Solemnity of Pentecost

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, June 8 – Solemnity of Pentecost
8:00 A.M. Holy Name Society
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00 A.M. Mario Esposito
12:30P.M. Maria Rita Zucchetto
Rino DelCarro
Emilia Bertolo
Vorkos Family
Assunta D'Angelo

MONDAY, June 9 - The Blessed Mother Mary, Mother of the Church
9:00 A.M. Joseph Ewy

TUESDAY, June 10 - Weekday
9:00 A.M. Felix DeVito

WEDNESDAY, June 11 - St. Barnabas, Apostle
9:00 A.M. Rita M. Hetzler

THURSDAY, June 12 - Weekday
9:00 A.M. Filomena Mincone

FRIDAY, June 13 - St. Anthony of Padua
9:00 A.M. John Peter Boyko

SATURDAY, June 14 - Blessed Virgin Mary
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Michelle Wierman
Myriam Rocconi

5:00P.M. John Finerty

SUNDAY, June 15 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity/ Father's Day
8:00 A.M. Vincent O'Sullivan
9:30 A.M. Mary Cilia
11:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
12:30P.M. Father's Day Novena
Giuseppe Carlino
Rino DelCarro
Elia Salvatore Cinquemani
Jennifer Ronacher

Today's Readings

Solemnity of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Genesis 3:9-15; 20
John 19:25-34

TUESDAY: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
Matthew 5:13-16

WEDNESDAY: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3
Matthew 5:17-19

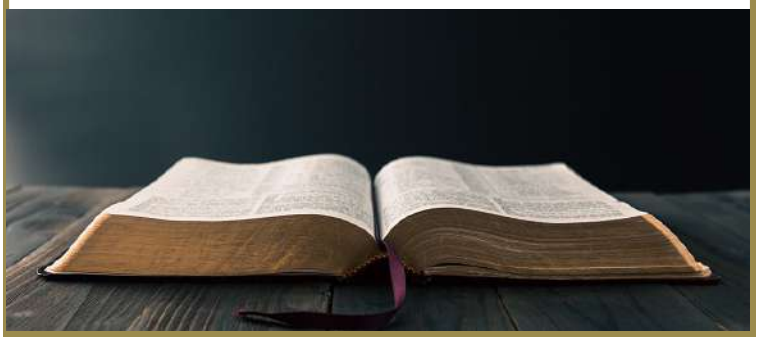
THURSDAY: 2 Corinthians 3:15-4:1,3-6
Matthew 5:20-26

FRIDAY: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
Matthew 5:27-32

SATURDAY: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
Matthew 5:33-37

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:22-31
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15



From the Pastor's Desk:

"As the Father has sent Me, so I send you."

My Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, the birthday of the Church. In John's Gospel, Jesus appears in the Upper Room on that first Easter night, breathing his spirit on his Apostles and saying, *Peace be with you.* In that moment, Jesus takes away their fears that his body may have been stolen, and he assures them that he is both risen and glorified. This event also draws our minds back to the Book of Genesis (2:7) where God created Adam. The first man did not have life until God breathed his Spirit into his nostrils. In the Upper Room on Mount Zion, the Apostles had long since been charged with the task of preaching and building up God's Kingdom, but they did not have the life-giving capability of fulfilling this mission until Jesus breathed his God-given power upon them.

Just as God created Adam and gave him life, so, too, Christ, who is God, created the Church and gives it the Holy Spirit who guides her and protects her. Adam was created to know, love, and serve God. He disobeyed and became a mere mortal. The Church was instituted by God to help all men to pick up where Adam left off- to make God known, loved and served by all. In as much as she obeys this great commission, the Church leads men back to immortality. In our Creed, we profess faith in *the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.* Life is what the Holy Spirit has given to the Church, and through Baptism and Confirmation, this same gift is given to all who believe.

The mistake of the believers at Babel is that they wanted to make their own path to heaven. They felt they did not need God in order to get there. Babel was a tower built on pride, not on the firm foundations of faith. At Pentecost, God comes down to us in the Holy Spirit, calling all people to a new way of life. Beginning on that first Pentecost, hundreds of new disciples, our first Christian ancestors, began to live according to the Spirit of God, using the gifts bestowed upon them, living in charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, and faith, replacing their former ways of selfishness.

