The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass Intentions

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
Monday, Jan. 5	*St. John Neumann, Bishop*
9:00AM	**Sammut Family**
Tuesday, Jan. 6	*St. Andre Bessette, Religious*
9:00AM	**John Betancourt**
Wednesday, Jan. 7	*Wednesday after Epiphany*
9:00AM	**Madeline Palazzolo**
Thursday, Jan. 8	*Thursday after Epiphany*
9:00AM	**Salvatore Giambrone**
Friday, Jan. 9	*Friday after Epiphany*
9:00AM	**The Purich Family**
Saturday, Jan. 10	*Saturday after Epiphany*
9:00AM	**Purgatorial Society**
	Michael A. Trizulino
5:00PM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
Sunday, Jan. 11	*The Baptism of the Lord*
8:00AM	**Holy Name Mass**
9:30AM	**Maryellen Richinick**
11:00AM	**Josephine & Charles Formosa**
	Iolanda Scire-Banchitta
	Victor A. Di Donato

Today's Readings

The Epiphany of the Lord

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed His star at its rising, and have come to pay Him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found Him, bring me word so I may pay Him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother; and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore You.

The Magi undertook an arduous journey to see Jesus. For us, sometimes even a short trip to Mass can feel like a challenge. Yet the God who set the stars in the sky desires an intimate relationship with each of us. This year is a good time to renew our commitment to grow closer to God. A star revealed Jesus' birth to the Magi; let us ask God to reveal Himself to us today.

Readings For The Week

Monday — ***1 John 3:22—4:6; Matthew 4:12-17,23-25***

Tuesday — ***1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44***

Wednesday — ***1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52***

Thursday — ***1 John 4:19—5:4; Luke 4:14-22***

Friday — ***1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16***

Saturday — ***1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30***

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

St. Francis of Assisi Scripture Study

On Winter Recess Until January 15, 2026

Dear SFA Family & Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

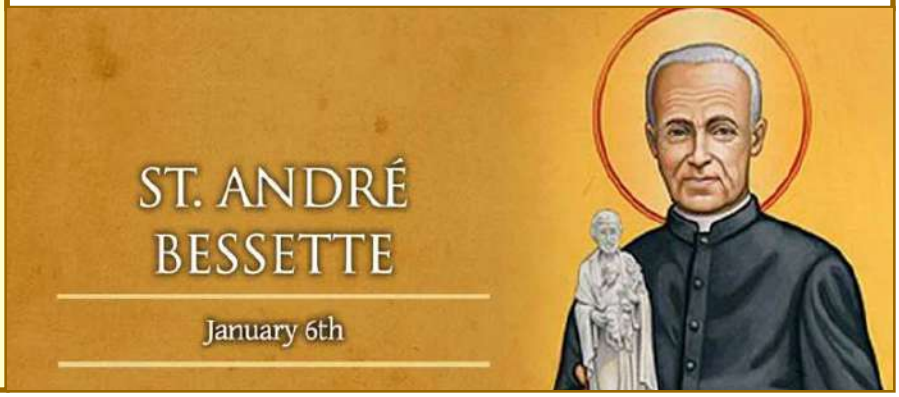
Peace be with you.

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, **"Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."** (Luke 1:41-42)

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.



From the Pastor's Desk:

