Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, April 20 – Easter Sunday
8:00 A.M. Easter Novena
9:30 A.M. Ana Balint
11:00 A.M. Bridget Dudek
12:30P.M. The Kos Family
Rino Del Carro
Antonio Bruno
Maria Rita Zucchetto

MONDAY, April 21-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Easter Novena

TUESDAY, April 22-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Easter Novena

WEDNESDAY, April 23-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Easter Novena

THURSDAY, April 24-weekday
9:00 A.M. Easter Novena

FRIDAY, April 25–Weekday
9:00 A.M. Easter Novena

SATURDAY, April 26-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Easter Novena
Victor A. Di Donato
Ricardo Despojo
Fidela Aviso-Despojo

5:00P.M. Ambrose Vigano

SUNDAY, April 27–Sunday of Divine Mercy
8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Carmen Gauci
11:00 A.M. John S. MOndello
12:30P.M. Riccardo & Carmela Cicconetti
Rino Del Carro
Antonio Bruno

Today's Readings

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 201-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran* and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.
(John 20:19-31)

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Acts 2:14, 22-33
Matthew 28:8-15

TUESDAY: Acts 2:36-41
John 20:11-18

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 3:1-10
Luke 24:13-35

THURSDAY: Acts 3:11-26
Luke 24:35-48

FRIDAY: Acts 4:1-12
John 21:1-14

SATURDAY: Acts:4:13-21
Mark 16:9-15

Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 5:12-16
Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
John 20:19-31

My Dear Parishioners,

This year we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the death of St. John Paul II. Go back with me for a moment to October 22, 1978. Pope John Paul II began his ministry with these words: "*brothers and sisters, do not be afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power…Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ…He alone has words of life, yes, of eternal life".*

Why was St. John Paul II telling us to be rid of fear? Because, it is fear that prevents us from being about the work of the Lord. Jesus wants to cast out our fears in order to make room for FAITH!

Today we gather on this beautiful feast of the Resurrection of the Lord. Jesus was raised and lives forever. And His death and Resurrection call for something new; they demand a solemn and repeated proclamation: ***Christ is risen; Christ is indeed risen!*** The whole world is now different because of this event.

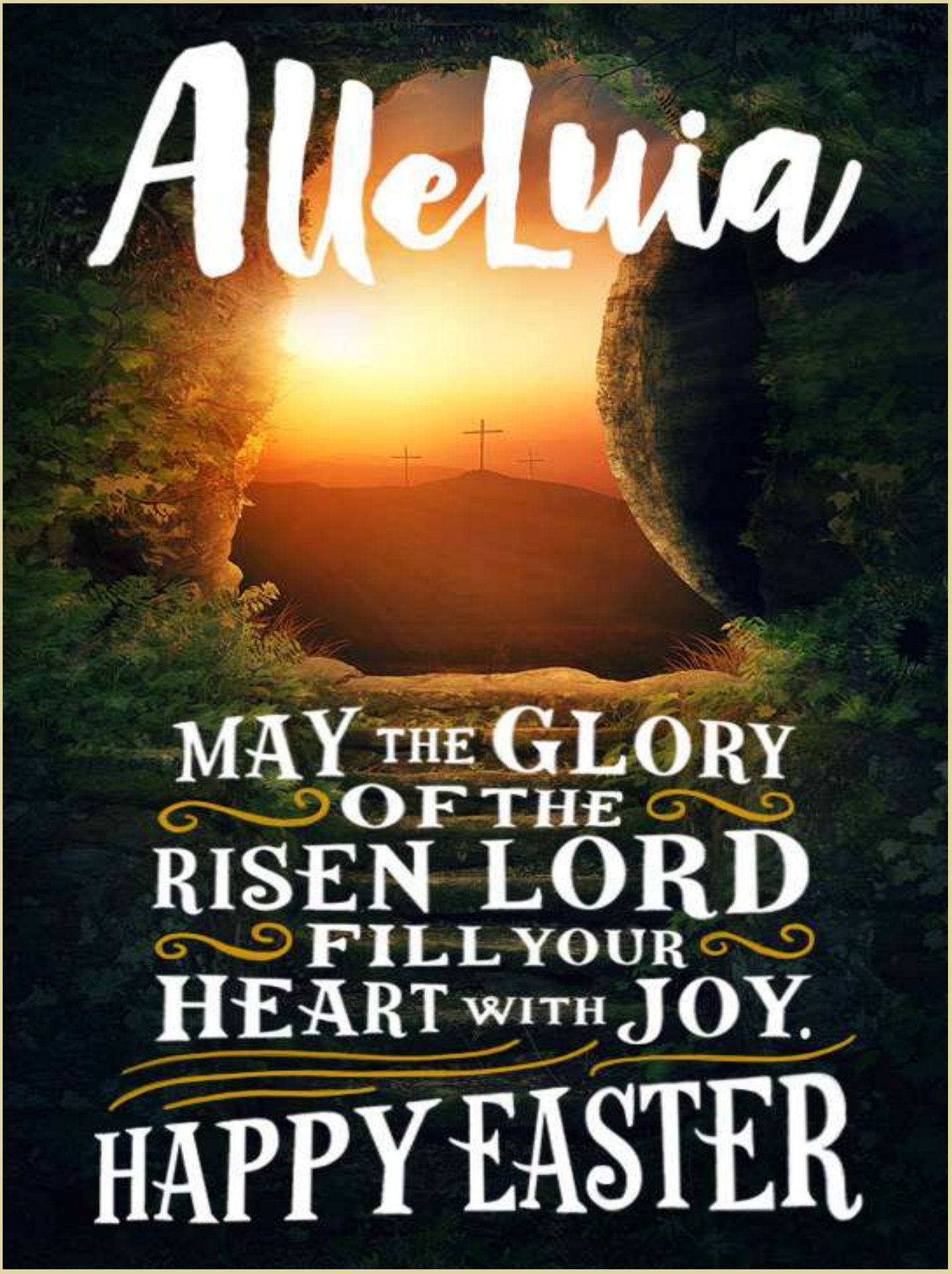
We cannot simply remain wondering what they have done with the Lord. We cannot simply look longingly into that empty tomb and wish it were otherwise. We cannot simply be fearful of what has happened or what could happen. No, we must let all that go. Only in this way is there room for faith and only when there is room for faith will we have the spirit-filled courage to go forth and proclaim that now, Jesus is Lord of everything and that everything has changed.