Jesus said at Easter, *as the Father has sent me, so I send you.* In word, wind and fire, as in the Body and Blood, Jesus gives us his Holy Spirit once again, renewing in us that command he once gave to his first disciples, that we go out to all the world and make disciples of all. Today, we say with believers throughout time, *veni, sancte spiritus, Come, Holy Spirit, come into our hearts, come into our parishes, come into our homes, and renew the face of the earth.*

All the Blessings of the Holy Spirit,
Msgr. Maresca

The Solemnity of Pentecost
Sunday June 8, 2025

Pentecost is a feast celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, as described in the Book of Acts. This event marked the birth of the Christian Church and is often referred to as the "birthday of the Church".

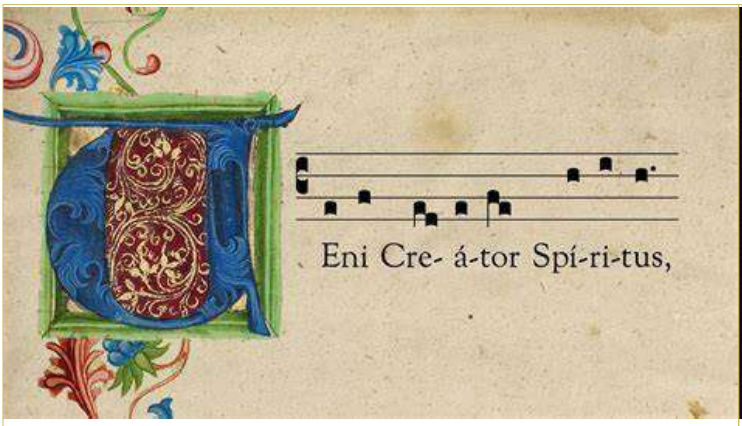
Why is Pentecost important?

Pentecost holds great significance for Catholics for several reasons:
The Gift of the Holy Spirit: Pentecost is a reminder of the promise Jesus made to send the Holy Spirit to guide and empower His disciples. The Holy Spirit strengthens believers in their faith and helps them to live as followers of Christ.
Unity in Diversity: The story of Pentecost emphasizes the unity of believers from different backgrounds and languages. It reminds Catholics of the universal nature of the Church and the call to embrace diversity while working together for the common good.
Missionary Zeal: After receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the apostles boldly proclaimed the message of Jesus Christ, leading to the spread of Christianity throughout the world. Pentecost Challenges Catholics to share their faith with others and participate in the Church's mission of evangelization.

How can Catholics prepare for Pentecost?

Prayer: Set aside some time for prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to fill your heart and guide you in your faith journey.
Reflection: Reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in your life and consider areas where you may need His guidance and strength.
Acts of Charity: Practice acts of kindness and charity, following the example of Jesus Christ and demonstrating love to others.
Reconciliation: Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to cleanse your heart and renew your commitment to following Christ.

How do we celebrate Pentecost?

Attend Mass: Participate in the celebration of the Eucharist, where the readings and prayers focus on the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Pray the Veni Creator Spiritus: This ancient hymn, which means "Come, Holy Spirit," is a beautiful prayer to invoke the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance.
Gather with Family and Friends: Share a meal or spend time with loved ones, reflecting on the significance of Pentecost and the blessings of the Holy Spirit in your lives.

Veni, Creator Spiritus (Come, Holy Spirt, Creator Blest)

One of the most widely used hymns in the Church, Veni, Creator Spiritus, is attributed to Rabanus Maurus (776-856). It is used at Vespers, Pentecost, Dedication of a Church, Confirmation, and Holy Orders and whenever the Holy Spirit is solemnly invoked. A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful who recite it. A plenary indulgence is granted if it is recited on January 1st or on the Feast of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest, and in our souls take up Thy rest; come with Thy grace and heavenly aid to fill the hearts which Thou has made.

O Comforter, to Thee we cry, O Heavenly Gift of God Most High, O Fount of Life and Fire of Love, and Sweet Anointing from above.

Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts are known; Thou, finger of God's hand we own; Thou, promise of the Father, Thou Who dost the tongue with power imbue.

