The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, March 30 – Fourth Sunday of Lent
8:00 A.M. Joe Milone
9:30 A.M. Rita Sultana
11:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
12:30P.M. Maria Rita Zucchetto
Rino Del Carro
Beatrice D'Angelo
Diego Piazza

MONDAY, March 31-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Jukja Marlisic

TUESDAY, April 1-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Sam Perrone

WEDNESDAY, April 2-Saint Francis of Paola
9:00 A.M. Luca Wierman (Living)

THURSDAY, April 3-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Pina Werst

FRIDAY, April 4 –Saint Isidore
9:00 A.M. Linda Zuliani

SATURDAY, April 5-Saint Vincent Ferrer
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Living & Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary
John McCarthy
Margaret McCarthy
Grace & Elisea Da Corta
Stephen Da Corta
The Da Corta Family
The Colussi Family
The Mezey Family
Henri Chlesa
Riccardo Navarro
Victor A. Di Donato

5:00P.M. Domenick Borgia

SUNDAY, April 6– Fifth Sunday of Lent
8:00 A.M. The Geosits Family
9:30 A.M. Maria Assunta Spiteri
11:00 A.M. Ann Marie Killeen
12:30P.M. For the People of St. Francis
Rino Del Carro

Today's Readings

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

"A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found." **(Luke 15:11-32)**

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Isaiah 65:17-21
John 4:43-54

TUESDAY: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
John 5:1-16

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 49:8-15
John 5:17-30

THURSDAY: Exodus 32:7-14
John 5:31-47

FRIDAY: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

SATURDAY: Jeremiah 11:18-20
John 7:40-53

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:8-14
John 8:1-11

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

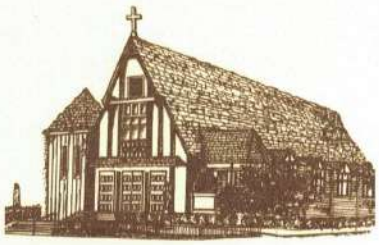
The gospel story of the prodigal son is a well- known parable. However, because of its familiarity, it is easy to miss the essential meaning and message of the story. The prodigal son story highlights the essential elements of what true forgiveness and reconciliation is all about. We hear about a man with two sons. One decides to take his inheritance, leave home and have a great time. When all has been spent and nothing is left, he decides to go back home and beg forgiveness. The twist in the story is that his father welcomes him back instantly not caring about what or how he lost everything. In fact, he does not even wait for the son to get back into the house; he goes out to him, welcomes him back and celebrates his return.

Fortunately, the same is true for us in our relationship to God. Real reconciliation is about forgiveness and forgetting. Early on, we learn that the real challenge of reconciliation is that the forgiveness part, as difficult as that sometimes may be, is often easier than the forgetting part. How often have we heard someone or perhaps even ourselves say, *I've forgiven what they've done, but I'll never be able to forget.* Yet that type of attitude is in sharp contrast to what is present in today's Gospel and the true challenge being given to us. God's unconditional love for us involves his forgiveness and forgetting the sins that we have committed when we express our sorrow. We are being asked to do the same with those who have hurt us and seek our forgiveness as well.

As members of the body of Christ, reconciliation is an important part of our lives. Lent affords us the opportunity to be reconciled to God and to one another by forgiving and forgetting. In doing so, we realize more fully the love of God in our lives. The gospel account of the father's forgiveness and forgetting reveals to us, once again, God's unconditional love for us. It is a lesson, which perhaps needs more attention as we deal with hurts and disappointments, and the sins and wrongdoings of our lives. In the end, our call is to realize that reconciliation is not only about forgiving, it is also about forgetting.

All the Blessings of a Holy Lent,
Msgr. Maresca

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
21-17 45th Street, Astoria, NY 11105 Phone: 718-728-7801 Fax: 718-728-7853



My Dear Parishioners,

Over the past few years, Bishop Brennan has asked each parish to look at their Mass schedules, the number of people attending Masses, and the priest personnel situation. He has directed us to make changes according to our needs. Here at St. Francis of Assisi, the staff, parish council and I have been reviewing and discussing our parish situation with regards to our Mass schedule.

Our Deanery has also been discussing the Mass Schedule in each parish. Bishop Brennan attended a Deanery meeting with the priests and presented figures and recommendations for our parishes. He spoke about the need to look ahead at the future of our parishes. He also spoke to us about Parish Partnerships and the possibility of merging parishes if needed.

