The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, January 19 – The Second Sunday In Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. The Teklits Family
9:30 A.M. Linda Efstratiou
11:00A.M. For the People of St. Francis
12:30 P.M. Saint Anthony Abate

MONDAY, January 20–Saint Sebastian
9:00 A.M. Carmela Messina

TUESDAY, January 21-Saint Agnes
9:00 A.M. Susan Camenzulli

WEDNESDAY, January 22– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Kraig Smith (Living)

THURSDAY, January 23–Saint Vincent
9:00 A.M. Robert Gavila (Living)

FRIDAY, January 24-Saint Francis de Sales
9:00 A.M. Alex Humen

SATURDAY, January 25-Conversion of Saint Paul
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society

5:00P.M. Denis Sweeney

SUNDAY, January 26– Third Sunday In Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Alex Humen
9:30 A.M. Willian Corcoran
11:00 A.M. The Musluk Family
12:30P.M. For the People of St. Francis
Giuseppe Carlino

Today's Readings

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter."* So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. After this, he and his mother, [his] brothers, and his disciples went down to Capernaum and stayed there only a few days. **(John 2:1-11)**

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Hebrews:5:1-10
Mark 2:18-22

TUESDAY: Hebrews 6:10-20
Mark 2:23-28

WEDNESDAY: Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17
Mark 3:1-6

THURSDAY: Hebrews 7:25-8:6
Mark 3:7-12

FRIDAY: Hebrews 8:6-13
Mark 3:13-19

SATURDAY: Acts 22:3-16
Mark 16:15-18

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

Cana was in the vicinity of Nazareth where Jesus had grown up. His mother was invited to a wedding, and Jesus and his disciples were also there. John's Gospel uses this simple, family event to open our minds to some profound insight. The supply of wine ran short at the reception and Jesus' mother intervened; was seemingly rebuffed; and yet she told the attendants to do whatever Jesus told them to do. We thought we were just looking in on a reception, but John reveals mysteries to us that continue to envelop our lives today.

Our lectionary combines the gospel event with a passage from Isaiah filled with marriage allusions, depicting God's desires for his people. The marriage covenant had, throughout the long history of Israel, been a favorite way to describe God's special love and delight in his people. God shall rejoice in you is both an assurance for us today, and a challenge. Can we hear such words as truly addressed to us? We are the people of God called to be his own, to be followers of Jesus and to know that, in the words of the headwaiter in today's Gospel, we share the best wine that has been saved until now. In our long liturgical history, wine has always been a symbol to us of the lifeblood of Jesus poured out for us. This is the love that envelopes us. The Gospel concludes by telling us that the *disciples began to believe in him.* This was just the beginning of their faith journey. As they stayed and traveled with Jesus they would come to deeper insights.

We, likewise, are on a journey of faith. We gather today because we believe and rejoice in the Risen Lord Jesus speaking to us and encouraging us to follow him. Jesus continues to call us beyond all human understanding, into a deeper sharing in the Paschal Mystery. We strive to remember that God always delights in us and wants us to be with him. Paul reminds us in Corinthians today that we all have unique gifts to offer for the encouragement and strengthening of our sisters and brothers on this same journey. We never travel alone!

The image of family and friends gathered at a wedding feast shows us that we are all in this together. We have gifts to share, for God's Spirit has been poured out on us. Today we are invited to share the joy of a great wedding banquet and reception; Jesus is there with his disciples and he wants us to be there with them to participate to the fullest.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

