# 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Mass Intentions

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Sunday, Sept. 7*** | *23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time* |
| *8:00AM* | **Msgr. Stefan Geosits** |
| *9:30AM* | **For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi** |
| *11:00AM* | **Niklaus E. Gyn**<br>**Maria Alongi**<br>**Frank Pasquorella** |
| ***Monday, Sept. 8*** | *The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary* |
| *9:00AM* | **Marie Salamone** |
| ***Tuesday, Sept. 9*** | *St. Peter Claver, Priest* |
| *9:00AM* | **Joseph Salamone** |
| ***Wednesday, Sept. 10*** | *Weekday* |
| *9:00AM* | **Mary Di Pietro** |
| ***Thursday, Sept. 11*** | *Weekday* |
| *9:00AM* | **Victor Salamone** |
| ***Friday, Sept. 12*** | *The Most Holy Name of Mary* |
| *9:00AM* | **Joseph Ewy** |
| ***Saturday, Sept. 13*** | *St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church* |
| *9:00AM* | **Purgatorial Society**<br>**Evelyn Singura** |
| *5:00PM* | **Maria Caputo** |
| ***Sunday, Sept. 14*** | *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross* |
| *8:00AM* | **Holy Name Mass** |
| *9:30AM* | **Carmela Vella** |
| *11:00AM* | **For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**<br>**Angelo Rosa Sferrazza** |

## Today's Readings

### 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

***Wisdom 9:13-18b***
***Philemon 9-10, 12-17***
***Luke 14:25-33***

Now large crowds were traveling with Him; and He turned and said to them, "Whoever come to Me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become My disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

### Readings For The Week

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Monday*** | ***Micah 5:1-4a***<br>***Matthew 1:1-16,18-23*** |
| ***Tuesday*** | ***Colossians 2:6-15***<br>***Luke 6:12-19*** |
| ***Wednesday*** | ***Colossians 3:1-11***<br>***Luke 6:20-26*** |
| ***Thursday*** | ***Colossians 3:12-17***<br>***Luke 6:27-38*** |
| ***Friday*** | ***1 Timothy 1:1-2,12-14***<br>***Luke 6:39-42*** |
| ***Saturday*** | ***1 Timothy 1:15-17***<br>***Luke 6:43-49*** |

### Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

***Numbers 21:4b-9***
***Philippians 2:6-11***
***John 3:13-17***

# 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
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

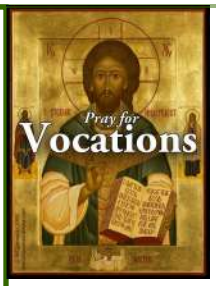
Benedicto Randazzo
Angelo Niakas
Peter Lopez
Rick Simonsen
Aubrey Madden
Madison Millett
Leonardo Di Marco
Michelle Yashita
The Polychronakis Family
Angel Garcia
Geraldine Catoggio
Assunta Di Benedetto
Bob Bala

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:

### Love for God should be the inspiration for and goal of everything we do.

Christ challenges us in today's Gospel to allow our Christian vocation to affect every aspect of our lives. He calls us to order our love properly, with love for God as the inspiration for and goal of everything we do. If we love our families, our lives, and our possessions for God's sake and not for the sake of the things themselves, we will indeed be His disciples.

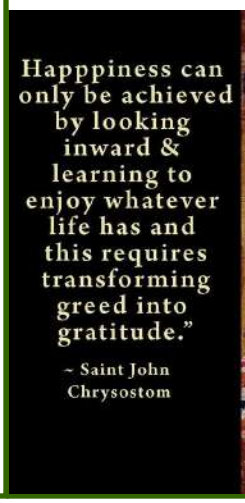



## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
### September 7, 2025

**"Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be My disciple."**

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



**St. John Chrysostom**

**Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

**Feast Day: Saturday, September 13, 2025**

# *From the Pastor's Desk:*

"Stretch our your hand."
Luke 6:10

My Dear Parishioners,

I hope this letter finds you refreshed and renewed after the summer season. Hopefully whatever you did, enabled you to enjoy family and friends.

As we begin a new pastoral year, there are many celebrations that will be taking place. Please mark your calendar for our Annual Fall Festival which will be held on Saturday, September 27th. It's a great way to come and join in the fun and help support our parish and our academy. Hope to see everyone there.