All of these discussions were difficult, but needed, as we look to the future. Bishop Brennan asked that we report the results of our discussions and the revisions we would be making by the end of November, 2024. He would review them and either makes changes or approve what was presented.

I received word from the Bishop of his approval of our revisions. As of July 1, 2025 our Mass Schedule will be as follows:

Monday through Saturday, 9:00am Mass
Saturday evening, 5:00pm Mass
Sunday morning 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00 am
The 11:00 am Mass would have multiple intentions, meaning that more than one intention can be taken for that Mass.

Change is always difficult. Everyone has seen the attendance in the bulletin each week over the past few years. We have seen a decline in Mass attendance and weekly collections. These decisions were not made lightly and are the product of a great deal of prayer, thought and reflection. I ask for your support and cooperation as we move our Parish forward. What is occurring in our Diocese is also taken place throughout the country.

Thank you for all you do in working to keep our parish active and strong. Let us commend ourselves to the love and protection of the Mother of God.

All God's blessings,

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

Lent

Lent has begun. In the hope of assisting the faithful of the Diocese of Brooklyn to celebrate this season of preparation for Easter in a fruitful manner, Bishop Robert Brennan wishes to call attention to the following:

ABSTINENCE: All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age are required to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday (March 5) and on all the Fridays of the Lenten Season.

FASTING: All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 (inclusive) are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday (March 29) by limiting oneself to one full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken on two other occasions during the day.

EASTER DUTY: After having been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, the faithful are obligated to receive holy Communion at least once a year, this precept to be fulfilled during the Easter Season, unless it is fulfilled at some other time for a good reason. In the United States, the period for fulfilling this precept is extended from the First Sunday of Lent (March 9) until Pentecost Sunday, (June 8).

THE SOLEMNITIES OF SAINT JOSEPH AND THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD: The liturgical solemnities of Saint Joseph (March 19) and the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25) are to be celebrated with due solemnity even though they fall within the Season of Lent.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY: Reconciliation Monday is observed in the Diocese on the Monday of Holy Week (April 14th). Observance of this day allows the faithful to experience the grace of forgiveness and mercy in the Sacrament of Penance. Those conscious of grave (mortal) sin are obligated to confess before receiving Holy Communion.

TIME OF CELEBRATION OF THE EASTER VIGIL: Sunset in Brooklyn on Holy Saturday, April 19, is at 7:40 pm. Therefore, the celebration of the Liturgy for the Easter Vigil should begin after that, realistically at 8 p.m. or later, and must end before dawn on Easter Sunday.

Please take note of the following, as well:

MUSIC: During Lent, the "Alleluia" is not sung or said. Musical instruments are to be used at liturgical celebrations only to give support to the singing.

CHURCH DECORATIONS: The church should not be decorated with flowers during Lent.

HOLY WATER: Holy Water is not removed from the fonts during Lent. It is only removed immediately before the Celebration of the Lord's Supper and replaced at the Easter Vigil with water blessed at that celebration.

FUNERALS: Funeral masses are not permitted during the Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday). The rite to be used at funerals during those days is the rite for Funerals Outside Mass.

What are you doing for Lent?

To help us during our Lenten journey, the following opportunities will be taking place in our parish.

1. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each morning at 8:00AM Monday through Saturday.
2. Mass is celebrated each morning at 9:00AM Monday through Saturday.
3. Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:30PM and will conclude with Benediction.
4. Confessions are heard every Saturday from 4:00 to 4:30PM.
5. Reconciliation Monday is ***April 14th***. Every Church in our Diocese, the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Rockville Centre will be hearing confessions. We will be hearing confessions from
   2:00 to 4:00PM and 6:00 to 8:00PM
   What a wonderful experience to receive the mercy of Christ in this great sacrament.
6. The Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Council will be hosting our Lenten Supper & Stations on Friday April 4th. Supper will be at 6:30PM in Msgr. Campbell Hall followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:30PM in Church. Free will donation.
7. All are welcome to join the St. Francis of Assisi Scripture Study Group on Thursday nights at 7:20PM. The group is for anyone who would like to deepen their understanding of the Bible.
8. Our Parish Lenten Mission will take place from Monday, March 31st, to Thursday, April 3rd. The Mission will take place at the 9:00AM Mass in the morning and again at 7:30PM. Fr. James Price will be giving the Mission. All are invited.