Tuesday, January 21, 2025
The Feast of
Saint Agnes

Agnes was born into a noble Christian family in Rome. She was said to have been quite beautiful, which caused many young noblemen to seek her as their bride. But Agnes' eyes beheld One Who was the most beautiful of all—her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She dedicated herself to a life of virginity. This was neither well received nor well understood by the young men of her time. Agnes was reported to the local prefect Sempronius for being a Christian, in an attempt to dissuade her from her vow of chastity. The prefect first tried to convince Agnes to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods. She refused. Her heart was firm in its devotion to her Beloved. He then tried to frighten her by displaying some instruments of torture. Agnes showed no fear and refused to burn incense to false gods. The prefect ordered that she be taken to brothels to be violated by immoral men. During these ordeals, Agnes knew her Heavenly Spouse would protect her. Evil men could stain their swords with her blood, but they could never profane her body consecrated to Christ. At the brothels, the men looked at her with lust from a distance, but were more frightened of her than she was of them. None dared approach her. None dared defile her. One man did approach her, only to be struck blind and brought to the ground. Through a prayer spoken by Agnes, his sight was restored. The prefect, having failed to convert Agnes to paganism, or to defile her body, then condemned her to a death by beheading. Agnes willingly offered her neck to the executioner, who trembled with fear as he approached, while she was as joyful as a bride waiting to meet her Bridegroom. St. Agnes, along with St. Cecilia, was one of the earliest martyrs whose name was honored by its insertion into the Roman Canon. Her name in Latin means "lamb." Since the sixteenth century, every year on her feast day two lambs are brought to the basilica built over her tomb. Their wool is shorn and weaved into pallia, vestments covering the shoulders. These very pallia are later placed on the shoulders of archbishops by the pope himself on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Along with his crozier, or staff, the pallium symbolizes a bishop's role as shepherd.

Friday, January 24, 2025
The Feast of
Saint Francis de Sales

Francis was destined by his father to be a lawyer so that the young man could eventually take his elder's place as a senator from the province of Savoy in France. For this reason Francis was sent to Padua to study law. After receiving his doctorate, he returned home and, in due time, told his parents he wished to enter the priesthood. His father strongly opposed Francis in this, and only after much patient persuasiveness on the part of the gentle Francis did his father finally consent. Francis was ordained and elected provost of the Diocese of Genevas. At 35, he became bishop of Geneva. While administering his diocese he continued to preach, hear confessions, and catechize the children. His gentle character was a great asset in winning souls. He practiced his own axiom, "A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar." Besides his two well-known books, the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and *A Treatise on the Love of God*, he wrote many pamphlets and carried on a vast correspondence. For his writings, he has been named patron of the Catholic Press. His writings, filled with his characteristic gentle spirit, are addressed to lay people. He wants to make them understand that they too are called to be saints. As he wrote in *The Introduction to the Devout Life*: "It is an error, or rather a heresy, to say devotion is incompatible with the life of a soldier, a tradesman, a prince, or a married woman…. It has happened that many have lost perfection in the desert who had preserved it in the world."

In spite of his busy and comparatively short life, he had time to collaborate with another saint, Jane Frances de Chantal, in the work of establishing the Sisters of the Visitation. These women were to practice the virtues exemplified in Mary's visit to Elizabeth: humility, piety, and mutual charity. They at first engaged to a limited degree in works of mercy for the poor and the sick. Today, while some communities conduct schools, others live a strictly contemplative life.

Collect of the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

God our Creator,
we give thanks to you,
who alone have
the power to impart
the breath of life
as you form each of us
in our mother's womb;
grant, we pray, that we whom you have
made stewards of creation,
may remain faithful to this sacred trust
and constant in safeguarding
the dignity of every human life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives
and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection Of Unborn Children

January 22, 2025

Saturday, January 25, 2025
The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle

Paul was born a Jew in the Roman city of Tarsus, in modern-day Turkey. On the eighth day, he was circumcised and received the Hebrew name Saul. At a young age, Saul began to study the Law of Moses. When Saul was in his early twenties, Jesus began His public ministry during which He challenged the rigid interpretations that the Pharisees taught about the Law of Moses. Jesus was crucified three years later when Saul was about twenty-five. Now a Pharisee himself, Saul was diametrically opposed to Jesus' teachings, believing that they were in opposition to the Law of Moses After Jesus' crucifixion, Saul zealously devoted himself to persecuting those who were Jesus' followers. Even when his own teacher recommended the followers of Jesus be ignored, Saul could not hold himself back. The earliest documented martyrdom in the Church after Jesus' death took place with Saul's consent, when those who stoned St. Stephen laid their cloaks at Saul's feet as Saul looked on. After that, Saul received a letter of permission from the high priest in Jerusalem to go beyond the city, searching from house to house to arrest those who followed Jesus, bringing them back in chains to stand trial. As he took this letter of permission with him on a journey to Damascus, Saul had an experience that would not only change his life forever but also change the entire world. "On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He said, 'Who are you, sir?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting'" (Acts 9:3–5). With that, Saul was blinded and had to be led into the city of Damascus, where he stayed for three days, fasting, praying, and pondering this encounter. In that city was a disciple of Jesus named Ananias. Ananias knew about Saul's persecution of the Church and feared him greatly. But Jesus appeared to Ananias and told him to go to Saul, lay his hands on him, heal him, and baptize him. Jesus explained that "this man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites, and I will show him what he will have to suffer for my name" (Acts 9:15–16). Ananias did as he was instructed, and Saul listened, converted, was baptized, and began a new life as an apostle of the Lord Jesus. Eventually Saul began to use his Roman name "Paul" rather than his Hebrew name. Our feast today not only celebrates Saint Paul, it specifically celebrates his conversion. Think about that glorious conversion. Those three days that Saul spent in Damascus after encountering Jesus on the road changed his life. During those three days, he pondered Jesus' words, fasted, prayed, listened, thought, and changed. Facing the truth within his soul might not have been easy, but he did it. From that time on, the zeal that he had poured into persecution became zeal for the spreading of the Gospel. He traveled far and wide, proclaiming Jesus as the Christ. Over the approximately twenty-seven years that followed, Paul became the greatest evangelist I n the history of the world. At least thirteen of the twenty-seven New Testament books are attributed to Paul, providing us with much of what we know about Jesus. His letters are rich in theology, providing the most sturdy foundation for all that we believe as Christians today. Paul personally founded more than a dozen Christian communities during his missionary travels. Paul was tireless in his efforts, despite enduring much suffering.

