# 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Mass Intentions

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Sunday, Oct. 5*** | *27th Sunday in Ordinary Time* |
| *8:00AM* | **Madeline Palazzolo** |
| *9:30AM* | **For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi** |
| *11:00AM* | **Ettore Mascitti** |
| ***Monday, Oct. 6*** | *St. Bruno, Priest* |
| *9:00AM* | **David Walsh** |
| ***Tuesday, Oct. 7*** | *Our Lady of the Rosary* |
| *9:00AM* | **John Rush** |
| ***Wednesday, Oct. 8*** | *Weekday* |
| *9:00AM* | **Maria Rodriguez Bueso** |
| ***Thursday, Oct. 9*** | *St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs* |
| *9:00AM* | **John Hengl** |
| ***Friday, Oct. 10*** | *Weekday* |
| *9:00AM* | **Patricia Hili** |
| ***Saturday, Oct. 11*** | *Pope St. John XXIII* |
| *9:00AM* | **Purgatorial Society** |
| *5:00PM* | **Steve Fulop** |
| ***Sunday, Oct. 12*** | *28th Sunday in Ordinary Time* |
| *8:00AM* | **Holy Name Mass** |
| *9:30AM* | **Phyllis Rose Yada** |
| *11:00AM* | **For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi** |

## Today's Readings

### 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4***
***2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14***
***Luke 17:5-10***

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.
Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table?" Would you rather not say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink?" Do you thank that servant for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless servants; we have done only what we ought to have done!"

### Readings For The Week

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Monday*** | ***Jonah 1:1—2:2,11*** |
| | ***Luke 10:25-37*** |
| ***Tuesday*** | ***Jonah 3:1-10*** |
| | ***Luke 10:38-42*** |
| ***Wednesday*** | ***Jonah 4:1-11*** |
| | ***Luke 11:1-4*** |
| ***Thursday*** | ***Malachi 3:13-20b*** |
| | ***Luke 11:5-13*** |
| ***Friday*** | ***Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2*** |
| | ***Luke 11:15-26*** |
| ***Saturday*** | ***Joel 4:12-21*** |
| | ***Luke 11:27-28*** |

### 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***2 Kings 5:14-17***
***2 Timothy 2:8-13***
***Luke 17:11-19***

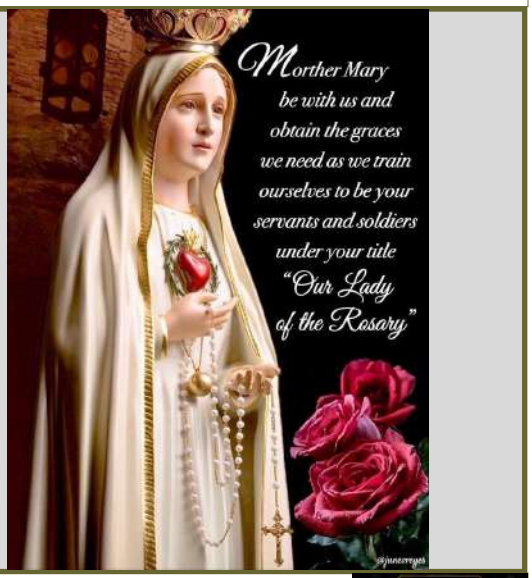
Remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick, that they may find health and comfort.

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.

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




# FOCUS:

## FAITH IS A GIFT THAT DEMANDS A RESPONSE.

Faith is a gift that God gives freely, but this precious gift can be rejected by us and lost through our failure to nurture it and grow in it. Today's Scriptures encourage us to persevere in faith until the end, remembering that God *did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control*. With the gift of faith, and the help of the Holy Spirit, we can do great things for God.

## St. Francis of Assisi Scripture Study

**Thursdays from 7:20PM-8:50PM,**
**Rectory Basement, St. Joseph Room**

Dear SFA Family & Friends,
The Scripture Study Group is delighted to continue our study with ***The Gospel According to Matthew***. Join us on Thursday, October 9th for this week's study on Matthew Chapters 9-10: Ministry & Mission in Galilee, and Chapters 11-12: Opposition from Israel.

**"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 light."**
**(Matthew 11:28-30)**

***Grow in Love & Knowledge of Scripture.***
***All are invited and all are welcome.***

The Gospel readings and study are conducted using the Little Rock Scripture Study program. Study booklets will be provided. If you are interested in joining the Study Group, please call the Rectory Office at (718)-728-7801.