Easter Candle

If anyone would like to make a donation or memorialize the ***Pascal Candle,*** please stop by the rectory and speak with Marybeth. As you know, the Pascal Candle is blessed and lighted at the Easter Vigil and remains in the sanctuary until the feast of Pentecost. It is then used for all our funerals during the year.

Please mark your calendars for our
Parish Lenten Mission
which takes place beginning Monday, March 31st, to Thursday, April 3rd.

The mission will take place at the 9:00AM Mass in the morning and again at 7:30PM Prayer Service.
Fr. James Price will be giving the mission.

All are invited to join us.

Saturday, April 5, 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.

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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025

"For we walk by faith not by sight ."

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:

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

In the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus presents God as a Father who loves all his children-the wayward and the dutiful-and seeks to draw them into a loving relationship and therefore share in his joy. Sometimes, like the younger son, we are swept up in God's love, forgiveness and mercy; other times, we set up barriers and resist it. Let us reflect on how God has been coming out to meet us in out own lives.

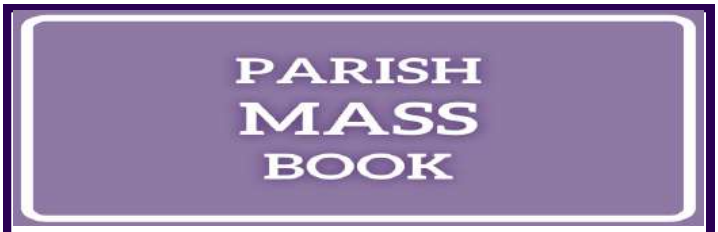
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before the 9:00AM Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 8:00AM each morning, Monday through Saturday, giving parishioners an opportunity for private prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:30AM the rosary will be prayed by parishioners. 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 March 22/23, 2025

5:00PM	**94**
8:00AM	**49**
9:30AM	**120**
11:00AM	**111**
12:30PM	**52**
	Total: 426



2025 Mass Book

The 2025 Mass Book is now open for the remainder of 2025.

All Announced Masses up to June 30th are $15.00. After July 1, 2025 Masses will be **$20.00.**
Beginning July 1, 2025, the 11:00AM Mass will have multiple intentions.

Purgatorial Mass Cards are $30.00
Memorials (Altar Bread, Wine, Sanctuary Lamp and Altar Candles) are $75.00
Altar Flowers are $100.00

Welcome to Our Church

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

"But grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory now and to the day of eternity. Amen" (2 Peter 3:18)

Dear SFA Friends and Family

The SFA Scripture Study Group will not meet this week in order to attend the Parish Mission.
We have completed our study on the Letters from James, 1 Peter, Jude, 2 Peter. A new study will begin on Thursday, April 10th entitled "Life Eternal" from 7:20-8:50 in the St. Joseph room of the rectory.

Join us as we
Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture.

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.

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 3/22-3/23 **$3,384.00**

School parents must use church envelopes.

Supper & Stations

All are Welcome

The Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Council will be hosting our Lenten Supper & Stations on Friday, April 4th.

Supper will be at 6:30PM in Msgr. Campbell Hall followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:30PM in Church. Please call the Rectory if you are planning to attend (718)728-7801.

Free will donation.

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!

Annual Catholic Appeal 2025

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

The Annual Catholic Appeal for 2025 has begun in our Diocese. Our goal this year has been lowered to **$37, 511.** Most of you should have received information regarding this Appeal. This year the theme is: **JUBILEE OF HOPE, RENEWAL OF FAITH AND CHARITY.**

I ask you to prayerfully reflect on what you can contribute to help us reach our goal. The Annual Appeal allows Bishop Brennan to continue to carry out the mission of the Church here in Brooklyn and Queens.

I am grateful to those who have contributed in the past and thank you for your generosity and support. If you have not contributed, I ask to make every effort to help us reach our goal.

I share with you the words of Jesus to his followers: "The measure you measure with will be measured back to you."

