Feast of the Holy Family

Mass Intentions

Sunday, Dec. 28	*Feast of the Holy Family*
8:00AM	**Han Choi Ferguson**
9:30AM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
11:00AM	**Jennifer Werner**
	Szetela Family
	Masluk Family
	Jack Lukich
	Joan Carpanini
	Rosalie Irrera
	Mary & Nick Pandone
Monday, Dec. 29	*Fifth Day within the Octave of The Nativity of our Lord*
9:00AM	**Christmas Novena Mass**
Tuesday, Dec. 30	*Sixth Day within the Octave of The Nativity of our Lord*
9:00AM	**Christmas Novena Mass**
Wednesday, Dec. 31	*Seventh Day within the Octave of The Nativity of our Lord*
9:00AM	**Christmas Novena Mass**
Wednesday, Dec. 31	***Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God***
5:00PM	**Rosalie Irrera**
Thursday, Jan. 1	***Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)***
9:00AM	**Christmas Novena Mass**
11:00AM	**Antonio Bruno**
Friday, Jan. 2	*St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of The Church*
9:00AM	**John Purich**
Saturday, Jan. 3	*Christmas Weekday*
9:00AM	**Purgatorial Society**
	The Living & Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary And Their Families
	Grace & Eliseo Da Corta
5:00PM	**Joseph & Rose Avitabile**
Sunday, Jan. 4	*The Epiphany of the Lord*
8:00AM	**Han Choi Ferguson**
9:30AM	**Joan Carpanini**
11:00AM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
	Maria Lo Manto
	Concetta Console

Today's Readings

Feast of the Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my Son." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Readings For The Week

Monday	***1 John 2:3-11***
	Luke 2:22-35
Tuesday	***1 John 2:12-17***
	Luke 2:36-40
Wednesday	***Weekday Morning Mass***
	1 John 2:18-21
	John 1:1-18
Thursday	***Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God***
	Numbers 6:22-27
	Galatians 4:4-7
	Luke 2:16-21
Friday	***1 John 2:22-28***
	John 1:19-28
Saturday	***1 John 2:29—3:6***
	John 1:29-34

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

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
Anthony Fiorino
Joseph Klos

FOCUS:

The Holy Family models a foundational community of love.

Jesus was born and grew up within a family which was marked by holiness, love, and fidelity to the will of God. Their example calls us to strive to do the same. Today's readings provide an example of ideal relationships among families. Even in the midst of broken relationships, the virtues that Paul names can send all of us on the road to healing and reconciliation.

St. Francis of Assisi Scripture Study

On Winter Recess Until January 15, 2026

Dear SFA Family & Friends,

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing you Joy and Peace

"...The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid: for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the peoples. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

The Scripture Study Group will be on Winter Recess until January 15, 2026. Mark your Calendar and join us in the New Year as we continue our study of Hebrew Chapters 1-4: **God's Son and God's Word**.

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.

Sleeping St. Joseph, Pray For Us!

"While sleeping, he looks after the Church. Yes, he can do it!"
- Pope Francis

From the Pastor's Desk:

My Dear Parishioners,

Each of us has our own image of what we believe to be the ideal family. We may have gotten our image from a movie, a television show, or a family whom we know. But we know that families are made of real human beings who have virtues and vices.

Today, we hold up the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a model for family life. Through the Gospels, we know that things weren't always perfect for the Holy Family. Despite heartaches and misunderstandings, the Holy Family remained firm because they remained strong in faith and virtue. A family is on the path to holiness when the members of the family are steadily choosing to embody virtues which are essential to all relationships.

Our Scripture readings today guide us into the virtues of family life. Sirach speaks of the virtues of respect and support between parents and children. The Gospel shows the virtues of St. Joseph in his care of Mary and Jesus. Our reading from Colossians gives us a list of virtues for Christian life and then calls husbands and wives to live out their lives in the virtues of mutual love and respect.

There are a number of Christian virtues. Let's take a look at some which must be a part of family life:
Love, Commitment, Understanding, Trust, Compassion, Mercy, Sacrifice, Gratitude, Holiness, Openness to God.

