The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass Intentions

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

MONDAY, January 6–Saint Andre Bessette
9:00 A.M. Josephine Gramenidis

TUESDAY, January 7-Saint Raymond of Penyafort
9:00 A.M. Edward Carus

WEDNESDAY, January 8– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Francis Muscat

THURSDAY, January 9–Weekday
9:00 A.M. Samuel Rocconi-Smith (Living)

FRIDAY, January 10-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Alex Humen

SATURDAY, January 11-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Josephine & Charles Formosa

5:00P.M. Maryann Rickert

SUNDAY, January 12– The Baptism of the Lord
8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00 A.M. Cory Sultana
12:30P.M. Yolanda Palazzolo

Today's Readings

The Epiphay of the Lord

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

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.
(Matthew 2:1-12)

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: 1 John:3:22-4"6
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

TUESDAY: 1 John 4:7-10
Mark 6:34-44

WEDNESDAY: 1 John 4:11-18
Mark 6:45-52

THURSDAY: 1 John 4:19-5:4
Luke 4:14-22a

FRIDAY: 1 John 5:5-13
Luke 5:12-16

SATURDAY: 1 John 5:14-21
John 3:22-30

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. In many cultures, todays celebration is at least as important as that of Christmas, and in those same cultures, gifts are traditionally exchanged on this day instead of December 25th.This practice is in recognition of the gifts that the Three Wise Men or Magi brought to the newborn Christ child.

Although you may not have received everything on your Christmas list, today's Solemnity highlights the truth that we know deep in our hearts, the best and most important gift is not anything we give or receive, it is nothing we can buy at the mall or the marketplace. It is the gift we receive in the person of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh who came into the world to save and redeem us. And that gift is conferred upon us yet again today as we prepare to receive the Real Presence, the body and blood, soul and divinity of Christ in the Eucharist.

At the same time, we acknowledge today that Jesus Christ did not just come into the world just for you or for me. He came for all people who long for salvation and redemption. So today's celebration summons us to join the Magi in proclaiming what we heard in today's second reading: *that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel!*

But today's celebration is not just about receiving the gift of Jesus. It is also about learning to share that gift with others. By virtue of our Baptism, we share in the responsibility not only to live for Christ and live like Christ, we are to love Christ and to love like Christ. More than that, we are called to live out the commitment of our baptismal promises by being and bearing the presence of Christ to others in what we do, what we say, and how we treat others. We can be Christ like in many ways.

Just as the Magi traveled far and wide to visit and pay homage to the newborn child, so do we praise and worship Christ as we gather each Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist and are sent forth to take Christ to the world.

Whether or not you received everything you wanted this Christmas, all of us have received the greatest gift of all- ***our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*** As we partake of that gift once again today, may we be strengthened in our own personal faith and in the commitment to live our faith each and every day by sharing Christ with others.

All the Blessings of the Newborn King,
Msgr. Maresca

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

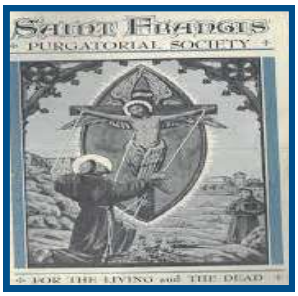
January 5, 2025

Welcome New Parishioners

We welcome those who registered in our parish during the month of December 2024.

Lorenzo Di Pompo
Orlagh Flynn
Michael Cunningham

Purgatorials



The following names have been enrolled in our Purgatorial Society for the month of November and December 2024. Please remember to continue to pray for their families.