On October 19, 2025 at the 9:30am Mass, we will celebrate the 95th anniversary of our parish. Bishop Brennan will be here to celebrate the Mass. Following Mass there will be a dinner dance at Russo's on the Bay. Join us as we celebrate this milestone in the life of our parish.

Also, this year marks the 75th anniversary of our school/academy. Join us for the opening Mass on Friday, September 12th at 9am. Throughout the school year there will be activities celebrating this accomplishment.

We have so much to be thankful to God. With all our celebrations, we have many opportunities to deepen our relationship with the Lord and strengthen our bonds of our parish families and school community. Together, we can build upon our successes of the past, look forward to new challenges with hope and courage, and continue to support one another with kindness and respect.

May this new pastoral year open our hearts and minds to new possibilities for growth.

May the Lord Bless each of us and fill us with His wisdom, hope and joy.

***All God's Blessings,***
***Msgr. Maresca***

## Change to Fall Festival Meeting Time:

**The Fall Festival Planning Meeting has been moved to this Monday, September 8, 2025, at 7:00PM. Please note the change. All are welcome to attend the meeting.**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

# Eucharistic Adoration

## Monday - Saturday 8:00AM to 8:50AM

Eucharistic Adoration is celebrated Monday through Saturday, from 8:00AM to 8:50AM. As Pope St. John Paul II has said, “Christian life is expressed in the fulfilling of the greatest Commandment, that is to say, in the love of God and neighbor, and this love finds its source in the Blessed Sacrament….Eucharistic worship is therefore precisely the expression of that love which is the authentic and deepest characteristic of the Christian vocation. This worship springs from the love and serves the love to which we are all called in Jesus Christ. A living fruit of this worship is the perfecting of the image of God that we bear within us….We must always have this reality before our eyes.”

We encourage everyone to make an effort to spend time with our Lord. It is time well spent in prayer for your own intentions and also for our Parish Family.

# Recently Deceased

**We remember and pray for our Recently Deceased:**

**Pasqua Rena Krejci**
**Massimiliano Cina**
**Norma Bunce**

# Baptisms

**We celebrate and pray for our newly Baptized:**

**Emilia Luna Bernard**
**Gianluca Damiano De Chirico**
**Connor William Gorman**

# The Holy Name Society

**Next Sunday, September 14, 2025**

The Mission of the Holy Name Society is to promote devotion and reverence for the Holy Name of God and Jesus.

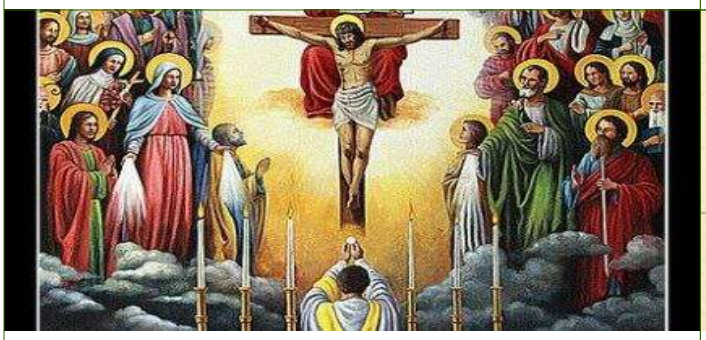
All are invited for this celebration of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. It is a wonderful way to come closer to our Lord.

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

## 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.

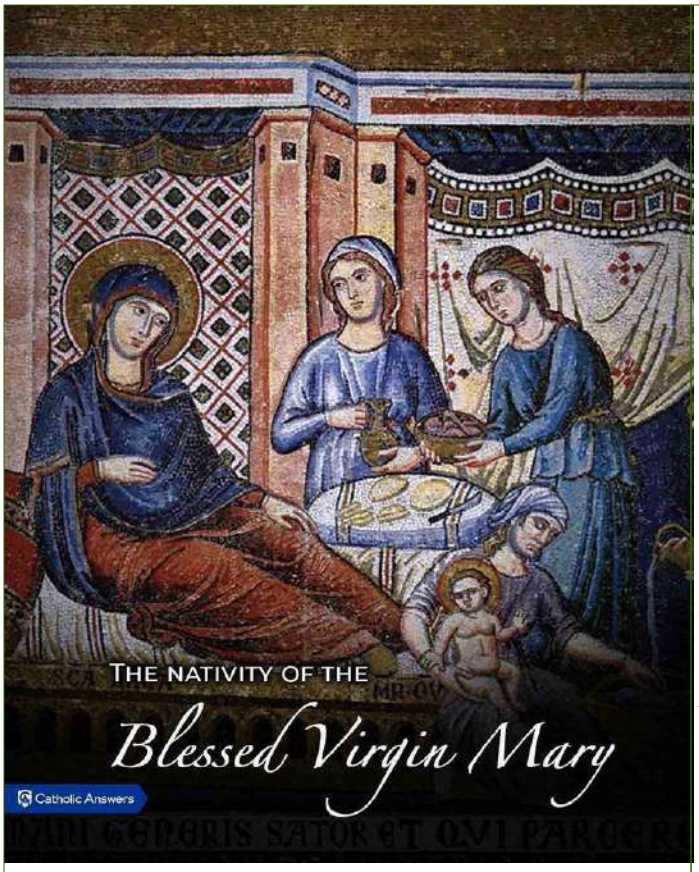
**The Purgatorial Society has an enrollment for one year:**
Purgatorial Mass Cards are $30.00.