My Dear Parishioners,

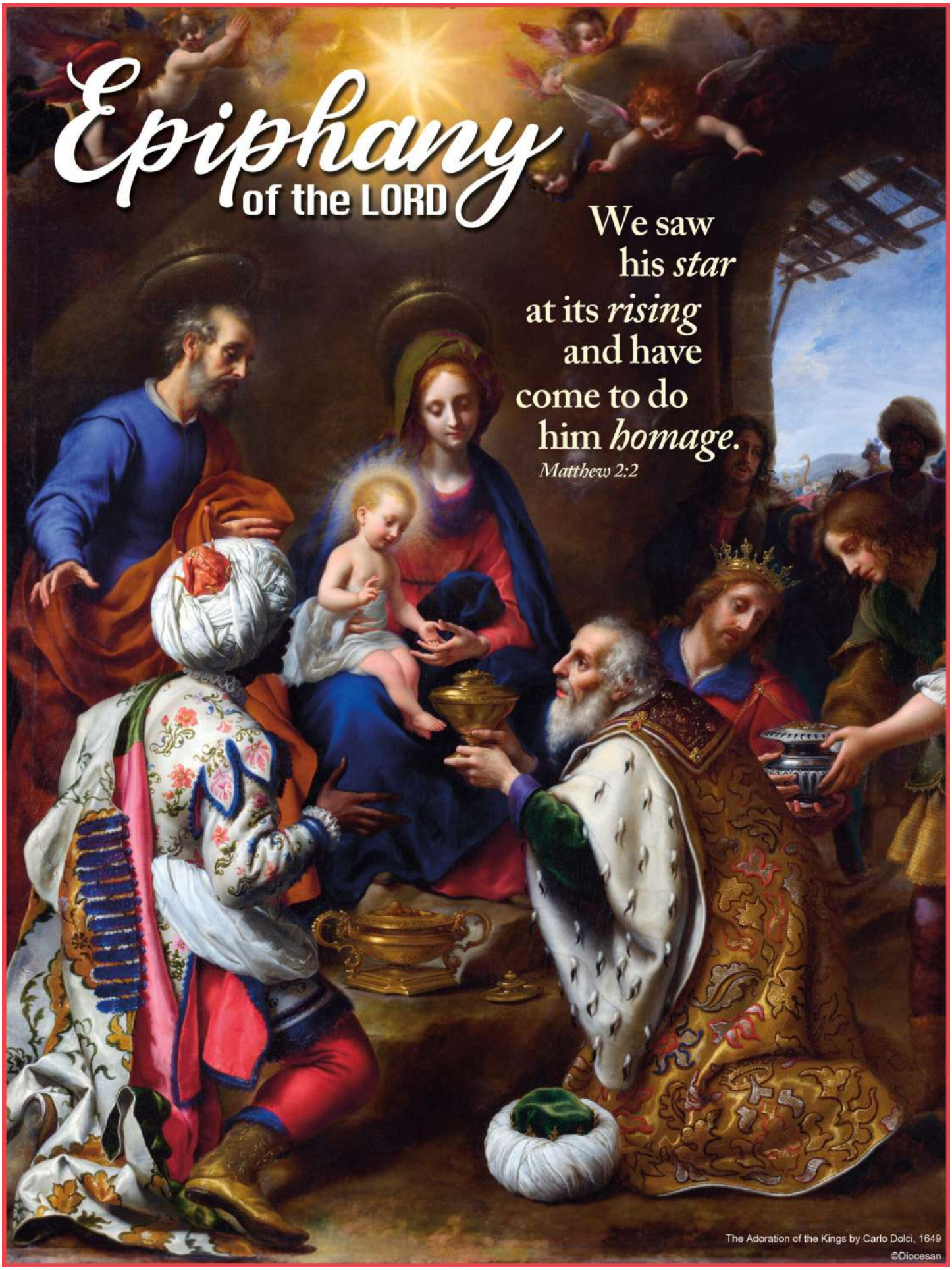
Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Our first two readings proclaim the news that everyone is brought to salvation in Jesus Christ. Through the words of the prophet Isaiah we receive the promise of all nations coming to Jerusalem to receive and honor the light. We come to understand this light to be Jesus Christ. In our second reading, St. Paul calls the Ephesians to accept the plan of God to unite Jew and Gentile alike in the salvation which comes through Jesus. *No one is excluded!*

Today's Gospel tells one of the best loved stories of Christmas. Almost everyone knows the story of the three astrologers, the Magi who come in search of the newborn King, Jesus. They are foreigners who represent the variety of races and cultures in the world. This wonderful gospel story reveals a God who reaches out to everyone; a God who longs to unite them to himself through Jesus no matter who they are or where they are from.

God continues to reach out to all people today through the light of the Gospel-the light of *truth and revelation.* These lights come together and point the way to Jesus Christ, the one true Light of the world. God reaches out again and again to lead us by the light of faith to his Son. Like the Magi, we must be open to seeing the lights which God shows to us. We rejoice in the fact that God's plan of salvation is designed specifically for each of us. When we accept the Son, we accept our unity into the body of Christ.

