16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass intentions

Sunday, July 20	*16th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00AM	**Anna Gastic**
9:30AM	**Matteo Curcuru**
11:00AM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
	Miriam Diaz
	Victor A. Di Donato
	Carol Grant
	Elizabeth Hovanec
	Rochelle (anon.)
Monday, July 21	*St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Doctor of the Church*
9:00AM	**Chester Greszczuk**
Tuesday, July 22	*Feast of St. Mary Magdalene*
9:00AM	**Assunta D'Angelo**
Wednesday, July 23	*St. Bridget*
9:00AM	**Bill Gastic**
Thursday, July 24	*St. Sharbel Makhluf*
9:00AM	**Rosemarie Razza**
Friday, July 25	*Feast of St. James the Apostle*
9:00AM	**Barbara Gambino**
Saturday, July 26	*Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
9:00AM	**Purgatorial Society**
	Ana Balint
5:00PM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
Sunday, July 27	*17th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00AM	**Patrick Hosey**
9:30AM	**Darrin T. O'Connor**
11:00AM	**Mario Esposito**
	Antonio Carlino
	Maria DiRico

Today's Readings

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:1-10A
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to Him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Readings For The Week

Monday	***Exodus 14:5-18***
	Matthew 12:38-42
Tuesday	***Song of Songs 3:1-4B***
	John 20:1-2,11-18
Wednesday	***Exodus 16:1-5,9-15***
	Matthew 13:1-9
Thursday	***Exodus 19:1-2,9-11,16-20B***
	Matthew 13:10-17
Friday	***2 Corinthians 4:7-15***
	Matthew 20:20-28
Saturday	***Exodus 24:3-8***
	Matthew 13:24-30

17th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:20-32
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

Parish Prayer Intentions

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
Christoper 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

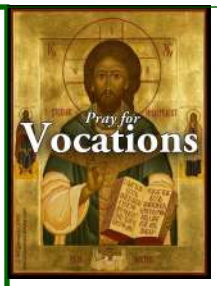
Benedicto Randazzo
Angelo Niakas
Peter Lopez
Rick Simonsen
Aubrey Madden
Madison Millett
Leonardo Di Marco
Michelle Yashita
The Polychronakis Family
Angel Garcia
Geraldine Catoggio
Assunta Di Benedetto

Also remember in your prayers all the deceased of the Parish. Please remember to pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and married life.

FOCUS:

The Lord is abundant in mercy and generosity.

The Liturgy of the Word today highlights God's goodness through generosity. From blessing Abraham and Sarah with their long awaited child to assuring Martha that she need not worry, the Lord knows our deepest needs and responds to them. May we model this compassionate response in all our relationships.



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 20, 2025

"There is need of only one thing."

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

Morning Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has concluded for the summer. It will resume on Tuesday, September 2.
Thank you.

St. Anselm's Beautiful Prayer To Saint Mary Magdalene

St. Mary Magdalene, you came springing with tears to the spring of mercy, Christ; from Him your burning thirst was abundantly refreshed; through Him your sins were forgiven; by Him your bitter sorrow was consoled.

My dearest lady, well you know by your own life how a sinful soul can be reconciled with its creator, what counsel a soul in misery needs, what medicine will restore the sick to health. It is enough for us to understand, dear friend of God, to whom were **"many sins forgiven, because she loved much."**

Most blessed lady, I who am the most evil and sinful of men do not recall your sins as a reproach, but call upon the boundless mercy by which they were blotted out. This is my reassurance, so that I do not despair; this is my longing, so that I shall not perish.

I say this of myself, miserably cast down into the depths of vice, bowed down with the weight of crimes, thrust down by my own hand into a dark prison of sins, wrapped round with the shadows of darkness.

Therefore, since you are now with the chosen because you are beloved and are beloved because you are chosen of God, I, in my misery, pray to you, in bliss; in my darkness, I ask for light; in my sins, redemption; impure, I ask for purity.

Recall in loving kindness what you used to be, how much you needed mercy, and seek for me that same forgiving love that you received when you were wanting it. Ask urgently that I may have the love that pierces the heart; tears that are humble; desire for the homeland of heaven; impatience with this earthly exile; searing repentance; and a dread of torments in eternity.