Thank you for all your effort.
God Bless,
Msgr. Maresca

Part Time Cook
The Blog Of A Full Time Teen

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

March 30-April 5

Sunday, March 30
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40AM CCD
1:30pm Baptism

Monday, March 31
12:00PM Golden Age
3:30PM Children's Choir
7:30PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, April 1
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 2
3:00PM Drama Club

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

Friday, April 4
6:30PM Supper (Pizza Night)-MCH
7:30PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 5
9AM Anointing Mass

NEXT WEEK

April 6-April 12

Sunday, April 6
9:30AM Pre-Communion Mass
10:40AM CCD

Monday, April 7
12:00PM Golden Age
3:30PM Children's Choir
7:30PM Adult Choir

Tuesday, April 8
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 9
3:00PM Drama Club
7:00PM Baptism Class

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

Friday, April 11
7:30PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 12
6:00PM Youth Group Meeting

APRIL 2025
LECTOR / MINISTER SCHEDULE

	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT APRIL 5 - 6	PALM SUNDAY APRIL 12-13	EASTER SUNDAY April 19-20	SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY APRIL 26 - 27
LECTORS				
Saturday 5:00PM	Debbi Skinner	Edward Kubina		Dolores Ratkowski
7:30PM			Debbi Skinner	
Sunday 8:00 AM	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz
Sunday 9:30 AM	Martha O'Toole	Patrick O'Toole	Sharon Costanza	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	----------	Ray Conlon
Sunday 8:00 AM	----------	----------	----------	----------
Sunday 9:30 AM	Theresa Mincone	----------	----------	----------
Sunday 11:00 AM	----------	----------	----------	----------
Sunday 12:30 PM	Nicolette Cosentino	----------	----------	Giuseppina Sferazza

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

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca V.F., Pastor

LENT 2025

= a day of fasting and abstinence from meat

= a day of abstinence from meat

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). **March**			5 *Ash Wednesday* Attend Mass and receive ashes as a sign of penance. Ask the Lord to help you grow closer to Him this Lent.	6 Prayerfully choose meaningful but achievable practices of prayer, penance, almsgiving.	7 Wake up five minutes early to dedicate your day to God's service.	8 Offer to pay for coffee, fast food, or groceries for the person in line behind you.
9 *"Each tree is known by its own fruit"* (Luke 6:44). After Mass, ask God what "good fruit" He wants your life to bear this Lent.	10 Practice true charity: "Have patience with all things, but, first of all with yourself" (St. Francis de Sales).	11 Take fifteen minutes today for silent prayer. Don't worry about finding the right words. Just be still and let Him love you.	12 Enjoy pretzels, a traditional Lenten snack invented by monks. They thought the folded loops resembled arms crossed in prayer.	13 Skim the glossary of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* until something strikes your interest, and dive deeper.	14 Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy today, especially for the dying. You can find more information here: https://www.usccb.org/prayers	15 Write a note of encouragement to someone you think needs cheering up.
16 Stay after Mass today to pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.	17 *St. Patrick's Day* In honor of St. Patrick's missionary work in Ireland, offer extra prayers for those who teach the Faith.	18 Listening well is a small but meaningful act of courtesy. Give the gift of your full attention.	19 *St. Joseph's Day* In honor of St. Joseph, focus on the Joyful Mysteries today, reflecting on St. Joseph's role in each event.	20 Lent and Holy Week are busy times in a Catholic parish. Call or stop by your parish office and ask how you can help.	21 "There is no such thing as innocent slander." (Pope Francis). Today, practice the penance of not complaining about anyone.	22 Contact Catholic Relief Services (877-435-7277 or www.crs.org) to see how you can support any of their projects.
23 Write down three points you remember from Father's homily. Choose one you want to put into practice this week.	24 Honor your word, even to yourself. Perform a chore you've been putting off.	25 *The Annunciation* Happy Solemnity! Today, we celebrate that God became man (John 1:14). Attend daily Mass or have a dessert—or both!	26 Make a small sacrifice today: No cream in your coffee, no butter on your toast, no music in the car.	27 Ask God to show you whatever keeps you from fully experiencing His love. Resolve to deal with it before Lent ends.	28 Counter pride with authentic humility. Pray, "O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!"	29 *"Return, O Israel, to the LORD, your God; you have collapsed through your guilt."* (Hosea 14:2) Pray the Act of Contrition and ask for forgiveness.
30 *Laetare Sunday* Today marks the halfway point to Easter! Have a dessert to celebrate that you have made it halfway to Lent.	31 Renew your commitment to your Lenten resolutions.	1 **April** Examine your conscience, using the Ten Commandments as a guide (Exodus 20:1-17).	2 Go to Confession and experience God's mercy. Thank Him for His love and resolve to avoid future sin.	3 Instead of spending time on your screen, read a good spiritual classic.	4 Attend daily Mass or visit the Blessed Sacrament sometime today. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice of love.	5 Choose to forego a financial luxury, such as online shopping or eating out. Abstain from it until Easter and donate the extra money.
6 Extend fellowship. Invite friends to brunch after Mass, either at a restaurant or at your home.	7 Loving others well starts with knowing we are loved. Ask God to reveal His love to you today.	8 Read the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of Luke (Luke 22-23). What areas of your life and heart need His grace?	9 Reduce the contents of your closets. If you used or worn something in a year, donate it to charity.	10 Go for a walk and look for signs of Spring.	11 Observe a (recreational) screen fast, from 12:00pm to 3:00pm, the time Jesus hung on the Cross.	12 Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, mediating on Christ's Passion through the eyes of His mother.
13 *Palm Sunday* When listening to the Gospel readings at Mass, imagine yourself in the scene. How would you respond?	14 Pray for all those coming into the Church at Easter Vigil.	15 Forgive anyone who has hurt you. Ask forgiveness of anyone you have harmed.	16 Reflect on your Lent: where did you grow? What graces did you receive? What habits would you like to continue after Easter?	17 *Holy Thursday* Make a Holy Hour today in a church or chapel to console Jesus for the abandonment, indifference, and sacrilege He suffers by us.	18 *Good Friday* Reread Luke 23. Jesus carried His Cross out of love for you. Resolve to imitate Him more faithfully this year.	19 *Holy Saturday* Light a candle and renew your baptismal vows to remain committed to Christ.