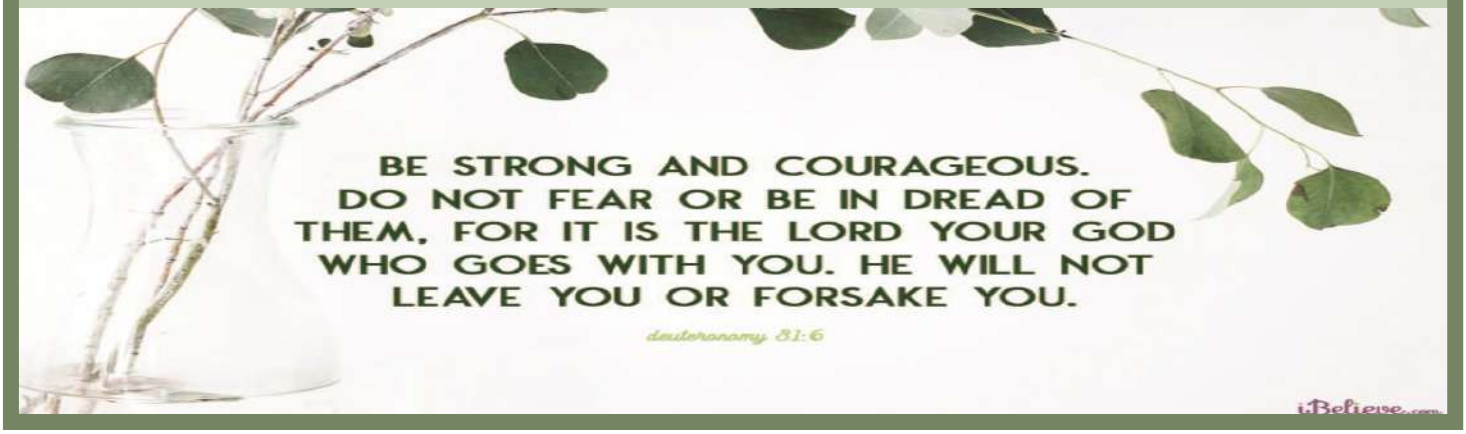
Anita Hackney

Recently Deceased

The following have passed away during the months of November and December 2024. We continue to pray for the recently deceased members of our parish.

Thomas A. Schnupp
Joseph Schatzle
Henry E. Greve Jr.
Alex Humen
May Becker
Linda Efstratiou
Eileen Siletti

We ask for your mercy and grace for them, and for all the faithful departed. May they rest in peace and enjoy the fullness of your love and presence.



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 Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2025

"Rise up in splendor! Your light has come."

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

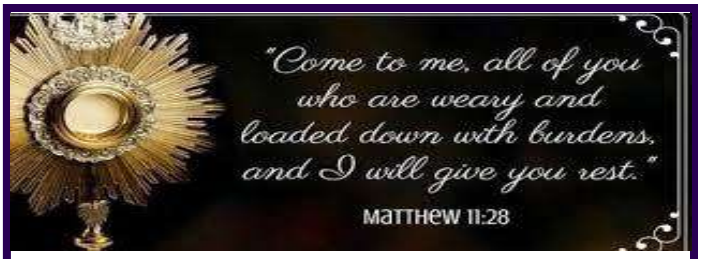
Parish Mission Statement

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:

God has revealed a great light in the darkness.

As we celebrate Epiphany, our readings today remind us of the power of God's revelation. Throughout history, God has promised salvation. Today we celebrate some of the first witnesses of this great event, the Magi. May we deepen our faith as we, too, journey to be closer to Christ.



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.

Holy Name Society

On Sunday, January 12th, the 8:00am Mass is the Holy Name Mass. The mission of the Holy Name Society is to promote devotion and reverence for the Holy Name of God and Jesus. What better way than to participate in the Holy Name Monthly Mass. All are invited.

Mass Attendance for

December 28/29, 2024

5:00PM	**97**
8:00AM	**39**
9:30AM	**93**
11:00AM	**114**
12”30PM	**40**
	Total: 383

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

“From His fullness we have all received grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:16-17)

Wishing our parish family and friends.
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear SFA Friends and Family

The SFA Scripture Study Group will meet on Thursday, January 9th from 7:20-8:50 in the St. Joseph room of the rectory. 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

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.

Christmas Offering:	**$4,456.00**
Catholic Charity	***$514.00***
Sunday 12/28-12/29	**$3,192.00**
Gift to Church to Date	***$15,529.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

50/50 December 2024 Winners

First Prize
Marylou Pusung & Steve Malecki

Second Prize
Marie Urem

Third Prize
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Ward

Congratulations!