Kindle our sense from above, and make our hearts overflow with love; with patience firm and virtue high the weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread, and grant us Thy peace instead; so shall we not, with Thee for guide, turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow the Father and the Son to know; and Thee, through endless times confessed, of both the eternal Spirit blest.

Now to the Father and the Son, Who rose from death, be glory given, with Thou, O Holy Comforter, henceforth by all in earth and heaven. Amen.

Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church Monday June 9, 2025

The Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, reminds us how Jesus Himself, through an act of entrusting, willed that the divine maternity be extended to all men and women, that is, to the Church herself. In 2018, Pope Francis established the Monday after the Solemnity of Pentecost, the day on which the Church was born, as the date for this Memorial.

The title is not a new one. In 1980, Saint John Paul II invited the faithful to venerate Mary as "Mother of the Church". Even before that, on November 21, 1964, Saint Paul VI, on the conclusion of the Third Session of the Second Vatican Council declared Mary as the "Mother of the Church". And in 1975, the Holy See proposed a votive Mass in honor of the Mother of the Church, without it becoming a memorial on the liturgical calendar.

Besides these recent dates, we cannot forget how much the title of Mary, Mother of the Church, was already present in the thought of Saint Augustine and Saint Leo the Great, of Popes Benedict XV and Leo XIII, up until Pope Francis when, on February 11, 2018, the 160th anniversary of the first apparition of the Virgin at Lourdes, he made this an obligatory Memorial.

Prayer:

Most glorious Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, to you I entrust myself just as Jesus entrusted John in your care. Receive me as your spiritual child, an nurture me with your Son's divine grace. Thank you for your "Yes' to the Father's plan, for your life, and for your continuous "Yes" through time and eternity. May my "Yes" echo yours as I surrender fully to God's plan. Mother Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.

St. Anthony Of Padua

Priest and Doctor Of the Church

Friday June 13, 2025

Litany of St. Anthony of Padua

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, pray for us.
Saint Anthony of Padua, pray for us.
Saint Anthony, glory of the Friars Minor,
Saint Anthony, ark of the testament,
Saint Anthony, sanctuary of heavenly wisdom,
Saint Anthony, destroyer of worldly vanity,
Saint Anthony, conqueror of impurity,
Saint Anthony, example of humility,
Saint Anthony, lover of the cross,
Saint Anthony, martyr of desire,
Saint Anthony, generator of charity,
Saint Anthony, zealous for justice,
Saint Anthony, terror of infidels,
Saint Anthony, model of perfection,
Saint Anthony, consoler of the afflicted,
Saint Anthony, restorer of lost things,
Saint Anthony, defender of innocence,
Saint Anthony, liberator of prisoners,
Saint Anthony, guide of pilgrims,
Saint Anthony, restorer of health,
Saint Anthony, performer of miracles,
Saint Anthony, restorer of speech to the mute,
Saint Anthony, restorer of hearing to the deaf,
Saint Anthony, restorer of sight to the blind,
Saint Anthony, disperser of devils,
Saint Anthony, reviver of the dead,
Saint Anthony, tamer of tyrants,
From the snares of the devil, Saint Anthony deliver us.
From thunder, lightning, and storms, Saint Anthony deliver us.
From all evil of body and soul, Saint Anthony deliver us.
Though your intercession, Saint Anthony protect us.
Throughout the course of life, Saint Anthony protect us.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

V: Saint Anthony, pray for us.
R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

St. Anthony is venerated all over the world as the Patron Saint for lost articles, and is credited with many miracles involving lost people, lost things, and even lost spiritual goods.

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, Geraldine Catoggio & Assunta Di Benedetto.

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.

Solemnity of Pentecost
June 8, 2025

"Peace be with you."

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

Prayer for Vocations

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God.
Give them courage and strength to follow God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's holy Service.
Amen.

FOCUS:

Let us ask the Lord to give us hearts that are docile to the work of the Spirit in us.

The Holy Spirit transformed his disciples into courageous witnesses of the Resurrection of the Lord. It is this same Spirit that we have received at baptism and whose fullness is given to us at confirmation so that, like those first disciples, we might build up the Church. But submitting to the power of the Holy Spirit can be challenging and we can be tempted to resist. Let us ask the Lord to give us hearts that are docile to the work of the Spirit in us.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will conclude on Saturday, June 21st. It will resume on Tuesday, September 2nd. Thank you.

