak with authority in the Holy Name of Jesus when he healed a crippled man saying, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk" (Acts 3:6). Saint Paul also exalted the holy name of Jesus when he said, "…at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9–10). Saint Paul preached with power in the name of Jesus so often that even some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to imitate him by commanding demons, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches" (Acts 19:13). Throughout the history of the Church, Jesus' name has been invoked as an instrument of personal faith in the Son of God, especially to command demons or simply to pray to Jesus in a repetitive and personal way. The liturgical Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus has been celebrated by the Church for many centuries, especially within various religious orders. In the fifteenth century, Saint Bernardine of Siena, a Franciscan friar, went on a preaching mission promoting devotion to the Most Holy Name. He encouraged people to revere Jesus' name by placing the first three Greek letters of His name on their doors: IHS. Today, this Greek monogram of Jesus' name is commonly seen in churches on tabernacles, altars, and in stained glass windows. In the sixteenth century, Saint Ignatius of Loyola had such a strong devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus that he adopted it as his seal as general of his newly founded order of the Jesuits; that monogram remains the Jesuits' official seal today. There is great power in the spoken name of Jesus. Repeating His name prayerfully or speaking it aloud brings Him close and gives you strength, provided you recite His name in faith. The name of Jesus casts out fear, arouses trust, and unites your heart to His. Sadly, the Most Holy Name of Jesus is so holy that the evil one often tempts people to invoke it as a curse when angry, without even considering what they are doing.

As we celebrate this holy memorial today, ponder the prayer below that is attributed to Saint Bernardine of Sienna, the Franciscan who spoke so fervently of Jesus' name. Also, take time to close your eyes and prayerfully repeat His name over and over. As you go about your day, anytime you feel anxious or fearful, speak the name of Jesus. Know and believe that the divine name of our Lord brings Him close to you and bestows His grace in abundance.

***Prayer**: Jesus, Name full of glory, grace, love, and strength! You are the refuge of those who repent, our banner of warfare in this life, the medicine of souls, the comfort of those who mourn, the delight of those who believe, the light of those who preach the true faith, the wages of those who toil, the healing of the sick. To You our devotion aspires; by You our prayers are received; we delight in contemplating You. O Name of Jesus, You are the glory of all the saints for eternity. Amen.*

Remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick, that they may find health and comfort:

Awyn Profit, Jack Orlando, Steven Joyce, Judy Hanley-Brickner, John Wrenn, Augustin Cisneros, James Nunez, Vincent Wytak, John & Carol Ross, Jeffrey Hyans, Marie LoVolpe, Jessica St. Preux, Al Ciani, Alesha Moses, Nancy McCaffrey, Christopher Wojtalik, Theresa Pacheco, William Goss, Luke Pacheco, Vincenza Papa, Jim Schneggenburger, Anthony Criscuolo, Samantha O'Sullivan, Marilyn Miller, Pat Gravino, John Carmody, Rosario Duran, Vivian Papa, Joel Steinmann, Anna Governali, Tim Graham, Antonio Postiglione, Mario Tamburello, Christopher Araimo, Charles Principato, Jim Kreitler, Humberto Cordova, John Schakir, Margaret Culhane, Benedicto Randazzo, Angelo Niakas, Peter Lopez, 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.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

December 29, 2024

"Let the peace of Christ control your hearts."

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

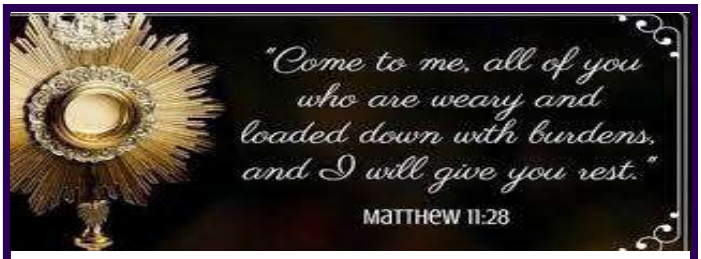
Parish Mission Statement

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:

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts.

Our readings today point to the importance of reverencing one another with respect and charity. We are to honor our parents and *let the peace of Christ control (our) hearts*. We are to *put on love* and strive always to live with gratitude.



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.