## 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.**
**The Holy Name Mass is next Sunday, October 12th.**

# *From the Pastor's Desk:*

"For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."
(2 Timothy 1:7)

My Dear Parishioners,

The Apostles asked the Lord to increase their Faith. They must have been very surprised at the response from Jesus. His answer seemed simplistic. However, it was powerful and to the point. Jesus did not want to be overly difficult in his approach to the question by the Apostles. In fact, it is clear that Jesus wanted to illustrate the presence of the Almighty. But the question for us today is this: Can we understand what Jesus said? Many times in our lives, it is a matter of ***faith.***

In the Psalm Response, we are told to not harden our hearts if we hear the Lord's voice. We must come before the Lord singing for joy, yet humbly bow down in worship. Why is this? It is because we are in the presence of the Lord. This is the Lord who instills and manifests our faith as the family of God. In the Catechism, it is stated that our faith must be nourished by the word of God (CCC 162). This we do by attending the Mass and doing good works.

Yet, we sometimes feel that we are at our wit's end. Sadly, when we are in trouble and need the Lord the most, we fail to call on Him. This happened with the people in the Bible as well. The disciples at times felt that they were abandoned by Jesus, but he was always there at their side.

We may see a reflection of ourselves in the first reading. Here, Habakkuk is calling out to the Lord God. One can almost feel the sense of abandonment as well as immediacy that is stressed. But even at this point, we see where the Lord intervenes. With faith, we can trust that God will answer our prayers.

What do we do when we are in need? How do we handle it when things happen that are beyond our control? Do we tend to cling to Jesus? Or do we shy away from Him and close ourselves off from His graces? God speaks to us in many different ways. It may be through the promptings of a relative, friend or co-worker.

If our faith, the size of a mustard seed, is strong, it can move mulberry trees. With faith we can accomplish all that the Lord sets before us. With faith, all of our problems will be manageable and perhaps, minimized. Let us soften our hearts to hear the Lord's words to us. When we go forth proclaiming God's love that is manifested in us by the Lord's graces, we will be doing his will. In this, we are on our way to realizing that everything Jesus told us in the Gospel today is utterly true.

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

# Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
# Saturday, October 4, 2025

According to tradition, St. Francis of Assisi had an ill-spent youth as a wealthy young man. After an encounter with a beggar, he renounced his wealth and took on a life of simplicity. St. Francis experienced a mystical vision of Christ, who asked him to rebuild his church. At first, Francis believed that he was supposed to fix up a chapel that was in disrepair. Through prayer, Francis came to understand that he was called to help rebuild the faith of the entire Church through preaching. He gathered other men and women around him, forming the Order of Friars Minor and the Poor Clares, and lay orders who assisted them in their work without taking vows.

In his late thirties, St. Francis sought to convert the Sultan of Egypt during the fifth crusade. His encounter with the Sultan was peaceful, and he was given permission to continue on to Jerusalem. The Franciscans have remained as ministers of many sites in the Holy Land for 800 years! St. Francis was also known for his prayers praising God for all of creation and for sharing in Christ's suffering through the stigmata.

St. Francis of Assisi invites us to share our faith with others and renew the Church in our families, our parish and our country. We can imitate St. Francis by living more simply, sharing what we have with the poor and leaving a gentle mark on the earth. May we seek to be peacemakers.

*"Lord make us instruments of your peace."*

# New Parishioners

We Welcome Our New Parishioners:

**The Ruchana Family**
**Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mergal**
**Mr. Troy Pitman**

# Baptisms

We Celebrate The Following Baptisms:
**Lucia Simona Agro**
**Owen Gabriel Amor**
**Colin Kelly**
**Ethan Charlie Sarantakis**
**Mia Patricia Scavetta**

# Purgatorial Society

We Pray For Those Recently Enrolled:

**Benjamin Di Marco**
**Madeline Palazzolo**

# Recently Deceased

We Pray for our Recently Deceased:
**Yolanda Massaro**
**Madeline Anne Palazzolo**
**Barbara De Marco**
**Richard Avasso**
**Rose Milito**