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS 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

NEXT WEEK

January 12-January 18

Sunday, January 12
The Baptism of the Lord
9:30AM Pre-Communion Mass
10:40AM CCD

Monday, January 13
12:00PM-Golden Age
3:00PM Children's Choir
3:30 CYO Sign Ups-MCH
7:00PM Adult Choir
7:00PM Footwork Training

Tuesday, January 14
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 15
3:00PM Drama Club

Thursday, January 16
10:00AM-Legion of Mary
3:30PM-CYOSign Ups-MCH
6:00PM-IACA
7:30PM-Scripture Study

Friday, January 17

Saturday, January 18

JANUARY 2025
LECTOR MINISTER SCHEDULE

	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 4-5	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 11-12	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 18-19	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 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	----------	Ray Conlon	----------	----------
Sunday 8:00 AM	----------	----------	----------	----------
Sunday 9:30 AM	----------	----------	Theresa Mincone	Sharon Costanza
Sunday 11:00 AM	Kelsey Mistretta	----------	Jane Esposito	TBD
Sunday 12:30 PM	Nicoletta Cosentino	Giuseppina Sfersazza	----------	Antonella Tomasello

*** REMINDER ***

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

Growing in FAITH™

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

January 2025

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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

One Minute Meditations

St. André Bessette

Born in Montreal, Canada, St. Alfred Bessette was orphaned at the age of twelve. He was mentored by Fr. André Provençal, who inspired him to join religious life. He joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross at twenty-five, becoming "Brother André," and was the doorkeeper for their school. During an epidemic, everyone in his care was miraculously healed with oil from a lamp lit before St. Joseph. With help and donations, he built an oratory to St. Joseph.

Holy simplicity

Holy simplicity, or "spiritual childhood," starts with being who you are and not trying to be who you're not — even in prayer. When we're open-hearted with God, His grace can change our hearts. We grow in humility, trust, and love — the roots of "tough" virtues like courage, perseverance, and faithfulness.

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45).

© Copyright 2025 Success Publishing & Media, LLC All Rights Reserved

7 resolutions to transform your New Year

The New Year is a chance to come closer to becoming the person you are meant to be. As you embrace the new beginning, consider these seven resolutions to allow God's love to transform your life.

1. **Trust Him:** Trust in God is the foundation of a peaceful soul. Start each day praying, "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I surrender myself to You; Take care of everything," and He will.

2. **Embrace authentic humility:** A humble heart chooses others first. Ask, "How can I best love this person?" and let your actions reflect that answer.

3. **Partner with your guardian angel:** Your guardian angel is always with you, offering guidance and protection (Matthew 18:10). Call upon your angel daily for heavenly help.

4. **Practice self-discipline:** Small sacrifices can lead to profound transformation. Skip cream in your coffee, offer someone full attention, cut back on screen time.

5. **Seek out silence:** God often speaks in silence. Find silence in your day to rest in God's presence, and let Him renew your spirit.

6. **Deepen your knowledge of our Faith:** Faith blossoms with understanding. Look through the Catechism until something interests you, and dive deeper.

7. **Offer God your free time:** If you have an hour to yourself, spend five minutes in prayer. No time spent with Love, Himself, is ever wasted.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have two versions of the Creed?

The Apostles' Creed is the summary of the beliefs of the early Church. The Nicene Creed is an expanded form of the Apostles' Creed and comes from two great Church councils (Nicaea, 325 and Constantinople, 381). Intended to combat Arianism, the Nicene Creed emphasizes Jesus' divinity and divine Sonship (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #465). As a communal profession of faith, the Nicene Creed affirms the core beliefs of the Church and unites the congregation in a shared declaration of truth.

A proven way to grow in friendship with God

Do you long to feel God's love more deeply but find something holding you back? St. Ignatius of Loyola shared this struggle, inspiring him to create a transformative daily practice. This practice can help you live with greater joy in your journey with Christ:

1. **Give thanks**: Reflect on the blessings of your day. Pause to savor them and offer heartfelt gratitude.
2. **Seek clarity**: Ask God for the grace to recognize your sins and remove them from your heart.
3. **Examine your day**: Review your actions from waking until now. Reflect on how sin crept in, the virtues you may need to cultivate, and areas of your life that need God's healing touch.
4. **Ask for mercy**: Come to God in repentance. His mercy welcomes you back, and Scripture assures us that Heaven rejoices over every contrite heart (Luke 15:7).
5. **Resolve to grow**: Commit to loving God and others more fully tomorrow. Plan how to resist temptation, make an effort to amend relationships, or prepare for Confession if needed.

from Scripture

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21; Not the Messiah they expected ...

In this passage, Jesus returned home to Nazareth to teach in the synagogue. He read the prophecy of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah, who would *"bring glad tidings to the poor."* Then He said, *"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."* He confirmed that He was the long-awaited Messiah.