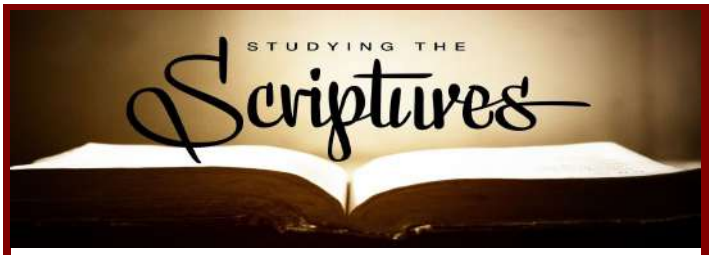
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before the 9:00AM Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 8:00AM each morning, Monday through Saturday, giving parishioners an opportunity for private prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:30AM the rosary will be prayed by parishioners.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

Summertime

As the Summer is upon us, many go away or are out of town for the weekends. May I ask you to please continue your weekly offering. Your support is essential for the parish during the summer months. As you know, like yourselves, we still have our monthly bills to be paid. I appreciate your attention to this important matter. If you plan to go away for the summer, please hand in your envelopes before you leave. For your information our fiscal year ends August 31st, and the new fiscal year begins September 1st.
I want to wish each of you a restful and relaxing summer.
THANK YOU for all you do in supporting our parish.
Msgr. Maresca



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

Dear SFA Friends and Family

The Scripture Study Group will meet on Thursday, June 12, in the St. Joseph Room of the Rectory from 7:20pm to 8:50pm. Join us as we continue the study of "Life Eternal": Lesson 6 - The Book of Revelation: A Heavenly Agenda.

"I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people and God Himself will always be with them [as their God].'" (Revelation 21:3-4)

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.

THANK YOU MARYBETH!

THANK YOU, MARYBETH, FOR YOUR SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AS OUR PARISH SECRETARY. WE WISH YOU A BLESSED AND HAPPY RETIREMENT AND HOPE THAT YOU ENJOY YOUR TIME WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND LOVED ONES.

WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR THE LOVE THAT YOU HAVE SHOWN FOR THIS PARISH AND ITS PARISHIONERS.

Our Father's Day Novena of Masses will begin on Sunday June 15, 2025 and will continue through June 21st. Please consider making an offering to remember your Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles, and anyone else who has a fatherly role in your life for this special Novena of Masses. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church.

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

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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 5/31-6/1 **$3,803**

School parents must use church envelopes.

Mass Attendance for May 31/June 1, 2025

5:00PM	**95**
8:00AM	**55**
9:30AM	**97**
11:00AM	**80**
12:30PM	**67**
	Total: 394

Next Festival Meeting
Tuesday, June 24th, at 7PM
Location: Rectory Basement

We had a great first Festival Meeting this past Monday evening, with a lot of participation and really great ideas. We thank those that took the time to come and participate!

There is still time to join us at our next Meeting on Tuesday June 24th at 7PM. We welcome everyone with ideas on how to make this year our best Festival ever!

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 **$24,859** 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

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.

Part Time Cook
The Blog Of A Full Time Teen

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

June 8 - June 14

Sunday, June 8
Pentecost Sunday
8:00AM Holy Name Mass
12:30PM Mass of Thanksgiving & Reception for
Our Parish Secretary, Marybeth Brickner

Monday, June 9
12:00PM Golden Age - MCH

Tuesday, June 10
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, June 11
9:00AM 3K Completion Ceremony
6:00PM Support Group -Rectory Basement
7:00PM Baptism Class
7:30PM-Bereavement Group-Rectory Basement

Thursday, June 12
9:00AM Pre-K Completion Ceremony
10:00AM Legion of Mary
6:00PM IACA End of Year Party
7:20PM Scripture Study - St. Joseph Room

Friday, June 13
5:00PM Graduation Mass & Ceremony

Saturday, June 14

NEXT WEEK

June 15 - June 21

Sunday, June 15
Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
Father's Day

Monday, June 16
12:00PM Golden Age - MCH

Tuesday, June 17
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, June 18
6:00PM Support Group -Rectory Basement
7:30PM-Bereavement Group-Rectory Basement

Thursday, June 19
Juneteenth
School and Rectory Office Closed
CYO End of Year Party