Turn to my good that ready access that you once had and still have to the spring of mercy. Draw me to Him where I may wash away my sins; bring me to him who can slake my thirst; pour over me those waters that will make my dry places fresh. You will not find it hard to gain all you desire from so loving and so kind a Lord, who is alive and reigns and is your friend.

For who can tell, beloved and blest of God, with what kind familiarity and familiar kindness He Himself replied on your behalf to the calumnies of those who were against you?

How **He defended you**, when the proud Pharisee was indignant, how **He excused you**, when your sister complained, **how highly He praised your deed**, when Judas begrudged it.

And more that all this, what can I say, how can I find words to tell, about the burning love with which you sought Him, weeping at the sepulchre, and wept for Him in your seeking?

How He came, who can say how or with what kindness, to comfort you, and made you burn with love still more; how He hid from you when you wanted to see Him, and showed Himself when you did not think to see Him; how He was there all the time you sought Him, and how He sought you when, seeking Him, you wept.

But You, most holy Lord, why do You ask her why she weeps? Surely you can see; her heart, the dear life of her soul, is cruelly slain. O love to be wondered at; O evil to be shuddered at; you hung on the wood, pierced by iron nails, stretched out like a thief for the mockery of wicked men; and yet, **"Woman,"** You say, **"Why are you weeping?"**

She had not been able to prevent them from killing You, but at least she longed to keep Your body for a while with ointments lest it decay. No longer able to speak with You living, at least she could mourn for You dead. So, near to death and hating her own life, she repeats in broken tones the words of life which she had heard from the living. And now, besides all this, even the body which she was glad, in a way, to have kept, she believes to be gone.

And can You ask her, **"Woman, why are you weeping?"** Had she not reason to weep? For she had seen with her own eyes if she could bear to look what cruel men did to You; and now all that was left of You from their hands she thinks she has lost. All hope of You has fled, for now she has not even your lifeless body to remind her of You.

And someone asks, **"Who are you looking for? Why are you weeping?"** You, her sole joy, should be the last thus to increase her sorrow. But You know it all well, and thus You wish it to be, for only in such broken words and sighs can she convey a cause of grief as great as hers. The love you have inspired You do not ignore, and indeed You know her well, the gardener, who planted her soul in His garden. What You plant, I think You also water. Do You water, I wonder, or do You test her? In fact, you are both watering and putting to the test.

But now, good Lord, gentle Master, look upon your faithful servant and disciple, so lately redeemed by Your blood, and see how she burns with anxiety, desiring You, searching all round, questioning, and what she longs for is nowhere found. Nothing she sees can satisfy her, since You whom alone she would behold, she sees not. What then? How long will my Lord leave His beloved to suffer thus? Have You put off compassion now You have put on incorruption? Did You let go of goodness when you laid hold of immortality? Let it not be so, Lord. You will not despise us mortals now You have made Yourself immortal, for You made Yourself a mortal in order to give us immortality.

And so it is; for love's sake He cannot bear her grief for long or go on hiding Himself. For the sweetness of love He shows Himself who would not for the bitterness of tears. The Lord calls His servant by the name she has often heard and the servant knows the voice of her own Lord. I think, or rather I am sure, that she responded to the gentle tone with which He was accustomed to call, **"Mary."** What joy filled that voice, so gentle and full of love. He could not have put it more simply and clearly; "I know who you are and what you want; behold me; do not weep, behold me; I am He whom you seek."

At once the tears are changed; I do not believe that they stopped at once, but where once they were wrung from a heart broken and self-tormenting they flow now from a heart exulting. How different is, **"Master!"** from **"If you have taken Him away, tell me;"** and, **"They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him,"** has a very different sound from, **"I have seen the Lord, and He has spoken to me."**

But how should I, in misery and without love, dare to describe the love of God and the blessed friend of God? Such a flavor of goodness will make my heart sick if it has in itself nothing of that same virtue. But in truth, You who are very Truth, You know me well and can testify that I write this for the love of Your love, my Lord, my most dear Jesus. I want Your love to burn in me as You command so that I may desire to love You alone and sacrifice to You a troubled spirit, "a broken and contrite heart."

Give me, O Lord, in this exile, the bread of tears and sorrow for which I hunger more than for any choice delights. Hear me, for Your love, and for the dear merits of Your beloved Mary, and Your blessed Mother, the greater Mary. Redeemer, my good Jesus, do not despise the prayers of one who has sinned against You but strengthen the efforts of a weakling that loves You. Shake my heart out of its indolence, Lord, and in the ardour of Your love bring me the everlasting sight of Your glory where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign. Amen.

Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday, July 26, 2025

Prayer for Family Unity through St. Anne and St. Joachim

O Father, we humbly seek the intercession of St. Anne and St. Joachim, that our families may be bound together in love and harmony.
Grant us the grace to communicate openly, forgive freely, and support one another in faith. May our homes be filled with joy and understanding, reflecting the unity of the Holy Family. Amen.

On July 26 the Roman Catholic Church commemorates the parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anne. The couple's faith and perseverance brought them through the sorrow of childlessness, to the joy of conceiving and raising the immaculate and sinless woman who would give birth to Christ.

An angel revealed to St. Anne when he appeared to her and prophesied that all generations would honor their future child: "The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth; and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world."

Saint Joachim and Saint Anne have been a part of the Church's liturgical calendar for many centuries. Devotion to their memory is particularly strong in the Eastern Catholic Churches, where their intercession is invoked by the priest at the end of each Divine Liturgy.

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.

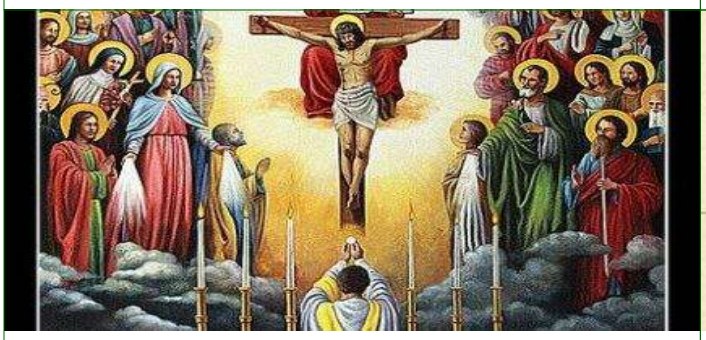
Msgr. Maresca

Receiving Holy Communion

For those who have difficulty walking up the aisle to receive Holy Communion, may I suggest that you sit in the front row on either side to save yourself some steps. The priest, deacon, or minister will come down to you in the pew and give you Holy Communion. However, if for some reason you need to sit towards the back of the Church, please let the usher know and they will inform the priest, deacon, or minister, and we will come back to you to give you Holy Communion when we finish those in line.

Thanks,

Msgr. Maresca



2025 Mass Book

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

Masses:
Masses are $20.00.

The Purgatorial Society has an enrollment for one year:
Purgatorial Mass Cards are $30.00.

Memorials:
Altar Bread,
Wine,
Sanctuary Lamp,
or Altar Candles
are $75.00.

Altar Flowers are $100.

An Act of Love Before Mass

O my God, I love Thee with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength, and with no other desire than to be inseparably united to Thee. It is through Thy Divine Son that this union is about to be realized within me. In Holy Communion I long to identify myself with Him, that it will no longer be myself, but Him, who lives in me; and when I have received Jesus within myself, then I shall love and be loved by Thee in that same measure, in which I am united to Him. Hasten then, to give me Thy Divine Son, at the hands of Thy priest, that through Jesus, I may unite myself forever to Thee, O God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 7/12-7/13	**$3,838**
2nd Collection for Maintenance	**$954**

SCHOOL PARENTS MUST USE CHURCH ENVELOPES.

Mass Attendance for July 12/13, 2025

5:00PM	**86**
8:00AM	**43**
9:30AM	**73**
11:00AM	**109**

Total: 311

Second Collection next Saturday & Sunday, July 26/27, 2025

Next Saturday and Sunday, July 26/27, we will be having a Second Collection for **Air Conditioning**.

We thank you for your financial help in maintaining our Parish and helping keep the Church at a comfortable temperature. Please be as generous as your means allow.

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 **$26,429** 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

Wanted: Part Time Cook

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.

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, returned by mail, or in the Sunday Collection Basket. You can even download the census card online. Just check our website at:
stfrancisofassisiastoria.org
You will then begin to receive weekly offering envelopes.