## Eucharistic Adoration Monday through Saturday 8:00AM to 8:50AM

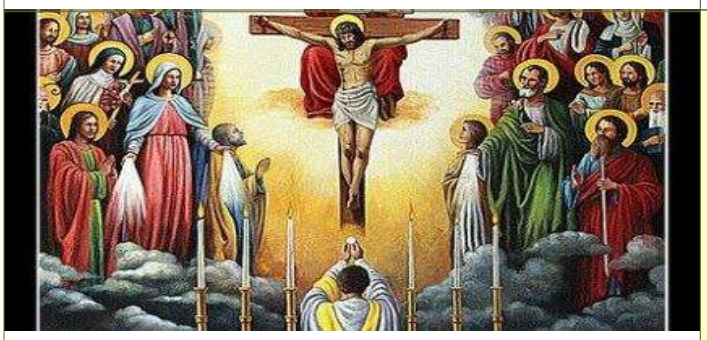
Eucharistic Adoration is celebrated Monday through Saturday, from 8:00AM to 8:50AM. As Pope St. John Paul II has said, "Christian life is expressed in the fulfilling of the greatest Commandment, that is to say, in the love of God and neighbor, and this love finds its source in the Blessed Sacrament….Eucharistic 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.

## 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



## 2025/2026 Mass Book

**The 2025 Mass Book is open for the remainder of 2025 and the 2026 Mass Book is now open.**

**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.

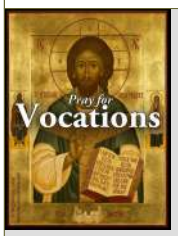
Altar Flowers are $100.

## 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:

## A Look Ahead:

**On Sunday, October 19th, 2025, there will be *NO 11:00AM Mass* due to our 9:30AM Celebratory Mass and Mother Theresa Statue Dedication. Please plan accordingly.**




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. 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 9/27-9/28** | **$3,592** |
| **Second Collection** | **$811** |
| **Support Our Schools** | |

## Mass Attendance for September 27/28, 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| **5:00PM** | **104** |
| **8:00AM** | **48** |
| **9:30AM** | **181** |
| **11:00AM** | **171** |
| | **Total: 474** |

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

1st Place: Ms. Dolores Ratkowski
2nd Place: Ms. Maureen Kamitsis
3rd Place: Ms. Marie Theresa Despojo

Congratulations to the Winners!

## Looking Ahead:
## Columbus Day
## Monday, October 13, 2025

**The School and Rectory Office will be closed in observance of the holiday.**

## 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 **$30,364** 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

## Second Collection Next Saturday & Sunday, October 11/12, 2025
## For Our Maintenance Fund

We thank you for your financial help in maintaining our Parish and keeping it beautiful and in working order! Please be as generous as your means allow.

## 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

### October 5 - October 11

**Sunday, October 5**
**Parents' Penance Meeting**
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40AM CCD Class - School

**Monday, October 6**
12:00PM Golden Age - MCH
3:00PM Children's Choir - Church
7:00PM Adult Choir -Church

**Tuesday, October 7**
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

**Wednesday, October 8**
3:00PM Drama Club - MCH
7:00PM Baptism Class - Rectory
6:00PM ACA Support Group - St. Joseph Room
7:45PM Bereavement Group - St. Joseph Room

**Thursday, October 9**
10:00AM Legion of Mary - Rectory Basement
6:00PM IACA - Rectory Basement
7:20PM Scripture Study - Rectory Basement

**Friday, October 10**

**Saturday, October 11**

Jesus, Mary, and Martha.

## Next Week

### October 12 - October 18

**Sunday, October 12**
8:00AM Holy Name Mass
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40AM CCD Class - School

**Monday, October 13**
**Columbus Day**
**School and Rectory Office Closed**

**Tuesday, October 14**
**Picture Day - MCH**
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

**Wednesday, October 15**
**Staff/Group/Class Photos - Library**
3:00PM Drama Club - MCH
6:00PM ACA Support Group - St. Joseph Room
7:45PM Bereavement Group - St. Joseph Room

**Thursday, October 16**
10:00AM Legion of Mary - Rectory Basement
6:00PM IACA - Rectory Basement
7:20PM Scripture Study - Rectory Basement

**Friday, October 17**

**Saturday, October 18**

Jesus cleanses ten lepers.