Friday, June 20
Girl Scout End of Year Ceremony

Saturday, June 21

JUNE 2025
LECTOR / MINISTER SCHEDULE

	PENTECOST SUNDAY JUNE 7 - 8	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY JUNE 14-15	CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY JUNE 21-22	13TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME JUNE 28-29
LECTORS				
Saturday 5:00PM	Edward Kubina	Dolores Ratkowski	Debbi Skinner	Edward Kubina
Sunday 8:00 AM	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz
Sunday 9:30 AM	Martha O'Toole	Patrick O'Toole	Sharon Costanza	Josephine Corso
Sunday 11:00 AM	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey
Sunday 12:30 PM	Anna Marie Del Carro	Jackie Machia	Anna Maria Tenaglia	Maria Bruno
MINISTERS				
Saturday 5:00PM	-----	-----	Janice Hengl	Minister Needed
Sunday 8:00 AM	Deborah Skinner	-----	-----	Minister Needed
Sunday 9:30 AM	Phillip Mincone	-----	Theresa Mincone	-----
Sunday 11:00 AM	-----	Carolyn Simeone	-----	-----
Sunday 12:30 PM	Nicoletta Cosentino	Maria Bruno	-----	Giuseppina Sferrazza

*** 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. June 2025

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Born in 1568 to the Marquis of Castilgione Castle in Italy, St. Aloysius was living at the court of Francesco de' Medici as a page when he met St. Charles Borromeo. In 1585, St. Aloysius entered the Jesuit Order. His studies for the priesthood were disrupted by famine and a plague. He volunteered to tend the sick. He died of the same plague at the age of twenty-three. He was known for his purity, penances, and theological brilliance.

Encountering God's heart

It's one thing to "know about" God — like knowing someone's name and zip code — but knowing His heart is a different matter. Jesus founded the Church so everyone everywhere could encounter God and experience His redeeming, transforming love. If just "knowing about" Jesus isn't enough for you — good! He's always calling us to experience His love more.

"A first essential setting for learning hope is prayer. When no one listens to me any more, God still listens to me. When I can no longer talk to anyone or call upon anyone, I can always talk to God. When there is no longer anyone to help me deal with a need or expectation…he can help me…if I pray, I am never totally alone."
Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*

You are a passion of Christ

Want to know someone? Find out what he or she loves. So what is Jesus passionate about? It's simple – He is passionate about you. Not humanity in general, but you.

When Jesus looked at the crowds, He didn't see a blur of faces. He saw each person—knew them, loved them. The Crucifix and the Eucharist aren't just symbols; they're proof that His love goes to staggering lengths to be with us and bless us. It's a love so personal and intense, it demands a response. So how do we respond?

Start simple: "Thank you. I love you." We assume people know we love them, but it still matters to say it out loud. The same is true of Jesus. In His appearances to St. Margaret Mary and later to St. Faustina, He shared how deeply wounded He is by indifference and ingratitude, especially in the Eucharist. He also promised immense grace to those who console Him with love, thanks, and attention.

Come to the Feast. At every Mass, Jesus gives everything—His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1374). He gives us His whole Heart, hoping we'll give ours in return. He is as present now as He was at the Last Supper. Simply showing up to be with Him is an act of love — and a bold act of faith.

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love" (John 15:9).

Receive His Mercy. When we come to Him in Confession, genuinely sorry, He doesn't scold—He celebrates. Not because of our sin, but because He gets to pour out His mercy. *"Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me"* (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 1146). Confession doesn't just free your soul—it fills His Heart with joy.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics hold Eucharistic processions?

A Eucharistic procession — a public act of worship during which the Blessed Sacrament is carried by a priest through the streets — is a centuries-old tradition.

Dating back to the Middle Ages, at the center of the procession is the Blessed Sacrament in a radiant vessel called a monstrance. Behind the priest (or deacon), the faithful follow, praying and singing in reverent joy.

When these processions move beyond church walls and into the streets, they become more than a ritual — they become a living proclamation of Christ's Real Presence. No speeches, no signs — just silent reverence and an open invitation for others to encounter the Lord Himself.

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Words can build—or break—bridges

"The way we communicate is of fundamental importance." Pope Leo's point is that words can build up or tear down, open hearts or shut them tight. In a noisy world, choosing how we speak is one of the most important choices we make.