**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.




# Prayer

**Your Nativity, O Virgin Mother of God, was the herald of joy to the whole world; since from you arose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who, destroying the curse, bestowed the blessing, and confounding death, rewarded us with life everlasting.**

**V. Let us celebrate with joy the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

**R. That she may intercede for us with our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Let us pray:**
**Grant to us your servants, we beseech You, O Lord, the gift of Your heavenly grace, that as our salvation was begun in the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin, so from this solemn festival of her Nativity may we obtain an increase of grace.**
**Through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
## Monday, September 8, 2025

This is one of the most ancient Marian Feasts. It is thought that this feast originated in connection with the Feast of a church dedicated to Mary, now the Church of St. Ann, in Jerusalem in the 6th century. Tradition holds that this is where the house of Mary's parents, Joachim and Ann, stood and where she would have been born. The feast began to be celebrated in Rome in the 8th century with Pope Sergius I. It is the third such feast of a "nativity" on the Roman Calendar: the Nativity of Jesus, the Son of God (Christmas); the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (June 24); and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8).

A Cathedral to the "newborn Mary" was consecrated on October 20, 1572 by Saint Charles Borromeo. It was there, on Santa Sofia Street, that a shrine was built that housed a statue of baby Mary, entrusted to the Sisters of Charity of Sts. Bartolomea and Vincenza.

During the reign of Napoleon, the statue was taken by some of the Capuchin sisters to an Augustinian Convent, then to the Lateran Canonesses. It was later entrusted to the Parish priest, Fr. Luigi Bosisio, so he could give it to a religious institute that would keep the devotion alive. Finally, the statue ended up in the General House of the Sisters of Charity of Lovere. The statue of Mary became so popular there that, even to this day, the sisters of this congregation are popularly known as the Sisters of the "Baby Mary."

One story written in a chronicle in 1884 talks of a sister who went to the infirmary to visit the sick and, took the holy image of the statue from bed to bed to each of the sick sisters so they could kiss it. She reached the postulant, Giulia Macario, who had been gravely ill for a few days. She made an effort to draw near to the Heavenly Baby, and with tender words, asked to be healed. She immediately felt a mysterious tremor throughout her body. "I am healed!" she exclaimed. She got up and began to walk. Since then, every year a separate feast of the "day of the miracle" is celebrated. This popular devotion continued to spread due to numerous graces obtained.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith. September 2025

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

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Lawrence Justinian

Born into a noble Venetian family, St. Lawrence Justinian desired sanctity from an early age. He entered the Order of the Augustinian Canons Regular of St. George, where he became known for his zeal, penitential lifestyle, and deep charity—especially toward the poor. He eventually became the general of the order. Recognized for his holiness, he was appointed Bishop, and later Patriarch, of Venice by the pope. He served faithfully until his death at the age of seventy-five.

### Jesus turns sorrow into joy

Each September, the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross—not because we glorify suffering, but because the Cross reveals a Love that is total, faithful, and fearless. Christ embraced suffering, rejection, and death—and triumphed over them. His Cross is the ultimate sign that love is stronger than pain. When we bring our trials and sorrows to Jesus, He transforms them—through a kind of divine alchemy—into strength, healing, joy, and even glory. In Him, suffering is never the end of the story.

*"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"* (Matthew 11:28-30).

