The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, February 16 – The Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Msgr. Stefan Geosits
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00A.M. Suzanne Diguglielmo
12:30 P.M. Adelina Sarchese
Rino Del Carro
Concetta & Giuseppe Saracini
Rosa Spiridigliozzi

MONDAY, February 17–The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
9:00 A.M. Lt. Robert B. Cruz

TUESDAY, February 18-Wekday
9:00 A.M. Suzanne Diguglielmo

WEDNESDAY, February 19– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Suzanne Diguglielmo

THURSDAY, February 20–Weekday
9:00 A.M. Suzanne Diguglielmo

FRIDAY, February 21 -Saint Peter Damian
9:00 A.M. John "Barry" Donovan

SATURDAY, February 22-The Chair of St. Peter
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Richard Conlon

5:00P.M. Mary & John Garofalo

SUNDAY, February 23– The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. The Cseri Family
9:30 A.M. Elvira Martucci
11:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
12:30P.M. Francis Gallotti
Mario Conte
Rino Del Carro
Sister Maria Rita Zucchetto

Today's Readings

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 17:5-8
1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Luke 6:17, 20-26

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases. Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed *are you* poor, For yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed *are you* who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed *are you* who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile *you,* and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward *is* great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full, for you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets
(Luke 6:17, 20-26)

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Genesis:4:1-15
Mark 8:11-13

TUESDAY: Genesis 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10
Mark 8:14-21

WEDNESDAY: Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22
Mark 8:22-26

THURSDAY: Genesis 9:1-13
Mark 8:27-33

FRIDAY: Genesis 11:1-9
Mark 8:34-9:1

SATURDAY: 1 Peter 5:1-4
Matthew 16:13-19

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Luke 6:27-38

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

The Academy Awards are full of movies that have won the award in past years. One of many viewers' all-time favorites is the 1956 biblical epic, "The Ten Commandments". The story is well-known to us. Moses leads the Hebrews out of bondage in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. As a blockbuster movie it is full of great cinematography, suspense, intrigue, and good acting. Among the most memorable scenes is surely the moment when God gives Moses the tablets on which are written the Ten Commandments, and Moses brings them down from the mountaintop to the people. At this very moment the people of Israel are given a choice. They can either choose to return to the bondage of slavery or continue to freedom in a new relationship with the God who has liberated them. The meaning of this new covenant relationship is captured in the simple words: "I will be your God and you will be my people."

We get a glimpse of something similar happening in today's Gospel. The crowd gathered before Jesus had differing life stories, some seeking to escape from the oppression of their own guilt, others from the bondage of sickness and grief. Yet, all were in search of something new, some word of hope, a new beginning! What message will this new prophet and teacher bring? What great and momentous deeds will He do? Is He the Messiah who will lead the people in revolt against all that enslaves them and holds them down? Will His message be politically radical, a call to arms against Rome, Israel's enemy?

Yet, instead of simply doing what the crowd might have expected, Jesus proposes a new covenant, one based on unconditional trust and hope in God, and on the embrace of his *blessedness.* This *blessedness* is not to be confused with earthly happiness or pleasure, but means to live in a right relationship with God.

The prophet Jeremiah tells us: "Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord." It is this blessedness that is at the root of true freedom, the freedom to seek and cling to the things that are eternal, even if they seem to be challenging. Jesus tells us that the poor, the grieving, the hungry, and the persecuted are not blessed simply because they are in need, but because in their need they have turned to God for hope and strength. True spiritual and human freedom must not be overshadowed by the desire to accumulate the passing things of this world. If we have never turned to God in a moment of need, then woe to us for we have never known that special blessedness that God desires to bestow on us.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