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, 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.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 19, 2025

"Do you know that your bodies are members of Christ."

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

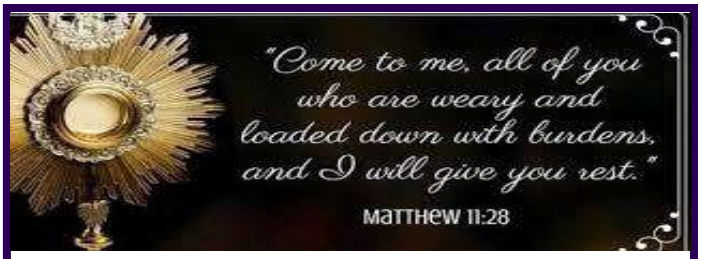
Parish Mission Statement

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's love and care for us knows no bounds.

It is comforting to know that within the kingdom of God, all will be well in the end. Isaiah tells us pf God's promise to Zion—which we know to be fulfilled in His Son, Jesus. And Jesus, whose ministry on earth was visible and transformative, takes care to ensure that the wedding feast is not spoiled while demonstrating that what He offers us is superior to anything the world may offer. God's care for us knows no bounds, and the goodness we experience here is but a taste of what is to come.



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

WELCOME to Father Mattia Magoni. Father will be in residence at St. Francis of Assisi from January to June 2025. Father is a professor at the John XXIII seminary in the Diocese of Bergamo, Italy.
His Bishop has given him permission to come here and finish his work on his Doctorate. He will not have any pastoral responsibilities but will assist in celebrating Mass.
We pray his stay will be fruitful.

Mass Attendance for

January 11/12, 2025

5:00PM	**110**
8:00AM	**45**
9:30AM	**201**
11:00AM	**107**
12”30PM	**40**
	Total: 503

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

“Do not be deceived my beloved brothers: all giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change” (James 1:16)

Dear SFA Friends and Family

The SFA Scripture Study Group will meet on Thursday, January 23rd from 7:20-8:50 in the St. Joseph room of the rectory. Our study begins with thel Letter of James 1-2. We hope you will join us.

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

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.

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 1/11-1/12 **$4,215.00**

School parents must use church envelopes.

Part Time Cook

Anyone interested in a cooking position part time, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, just dinner, please contact the rectory at 718-728-7801.

Catholic Schools Week

Our annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week begins next Sunday, January 26th, at the 11:00AM Mass. The second collection at all the masses will be used to initiate a fund for the renovation of the bathrooms in Msgr. Maresca Center (lower school). There is NO envelope for this purpose included in your monthly envelope packet. You can consult the Catholic Schools Week flyer in the Bulletin for further information.

Please be as generous as you means allows.