# Holiness in everyday life

Pier Giorgio Frassati — to be canonized on September 7 — was known for blending intense spirituality with fun—he loved mountain climbing, practical jokes, and friendship. He taught that holiness can be simple, joyful, and practical, woven into daily life. In a 1923 address to young people, he summed up the Christian life: "Our religion is based on charity, which is nothing other than the most perfect Love." He proposed three ways to live that love: by example, through compassion, and by joyful invitation.

**By example:** Blessed Pier believed that our lives should reflect our faith without needing words. "We Catholics must strive to have our whole life guided by Christian moral law," he said. That includes building our schedules around the Eucharist, practicing reverence, treating others with dignity, and living generously. These everyday choices silently proclaim who we are—and whose we are.

**With compassion:** Blessed Pier encouraged personal, thoughtful acts of love: visiting the lonely, offering a kind word, or putting others first. He reminded us that holiness begins with small, intentional acts of compassion.

**By joyful invitation:** Blessed Pier's faith was magnetic, marked by laughter, adventure, and prayer. He urged others to draw people to Christ with warmth and sincerity: "Persuade [those who are far from the Church] to follow the ways of God." A quiet chapel visit or simple prayer can be a powerful invitation to grace.

*"Jesus is with me. I have nothing to fear."*
Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

He urged Catholics to stay rooted in the Eucharist: "Approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible… from which you will draw strength." His life reminds us that sainthood is not about perfection, but about choosing love—daily, faithfully, and joyfully.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

# Why do Catholics believe in angels?

In the Nicene Creed, professed at every Sunday Mass and solemnity, we affirm belief in "all things visible and invisible"—a direct reference to spiritual beings, including angels. Throughout Scripture, angels appear as messengers, protectors, and servants of God's will. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10, referencing angels who *"behold the face of [His] Father"*—form the basis for the Church's belief in guardian angels. These faithful spirits, who remained loyal to God, continue to watch over and guide us. Belief in angels is not optional but a vital part of Catholic teaching and tradition.

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# Hearing God's voice in the everyday

Discernment isn't limited to religious vocations—it's a way of seeking God's will in all areas of life. Whether you're considering a marriage, a job change, or a move to a new city, discernment helps you respond to God's loving plan with clarity and peace. Here are three tips to avoid common pitfalls:

**Learn to recognize His voice:** It's difficult to discern God's will if we don't know His character. A healthy relationship with God—nurtured through prayer and Scripture, especially the Gospels—helps us become familiar with His voice. The more time we spend with Him, the easier it becomes to distinguish His promptings from fear, pressure, or personal bias.

**Take a practical step:** Discernment requires action. You can't always think your way to clarity. Take the interview, visit the new city, introduce your intended to your family. These steps don't commit you for life—they give you real-world experience that sharpens your perspective and brings peace to your decision-making.

**Narrow your focus:** Too many options can paralyze progress. At some point, discernment involves commitment and trust. Begin by eliminating options that clearly don't fit. The path may shift as you go, but each step—taken prayerfully—leads you closer to the right destination. God's guidance is often gradual but unmistakable.

## from Scripture

## Luke 16:19-31, Doing the good we ought to do

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells a parable aimed at those who are indifferent to the suffering around them. A rich man enjoys daily luxury while Lazarus, a poor and sick man, lies just outside his gate, starving and ignored. Though the rich man likely passed by Lazarus often—and even knew his name—he offered no help.

After death, their roles are reversed. Lazarus is carried to the side of Abraham, a place of comfort and honor. The rich man finds himself in torment and pleads for relief. He asks Abraham to send Lazarus with water, and later to warn his brothers. Both requests are denied.

Jesus' parable does not condemn wealth but the failure to love. The rich man's sin was not what he did, but what he refused to do. He saw suffering and remained unmoved.

This passage challenges us to examine our own hearts. Do we see those in need and look away?

True Christian living means turning prayer into mercy, and faith into action. When we love as Christ commands, the reward is eternal joy.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**September 12 – The Holy Name of Mary.** Mary has many titles. Begun in Spain in 1513, this feast celebrates her as the Blessed Virgin and is the counterpart to the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church after the King of Poland, with Mary's protection, defeated an advancing Muslim army in Vienna in 1683.

**September 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (c. 326).** St. Helena (mother of Emperor Constantine) discovered what is believed to be the True Cross while on pilgrimage in Jerusalem. On that site, Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher.