This feast commemorates Christ's choosing Peter to sit in his place as the servant-authority of the whole Church. After the "lost weekend" of pain, doubt, and self-torment, Peter hears the Good News. Angels at the tomb say to Magdalene, "The Lord has risen! Go, tell his disciples and Peter." John relates that when he and Peter ran to the tomb, the younger outraced the older, then waited for him. Peter entered, saw the wrappings on the ground, the headpiece rolled up in a place by itself. John saw and believed. But he adds a reminder: "…[T]hey did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead" (John 20:9). They went home. There the slowly exploding, impossible idea became reality. Jesus appeared to them as they waited fearfully behind locked doors. "Peace be with you," he said (John 20:21b), and they rejoiced. The Pentecost event completed Peter's experience of the risen Christ. "…[T]hey were all filled with the holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4a) and began to express themselves in foreign tongues and make bold proclamation as the Spirit prompted them. Only then can Peter fulfill the task Jesus had given him: "… [O]nce you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers" (Luke 22:32). He at once becomes the spokesman for the Twelve about their experience of the Holy Spirit—before the civil authorities who wished to quash their preaching, before the Council of Jerusalem, for the community in the problem of Ananias and Sapphira. He is the first to preach the Good News to the Gentiles. The healing power of Jesus in him is well attested: the raising of Tabitha from the dead, the cure of the crippled beggar. People carry the sick into the streets so that when Peter passed his shadow might fall on them. Even a saint experiences difficulty in Christian living. When Peter stopped eating with Gentile converts because he did not want to wound the sensibilities of Jewish Christians, Paul says, "…I opposed him to his face because he clearly was wrong…. [T]hey were not on the right road in line with the truth of the gospel…" (Galatians 2:11b, 14a). At the end of John's Gospel, Jesus says to Peter, "Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go" (John 21:18). What Jesus said indicated the sort of death by which Peter was to glorify God. On Vatican Hill, in Rome, during the reign of Nero, Peter did glorify his Lord with a martyr's death, probably in the company of many Christians. Second-century Christians built a small memorial over his burial spot. In the fourth century, the Emperor Constantine built a basilica, which was replaced in the 16th century. Peter and his successors were chosen as the "visible and principal signs of unity", a point of reference so as to embark on the journey of faith confidently and securely. The Feast of the "Chair" of Peter, therefore, is a recognition of the spiritual significance of Saint Peter and his successors, as well as a privileged manifestation of God's love who is our good and eternal Shepherd who wants to gather His entire Church and guide it on the path of salvation. We celebrate the feast of the Chair of St. Peter rejoicing in the guidance and the role of the Holy Spirit, thanking Jesus for the authority he shares with mere humans, and we pray for the person God has chosen to occupy the Chair of St. Peter at the present time.

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, Michelle Yashita, and the Polychronakis Family.

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.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 16, 2025

"Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

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:

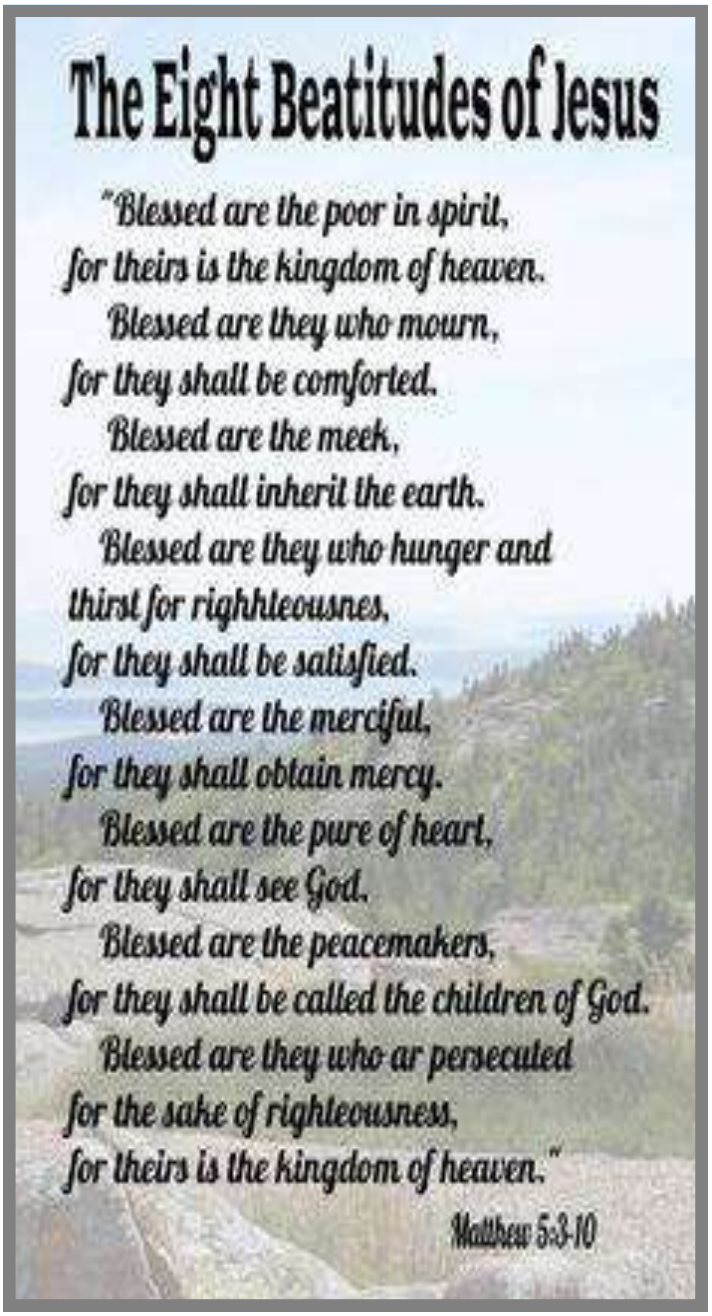
God lifts us up to greater things.