Calendar of Events

This Week

July 20 - July 26

Sunday, July 20

Monday, July 21

Tuesday, July 22
6:30PM AA Meeting—Rectory Basement

Wednesday, July 23
6:00PM Support Group –The Redeemer Center
7:30PM-Bereavement Group-ZOOM

Thursday, July 24
10:00AM Legion of Mary

Friday, July 25

Saturday, July 26

Next Week

July 27 - August 2

Sunday, July 27

Monday, July 28

Tuesday, July 29
6:30PM AA Meeting—Rectory Basement

Wednesday, July 30
6:00PM Support Group –The Redeemer Center
7:30PM-Bereavement Group-ZOOM

Thursday, July 31
10:00AM Legion of Mary

Friday, August 1

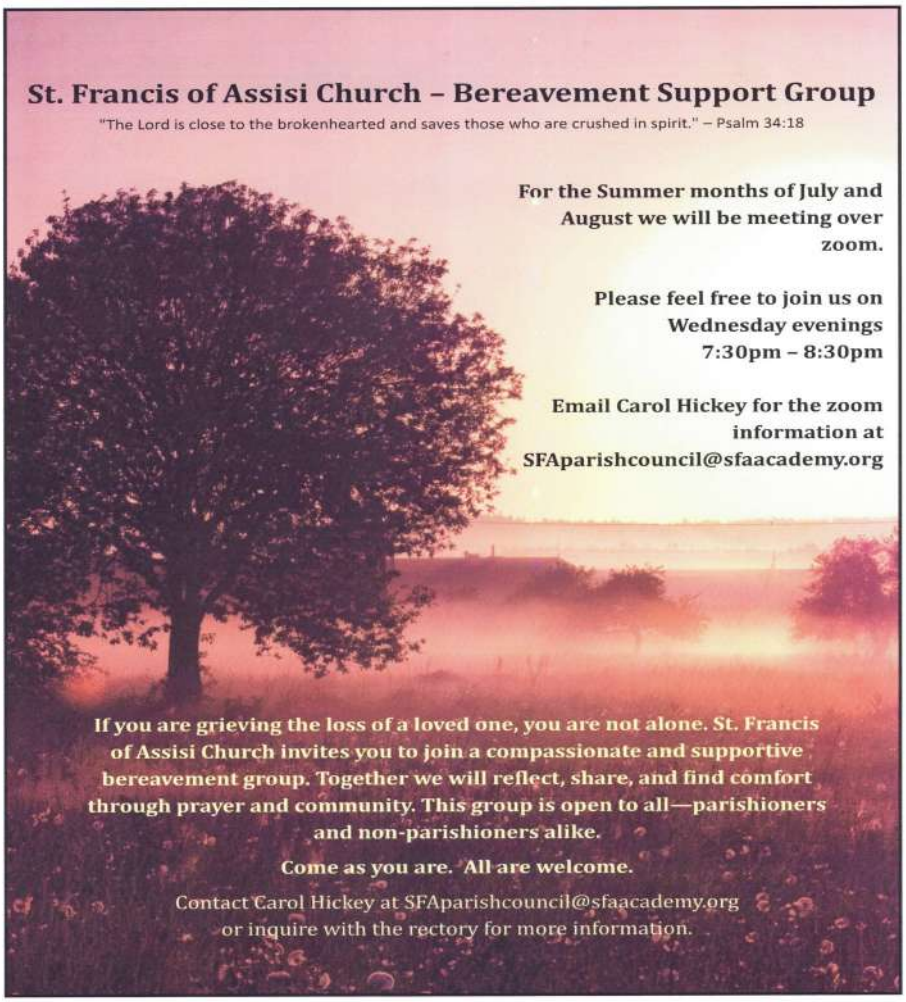
Saturday, August 2
9:00AM Anointing Mass

Lector & Minister Schedule August 2025

	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 2-3	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 9-10	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 16-17	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time August 23-24	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time August 30-31
Lectors					
Saturday 5:00PM	Edward Kubina	Debbi Skinner	Dolores Ratowski	Edward Kubina	Debbi Skinner
Sunday 8:00AM	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz
Sunday 9:30AM	Martha O'Toole	Sharon Costanza	Patrick O'Toole	Josephine Corso	Maria Brooks
Sunday 11:00AM	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	Jane Di Donato
Ministers					
Saturday 5:00PM	******	*****	******	Deanna Danke	*****
Sunday 8:00AM	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Sunday 9:30AM	Janice Hengl	Theresa Mincone	*****	*****	*****
Sunday 11:00AM	Jane Di Donato	*****	Jane Esposito	*****	*****

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.



The Litany of Trust

From the belief that I have to earn Your love,
Deliver me Jesus.