Mass Attendance for December 22-23, 2024:

5:00PM	101
8:00AM	36
9:30AM	171
11:00AM	107
12:30PM	40

Total: 455

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

"See what lov the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God, and so we are" (John 3:1)

Wishing our parish family and friends. HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

Memorials for the Week of December 29, 2024

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Loving Memory of
Jennifer Ronacher
Requested by
Davina Gelber

ALTAR CANDLES

In Loving Memory of
Benedetta Galati
Requested By
Anna Kril

Saturday, January 4, 2025, 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.

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.

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 12/21-12/22	**$4,738.00**
Fuel	***$1,335.00***
Gift to Church to Date	***$12,474.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Our church is decorated beautifully for the celebration of Christmas.

On behalf of all the parish and myself, I want to express my appreciation and thanks to Nancy Annunciata, Maureen Mullaney, Giana Vos, Christopher Saldarriaga and Louis McElwaine for the wonderful job they did in helping us celebrate the birth of Christ.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2024
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

We are coming to the end of the Annual Catholic Appeal for this year of 2024. If you have donated to the Appeal, I thank you for your support. If you have not given to the Appeal, please consider a donation to support our parish reaching its goal. Our goal is $41,679 and as of December 16th we have pledged $33521.76 and paid $32, 514.76. Thank you to all who have supported the Appeal this year. I appreciate your sacrifices in supporting our parish in this appeal.

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.

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

Money goes back to your local parish

My Car Went To Heaven

DONATE YOUR AUTO
Running or Not

• IRS Tax Deduction • Free Towing
• Any Condition • Any Model

718-491-2525

Visit Us at svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org

Dear Fellow Parishioners,
Since 2014 alone, the Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn Donation Program has given back over $400,000 to local parishes throughout the New York Metropolitan Area. Your donation has helped many individuals in need in your neighborhood. Only through the generosity of countless parishioners are we able to make a difference. Please help us to continue to make a difference by spreading the word to anyone you know that would like to donate a vehicle, running or not leaving a review on Google, and liking us on Social Media. Together we can continue our mission in helping the less fortunate.

Help Spread the Word to help Those in Need!

Please Visit Us at svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org
Leave a Review on Google &
Like us on
Follow us on

With Much Thanks and Many Blessings,
Jim Shea
Associated Vincentian Charities Car Program Coordinator

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

December 29-January 4

Sunday, December 29
1:30PM Baptisms

Monday, December 30

Tuesday, December 31
Rectory Office Closed at 5:00PM
Masses at 9:00AM & 5:00PM
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 1
Rectory Office Closed
Masses at 9:00AM & 11:00AM

Thursday, January 2
Rectory Office Open 9:00AM-12:00PM
1:00PM-5:00PM

Friday, January 3
Rectory Office Open 9:00AM-12:00PM
1:00PM-5:00PM

Saturday, January 4
Rectory Office Open 9:00AM-2:00PM

NEXT WEEK

January 5-January 11

Sunday, January 5
The Feast of the Epiphany

Monday, January 6
12:00PM-Golden Age
7:00PM Adult Choir
7:00PM HAA Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 7
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 8
3:00PM Drama Club
7:00PM Baptism Class

Thursday, January 9
10:00AM-Legion of Mary
3:30PM-Jiu Jitsu
6:00PM-IACA
7:30PM-Scripture Study

Friday, January 10

Saturday, January 11
9:30AM-CYO Skill Training
6:00PM-Youth Group Meeting

Worship Schedule

Schedule of Masses

New Year's Eve—Tuesday, December 31st
9:00AM and 5:00PM Vigil Mass

New Year's Day—Wednesday, January 1st
9:00AM and 11:00AM

Many people in the parish participated in our Advent Giving Tree. Your generosity was truly an inspiration. Please know that you bought Christmas joy to many adults and children during this holy season. Thank you for your outreach for those in need.

May God bless each of you.

Parish Office Schedule

Please Note: There will be no evening hours on December 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.

Wishing you a Blessed New Year
From
Monsignor, The Deacons & Staff
of
St. Francis of Assisi

God Bless You At The New Year And Always

As we begin the new year of 2025, many of us also begin a new path in life with hope and confidence. Often many of us make new year's resolutions in the hope of starting over. With a new year beginning we see an opportunity to begin again with courage, enthusiasm and hope to live up to the resolutions we make.