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293180

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

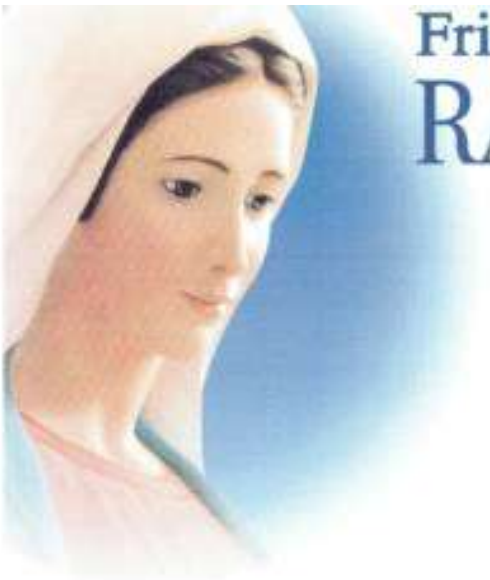
FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH, 6:30-8:30PM & MONDAY, APRIL 13TH, 10:30A-12:30PM
@SFACA MSGR. MARESCA CENTER

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!



Friends of RADIO MARIA New York

(718)417-0550

Siete tutti invitati ad una

GIORNATA DI SPIRITUALITÀ

SABATO 5 Aprile, 2025
10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Sara' una giornata di preghiera
e di riflessione in preparazione
alla Santa Pasqua

PROGRAMMA

10:00 am - Rosario Mondiale
(si ascolta LIVE in tutte le Radio Maria
nel mondo e sara' in 5 lingue)

Celebranti: Padre Tarcisio, Vescovo Emerito
Sua Eccelkenza, Nicola DiMarzio
e con la stupenda voce di Natale Tumminia

11:00 am - Santa Messa

12:00 pm - Pranzo al sacco

1:30 pm - Via Crucis

2:30 pm - Adorazione Eucaristica
Durante la celebrazione ci saranno sacerdoti
a disposizione per le confessioni

Basilica of Regina Pacis

1230 65th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11219
(718) 236-0909

Anna Maria Tenaglia (347) 448-1136
Angela Masullo (347) 862-0921

UNITED COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Free

COMMUNITY

"Shredding Event"

Saturday, April 5, 2025 • 10am-1pm

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (Parking Lot)

21-17 45th Street Astoria

PROTECT Your Personal and Important Legal Papers by Safely Destroying Everything FREE of Charge

Information:917-742-6975 (UCCA)