Our readings today emphasize that our eyes should not be fixed on things of this world. We will not find true fulfillment on earth, where things pass away. Rather, our focus is to be on the Lord and following His ways. He lifts us up, no matter what hardship we are facing.

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.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own, so that you may announce the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" (Peter 2:9)

Dear SFA Friends and Family

The SFA Scripture Study Group will meet on Thursday, February 27th from 7:20-8:50 in the St. Joseph room of the rectory. This week's study is on the First Letter of Peter 1:1-3:7.
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

Welcome to Our Church

If you wish to register as a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church, please stop by the Rectory Office during regular business hours. There you can pick up a census card which can be filled out at that time or returned by mail or in the Sunday Collection Basket. You can even download the census card on line. Just check our website at: ***stfrancisofassisiastoria.org***
You will then begin to receive weekly offering envelopes.

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 2/8-2/9	**$3,804.00**
2nd-CA Wildfire Victims	*$2,316.00*
The Tablet	*$396.00*

School parents must use church envelopes.

Next weekend, February 22nd and 23rd, the second collection will be for fuel.

Thank you for your continued support.

Do You Enjoy Singing?

Then use your voice to praise the Lord!
Join the St. Francis of Assisi Choir.
We meet every Monday evening at 7:00PM in the choir loft in church.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Anyone interested in a cooking position part time, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 4:00pm to 7:00pm, please contact the rectory at 718-728-7801.

Mass Attendance for February 8/9, 2025

5:00PM	**117**
8:00AM	**21**
9:30AM	**190**
11:00AM	**68**
12:30PM	**21**
	Total: 417

SNOW REMOVAL

Thank you to Andrea and Mario for doing a good job cleaning our property of snow.

Also, I want to thank Mr. Mahoney, who at 6:45am this past Sunday, came and cleaned the front steps of Church and cleared a path for people coming to the 8AM Mass. I appreciate you taking the time to help us clean our property of snow.

Msgr. Maresca

The Rectory office will be closed all day Monday, February 17th, in observance of Presidents Day.

Please note: There are **NO** evening hours this week.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

February 16-February 22

Sunday, February 16

Monday, February 17
President's Day
Rectory Office & School Closed

Tuesday, February 18
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, February 19

Thursday, February 20
10:00AM-Legion of Mary

Friday, February 21

Saturday, February 22

NEXT WEEK

February 23-March 1

Sunday, February 23
1:30 Baptism

Monday, February 24
12:00PM Golden Age
3:30PM Children's Choir
7:30PM Adult Choir
7:30PM CYO Training-MCH

Tuesday, February 25
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, February 26
3:30PM Drama Club

Thursday, February 27
10:00AM-Legion of Mary
3:30PM Jiu Jitsu
6:00PM IACA
7:20PM Scripture Study

Friday, February 28
6:00PM Winter Blast

Saturday, March 1
9:00AM Anointing Mass
9:30AM CYO Training

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.