**September 16 – Saints Cornelius and Cyprian (c. 253).** A renowned theologian and orator, he was ordained a priest and served as the bishop of Carthage. He helped Pope St. Cornelius defend the Church against the Novatian heretics. Pope Cornelius was exiled and died from harsh treatment in 253. Cyprian was arrested for refusing to worship idols. He was exiled and subsequently beheaded.

**September 19 – St. Januarius (c. 305).** Not much is known about this saint, except that he was the Bishop of Benevento, Italy, and that he was martyred with six companions under the Diocletian persecutions. For reasons unknown, a vial of his blood has miraculously liquified annually, several times a year, since at least 1389.

## Q & A

## Why do Catholics display crucifixes instead of crosses?

Jesus is risen in glory, having conquered sin and death. Yet we, though united to Him in Baptism, remain on our earthly journey, still vulnerable to temptation and suffering. The Crucifix stands as a powerful reminder of the cost of sin and the price of our redemption.

More than a symbol of pain, the Crucifix reveals the depth of God's mercy and love: *"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son"* (John 3:16). It reminds us that Jesus is *"a compassionate high priest"* (Hebrews 4:15) who knows human suffering firsthand—rejection, sorrow, and even death (cf. Psalm 22:14; 69:20).

In every Catholic church, the Crucifix also points to the reality of the Eucharist. The sacrifice of the Mass is not separate from Calvary—it is the same sacrifice, made present to us (*Catechism*, 1545). Christ offers Himself to the Father, and we receive the fruits of that offering: grace, healing, and strength.

The Crucifix is not just a symbol—it is the visual proclamation of love that saves, heals, and invites us into deeper communion with Christ.

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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 8/30-8/31** **$3,335**

## Mass Attendance for August 30/31, 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| **5:00PM** | **94** |
| **8:00AM** | **47** |
| **9:30AM** | **57** |
| **11:00AM** | **134** |
| | **Total: 332** |

## Second Collection Next Sunday September 13/14, 2025 Is For *Catholic University of America*

## August's Monthly 50/50 Winners are:

1st Place: Mrs. Mary Loud
2nd Place: Ms. Alice Santelli
3rd Place: Ms. Susan Paye

Congratulations to the Winners!

## 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 **$29,604** 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

## Church Envelope Update

In the coming weeks, you will be receiving Church Envelopes from a new company with a new design. This will impact envelopes beginning September 21st, 2025.

There should be no impact to delivery timing or who gets envelopes as the same list currently in use was sent to the new Company.

## 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

### September 7 - September 13

**Sunday, September 7**

**Monday, September 8**
12:00PM Golden Age First Meeting - MCH
7:00PM Adult Choir - Church
7:00PM Fall Festival Meeting - Rectory Basement

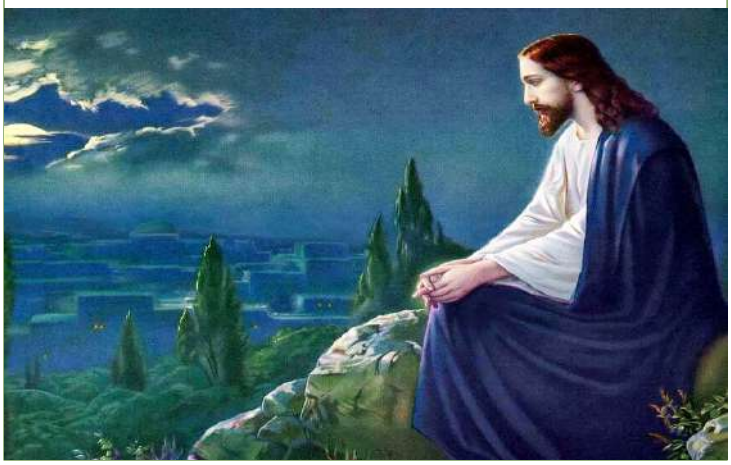
**Tuesday, September 9**
6:30PM AA Meeting—Rectory Basement

**Wednesday, September 10**
6:00PM Back To School Night - MCH
6:00PM ACA Support Group - St. Joseph Room
7:00PM Baptism Class - Rectory
7:30PM Bereavement Group - St. Joseph Room

**Thursday, September 11**
8:00AM 9/11 Prayer Service - Schoolyard
10:00AM Legion of Mary - Rectory Basement
6:00PM IACA First Meeting - Rectory Basement
7:20PM Scripture Study First Meeting - Rectory B

**Friday, September 12**
9:00AM Opening School Mass & 8th Grade Student Council Installation

**Saturday, September 13**



Jesus goes to the mountain to pray.