In celebration of Martin Luther King Day the School and Rectory office will be closed all day Monday, January 20th. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 21st AT 9:00am

Aid to the Church in Need

A Catholic charity under the guidance of the Holy Father

The collection for Churches in Need will be taken up the weekend of February 1st and 2nd. NOTE: The envelope for this collection is dated January 26th.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

January 19-January 25

Sunday, January 19
St. Antonio Abate Mass

Monday, January 20
Martin Luther King Day
Rectory Office and School Closed

Tuesday, January 21
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 22
Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
3:00PM Drama Club

Thursday, January 23
10:00AM-Legion of Mary
3:30PM-Jiu Jitsu
6:00PM-IACA
7:30PM-Scripture Study

Friday, January 24

Saturday, January 25
9:30AM CYO Skills Training

NEXT WEEK

January 26-February 1

Sunday, January 26
11:00AM -Opening of Catholic Schools Week
1:30PM Baptisms

Monday, January 27
12:00-Golden Age
3:00PM Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir
7:00PM CYO Training

Tuesday, January 28
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 29
3:00PM Drama Club

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

Friday, January 31

Saturday, February 1
9:00AM Anointing Mass
9:30AM-CYO Skill Training-MCH

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

Kathleen Devane: Ensuring Warm Welcomes and Devoted Service

Kathleen Devane serves as Head Usher at St. Francis of Assisi Church and has been an active member of our parish community her whole life. Kathleen started as a substitute usher 14 years ago, and her commitment and passion for service led her to become the Head Usher during the challenging times of the pandemic, a role she has embraced for the past three years.

Kathleen's responsibilities are vast and vital. As she explains, "The ushers are the first people that parishioners see when they come into the church." Acting as greeters, Kathleen and her team ensure that everyone feels welcomed and cared for from the moment they step through the doors. Beyond greeting, ushers organize the collections and offertory gifts, often asking for volunteers and ensuring the collections are properly managed. They also serve as an honor guard during significant events like Easter and Christmas, and manage crowd control during first communions, helping visitors understand and respect the mass and church safety rules.

One of Kathleen's most cherished memories is meeting Bishop Caggiano during confirmations. With a personal connection through her cousin Kenn Devane, who works for the Bishop, Kathleen fondly recalls the Bishop's engaging sermons and his ability to connect with the youth. "You are Kenn's cousin! Another Devane serving in the church!" the Bishop once remarked, highlighting the deep-rooted ties Kathleen has within our church community.

Kathleen's role is not just about logistics; it's about ensuring the smooth running of the mass and contributing to the spiritual experience of our parishioners. She finds joy in watching the children of the parish make their sacraments and takes pride in her organizational skills that help the mass run smoothly. "This is not a job but a religious service," she says, emphasizing her dedication to her role.

However, Kathleen faces challenges, particularly in finding more ushers to "wear the blazer" and assist at mass. The role of an usher is multifaceted, combining elements of a welcome wagon, honor guard, traffic cop, and concierge. Ushers are essential in maintaining the order and reverence of our services. They greet parishioners, assist with seating, manage collections, and ensure the overall smooth flow of the mass. Their presence is crucial, especially during busy services and special events.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Kathleen Devane for her unwavering dedication and service. Her efforts ensure that St. Francis of Assisi Church remains a welcoming and organized place of worship. If you have ever considered serving in this vital role, now is the time to step forward. Your service will be deeply appreciated and will make a significant impact on the spiritual life of our parish. If you are interested in becoming an usher, please reach out to Kathleen or the church office.

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

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy
21-18 46 Street
Astoria, NY
718 726-9405
www.sfaacademy.org

Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Celebrates Catholic Schools Week
January 26th – January 31st 2025

The national theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church's evangelizing mission. Building on the central goal of Catholic schools to form saints, Catholic schools teach and embrace the whole person, body, mind and spirit. The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith that Christ is the foundation of Catholic education, is what unites the school as a faith-filled community.

While faith is the binding element in Catholic schools, the Church reiterates that parents are the first teachers of their children. Holding this tenet, Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of school buildings to envelop the family as an integral part of the school community. Together teachers, administrators, staff, students and parents fuel the light of faith by integrating culture with faith and faith with living. The CSW logo symbolizes the United Community of Catholic schools – not a building or an institution, but people of faith serving God and others. Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community is a theme on which to build a spirit of the gospel to benefit the human family.

Our own SFACA theme for Catholic Schools Week is "We All Fit Together." Although we are a diverse community; we all fit together under the banner of our Catholic faith. Plan on visiting us at one of our Open Houses and see all the wonderful things our students are involved in. We look forward to celebrating and sharing our school and students with you.