The revelation of today's feast challenges us to accept all of our sisters and brothers in faith. Despite differences of race or age, gender or economic status, we are ALL recipients of the same grace which comes to us through our acceptance of Jesus Christ. We must each become the *light* which guides others to Christ and become heralds of the Christmas message. When we share this glorious news, the salvation and promise of Christ spreads in the world, and we unite ourselves with God's plan to bring salvation to everyone.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca


Epiphany
of the LORD
We saw
his *star*
at its *rising*
and have
come to do
him *homage*.
Matthew 2:2
The Adoration of the Kings by Carlo Dolci, 1649
©Diocesan

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

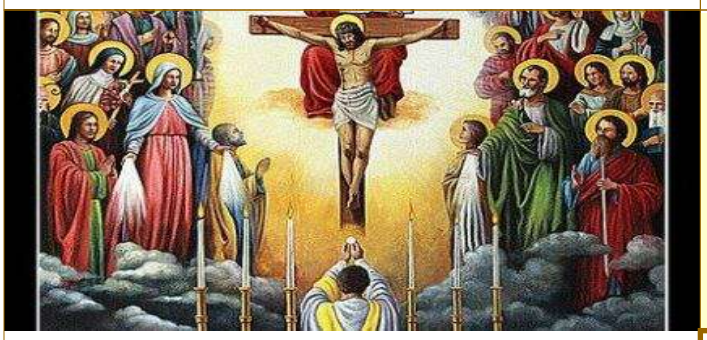
Eucharistic Adoration takes place Monday through Saturday, from 8:00AM to 8:50AM. As Pope St. John Paul II has said, "Christian life is expressed in the fulfilling of the greatest Commandment, that is to say, in the love of God and neighbor, and this love finds its source in the Blessed Sacrament….Eucharistic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

January 4, 2026

"God chose us before the world began to be holy."
God has chosen each person in Christ for a particular vocation. If He may be calling you to be holy through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office.

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

Diocese of Brooklyn Vocation Office

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.

December 20/21:	**$5,261**
Christmas Offering Dec. 24/25:	**$6,603**
Catholic Charities 2nd Collection :	**$1,457**
December 27/28:	**$2,749**
2nd Collection Fuel 12/27-28:	**$1,020**
Christmas Gift to My Church To Date:	**$7,194**

School Parents must use Church Envelopes.

Mass Attendance For December 20/21, 2025

5:00PM	**133**
8:00AM	**54**
9:30AM	**205**
11:00AM	**127**

Total: 519

Mass Attendance For December 24/25, 2025

4:00PM	**404**
6:00PM	**197**
8:00AM	**41**
9:30AM	**59**
11:00AM	**151**

Total: 852

Mass Attendance For December 27/28, 2025

5:00PM	**66**
8:00AM	**34**
9:30AM	**81**
11:00AM	**125**

Total: 306

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 **$33,994** 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

December's Monthly 50/50 Winners are:

1st Place: Mr. & Mrs. Alphonsus Conlon
2nd Place: Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Marchesona
3rd Place: Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kubina

Congratulations to the Winners!

Parish Mission Statement

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Catholic community that is centered in Jesus, gathers in worship and witnesses the Gospel message. The parish values and welcomes each person's gift of time, talent and treasure. As a faith-filled community, we are committed to minister to the spiritual, educational and material needs of all people.

Calendar of Events

This 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 - St. Joseph Room

Friday, January 9

Saturday, January 10

The Epiphany of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Next Week

January 11 - January 17

Sunday, January 11
8:00AM Holy Name Mass

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

Tuesday, January 13
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, January 14
3:00PM Drama Club - MCH
6:00PM ACA Support Group - St. Joseph Room
7:00PM Baptism Class
7:45PM Bereavement Group - St. Joseph Room

Thursday, January 15
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR
3:00PM Jiu Jitsu - MCH
6:00PM IACA - SFR
7:20PM Scripture Study - St. Joseph Room

Friday, January 16

Saturday, January 17

The Baptism of the Lord.

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	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.

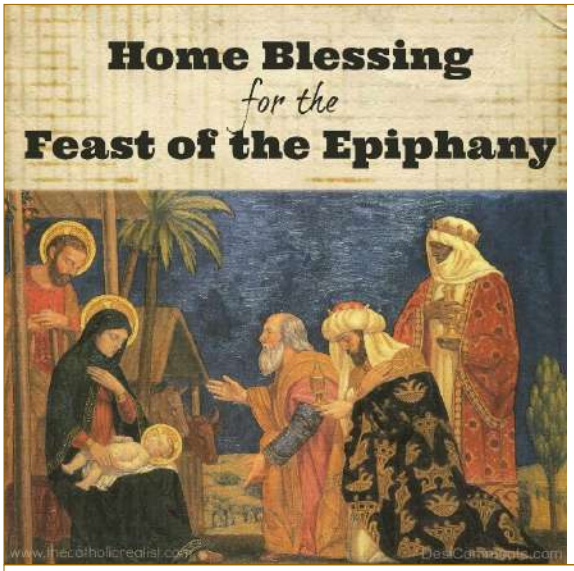
He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of His arm, He has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of His servant Israel for He has remembered His promise of mercy, the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and His children forever.