## Next Week

### September 14 - September 20

**Sunday, September 14**
8:00AM Holy Name Mass

**Monday, September 15**
12:00PM Golden Age First Meeting - MCH
7:00PM Adult Choir - Church

**Tuesday, September 16**
6:30PM AA Meeting—Rectory Basement

**Wednesday, September 17**
6:00PM ACA Support Group - St. Joseph Room
7:30PM Bereavement Group - St. Joseph Room

**Thursday, September 18**
10:00AM Legion of Mary - Rectory Basement
6:00PM IACA - Rectory Basement
7:20PM Scripture Study - Rectory Basement

**Friday, September 19**
5:00PM School Ice Cream Social - MCH

**Saturday, September 20**

Jesus chooses His twelve apostles.

# Lector & Minister Schedule for September 2025

| | 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6-7 | Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 13-14 | 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 20-21 | 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 27-28 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Lectors** | | | | |
| Saturday 5:00PM | Debbi Skinner | Edward Kubina | Sharon Costanza | Dolores Ratkowski |
| Sunday 8:00AM | Rob Laucella | Andrew Soltesz | Rob Laucella | Andrew Soltesz |
| Sunday 9:30AM | Josephine Corso | Martha O'Toole | Maria Brooks | Patrick O'Toole |
| Sunday 11:00AM | Carol Hickey | Jane Di Donato | Carol Hickey | Jane Di Donato |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Ministers** | | | | |
| Saturday 5:00PM | Jan Hengl | ****** | Debbi Skinner | ***** |
| Sunday 8:00AM | ***** | ***** | ***** | ****** |
| Sunday 9:30AM | Phillip Mincone | ***** | ***** | ***** |
| Sunday 11:00AM | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |

**"The deeds you do may be the only sermon some people hear today."**
**- St. Francis of Assisi**

# Get Involved!

*Explore our various Parish Groups and Societies on the following pages:*

**The Legion of Mary**
**Weekly Scripture Study**
**The Holy Name Society**
**Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers**
**The Golden Age Club**
**IACA - Italian American Catholic Action**
**Bereavement Group**
**ACA - Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families**
**Adult Choir**
**Children's Choir**
**Youth Group**
**Girl Scouts**
**CYO - Catholic Youth Organization**
**The Fall Festival**

Thank you to Mrs. Kubina for coming forward to serve as our
Youth Minister!

Additional information will be forthcoming.

# Catholic Youth Organization

Children are at the heart of our mission

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

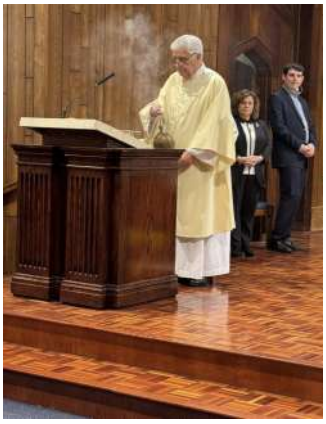
## Our Mission:

CYO Athletics emphasizes mutual respect, fair play, and the development of unique gifts in all participants. The program prioritizes character building over winning and allows individuals of all athletic abilities to excel and improve.

Our Fall Soccer Season will have its Home Opener on Saturday, September 13.
The full schedule can be found on our Website, www.sfawildcats.org.

A Brand-New Program is launching for our youngest players! Led by experienced trainers, this fun and active program focuses on building foundational soccer skills in a playful and supportive environment. Designed for Pre-K3, Pre-K4, and Kindergarten students enrolled at St. Francis of Assisi Academy, your child will learn the game of Soccer, grow in confidence, and - most importantly - have fun!
The program incudes 4 Sessions, each lasting 45 minutes.

SISTER MARIA RITA ZUCCHETTO O.S.B.M
JULY 01, 1940 - DECEMBER 30, 2024
FOUNDRESS OF THE
"ITALIAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC ACTION"



# Italian American Catholic Action

IACA will have its first meeting on Thursday, September 11th, at 6:00PM.

