Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Sunday, Feb. 1	*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00AM	**Han Choi**
9:30AM	**William LeDone**
11:00AM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
	Joan Carpanini
	Marcel L. Cinquina
	Patricia Donato
	Richard Kauke
Monday, Feb. 2	*Feast of the Presentation of The Lord*
9:00AM	**Sr. Agnes Conlon**
Tuesday, Feb. 3	*St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr (Blessing Of Throats After The 9:00AM Mass)*
9:00AM	**Kenneth Byrnes**
Wednesday, Feb. 4	*Weekday*
9:00AM	**David Brighi**
Thursday, Feb. 5	*St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr*
9:00AM	**John Hengl**
Friday, Feb. 6	*St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs*
9:00AM	**Benito & Annita Pulice**
Saturday, Feb. 7	*Blessed Virgin Mary*
9:00AM	**Purgatorial Society**
	The Living & Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary And Their Families
	Stephen Da Corta
	Loraine Briselli
	Flora Ruffini
5:00PM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
Sunday, Feb. 8	*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00AM	**Holy Name Mass**
9:30AM	**Angela Mignanelli**
11:00AM	**Patricia Goodwin**
	Victor A. Di Donato
	Frank T. Di Donato
	Gerardo Mazzone

Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. Then He began to speak, and taught them, saying:
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."
"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."
"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account."

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven."

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:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

By proclaiming the beatitudes, Jesus turns the world's values and expectations upside down. He tells us that the poor, the meek, and the hungry are at the center of God's kingdom, not the wealthy or powerful. God's ways are not our ways, and Jesus' words invite us to live by a different set of standards than the world offers. Those who hunger for God's ways will be satisfied.

Readings For The Week

Monday	***Malachi 3:1-4*** ***Hebrews 2:14-18*** ***Luke 2:22-40***
Tuesday	***2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b,24-25a, 30—19:3*** ***Mark 5:21-43***
Wednesday	***2 Samuel 24:2,9-17*** ***Mark 6:1-6***
Thursday	***1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12*** ***Mark 6:7-13***
Friday	***Sirach 47:2-11*** ***Mark 6:14-29***
Saturday	***1 Kings 3:4-13*** ***Mark 6:30-34***

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 58:7-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

St. Francis of Assisi Scripture Study

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

Dear SFA Family & Friends,

The Letter to the Hebrews

You are invited to join us on Thursday, February 5, in the St. Joseph Room in the Rectory from 7:20PM to 8:50PM. This week's study will be on Hebrews 8:1—10:18, **"Jesus' Eternal Priesthood and Eternal Sacrifice."**

"Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. " (Heb 10:9-10)

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,

The *Ten Commandments* were given to Moses on a mountain in the desert. They defined for the people of Israel the behavior God expected of them. The *Beatitudes* were given by Jesus on a mountain in Galilee. They further define for us the behavior and attitude we are to cultivate as followers of Christ. These guidelines complement the Commandments. Jesus calls us *to perfection* not *a moral minimum*. He wants us to go beyond the Commandments to nurture a life of virtue. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes the Beatitudes as "the heart of Jesus' preaching" (#1716).

Being *poor in spirit* has total trust in God and a dependency on God that can only be satisfied by God's grace and love. The poor in spirit are humble knowing that God has all they need, and will fill them. This Beatitude is reflected in each of those that follow.

Blessed are they who mourn-This Beatitude speaks of the virtue of compassion which allows us to walk with those who are suffering; it calls for love and compassion; it calls us to mourn over such suffering. Just as Jesus wept over the blindness of Jerusalem to his coming (Lk. 19:41) we are to weep over the blindness of our world to the recognition of God's kingdom.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness-If we are poor in spirit, there is a hunger for justice in our soul that demands satisfaction. This is not the justice of the world, but the perfect justice of God that we seek. Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of the One who sent me and to finish his work" (Jn. 4:34). If we feed ourselves with the will of the Father, there will be no room for injustice in our lives.