The start of a new year reminds us that no matter what our mistakes or sins have been in the past, we can always begin anew. The opportunity to make a new start is one of God's greatest gifts. We have been blessed with a new year that brings with it another chance to change our ways and rid ourselves of anything that hinders us from seeing the face of God. How blessed are we as we gather this day to celebrate mass on this first day of 2025. We are here to begin again; to look toward the future with hope, confidence and joy. We gather to pray to Jesus who saves us, to listen to the words of eternal life, and to become one with our loving God.

The message born in a stable at Bethlehem years ago is the same message given to us this day. God is good! Our Savior has come! And because of this glorious message, we have been given a chance for a new start. As the Blessed Mother reflected on these events in her heart, may we do the same during the coming months. May this new year be filled with God's blessings and goodness. May our faith in the new born King serve as a support on our faith journey.

May you and your loved ones have a Healthy and Blessed New Year!

Msgr. Maresca

JANUARY 2025
LECTOR MINISTER SCHEDULE

	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	JANUARY 4-5	JANUARY 11-12	JANUARY 18-19	JANUARY 25-26
LECTORS				
Saturday 5:00PM	Edward Kubina	Debbi Skinner	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski
Sunday 8:00 AM	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz
Sunday 9:30 AM	Josephine Corso	Martha O'Toole	Maria Brooks	Patrick O'Toole
Sunday 11:00 AM	Carol Hickey	Carol Hickey	Carol Hickey	Carol Hickey
Sunday 12:30 PM	Anna Marie Del Carro	Jackie Machia	Anna Maria Tenaglia	Maria Bruno
MINISTERS				
Saturday 5:00PM	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sunday 8:00 AM	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sunday 9:30 AM	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sunday 11:00 AM	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sunday 12:30 PM	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

*** REMINDER ***

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

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

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

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
cordially invites you to our
95th Anniversary Dinner Dance
October 19, 2025

Russo's on the Bay
162-45 Cross Bay Blvd.
Howard Beach, NY 11414

Cocktail Hour 12:30pm, Dinner immediately following until 5:30pm
Tickets: Adults: $150, Children: ages 5 to 12- $75, Toddlers: ages 2-4 $30

Please reserve a seat(s) at the Dinner Dance for:

1. _____

or

We would like to make up a table:

1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

5._____

6. _____

Tables of 10 or 12 are available but smaller groups will be accommodated and incorporated.

Please complete this form, enclose your **check** made payable to St. Francis of Assisi Parish and return it to the academy or rectory by September 2, 2025.

Name: _____

Address _____

email_____ Phone # _____

Bus service will be available at an additional cost of $20 per person
Bus departs from the front of school at approximately 11:30am

☐ Yes, I am interested in bus service for #_____ people

CYO St. Francis of Assisi

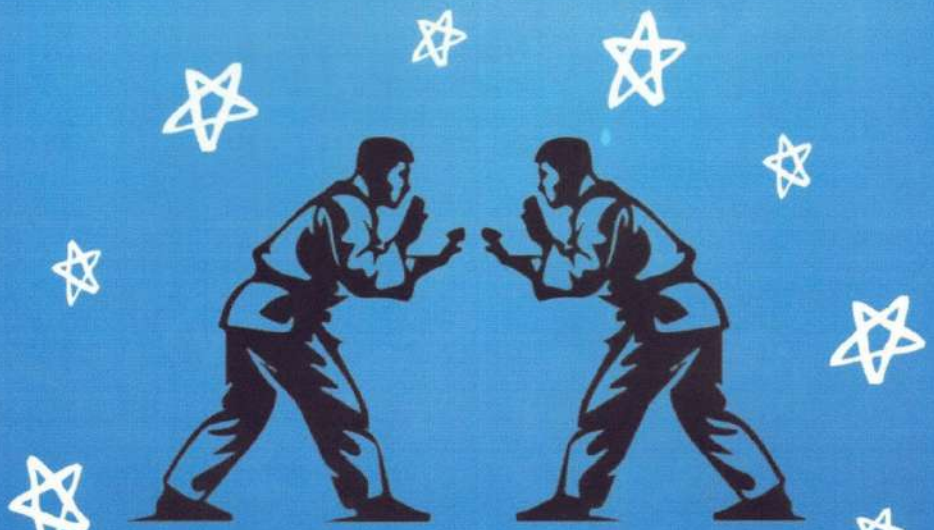
JIU JITSU

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