His hearers must have been shocked: they expected the Messiah to be a worldly king from an important city, not a carpenter-turned-preacher from a small town like Nazareth. They expected this Messiah-king to defeat the oppressive Romans and make Israel a powerful nation. Instead, Jesus conquered the even greater enemies of sin and death by His Death and Resurrection.

Throughout the Bible, God chose unlikely heroes to carry out His plans: think of Abraham, Moses, David, St. Peter, St. Paul, and many others. Jesus, the Son of God, came to Earth as a newborn infant and lived in humility, poverty, and service. The Good News is that God's love is stronger than sin and death. If He rose to glory, those who follow Him faithfully will, too.

Feasts & Celebrations

January 3 – The Holy Name of Jesus. In January we celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus. *"... At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth"* (Philippians 2:10).

January 7 – St. Raymond of Peñafort (1275). St. Raymond studied canon (Church) law before joining the Dominican Order. He worked for Pope Gregory IX, then was appointed archbishop of Tarragona, Spain. Afterwards, he was elected head of the Dominicans. He retired two years later.

January 23 – St. Vincent of Saragossa (304). Born in Saragossa, Spain, St. Vincent trained as a deacon under Bishop Valerius. During the Diocletian persecutions, St. Vincent and the bishop were captured. St. Vincent was tortured but refused to deny Christ.

a – Saints Timothy and Titus (1st century). St. Timothy was converted by St. Paul and became his trusted friend, joining him in apostolic work, especially at Corinth. St. Titus served the early Church as a peacemaker and as administrator to a community on Crete.

Q & A

Does fervent prayer change God's mind?

Prayer doesn't change God's mind, as if He had to be persuaded to love us. God is a good Father, and He is our Father who knows how to give good gifts (Matthew 7:9-11). Yet, prayer is still powerful and worthwhile for other reasons:

Prayer changes us: God rewards persistent, faith-filled prayer: "Lord, I entrust this to you. Thy Will be done." When we persevere in prayer, grace goes to work in our souls: our desires are purified, ordered, and sometimes even deepened. Our hearts are gradually brought into line with God's, and we begin to see, choose, and love like He does.

Prayer is relationship: A read through Scripture shows God seems to enjoy involving many "co-conspirators" in His plans, even today. He doesn't need us yet desires our (active) involvement in His plans. He has the final say, but wants to hear our thoughts, questions, and concerns. God didn't make us to be robots but His children and heirs (Galatians 4:6-7). Prayer isn't magic. It's way more powerful.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of *Growing in Faith*™ and *Partners in Faith*™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
http://www.infaithpublishing.com

(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New American Bible - Revised*)

© Copyright 2025 Success Publishing & Media, LLC All Rights Reserved

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

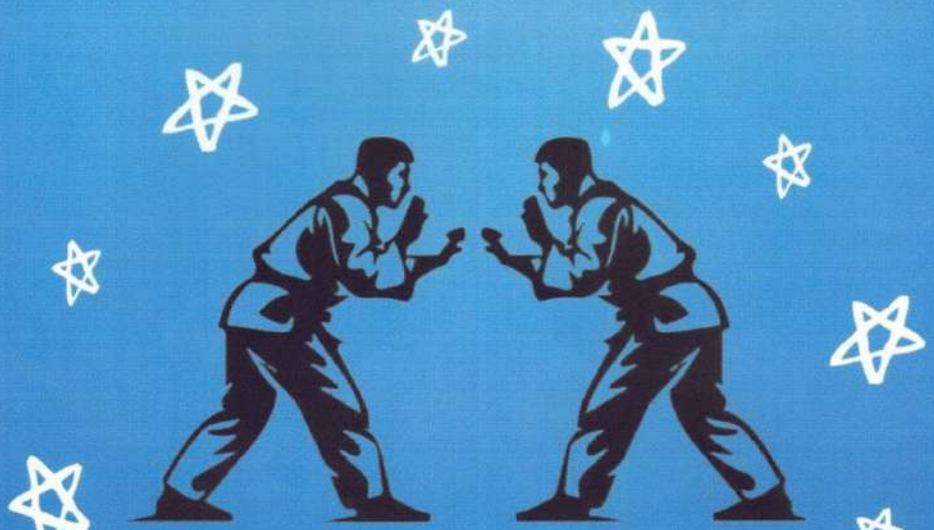
JIU JITSU

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