Blessed are the merciful-When we are poor in spirit, we realize the need we have for God's mercy. If we continually deceive ourselves that we are okay people, better than most, and not bothered by sin, we are real fools. When we acknowledge our need for forgiveness and open our hearts to God's mercy, then we are truly blessed. Embracing God's mercy allows us to forgive others, even those who have hurt us.

Blessed are the clean of heart-"The things that come out of the mouth come from the heart" (Mt. 15:18). If we fill our hearts with hatred, anger, and resentment we will leave behind us an atmosphere of criticism, contempt, and selfishness. A gentle, kind, and loving heart shows itself in charitable, gentle speech. Permitting God's love to fill our hearts will lead us to reflect that same love in our words and actions.

Blessed are the peacemakers-Peace in relationships is so much more than the absence of conflict. Peace is a healthy state of being for the body, the mind, and the heart. If we are poor in spirit, we see the need and the desirability of being at peace with one another. We do not seek revenge but, rather, we long for reconciliation with and among all people.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness-It is not always easy to be a follower of Christ. We may be labeled as a do-gooder or be mocked when we stand up for the right thing. Peer pressure is a real threat to good intentions.

If we are poor in spirit, we are seeking fulfillment from God and the opinions of others is of little importance. We need to continually pray to be poor in spirit. We must ask God to help us with meekness and a peaceful heart. We must seek to empty ourselves of worldly preoccupations in order to be filled with His presence.

May we pray for the grace to live the Beatitudes.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

Celebrating Your
Ordination Anniversary

Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca V.F.

Honoring Your 48 Years of Service To God

February 4, 1978-February 4, 2026
Thank You For Your Service To The Parish and Academy
From The Deacons, Staff, Students, and Parishioners of
St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Academy

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

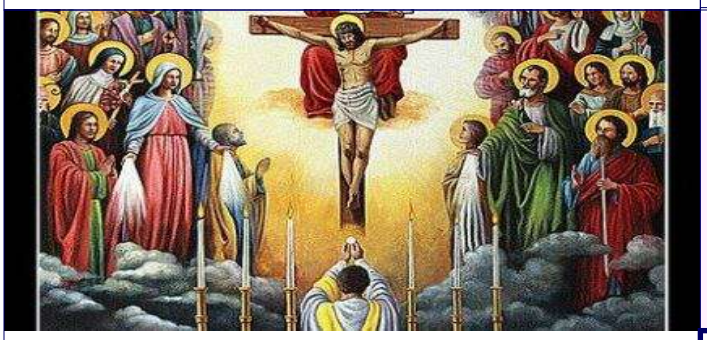
Eucharistic Adoration takes place Monday through Saturday, from 8:00AM to 8:50AM. As Pope St. John Paul II has said, "Christian life is expressed in the fulfilling of the greatest Commandment, that is to say, in the love of God and neighbor, and this love finds its source in the Blessed Sacrament….Eucharistic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

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 1, 2026

"Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters." We are all called to bear witness to Christ in our lives. Could you be called to do so as a priest, deacon, or consecrated religious? Contact the Vocation Office at:

(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.

January 24/25:	**$2,548**
Second Collection	
For Catholic Schools Week	**$935**

School Parents must use Church Envelopes.

Mass Attendance For January 24/25, 2026

5:00PM	**146**
8:00AM	**7**
9:30AM	**23**
11:00AM	**23**
	Total: 199

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
Saint Blaise, Bishop & Martyr
Blessing of Throats

Following the 9:00AM Mass, we will have the Blessing of Throats.
St. Blaise has been venerated as the patron of those who suffer diseases of the throat. The blessing of St. Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick.
We invite you and your loved ones for this blessing.

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 **$35,304** 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

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

THE TABLET

Second Collection Next Weekend, Feb. 7/Feb. 8

There will be a Second Collection next weekend for The Tablet Newspaper, which is provided each weekend for all of our parishioners.

Please be as generous as your means allow.