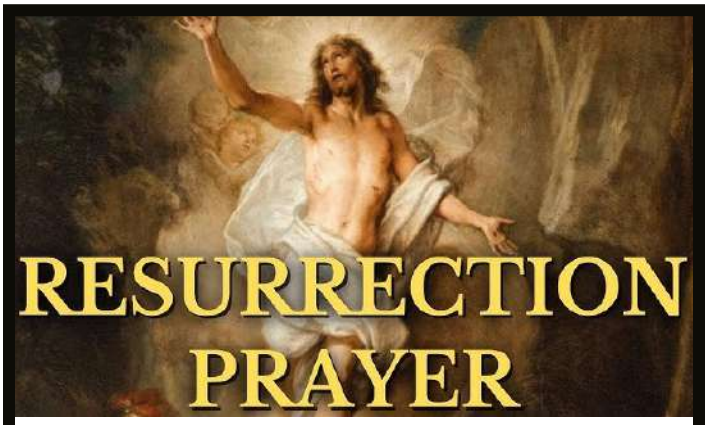
We cannot proclaim that our universe or our world or our nation or our community or our family is changed unless we are open to faith such that we are changed. That is why St. John Paul II called upon us to open wide the doors for Christ. Perhaps it has been years for us, we who have celebrated this Easter feast many times in the past. Perhaps this is our first Easter celebration. In any case, we must cast aside all our fears; we must open wide the doors of our hearts and our souls for Christ. Then we must go and both show what a difference Jesus makes and proclaim how He wants to make a difference everywhere.

To all those newly baptized and admitted to the Body of Christ, the Church, Jesus says, ***Do not be afraid.*** Experience the death of the Lord in your Baptism; let die within you all that is sinful, all that is evil, all that is opposed to His love, all that is afraid. Then feed on Him, on his courage, on his joy, on his hope, and be filled with faith. Let us all announce to the world, ***Jesus is risen from the dead! DO NOT BE AFRAID!***

May you and your families have an Easter filled with Joy and Hope!
Please be assured you will have a remembrance in the masses I am privileged to celebrated on Easter Sunday.