# Fall Festival

**THANK YOU to all who supported our Fall Festival. The Lord blessed us with a beautiful day! We had great crowds throughout the day and evening, and the support of so many people was truly an inspiration to me.**

**I want to thank all our workers, who sacrificed so much of their time in preparation for the festival and on the actual day. I'm grateful to Phil Mincone and his band for the great music which kept us in a festive mood all day. Also, I'm grateful to the DJ who added to our enjoyment. I am so proud of each of you for all you did to make the Festival so successful. Your dedication is a great expression of your love for our parish and academy.**

**I want to thank so many who made donations to help support the Festival. Your continued support of our efforts makes the Festival a success.**

**In particular I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to Anthony Siano for all his hard work in coordinating all the activities of the Festival. He did a wonderful job in bringing all of us together to have a great Festival. All his meetings pre-Festival helped us to know what our responsibilities were and gave us the enthusiasm needed to make the Festival a memorable event in the life of our parish and academy.**

**Please know all of you are in my prayers for all your efforts.**

**Msgr. Maresca**

# Lector & Minister Schedule October 2025

| | 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 4-5 | 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 11-12 | 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 18-19 | 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 25-26 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Lectors** | | | 95th ANNIVERSARY | |
| Saturday 5:00PM | Debbi Skinner | Dolores Ratkowski | Edward Kubina | Debbi Skinner |
| Sunday 8:00AM | Andrew Soltesz | Andrew Soltesz | Rob Laucella | Rob Laucella |
| Sunday 9:30AM | Sharon Constanza | Josephine Corso | ***** | Maria Brooks |
| Sunday 11:00AM | Carol Hickey | Jane Di Donato | NO 11AM MASS | Carol Hickey |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Ministers** | | | | |
| Saturday 5:00PM | ***** | Ray Conlon | ***** | ***** |
| Sunday 8:00AM | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |
| Sunday 9:30AM | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |
| Sunday 11:00AM | ***** | ***** | NO 11AM MASS | Jan Hengl |

**Our Lector and Minister Schedule is also available online. It's as easy as scanning the QR Code to take you to the Main Schedule Page, and then Select the Month that you would like to view.**

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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# Holy Hospitality - let love lead during the holidays

We may not have to host the Messiah and twelve hungry disciples on short notice, but the stress St. Martha felt is all too familiar during the holiday season. The good news? Grace can do what we cannot.

To find peace amid pressure, Pope Leo XIII said to begin with silence. Even a few moments of quiet prayer each day can create the space needed for God to work in your heart. Then, he offered two essential practices:

**Focus on what matters most.** Jesus' friend, Martha, was *"anxious and troubled about many things,"* but Jesus reminded her of the *"one thing... necessary"* (Luke 10:41-42). Hospitality isn't about perfection—it's about presence. Pope Leo encourages us to make space for real human connection: to care, to listen, and to truly see those around us. Resist the urge to multitask. And yes—put the phone away.

**Choose understanding over offense.** The holidays can magnify tensions, but they also offer a sacred opportunity for growth. "It takes effort," Pope Leo admitted, "to understand one another in disagreements, and to forgive when mistakes are made." Approach family gatherings with humility and grace. Assume the best. Be patient, flexible, and quick to forgive. Small acts of mercy often go unseen—but *"your Father who sees in secret will reward you"* (Matthew 6:18).

This season, let love—not logistics—lead. That's the heart of holy hospitality.

## from Scripture — Luke 18:9-14, Divine mercy responds to humility

In this Gospel passage, Jesus contrasts two prayers: one from a respected Pharisee, the other from a despised tax collector—a comparison that would have shocked His audience.

In first-century Jewish societ , Pharisees were seen as models of religious observance, while tax collectors were viewed as collaborators with the Roman occupiers and often as corrupt and dishonest.

The Pharisee confidently takes a prominent place in the temple and offers what appears to be a prayer—but it's really a self-congratulatory speech. He thanks God not for grace received, but for his own perceived righteousness. In contrast, the tax collector stands at a distance, won't even lift his eyes, and offers a single, sincere plea: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

Jesus tells us it was the tax collector—not the Pharisee—who went home justified before God

This parable reminds us that true prayer begins with humility. God isn't impressed by performance or fl wery words. He desires contrition, honesty, and a heart open to grace. He already knows us, loves us, and simply asks for our love in return.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary (1571).** This feast was originally named, "Our Lady of Victory" by Pope Pius V, on the victory of the Battle of Lepanto, when the Christians won a critical victory against the Ottomans after praying the Rosary. Pope Gregory XIII later renamed this feast in recognition of this powerful prayer.

**October 10 – St. Francis Borgia (1572).** St. Francis was a nobleman who served in the Spanish imperial court. After the death of his wife, he gave away all his possessions and joined the Jesuits. He proved to be a good administrator, and as superior general of the Jesuits, he helped to spread their presence all over Spain and Portugal.

**October 14 – St. Callixtus I (222).** Born a slave in a Roman household, Callixtus was ordained a deacon by Pope Zephyrinus, whom he later succeeded. Callixtus's election caused an eighteen-year schismatic movement. He fought against heresy and showed tolerance toward sinners. In a time of trial and confusion, he re-opened the Church to all. He was later martyred.