From the fear that I am unlovable,

From the false security that I have what it takes,

From the fear that trusting You will leave me more destitute,

From all suspicion of Your words and promises,

From the rebellion of childlike dependency on You,

From refusals and reluctances in accepting Your will,

From anxiety about the future,

From resentment or excessive preoccupation from the past,

From restless self-seeking in the present moment,

From disbelief in Your love and presence,

From the fear of being asked to give more than I have,

From the belief that my life has no meaning or worth,

From the fear of what love demands,

From discouragement,

_____-

That You are continually holding me, sustaining me, loving me,
Jesus, I trust in You.

That Your love goes deeper than my sins and failings, and transforms me,

That not knowing what tomorrow brings is an invitation to lean on You,

That You are with me in my suffering,

That my suffering, united to Your own, will bear fruit in this life and the next,

That You will not leave me orphan, that You are present in Your Church,

That Your plan is better than anything else,

That You always hear me, and in Your goodness always respond to me,

That You give me the grace to accept forgiveness and to forgive others,

That You give me all the strength I need for what is asked,

That my life is a gift,

That You will teach me to trust You,

That You are my Lord and my God,

That I am Your beloved one,

Amen.

Join Us in Celebrating
95 Years of Faith and Family

1930

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

95th Anniversary

2025

We joyfully invite you to celebrate the
95th Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi
a legacy of worship, service, and community.

In celebration, we are proud to honor
Mrs. Maria Bruno and
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Mincone
for their dedication and unwavering support.

Celebrate with us on Sunday,
October 19, 2025
9:30am Family Mass

Following the Mass join us at
Russo's on the Bay
162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard
Cocktail hour starts at 12:30pm

Tickets $150
Children 5-12 $60; 2-4 $30

Transportation available $20

To purchase your ticket(s) please complete the sheet in the bulletin or visit our website stfrancisofassisiastoria.org

For more information, please call Nancy Annunziata at 718-726-9405 x3
Hope to see you then!

Instagram @ St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Astoria

Facebook @St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Astoria NY

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 **Tara.**

Religious Education Registration

Those who have not yet registered for Religious Education classes are kindly asked to fill out the Registration Form included in the Bulletin, or pick up a registration form from the Rectory and fill it out and return it as soon as possible.

For any questions, please contact Sr. Francesca via email or phone:
dre@sfaacademy.org 718-278-0259 ext. 121

Catechist Needed

We are currently in need of a Catechist for our 7th Grade Class.
If you are interested, please contact Sr. Francesca at
718-278-0259, ext. 121, or dre@sfaacademy.org

St. Francis of Assisi Office of Religious Education
REGISTRATION FORM – 2025-2026

Student Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Circle if Completed Baptism Communion

School Attending and Grade in September 2025

_____

Sacrament needed: [circle please] *Baptism Communion Confirmation*

Father's Name:

_____ Living/Deceased Religion: _____
(circle one)

Mother's Name:

_____ Living/Deceased Religion: _____
Include maiden name *(circle one)*

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____
(Cell, Home, Mother, Father) *(Cell, Home, Mother, Father)*

Email 1: _____ Email 2: _____
(Mother, Father) *(Mother, Father)*

Home Address _____
Street Town State Zip

EMERGENCY CONTACT: In case of emergency who should we contact other than Parent/s.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Contact Number: _____

Is there any additional information we should know? (family situations, medical conditions, allergies, special needs or accommodations, etc.) If "NO" please write "NONE".

_____

Language spoken at home: English ____ Spanish ____ Italian ____ Other _____

Are you registered in the Parish? _____ If yes, envelope number: _____

I am interested in volunteering as a catechist, hall monitor, office assistant, or class parent. Please contact me. ☐

Tuition for the 2025-2026 Year

Tuition for Grades 1-8: **1 child** $100 **2 children or more** $175

Additional Fees: Grade 2 First **Communion** Fee **$150.00** Grade 8 **Confirmation** Fee **$150.00**

Family Name: _____

Grades: _____

Information Date added: _____

Registration remains open all year. *If you have any financial questions or scheduling conflicts, please do not hesitate to call our office so we can discuss your situation and work together to find a solution.*

Office Use ONLY

Date: _____ Amount: _____ Form of Payment: _____

Date: _____ Amount: _____ Form of Payment: _____

Office notes _____