Sunday, January 26

We begin Catholic Schools Week with Sunday Mass bringing together members of the parish and school community. SFACA benefits all year long from the religious guidance, prayers, and support our parish provides. **Please attend our CSW Opening Liturgy at 11:00 a.m. as we honor this year's Distinguished Graduate, Deacon Giovanni Messina, Class of 1980.** The donations collected from the second collection today will be used to create a fund for the renovation of the bathrooms in Msgr. Maresca Center. Please be as generous as your means allow. Students who join us today at Mass, in their school uniform, will enjoy a special dress down day just for them. **Immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Mass, please join us at our school's Open House from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Enjoy some light refreshments and pass by our SFACA Puzzle Display in Msgr. Maresca Center which focuses on how all of us here at SFACA fit together. Also, immediately following Mass, new families can tour the school with a Home and Academy Representative.**

Monday, January 27

A central aspect of Catholic Education is learning the importance of service to others. When students take part in service activities – both local and beyond – they demonstrate the values and faith they gain through their Catholic education and learn how to make the world a better place.

For our service project this year, SFACA will be accepting donations in support of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. ASAN believes that the goal of autism advocacy should be a world in which autistic people enjoy equal access, rights, and opportunities. They work to empower autistic people across the world to take control of their own lives and the future of their common community, and seek to organize the autistic community to ensure their voices are heard in a national conversation. Please support this noteworthy cause which will continue for the entire week. Check out further details on our ASAN flyer. **Today, both new and current families may join us for an Open House for all grades from 9:05 - 9:45am to visit their child's classroom for next year. Interested in a Summer Enrichment Program? Parents from grades 3K-2 are invited to join Camp Director, Maura Hili in the library at 8:15- 9:00am for an informational session.**

Tuesday, January 28

Today, **Student Appreciation Day**, Catholic schools prepare children to succeed by using their God-given talents to the fullest extent throughout their lives. CSW offers an opportunity for students to explore the many life paths that enable them to use their talents well.

Today, we celebrate Career Day. Selected parents will visit classrooms to share their work experience with our students. Students will also be treated to a Burger King Lunch and may dress down in BLUE in support of Autistic Self Advocacy Network. Please remember to send in your donation. In celebration of Student Appreciation Day students in all grades enjoy a day of No Homework!

Wednesday, January 29

Today is National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools. We pray for the continued success of Catholic Schools across our nation. In a special way, we pray for our own Catholic School as we strive to prepare students to appreciate the value of service to others. Today our 8th graders visit Broadway to see The Outsiders. Please support our fund raising efforts this week as we continue to accept donations in support of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. **Join us in Msgr. Campbell Hall at 10:00 a.m. for our Poetry Presentation. Grades 1-5 will be presenting poems based the attributes of unity and togetherness. Friends and family are invited to join us.**

Thursday, January 30

Today, we encourage our students to shine by participating in meaningful activities planned by their teachers. Come and see our Middle School students shine! **Grades 6, 7, and 8 will share their Living Wax Museum creations in Msgr. Campbell Hall. Friends and families can view the exhibit from 9:00am -10:00am. New families may join us at our Open House from 1:30pm - 2:00pm.**

Friday, January 31

Today, we celebrate our teachers and assistants who are the backbone of Catholic Schools. On this day, schools honor teachers, as well as staff, who support the school in its all important work. We thank God for our talented and dedicated faculty and staff. **Please join us at the 11:00 a.m. Mass as we pray for our faculty and staff, and the growth and prosperity of our school. We also pray, in a special way, for Msgr. Maresca as he celebrates 47 years of priesthood. Dismissal, for grades K-8, will be at 12:30 p.m and dismissal for 3K and PreK will be at 1:00.** We thank the many parents, grandparents, alumni, parishioners, and Academy Board Members who provide volunteer service. We are all so grateful for each one of you.

New student registration for the 2025 - 26 school year is
Tuesday, February 4th and Thursday, February 6th 10:00 - 11:00am and 1:00 - 2:00pm
or call the office for an appointment

REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Necessary documents include: Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, and current Immunization Record. A copy of the student's current report card, and most recent NYS Test scores and standardized test scores, IEP or IESP are also required, if applicable.

REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED

$275.00 non-refundable registration fee

This fee includes application processing, Home Academy dues, and student insurance.
This fee is payable by check or money order to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy.
Cash cannot be accepted.