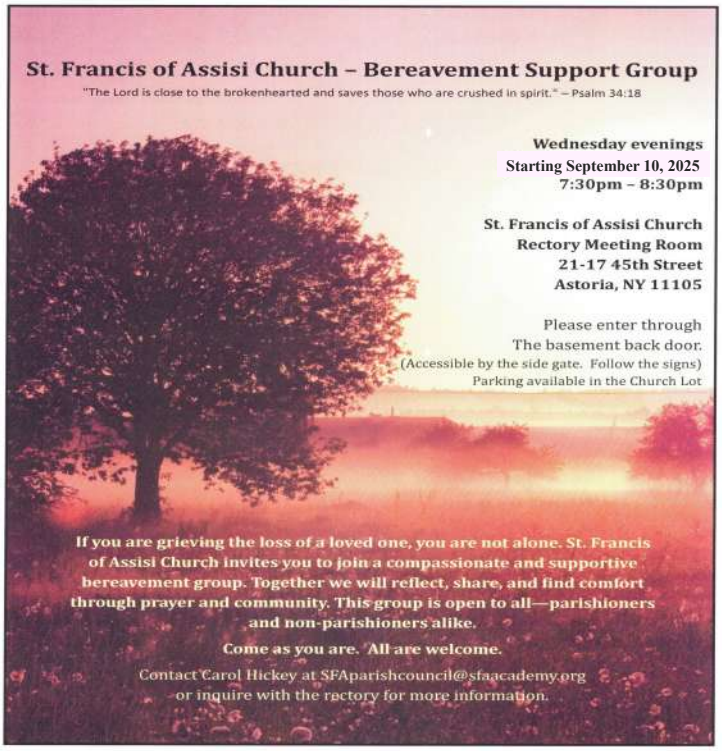
All are welcome to come and join in the fellowship!

# The Golden Age Club at St. Francis of Assisi

We hope that everyone has enjoyed their Summer! Meetings resume on Monday, September 8th, 2025 from 12:00PM to 3:30PM in Msgr. Campbell Hall. Please use the Side Entrance to the Church in the Basement on 45th Street.

If you are 65 years of age or older, we have a great community and we would love for you to join us! Bingo is played each week, and some members play Cards or Pockeno. Refreshments are served as well. We celebrate all Holidays and Birthdays! We are celebrating our 54th Year Anniversary Mass and Luncheon in November.

Come and spend some time with your peers and bring a friend. God Bless!



## Recitation of the Rosary

We pray the Rosary as a Parish Family Monday through Saturday, at 8:30AM before the 9:00AM Mass. All are welcome.

## 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.

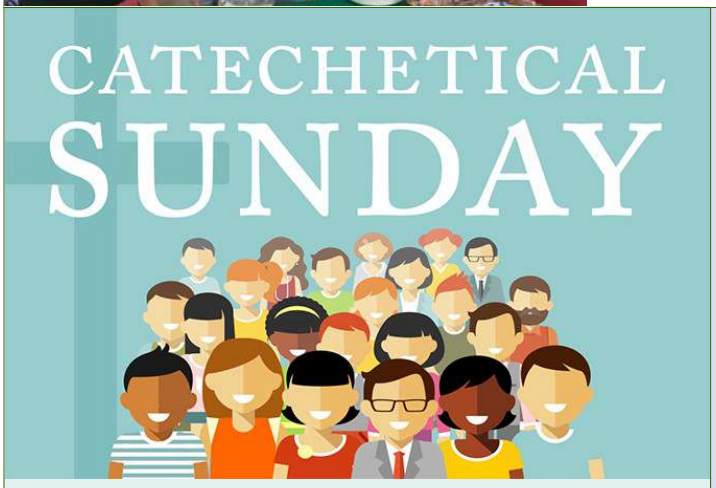
The Holy Name Mass is held the 2nd Sunday of each month at 8:00AM.

## St. Francis of Assisi Girl Scouts

**The St. Francis of Assisi Girl Scouts is an integral and empowering program for girls in grades K-12. It is affiliated with the Girl Scouts of Greater New York and the Girl Scouts of America. Its mission is simple: build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.**

**Through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, girls are helped to discover, connect, and take action to positively impact our Parish Family.**

**Instagram: @sfagirlscouts**




Catechetical Sunday is Sunday, September 21, 2025

CCD Classes will begin on the 21st as well.