May the Hope, Joy and Peace of this Easter be yours in abundance,
Msgr. Maresca


Alleluia
MAY THE GLORY OF THE RISEN LORD FILL YOUR HEART WITH JOY.
HAPPY EASTER



**It is only right,
with all the powers of our heart and mind,
to praise You Father
And Your Only-begotten Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ:
Dear Father, by Your wonderous
condescension of loving-kindness toward us.
Your servants, You gave up Your Son.
Dear Jesus, You paid the debt of Adam
for us to the Eternal Father by
Your blood poured
fourth in loving-kindness.
You cleared away the darkness of sin
by Your magnificent and radiant Resurrection.
You broke the bonds of death
and rose from the grave as a Conqueror.
You reconciled heaven and earth.
Our life had no hope of eternal happiness
before You redeemed us.
Your Resurrection has washed away our sins,
restored our innocence and brought us joy.
How inestimable is the tenderness
of Your love!**

—-St. Gregory the Greats' Easter Prayer

***The Pascal Candle
will burn
in Memory of:***

Rose & Denis Sweeney
Lucia & Ralph Borgia
Domenick Borgia
Ralph & Rita Maresca
Fr. Peter D. Gillen
William LeDone
The Malloy Family
The Buckenmayer Family
Evelyn & Sam Perrone
Gloria & Ed Montel
Frank Meditz
Victoria Fugcilli
Dolores & Ferdinando Prete
Sarina Marie Carbone
Carol Ann Mendez

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

Wishing our SFA Family and Friends a Blessed & Joyous Easter.

Dear SFA Friends and Family

The SFA Scripture Study Group will not meet on during the Easter week. We will meet again on May 1st in the St. Joseph room of the rectory from 7:20 to 8:50PM. Join us as we continue our study of "Life Eternal."

"...but whoever drinks of the water I shall give him will never thirst; the water I shall give him will become in a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14)

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.

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, the Polychronakis Family & Angel Garcia.

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.

Easter Sunday
April 20, 2025

"He is not here, He has risen like he said."

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:

Live each day with a focus on what is above.

Today we rejoice in the Lord's resurrection, his victory over death. Through this victory, the Lord has opened up the gates of heaven for us and offered us forgiveness of sins and eternal joy in his presence. This eternal destiny calls us to live always with a focus on *what is above*– to orient our earthly activities and concerns toward what is most conducive to a life of faith in the Lord.

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 Parish Weekly Offering

Thank you for your continued generosity of giving each week. Your weekly offering helps us pay our monthly bills.

Sunday 4/12-4/13	**$6,440.00**
2nd Collection-Easter Gift	***$6,861.00***
Home Missions	***$638.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Mass Attendance for April 12/13, 2025 (Palm Sunday)

5:00PM	**143**
8:00AM	**70**
9:30AM	**267**
11:00AM	**263**
12:30PM	**130**
	Total: 873

Easter Mass Remembrance envelopes can be returned in any collection before Easter.

The names of your loved ones, living or deceased, will be remembered at the Easter Novena of Masses celebrated Easter week.

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.** 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. So far we have pledged $14,069 towards our goal.

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

Your **EASTER GIFT TO MY CHURCH** can be returned in any collection**.**

Your Easter Gift will go toward the operation of our parish with all it's programs and services.

Easter Flower Offering envelopes can be returned in any collection.

Please **clearly print** the names as we will be listing the names in our Bulletin.

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.

PARISH MASS BOOK

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.

Catholic Youth Organization
Children are at the heart of our mission

Only one team played this week due to weather.

After a tough week 1 loss, our Intermediate team responded with a dominant 52-0 win on a cold, rainy night vs St Greg's.

Christian Duran led the way with 5 touchdowns. Hudson Geiger and Anthony Mardach each added to the scoring.

Defensively it was a complete team effort led by Coach Mina Duran and Nicole Geiger.

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!

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

April 20-April 26

Sunday, April 20
EASTER SUNDAY

Monday, April 21
Rectory Office Closed

Tuesday, April 22
Rectory Office Will Close at 5:00PM
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 23
Rectory Office Will Close at 5:00PM

Thursday, April 24
Rectory Office Will Close at 5:00PM
10:00AM-Legion of Mary

Friday, April 25
Rectory Office Will Close at 5:00PM

Saturday, April 26
Rectory Office Open from 9:00AM-2:00PM

NEXT WEEK

April 27-May 3

Sunday, April 27
SUNDAY of DIVINE MERCY

Monday, April 28
12:00PM Golden Age

Tuesday, April 29
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 30
3:00PM Drama Club
6:00PM Support Group -Rectory Basement
7:30PM-Bereavement Group-Rectory Basement