3-K FOR ALL PRE-K FOR ALL

Registration for St. Francis of Assisi Free 3K For All Full Day Program
Children must be born in 2022 and turn 3 years old by 12/31/2025
Kindly create an account now on
NYC DOE WEBSITE: MySchools.nyc.
The portal is currently open for registration and closes on Feb. 28.

Registration for St. Francis of Assisi Free Pre-K For All Full Day Program
Children must be born in 2021 and turn 4 years old by 12/31/2025
Kindly create an account now on
NYC DOE WEBSITE: MySchools.nyc.
The portal is currently open for registration and closes on Feb. 28.

SFA
Success For All

www.sfaacademy.org

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

2024 TAX CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

All Parishioners who wish to receive a copy of their 2024 Tax Contribution statement must complete the attached form.

The forms can be returned by dropping them in the contribution basket during Mass or they can be dropped in the box on the front door of the rectory. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

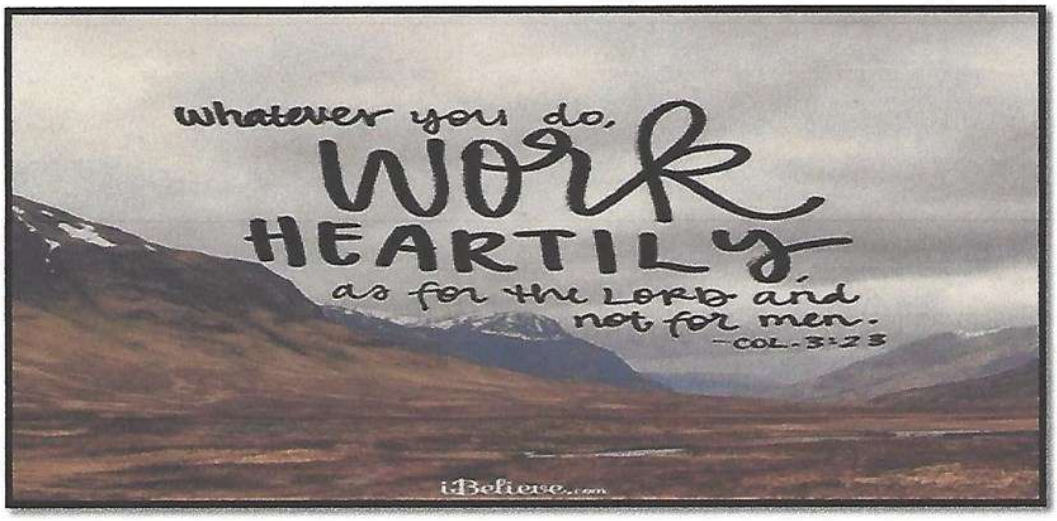
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____

ENVELOPE # _____



Astoria Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association

21-20 49th St. Astoria, NY 11105 (718) 721-3690

Facebook: Astoria, Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association Instagram: AstoriaHTBCA

Twitter: @betterastoria Website: www.betterastoria.com Email: betterastoria@gmail.com

Attention Members, Neighbors, and Friends:

Community Board 1 Information Night

January 22, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Pistilli Grand Manor

45-02 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria, NY

**** Please enter on 45th Street side entrance, right before the parking garage ****

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Evie Hantzopoulos

Chair, Queens Community Board 1

Deputy Inspector Seth Lynch

Commanding Officer, 114 Precinct

Join us and tell all your neighbors and friends. All are welcome!

Feel free to share throughout your social media ... Facebook, Instagram, Twitter /X

WORD SEARCH

J Y C J Z J E R U S A L E M
E Y R P B A N D A G E U D I
S U B E D W O U N D S V I N
U J O U R N E Y H Z L A O N
S E B A K L N E I G H B O R
X R Q S A M A R I T A N U Q
S I A B U X F D O N K E Y G
L C T U G D P R I E S T W K
E H C O M P A S S I O N V H
G O C A R E L J L E V I T E
A T H I E V E S M W I N E A
L D A Z G E X P E R T M K X

NEIGHBOR	DONKEY	LEVITE
JESUS	INN	SAMARITAN
LEGAL	CARE	JERUSALEM
EXPERT	COMPASSION	JERICHO
THIEVES	BANDAGE	JOURNEY
PRIEST	WINE	WOUNDS

COLOR IN THE WORDS