These Christian virtues do not come automatically. We must choose to embrace them, teach them and model them. The Feast of the Holy Family gives us not only an opportunity to assess these virtues in our lives, it gives us a model of family life in Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

We must know that it is not only our desire to have a good and holy family- it is God's desire. It is not as easy as it looks in the theatre, on television or down the street. It demands that each of us strive daily to be virtuous people. Embodying virtues not only puts us on the road to living in a holy family, it puts us on the road to heaven.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

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

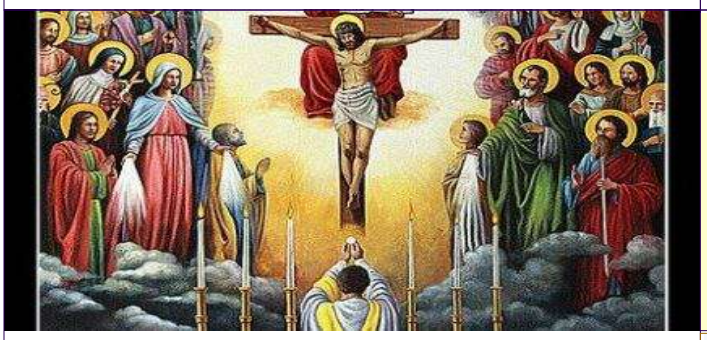
Eucharistic Adoration takes place Monday through Saturday, from 8:00AM to 8:50AM. As Pope St. John Paul II has said, "Christian life is expressed in the fulfilling of the greatest Commandment, that is to say, in the love of God and neighbor, and this love finds its source in the Blessed Sacrament….Eucharistic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

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



The January Lector & Minister Schedule **can be found by scanning this QR code, and then selecting the month you wish to view.**

2026 Mass Book

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.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

December 28, 2025

For a deeper participation among families in prayer for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life among their children, knowing that Christ is in their midst, we pray to the Lord.

(718)-827-2454
vocations@diobrook.org

Diocese of Brooklyn Vocation Office

Christmas Flowers

Our Christmas Flowers not only add to the beauty of our Parish during this Season of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Faith, but they also help us to remember our loved ones who have been a part of so many St. Francis of Assisi memories of the past. We appreciate your generosity in helping to make those memories!

Names for Christmas Flower Memorials will be published in the Bulletin during Christmastide.

Envelopes can be found at the back of the Church.

Wednesday, December 31, 2025
Vigil Mass at 5:00PM

Thursday, January 1, 2026
Masses at 9:00AM & 11:00AM

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a Holy Day of Obligation. Come and worship with us and let us put our trust in the Lord through our Blessed Mother Mary for the New Year.

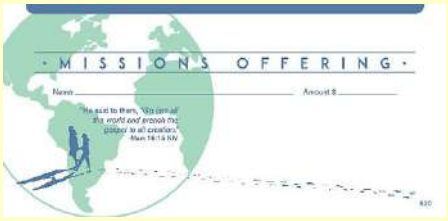
Envelopes may be returned in any Collection this week.

St Francis Preparatory School
"High School is Four Years, St. Francis Prep is Forever!"

St. Francis of Assisi Students Honored On First Quarter Honor Roll Achievement!

We commend them on their hard work and dedication as Students at St. Francis Preparatory School!

Christian Duran
Emily Naspud
Nicolas Nunez
Grace Rosique



SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, JANUARY 3/4, 2026

There will be a second collection next weekend for the Diocesan Missions.

Please be as generous as your means allow.

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.

Due to the Christmas Holiday, these numbers will be published in next weekend's bulletin.

School Parents must use Church Envelopes.

Mass Attendance For December 20/21, 2025

Due to the Christmas Holiday, these numbers will be published in next weekend's bulletin.

Christmas Gift to My Church

"Christmas Gift to My Church."
Envelopes may be returned in any collection.

In the past, you have been most generous in supporting our Parish and the many programs and services we offer. God has blessed us in so many wonderful ways. We have received many gifts, but the BEST gift we have been given is the gift of Jesus. His unconditional love, His care, and concern for each of us is priceless!

Please take some time to prayerfully reflect on what you are able to give in appreciation for all God's gifts.

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 **$31,104** 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

Christmas Flowers & Christmas Mass Novena

You may return your Christmas Flowers and Christmas Mass Novena envelopes in any collection.
Please write legibly so we are able to identify those you wish to remember.

The Christmas Flower Remembrances will be printed in the Bulletin.

The Christmas Novena Mass Envelopes will be placed on the Altar during Christmastide at all Masses.

There will also be envelopes available at the back of the Church.

Calendar of Events

This Week

December 28 - January 3

Sunday, December 28
Feast of The Holy Family
12:00PM Baptisms

Monday, December 29
School Closed

Tuesday, December 30
School Closed
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, December 31
School Closed, & Rectory Office Closes at 3:00PM
Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
5:00PM Vigil Mass
6:00PM ACA Support Group - ZOOM
7:45PM Bereavement Group - ZOOM

Thursday, January 1
School & Rectory Office Closed
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(*Holy Day of Obligation*)
9:00AM Mass
11:00AM Mass

Friday, January 2
School & Rectory Office Closed

Saturday, January 3
Rectory Office Open 9am-2pm
9:00AM Anointing Mass

The prophecy of Anna in the temple at the Presentation.