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end. Amen.



The Ceremony of the Blessing of the Home and Inscription of the initials of the three Magi above each door is traditionally done by Catholics each year.

The following, taken from catholicculture.org, can be used to bless your house this year!

Leader: *(Father of the Family or Head of Household):* Peace be to this house.
All: And to all who dwell within.

All: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

All Pray: The Magnificat. (found on the previous page. During the Magnificat the room is sprinkled with holy water.
After this is completed,

All: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

Leader: Our Father…and lead us not into temptation;

All: But deliver us from evil.
Leader: All they from Saba shall come.
All: Bringing gold and frankincense.
Leader: O Lord, hear my prayer.
All: And let my cry come to You.

Leader: Let us pray, O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Leader: Be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee—Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary.

All: And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

Leader: Let us pray.
Bless, + O Lord God Almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

After the prayers of the blessing are recited, each room of the house is sprinkled with holy water. The year and the initials of the Magi are inscribed upon the doors with blessed chalk. (The initials C, M, B, can also be interpreted as the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "Christ Bless This House".)

Example: 20 + C + M + B + 26

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith. January 2026

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Genevieve of Paris

Born in 422, in Nanterre, France, St. Genevieve consecrated herself to God when she was fifteen. She became known for her charity and gift of prophecy. She predicted Paris would be spared from attack by the Huns and led the people in fasting and prayer. Paris was spared. When King Childeric and his son Clovis I conquered Paris, Genevieve convinced Childeric to release his captives. She became a trusted advisor to Clovis, who converted to Christianity.

The Jesus Prayer

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus, reminding the faithful of the power and reverence due to His Name: *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth"* (Phil 2:10). A fitting prayer for this month is the Jesus Prayer, long cherished in Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Simple yet profound, this prayer can be repeated throughout the day. Prayed attentively, it deepens love and reverence for Christ, invokes His saving grace, and helps cultivate a steady spirit of prayer, humility, and interior peace.

"The things that we love tell us what we are." St. Thomas Aquinas

Turning our hearts back to God

Converting our hearts back to God begins with an honest pause – not a dramatic moment, but a decision to look at our lives as they really are. What shapes our days? What gets our best energy, our first thoughts, our deepest trust? Whatever holds that place is, in practice, what we put first.

Putting God first starts with intention. We make room for Him by removing what crowds Him out. A few minutes of prayer before reaching for a phone. A short passage of Scripture read slowly instead of rushed. These small choices retrain the heart. They remind us to whom we belong.

Repentance is part of the return, but it is not about shame. It is about direction. To repent means to turn. We admit where we've drifted and choose a better path. God does not demand perfection before welcoming us back. He asks for honesty and willingness.

Trust follows close behind. Many of us profess trust in God but still rely on our own control. Putting Him first means surrendering outcomes we cannot manage anyway. It means praying not only for help, but for guidance, even when the answer may change our plans.

Faith moves us to action. When we align our choices with God's teachings, our hearts follow. Faith leads to action. Forgiving when necessary. Serving when it is inconvenient. Giving when it feels risky. These actions reshape our priorities.

"Do not let the past disturb you. Just leave everything in the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy." St. Teresa of Calcutta

Community matters. Worship, shared prayer, and accountability keep our hearts oriented toward God when we are tempted to drift.

Turning back to God is rarely instantaneous. It is daily, deliberate, and deeply personal. Each step taken toward Him strengthens the heart's true center.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics bless themselves with holy water?

Blessing ourselves with holy water when entering a Catholic church recalls the ritual washings of the Old Testament, through which the Jews purified themselves before approaching God in the Temple. St. John the Baptist built on this tradition by using water as a sign of repentance and conversion.

Today, this gesture reminds us of our Baptism and renews our commitment to live the Faith. As a sacramental, holy water disposes us to receive God's grace, strengthens us against temptation, and, with proper repentance, helps remit venial sins.

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New Year, new habits build change that lasts

Starting and maintaining New Year's resolutions can be difficult for the same reason cultivating virtue is difficult: both require forming new habits. Perseverance rarely comes from sheer willpower alone. Practical strategies, supported by grace, make growth more sustainable.

Begin with achievable goals. Set yourself up for early success by practicing self-denial in small, manageable ways. Learning to say no in minor matters builds the discipline needed to resist greater temptations later.