Manners matter. Real communication doesn't bulldoze others. It doesn't chase agreement at all costs. It doesn't feed off competition. A healthy conversation makes space for different viewpoints while still seeking the truth. Winning an argument might feel good—but it rarely changes hearts. And changing hearts is the point.

Speak the Truth—with love. Truth isn't always popular. Sometimes it's hard. But truth, spoken without love, loses its power. As Pope Leo put it, we must never separate "the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it." This is especially vital when carrying out spiritual Works of Mercy like counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, or even admonishing the sinner. The goal isn't just to be right—it's to bring people closer to Truth Himself.

Ditch the stereotypes. People don't fit neatly into boxes. When we lean on lazy labels, we lose the chance to see each other clearly—and we only deepen division. As Pope Leo said, "Let us disarm communication of all prejudice and resentment ... Let us disarm words, and we will help disarm the world."

from Scripture — Matthew 16:13-19, Founded on the "Rock"

The events in this passage lay the foundations for the Catholic Church, intended to last for the rest of time. In it, Jesus asks His disciples, *"Who do you say that I am?"* It was a question about Jesus' identity, rather than about the persuasiveness of His teaching or His popularity. Catholicism centers around who Jesus is. The Truth is true, regardless of popular opinion.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Simon answered for the disciples, identifying Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah (Matthew 16:16). For this, Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter ("Rock"), reflecting a change of identity and mission. He gave Peter (and his successors) the keys to the kingdom — a sign of authority to interpret Scripture, forgive sins, and (re)admit people into the Church.

This truth has been handed down through the ages, from the Apostles to the bishops to us. The Holy Spirit would lead Peter — and his successors, the popes — to continue speaking and acting in truth as the visible head of the Church.

Feasts & Celebrations

June is the month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, wounded by our sins, yet blazing with divine love for us. We're encouraged to receive Holy Communion worthily and visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament.

June 3 – St. Charles Lwanga and his companions (1886). While serving under Ugandan King Mwanga II, St. Charles and his friends faced persecution for their faith. When Lwanga and his companions refused King Mwanga's immoral demands, the king ordered them all to be executed, which they underwent in joyful anticipation.

June 17 – St. Emily de Vialar (1856). Born into the French aristocracy, St. Emily used her inheritance to found a religious order—the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition. They cared for the sick and started schools in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

June 19 – St. Romuald the Abbot (1027). Born in Ravenna, Italy, St. Romuald fled to a Benedictine monastery to do penance, after witnessing his father kill a relative in a duel. St. Romuald sought solitude as a hermit, yet many came seeking guidance. He founded several monasteries, including the Camaldolese.

June 28 – The Immaculate Heart of Mary. In response to the request made by Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary's gentle and devout Immaculate Heart in 1942 and initiated this feast in 1944.

Q & A — How can I get more out of using Scripture in prayer?

The practice of lectio divina, or "sacred reading" is a Catholic devotion with ancient roots. The best-known form was developed by Guigo II, a twelfth-century Carthusian monk, and consists of four steps.

Reading: The first "rung" of the ladder is simply to read. Consider reading the Gospel of the day, a favorite verse, or an event from Christ's life, e.g., the Anointing at Bethany (John 12:1-8).

Meditating: Reread and wait for the Holy Spirit to point you to something. Sit with it for a while. What do you feel? Can you imagine what's happening in the passage?

Praying: God always speaks to us through Scripture (Hebrews 4:12). This is the time to ask Him to shed light on it. God reveals His heart to us and us to ourselves.

Savoring: This stage is called "contemplation" — a resting in God. It's the moment when a conversation between friends settles into a comfortable silence.

Lectio divina is a guiderail for prayer, rather than a strict set of steps. Don't worry: God knows what we need and how best to reach our hearts.