Thursday, May 1
10:00AM-Legion of Mary
6:00PM IACA
7:20PM Scripture Study

Friday, May 2
FIRST FRIDAY

Saturday, May 3
9:00am Anointing Mass

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,

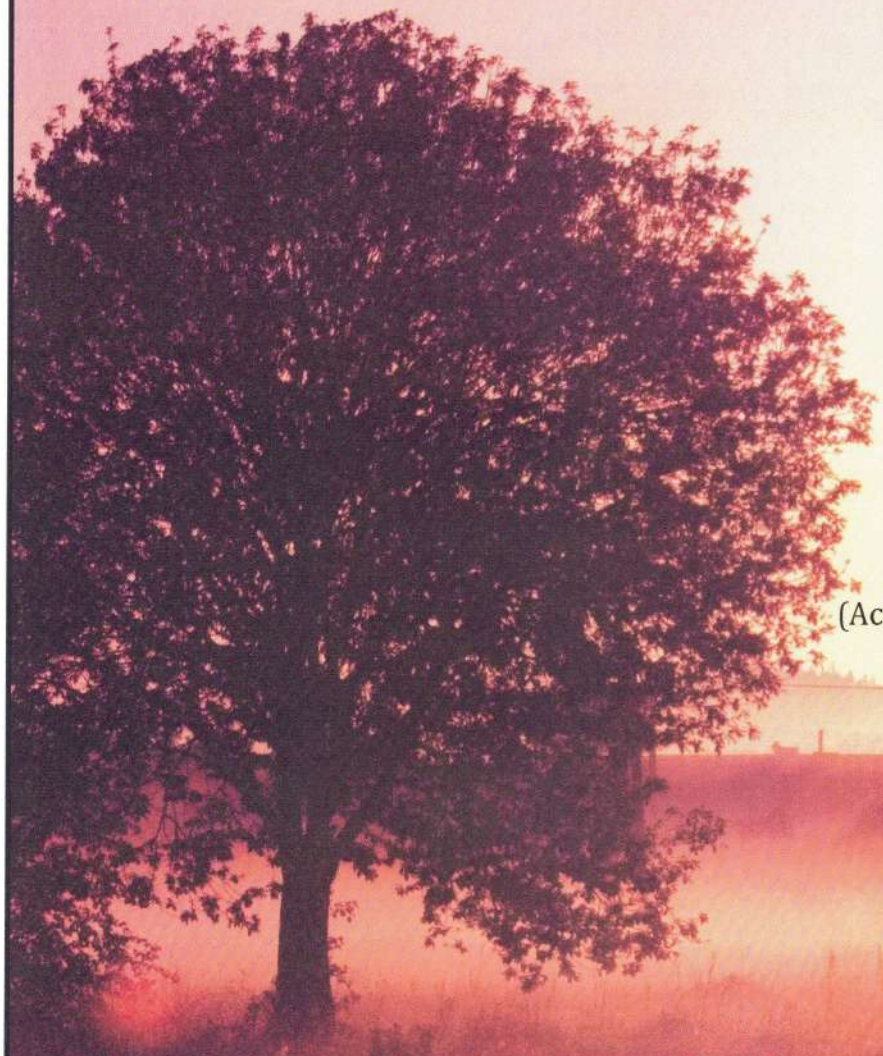
As you know on Sunday, October 19, 2025, we will be celebrating the 95th Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Our planning committee is hard at work to make this day an enjoyable experience for all.

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 Church – Bereavement Support Group

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." – Psalm 34:18



Wednesday evenings
(Starting April 30, 2025)
7:30pm – 8:30pm

St. Francis of Assisi Church
Rectory Meeting Room
21-17 45th Street
Astoria, NY 11105

Please enter through
The basement back door.
(Accessible by the side gate. Follow the signs)
Parking available in the Church Lot

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, you are not alone. St. Francis of Assisi Church invites you to join a compassionate and supportive bereavement group. Together we will reflect, share, and find comfort through prayer and community. This group is open to all—parishioners and non-parishioners alike.

Come as you are. All are welcome.

Contact Carol Hickey at SFAparishcouncil@sfaacademy.org
or inquire with the rectory for more information.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS/ DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES

Reclaiming Ourselves: Feel, Talk & Trust in Astoria

Wednesdays 6:00PM –7:15PM

Starting April 30, 2025

St. Francis of Assisi Church
Rectory Meeting Room
21-17 45th Street
Astoria, NY 11105

Please enter through the basement back door.
(Accessible by the side gate. Follow the signs)
Parking available in the Church Lot

For more information,
contact Carol Hickey at