Replace, rather than simply remove. It is often easier to abandon an unhealthy habit when it is substituted with a better one. Just as swapping potato chips for pretzels can make dietary changes more attainable, uprooting vice is aided by cultivating the opposing virtue. Greed is weakened by generosity.

Seek accountability. A trusted friend, exercise partner, or prayer companion can provide encouragement and consistency for change. Knowing someone is watching makes it more difficult to give up when motivation fades.

Above all, rely on grace. God invites us to call upon Him, especially in moments of weakness, often marked by anger or anxiety, fatigue, hunger, or sadness. In those moments, turn to the Holy Spirit for strength and consolation, trusting the Lord's promise: *"The Lord will fight for you; you have only to keep still"* (Exodus 14:14).

from Scripture — Matthew 4:12-23, Discipleship is the greatest adventure

This Gospel passage recounts the call of the first disciples. They may not have known Jesus personally at first, but they knew about Him through John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). Hearing the invitation to know Jesus better and follow Him closely, the men dropped what they were doing "at once" and left everything behind.

Under Christ's leadership, the disciples went on to do amazing deeds. They worked miracles, brought the Gospel to distant lands, won countless souls for Heaven, and suffered many hardships, even martyrdom. The secret of their success was their relationship with Christ as their God, Savior, Teacher, and Friend who promised to be with them always (Matthew 28:20).

All of us are called to be saints – friends of God. Jesus Christ invites each of us, in particular, to know and follow Him. While few of us are called to leave everything behind, we can still offer everything we have to God's service. We can still give our "Yes." Pursuing authentic holiness isn't boring but a great adventure!

Feasts & Celebrations

January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also acknowledge Jesus as true God and true Man. Mary's title highlights God's humility, in that God chose to come to us through Mary, as a vulnerable newborn. This year, it is a holy day of obligation.

January 5 – St. John Neumann (1860). The first American bishop to be canonized was born in the present-day Czech Republic in 1811. St. John traveled to New York as a missionary before becoming bishop of Philadelphia. He built up the Catholic school system and established diocesan schools. He also built more than 89 churches, several hospitals and orphanages.

January 11 – The Baptism of the Lord (1st Century). Jesus began His public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was to be baptized to *"fulfill all righteousness"* (Matthew 3:15). This was also when God reveals Jesus as His *"beloved Son"* (Matthew 3:17).

January 13 – St. Hilary of Poitiers (367). St. Hilary converted to Christianity as a young man and was elected bishop around 350. St. Hilary spent most of his office battling the Arian heresy, which denied the Divinity of Christ. He was exiled to Phrygia. He spent his four-year exile writing and teaching against Arianism until the emperor begged him to return home.

Q & A — Why is the feast of the Epiphany important?

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated this year on January 4, is important because it celebrates the public revelation of Jesus Christ as Savior of the whole world. The word epiphany means "manifestation" or "revealing."

Originally, the feast commemorated the visit of the Magi, wise men from the East, who followed the star to Bethlehem. In honoring the Magi, the Church proclaims that salvation is universal and that Gentiles are fully included in God's plan.

Traditionally, Epiphany also encompasses two other key moments of revelation: Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan and His first miracle at the wedding at Cana. At His Baptism, the Father's voice and the descent of the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus as God's Son. At Cana, Jesus manifests His divine power publicly for the first time. Together, these events reveal who Jesus truly is.

Epiphany calls us to respond as the Magi did: to seek Christ, to worship Him, and to offer Him our lives. It reminds us that faith is not meant to be hidden, but proclaimed.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of *Growing in Faith*™ and *Partners in Faith*™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
http://www.infaithpublishing.com
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New American Bible - Revised*)