**October 28 – Saints Simon and Jude (1st century).** St. Simon was a Zealot – Jews who believed the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman. After foll wing Jesus, they eventually traveled to Persia where they preached the Gospel until they were martyred.

## Q & A — Why do Catholics have different types of Masses?

Liturgical diversity has always been part of the Church's life. Today, when people refer to "different Masses," they may be referring to the different forms, such as the Traditional Latin Mass (also called the Extraordinary Form) and the more familiar post-Vatican II Mass (Novus Ordo, or Ordinary Form).

The Traditional Latin Mass, shaped over centuries, is known for its reverence, use of Latin and chant, and the priest facing ad orientem—toward the altar along with the people. It fosters an atmosphere of silence and awe.

The Novus Ordo emerged after the Second Vatican Council, which called for a renewed, simplified liturgy that would be more accessible and participatory. At that time, Latin was no longer widely taught or understood.

Both forms are authentic expressions of the same Eucharistic mystery—the meeting of Heaven and Earth at the altar. When celebrated reverently, each reveals the beauty and depth of the Church's liturgical tradition in distinct but complementary ways.

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# SFA YOUTH PAGES

## Church of
## Saint Francis of Assisi
## Altar Server Application

*We're looking for Altar Servers, boys and girls (beginning in Grade 4),who would share their time and talent serving at Holy Masses during the weekend and special liturgies throughout the year.*

**PLEASE PRINT**

_____
**First Name** **Last Name**

_____ _____
**Grade Level** **School Name**

_____
**Parent/Guardian First and Last Names**

_____
**Home Address**

_____
**City** **State** **Zip**

_____
**Mobile Telephone Number** **Home Telephone Number**

_____
**Email Address**

**I hereby grant permission for my child to serve as an Altar Server.**

_____
**Signature of the Parent/Guardian**

**DUE DATE: Friday, 10 October 2025**

**Please return this application to your child's Catechist - Teacher or to the Rectory Office.**

# SFA YOUTH PAGES

## MY WEEKLY MASS JOURNAL

DATE: _____

TODAY'S LITURGICAL SEASON/FEAST DAY IS...

_____

### GOD'S WORD

One thing I remember from the readings is:

_____

_____

A word or phrase that stayed with me:

_____

### HOMILY REFLECTION

The priest talked about:

_____

Something I want to keep in my heart:

_____

### MY PRAYER AFTER MASS

Today I thank Jesus for:

_____

I pray for:

_____

I ask God to help me with:

_____

www.catholicprintablesforkids.com

### TAKEAWAY FOR THE WEEK

Something I can do at home, school, or with my family:

_____

### MY PICTURE

DRAW AND COLOR SOMETHING FROM MASS – THE GOSPEL STORY, THE ALTAR, THE PRIEST'S VESTMENTS, OR HOW YOU FELT TODAY.

www.catholicprintablesforkids.com

# LEGION OF MARY JUNIOR LEAGUE

## WANTED: SFA YOUTH AGES: 8 TO 18 YEARS

### WHAT DO WE DO?

**1)** Develop a Sacramental life, a love for the Holy Trinity, the Church, our Blessed Mother, Mary, and the Saints.

**2)** We perform a variety of works including: praying together, making cards, and other crafts for Seniors, those who are sick, and other people.

**3)** Giving out Sacramentals and literature at fairs, bazaars, and other places alongside Senior Legionaires.

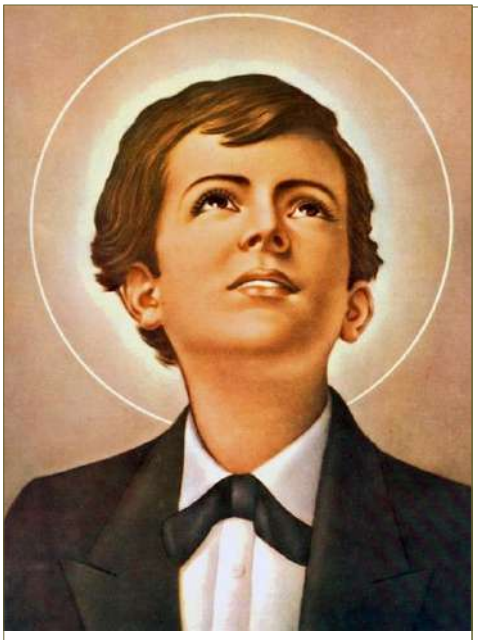
### HOW DO I JOIN THE JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY?