Our Mission
To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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Summer Church & Rectory Hours

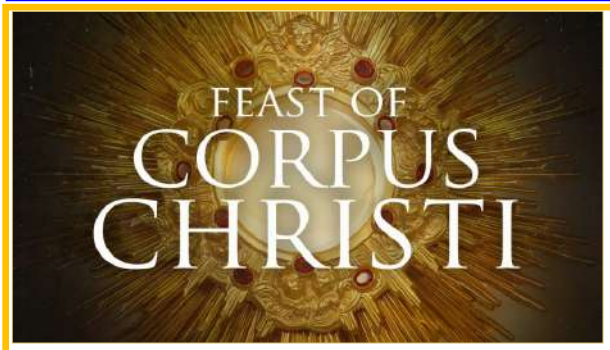
Church Hours will begin on Monday, June 23rd:
Monday through Saturday: Church will open at 8am
Sunday: Church will open at 7:30am

Summer Rectory Hours will begin on Monday, June 23rd:
Monday through Thursday:
9:00AM to 12:00PM; 1:00PM to 5:00PM
NO EVENING HOURS

Friday:
9:00AM to 12:00PM; 1:00PM to 3:00PM
NO EVENING HOURS

Saturday:
9:00AM to 2:00PM

Sundays and Holidays: CLOSED



Sunday June 22, 2025
Holy Hour Concluding with Benediction
1:30PM to 2:30PM

Sunday, June 22nd is the Feast of Corpus Christi. We will have a Holy Hour from 1:30PM to 2:30PM concluding with Benediction.
Please mark your calendars for this Holy Hour and join us on this special day to celebrate the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. Weather permitting we will process around the block.

The Holy Name Society

The Mission of the Holy Name Society is to promote devotion and reverence for the Holy Name of God and Jesus.
All are invited for this celebration of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. It is a wonderful way to come closer to our Lord.

The Holy Name Mass is held the 2nd Sunday of each month at 8:00AM.

On every First Saturday of the Month, we have our Anointing Mass at 9am. All are invited and we encourage you to bring your loved ones to this very special Mass each Month.

Catholic Youth Organization
Children are at the heart of our mission

www.sfawildcats.org ***Contact Us*: contactus@sfawildcats.org**

We had some great playing last weekend. Next week starts playoffs!

Soccer

Subnovice Boys lost to OLBS 3-0

Despite the game result, subnovice boys dominated the majority of the game demonstrating excellent teamwork, ball control, and defense. Daniel Mura did a great job as midfielder switching quickly from defense to offense; goal keeper Jace Hili had several saves; and Eddie Kubina and Giancarlo Ferrara did great at defense. Amadeo Buja, Ronan Kane, Francesco LoGiudice, Thomas Randazzo, Leo Coats, and Stefano LoGiudice kept the pressure on the opposing team.

Squirt Girls lost to Holy Child 6-5

In the most exciting game of the season with lots of goals on both sides, our Lady Wildcats put on an amazing performance. We ended one goal short unfortunately. The goals were scored by Avery V. (2x), Amelia B. (2x), and Larissa K. (1x)

Squirt Boys beat St. Luke's 6-1

Our boys finished the season strong and played some great football. They showcased how hard they have worked this season. Goals were made by Luka Monterrosa (1), Benjamin Almeida (1), Ryan Behensky (1), Noah Hagan (1), and Sebastian Short (2).

Squirt Girls lost to St. Mel's 7-1

Unfortunately, our Lady Wildcats didn't stand a chance against a very good St. Mel's team. Nonetheless, the entire squad showcased Wildcats spirit and pride and hustled until the end. Our goal was scored by Amelia B.

Intermediate Boys lost to OLBS 5-3

We fought hard with only 10 players. Andrej Kovac led the offense with 3 awesome goals! Joe Vos had his best game of the season managing the defense and Massimo Marricco played hard in holding down the midfield. Andrea Randazzo kept the game close with many excellent saves and Tristan Buligovic had his best effort of the season.

Flag Football

Bantam Boys lost to Hope 40-24

Novice beat St. Camillus 19-3

In the first of a double header the Novice team played a strong game and beat undefeated St. Camillus. Our quarterback Gabriel Machuca threw touchdowns to Patrick Hughes (1 TD), an extra point to Jace Hili, and Mason Cleghorn (2TD).

Novice beat OL Hope 14-6

In the second game of the night the Novice team kept up their momentum pulling out a win in a close game. Mason Cleghorn had two touchdowns, the second one with a pass from Jaxon Hili in the final two minutes to secure the win. Both Mason and Patrick Hughes made big interceptions on defense.

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

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.