Next Week

January 4 - January 10

Sunday, January 4
The Epiphany of the Lord

Monday, January 5
School Resumes
12:00 NOON Golden Age - MCH
3:00PM Children's Choir - Church
7:00PM Adult Choir - Church

Tuesday, January 6
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, January 7
3:00PM Drama Club - MCH
6:00PM ACA Support Group - St. Joseph Room
7:45PM Bereavement Group - St. Joseph Room

Thursday, January 8
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR
3:00PM Jiu Jitsu - MCH
6:00PM IACA - SFR
7:20PM Scripture Study Resumes - St. Joseph Room

Friday, January 9

Saturday, January 10

The Epiphany of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year!

Thank God we see another year. At the beginning of every new year, we celebrate and honor Mary as the mother of God. Glory be to God for her loving response of **yes** when she accepted the awesome responsibility as the handmaid of God. She cooperated with the Holy Spirit in conceiving the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was born into the world.

We are the sisters and brothers of Jesus by our adoption in baptism. Jesus Christ has become our brother and his mother Mary, the Mother of the Church, has become **our** mother. We are all heirs to God's grace through the beauty of God's plan. Ours is a wonderful heritage, from the response of the patriarch Abraham and his cooperation in salvation history, straight through to Gabriel, who brings Mary the message of God. Gabriel offers her the choice of accepting or not accepting the privilege of becoming the mother of God's only Son. In her acceptance she brought to fulfillment God's plan of Salvation history.

It is fitting then as we begin this year, 2026, that we should seek the aid of our mother, Mary, to look after and be mindful of the needs of the Church. As one who is the model of discipleship for all of us, she reminds us over and over again of our calling to blessedness in the Lord.

Imagine the hope in the hearts of those evening watch shepherds in Bethlehem. Shepherds often were people who lived on the fringe, whose expectations were rarely lifted up. They hoped only to survive, yet this day they were given the privilege of being insiders. They were the first to receive the gospel proclamation tidings of great joy for all people of the earth.

On this Solemnity of the Mother of God, as we utter the name of Jesus in praise, let us remember who we are, sisters and brothers of the Lord Jesus, who honor his mother as our own.

May the Lord bless and keep us!

A Blessed New Year to each and every one of you and your families. May the year 2026 bring peace, joy and hope to each of us and to the world.

Msgr. Maresca

January Lector & Minister Schedule

	The Epiphany of The Lord January 3-4	The Baptism of The Lord January 10-11	Second Sunday In Ordinary Time January 17-18	Third Sunday In Ordinary Time January 24-25	Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time Jan. 31 - Feb. 1
Lectors					
Saturday 5:00PM	Edward Kubina	Debbi Skinner	Debbi Skinner	Josephine Corso	Debbi Skinner
Sunday 8:00AM	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella
Sunday 9:30AM	Josephine Corso	Maria Brooks	Sharon Costanza	Maria Brooks	Sharon Costanza
Sunday 11:00AM	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato
Ministers					
Saturday 5:00PM	*****	*****	*****	*****	******
Sunday 8:00AM	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Sunday 9:30AM	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Sunday 11:00AM	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

"With his Mother's flesh
God clothed himself, /
Since from Virginity he
was made man."
— Prudentius,
Hymn of the Divinity of Christ,
435-436

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy

OPEN HOUSE

FOR 3K & PRE-K CLASSES

★ FOR NEW FAMILIES ★

NURTURING BRIGHT MINDS EVERY DAY

Wednesday January 7th

Open house is a great opportunity for new families to see our teachers in action, visit our facility and see what we have to offer your child.

If you would like to attend, kindly RSVP by MONDAY, 12/22 to Mrs. Annunziata at NAnnunziata@sfaacademy.org

Our 3K and Pre-K Program provides a nurturing, engaging and fun-filled learning environment where young children can explore, discover, and grow with confidence.

3-K FOR ALL

PRE-K FOR ALL

Contact US

718-726-9405 x3

21-18 46th Street, Astoria, NY 11105

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC ACADEMY

SFA 2026 BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU

$100 FOR THE SEASON

SPACES ARE LIMITED! EMAIL WILDCATS.SFA.JIUJITSU@GMAIL.COM

1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/26

3:30PM-4:30PM @

Monsignor Campbell Hall

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

Join us anytime.

All are welcome.

St. Francis of Assisi Church
St. Joseph Room in the Rectory

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 just celebrated our 54th Year Anniversary Mass and Luncheon in November.

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

Religious Education Registration

Those who have not yet registered for Religious Education classes can do so Sunday at the School. Classes have begun but registration is open.

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