Please call us at the Rectory Office at (718)-728-7801.

***Spend time helping others through our Blessed Mother Mary!***

*All Junior Legion activities are supervised directly by adults who are completely cleared and trained within the Safe Environment Policy. Parents are welcome to attend meetings and participate.

# SFA YOUTH PAGES



## Young Saint Spotlight: St. Dominic Savio

1842-1857

Here is a boy-saint who died at the age of fifteen, and was canonized in 1954. He was one of ten children and ended up studying at St. John Bosco's school for boys, which trained young men to become priests. Dominic was a high spirited boy who sometimes got into trouble with his teachers because he would often break out laughing. However, he was generally well disciplined and gradually gained the respect of the tougher boys in the school.

In other circumstances, Dominic might have become a little self-righteous snob, but Don Bosco showed him the heroism of the ordinary and the sanctity of common sense. "Religion must be about the air we breathe," Don Bosco would often say, and Dominic Savio wore holiness like the clothes on his back. He called his long hours of prayer "his distractions." In 1857, at the age of fifteen, he caught tuberculosis and was sent home to recover. On the evening of March 9, he asked his father to say the prayers for the dying. His face lit up with intense joy and he said to his father: "I am seeing the most wonderful things!" These were his last words.

"I can't do big things," St. Dominic Savio once said, "but I want everything to be for the glory of God." His was the way of the ordinary: cheerfulness, fidelity in little things, helping others, playing games, and obeying his parents and teachers. The heroism in little things is the stuff of holiness.

## Prayer to St. Dominic Savio

O Saint Dominic Savio, a model of purity, piety, penance, and apostolic zeal for youth; grant that, through your intercession, we may service God in our ordinary duties with fervent devotion, and attain the grace of holy joy on earth, that we may one day love God forever in heaven. Amen.

St. Dominic Savio, pray for us.

## Catholic Trivia for Youth:

1.Who was the first Pope to use Twitter?
*A: Pope Benedict XVI*

2. Which Gospel is written by a Doctor?
*A: Luke*

3. What is the term for the process of declaring someone a saint?
*A. Canonization*

4. Which prophet was swallowed by a big fish?
*A: Jonah*

5. What prayer is recited at the end of each decade of the Rosary?
*A. Glory Be (Gloria Patri)*

6. Who was the first Pope to ride in an airplane?
*A. Pope Paul VI*

7. Which saint is known for his love of animals?
*A. St. Francis of Assisi*

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

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

**www.catholicyoungadults.com**

## St. Francis of Assisi Church – Bereavement Support Group

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

**Wednesday evenings**
**Resuming September 10, 2025**
**With a new time of**
**7:45pm – 8:45pm**

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

Please enter through
The basement back door.
(Accessible by the side gate. Follow the signs)

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

Come as you are. All are welcome.

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

## ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS/ DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES

## Reclaiming Ourselves: Feel, Talk & Trust in Astoria

**Wednesdays 6:00PM –7:15PM**

Returning to St. Francis of Assisi Church October 1, 2025 at 6:00 pm

The Redeemer Center
30-14 Crescent Street
Astoria, NY 11102

For more information,

## 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.**

DO YOU LOVE TO SING?
WE HAVE CHILDREN'S AND ADULTS' CHOIR ON MONDAYS IN THE CHURCH!

3:00PM CHILDREN'S CHOIR
7:00PM ADULT CHOIR

## THE GOLDEN AGE CLUB
## MONDAYS FROM 12:00PM TO 3:30PM

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.

## IACA - Italian American Catholic Action
## Meeting on Thursdays at 6:00PM in the Rectory Basement

# 95th Anniversary

Donations can still be made to the statue of Mother Theresa or add a name in memory of or in thanksgiving for. Those names will be printed in the program. The deadline for listing names is Friday, September 26th.

On Sunday, October 19th, at the 9:30AM Mass, we will celebrate our 95th Anniversary. Bishop Massa will be here to celebrate with us.
Join us as we give thanks to God for 95 years of Faith and Family.

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**
CLASSES START SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2025
Those who have not yet registered for Religious Education classes are kindly asked to pick up a Registration Form from the Rectory and return it as soon as possible or scan the QR Code to fill out our Online Registration Form.

***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.*

---

**Office Use ONLY**

Date: _____ Amount: _____ Form of Payment: _____

Date: _____ Amount: _____ Form of Payment: _____

Office notes _____