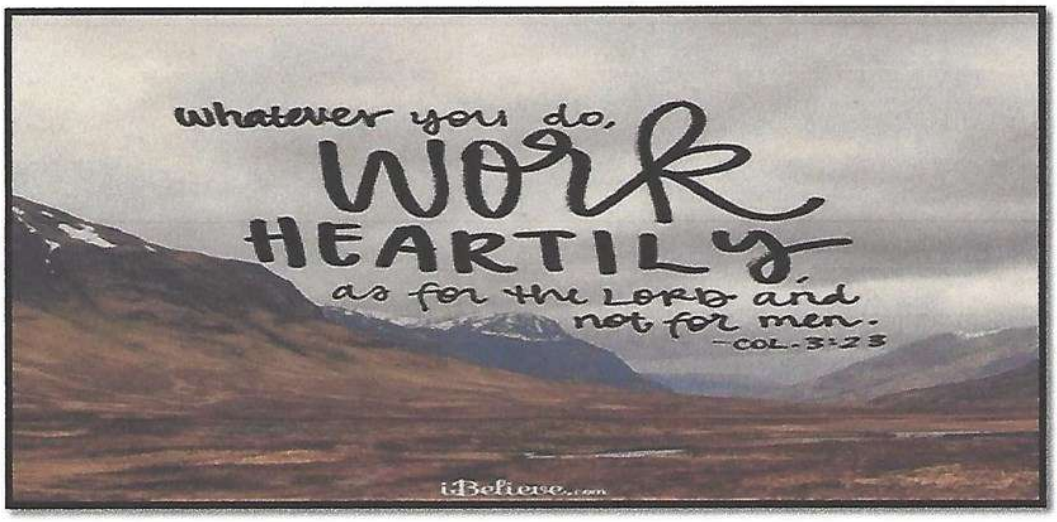
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____

ENVELOPE # _____



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

95th Anniversary Mass Program

We are offering you an opportunity to have your name, **In Thanksgiving,** or the name of a loved one, **In Memoriam,** printed in our **95th Anniversary Mass Program.**

The cost is $25 **per name**. Please PRINT the names clearly on the lines below and return to the rectory by September 2, 2025.

Please circle

_____ In Memoriam *In Thanksgiving*

_____ In Memoriam *In Thanksgiving*

_____ In Memoriam *In Thanksgiving*

_____ In Memoriam *In Thanksgiving*

Name _____

Telephone Number _____

Email _____

Return form in any collection basket or at the rectory.

Dear Parishioners,

As you know on Sunday, October 19, 2025, we will be celebrating the 95th Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Our planning committee is hard at work to make this day an enjoyable experience for all.

Our day begins as we gather for the 9:30 Family Mass. During this special Liturgy we will have an unveiling of a statue of Mother Theresa. The statue of Mother Theresa will be hung on the wall opposite the Holy Family by the Baptismal Font. It will be mounted in the same manner as the Holy Family. It is a full body statue and is 36" in length. The total cost of the statue, along with the mounting, shipping and Memorial Plaque is $ 15,000. Opportunities to memorialize the statue will be available. A plaque of donor's names will be placed next to the statue. Donations to memorialize the statue begin at $500.

If you would like to donate kindly stop by the rectory and speak to Marybeth.

ST.FRANCIS OF ASSISI PROUDLY PRESENTS

RADIO BINGO

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

DOORS OPEN 6:00PM
BINGO STARTS AT 7:00PM

ADVANCED TICKETS SALES ONLY $45

FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH, 6:30-8:30PM & MONDAY, APRIL 13TH, 10:30A-12:30PM
@SFACA MSGR. MARESCA CENTER

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI LOWER CHURCH - MSGR. THOMAS P. CAMPBELL HALL

21ST AVENUE & 46TH STREET - ASTORIA - 718-726-9405

VISIT OUR INSTAGRAM @STFRANCISOFASSISIPARISHASTORIA

Join us for the best party in town! There's awesome music, people, raffles and games that are guaranteed to get you in your party mood . Don't miss out and we will see you there!

SFA CYO SOCCER

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO REGISTER

Registration closes March 7th 2025

- **Season:** April 5th - June 1st
- **Practices:** TBD by Coaches, once a week
- **Practice & Home Field:** 33-01 20th Ave
- **Grades:** K - 8
- ***Special equipment required***

$265

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Players must wear team uniforms purchased during registration and must wear shin guards and soccer cleats, purchased at their own expense.

QUESTIONS?

Visit us at sfawildcats.org or
Email: soccer@sfawildcats.org

SCAN HERE

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI WILDCATS

SFA CYO

FLAG FOOTBALL

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO REGISTER

Registration closes March 7th 2025

- **Season:** Early April - Mid June
- **Practices:** TBD by Coaches, once a week
- **Practice & Home Field:** ICYP Youth Program
- **Grades:** 4 - 8
- ***Special equipment required***

$265

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Players must wear team uniforms purchased during registration and must wear a mouth piece, purchased at their own expense. Cleats and gloves recommended.

QUESTIONS?

Visit us at sfawildcats.org or
Email: football@sfawildcats.org

SCAN HERE