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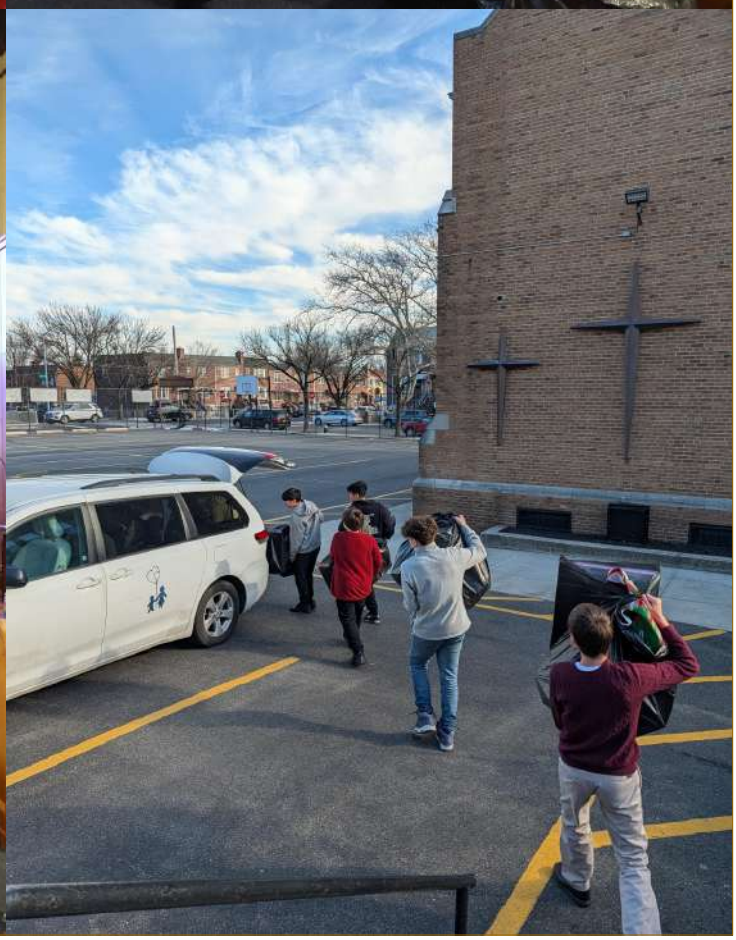
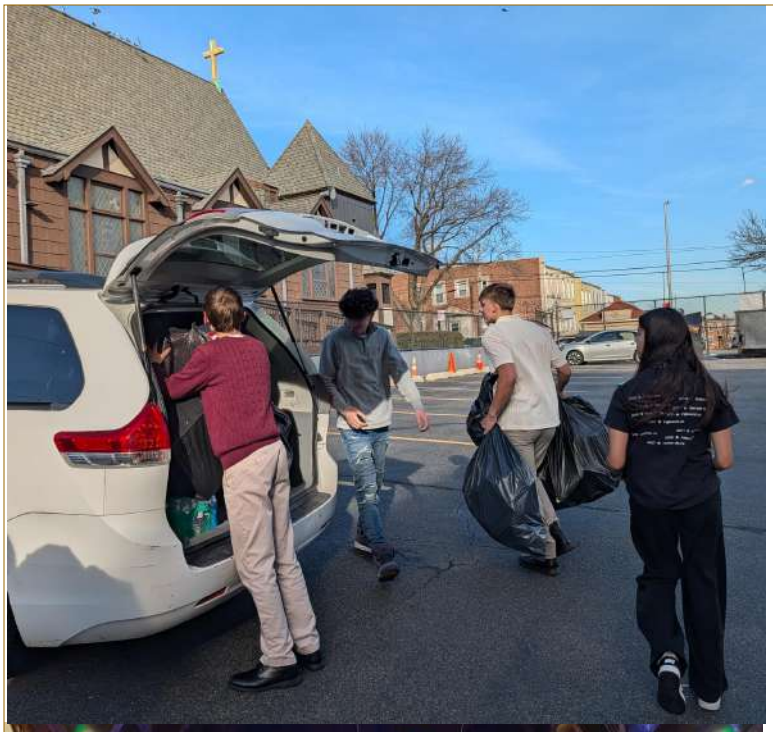
Thank you!

We wish to thank everyone who brought gifts for the children in our community. We were able to support Marguerite's Pantry, Catholic Charities, Hour Children, and Transfiguration with an abundance of gifts! In total, our Parish Family gave **469 Gifts**!!!

Mrs. Kubina and our Youth Group were also a great help as well. Not only did they set up the Christmas Trees and hang the ornaments, but they also did the hard work of sorting the Gifts, getting them ready to go, and even taking them out to the cars of the Charities. Great job to all our Parish Youth who participated!





Many Thanks To:

Mrs. Kubina
Rocco
Joseph V.
Liam H.
Declan H.
Louis M.
John M.
Maria K.
Ben T.
Colin V.
Ethan V.
Mason C.
Matthew T.
Andreas K.
Colette L.
Ben M.
Stelios C.
Matthew P.
Olivia S.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
PROVIDING HELP CREATING HOPE OUR SECOND CENTURY

Marguerite's Pantry

Love Makes The Difference

hourchildren

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 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

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