## Catholic Apologetics

For resources on learning more about the truths of the Faith and how to explain and discuss those with people around you, Catholic Answers is a wonderful resource. Scan the QR code to learn more:

## The Legion Of Mary

**The Legion of Mary is a prayer group consecrated to the Blessed Virgin, who is our Mother in the order of grace. Members entrust themselves to Mary to sanctify souls and to better a troubled world, for she is a sure path to Christ. In the words of Pope St. Leo X, we pray that Mary may "restore all things in Christ."**

**Members meet every Thursday at 10:00AM in the Rectory Basement. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the Mission and the Fellowship.**

## St. Francis of Assisi
## Scripture Study

**"Do Not be anxious," -says the Lord- "But, seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, and all these things shall be given to you besides."**
**(Mt 6: 31 - 33)**

Anxiety in the world is real today, while our knowledge about the whole Creation still have to resolve multiple human conflicts, in particular those of spiritual nature. Pope Pius XII (1943) gave us an answer with his Pastoral letter: "By Inspiration of the Holy Spirit." Our growth in spiritual knowledge is to be found in the Holy Scriptures of the Bible, which includes Four small books: "The Gospels." These are based on the life and teachings of Jesus, our Messiah, our Teacher and our Redeemer; books of special empowerment for us.

SFA Parish offers you the opportunity to grow spiritually with the system of "Little Rock Scripture Study" prepared by Catholic Scholars from Collegeville, Minnesota in the USA; a method that follows a gradual personal reading of Scripture, question/answer and video summarizing of the day-shared chapter. This is a casual gathering that welcomes everyone.

The Creator entrusted Jesus with our salvation. Jesus now calls you to be part of this mission to the Kingdom of God.

The mind of God is in The Bible.

Our next term will be with the first Gospel, according to St. Mathew.

WHEN: Every Thursday, beginning: on September 11, 2025
WHERE: SFA Rectory (lower level) St. Joseph Room
TIME: FROM 7:20 PM To 8:50 PM.

For any question: Please call the SFA Rectory at (718) 728 7801

**For Young Adults aged 20 to 45, check back for more opportunities!**

**For General Resources for Young Catholic Adults, use the QR Code provided here!**
**www.catholicyoungadults.com**

# 2025 - 2026 Pastoral Year Calendar Is Available For Pickup At The Rectory Office

**All Society and Church Group Leaders may now come and pick up a copy of the finalized Calendar for the new year at the Rectory Pastoral Office.**

**We ask that if any changes, switches, or cancellations need to happen, *they are communicated with Msgr. Maresca for approval before making the change*. Only after approval please communicate the change with our Parish Secretary, Tara Webb, so we can adjust the Online Calendar.**

**As a reminder, the printed Calendar is only a guide. For the most up to date information please visit our website where our Online Calendar can be found.**

# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy

## Mission Statement:

In the spirit of our patron saint, the mission of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy is to form, inform, and transform ourselves through Christ to be active members of our Catholic community and dedicated scholars who serve all of society.

## Upcoming Events

**What:** Back to School Night
**When:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 6:00PM
**Where:** Monsignor Campbell Hall
More information can be found on the School Calendar!

# Volunteer your Time and Talents for our Fall Festival!

## Saturday, September 27th, 2025

## The Fall Festival Meeting is this Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00PM!

## Have fun AND help our Parish at the same time!

## Prayer for the Anniversary of 9/11

God of Peace and Mercy, on this anniversary for September 11th, we lift up the souls who perished on that day. Welcome them with loving arms into Your kingdom. Comfort their families and friends. Help us to mourn alongside them with a constant compassion that an only be rooted in You.

May we look to the first responders that day to inspire us to live bravely and courageously, and to selflessly protect others in need. May we look to those who opened up their homes to the stranded and displaced that day to stir us to be more hospitable. Having seen the face of evil and darkness, may we be steadfast and faithful in pursuing You, our perpetual Light. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

## FREE SPEECH AND HEARING EVALUATIONS
## SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 4, 2025

**The St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center will be offering FREE speech and hearing evaluations from 9/8/2025 through 12/4/2025.**

**Please call the center at *718-990-6480* to schedule an appointment.**
**The Speech and Hearing Center is located at 152-11 Union Turnpike in Flushing, NY.**

# *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

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.**

# 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.

## 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***

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

***Are you someone, or do you know someone who:***

*...has expressed interest in becoming Catholic?*

*...was baptized as a Catholic as a child but never received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion, or Confirmation?*

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) focuses on learning about the Church and teachings of the Faith to prepare individuals to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation during the Easter Season.

**For more information, 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.*

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**Office Use ONLY**

Date: _____ Amount: _____ Form of Payment: _____

Date: _____ Amount: _____ Form of Payment: _____

Office notes _____