Calendar of Events

This Week

February 1 - February 7

Sunday, February 1
9:30AM Children's Liturgy Mass
10:40AM CCD & SFACA - School

Monday, February 2
12:00 NOON Golden Age - MCH
3:00PM Children's Choir - Church
7:00PM Adult Choir - Church

Tuesday, February 3
9:00AM St. Blaise Blessing of Throats after Mass
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, February 4
3:00PM Drama Club - MCH
6:00PM ACA Support Group - St. Joseph Room
7:45PM Bereavement Group - St. Joseph Room

Thursday, February 5
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR
3:30PM Jiu Jitsu - MCH
5:30PM Mites Soccer Practice - MCH
6:00PM IACA - SFR
7:20PM Scripture Study - St. Joseph Room

Friday, February 6
9:00AM First Friday School Mass

Saturday, February 7
9:00AM Anointing Mass
11:00AM Girl Scout World Thinking Day Event
Confirmation Retreat Day - Church

St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr, February 5th.

Next Week

February 8 - February 14

Sunday, February 8
8:00AM Holy Name Mass
9:30AM Pre-Communion Mass
10:40AM CCD & SFACA - School
11:00AM World Marriage Day Mass

Monday, February 9
12:00 NOON Golden Age - MCH
3:00PM Children's Choir - Church

Tuesday, February 10
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, February 11
3:00PM Drama Club - MCH
6:00PM ACA Support Group - St. Joseph Room
7:00PM Baptism Class - Rectory
7:45PM Bereavement Group - St. Joseph Room

Thursday, February 12
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR
3:30PM Jiu Jitsu - MCH
5:30PM Mites Soccer Practice - MCH
6:00PM IACA Valentine's Party - SFR
7:20PM Scripture Study - St. Joseph Room

Friday, February 13
School Closed K-8th Grade

Saturday, February 14
St. Valentine's Day

St. Scholastica, Virgin, February 10th.

February Lector/Minister Schedule

	Fifth Sunday	Sixth Sunday	First Sunday	Second Sunday
	In Ordinary Time	In Ordinary Time	Of Lent	Of Lent
	February 7-8	February 14-15	February 21-22	Feb. 28- March 1
Lectors				
Saturday 5:00PM	Debbi Skinner	Debbi Skinner	Josephine Corso	Edward Kubina
Sunday 8:00AM	Andrew Soltesz	Gina R.	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella
Sunday 9:30AM	Josephine Corso	Sharon Costanza	Maria Brooks	Sharon Costanza
Sunday 11:00AM	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato
Ministers				
Saturday 5:00PM	*****	*****	Raymond Conlon	*****
Sunday 8:00AM	*****	*****	*****	*****
Sunday 9:30AM	*****	*****	*****	*****
Sunday 11:00AM	*****	*****	*****	*****

The Presentation of our Lord.

Celebrate World Marriage Day!

All married couples are invited to the 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, February 8, 2026,

Join us for a Special Blessing for all Married Couples

Please fill out the form below and return in any collection basket or to the rectory.

Name: _____

Phone or Email: _____

Years of Marriage: _____

We would like to thank our Maintenance Team, Andrea Ferrara and Michele Donofrio, for their heroic efforts in getting the snow shoveled and moved so that our Parishioners could come to daily Mass and our Academy was able to be open by Tuesday.

Please thank them for their hard work when you see them!

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

The St. John's Speech & Hearing Center will be offering <u>FREE</u> speech and hearing evaluations from February 2, 2026 through April 30, 2026.

Please call the center at 718-990-6480
to schedule an appointment.
The Speech and Hearing Center is located at:
152-11 Union Turnpike, Flushing NY, 11367

SFA Youth Page

St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr
Patron Saint of Those Who Suffer Diseases of the Throat
February 3

Legend says that as hunters took Bishop Blaise to prison for being a Christian, a mother brought to him her son who was choking on a fish bone. At the Bishop's command, the boy was able to cough up the bone!

Another story says that as he was taken to prison, he met an old woman whose pig had been stolen by a wolf. When ordered by the Bishop, the wolf returned the pig to the woman—alive! While the Bishop was in jail, it is believed that the same woman brought him two wax candles to light the darkness of his cell.

The governor tried to force the holy Bishop to abandon Christianity and worship pagan idols. After refusing many times, and after being tortured in many ways, he was martyred in the year 316.

He is remembered as the patron saint of wild animals and those who have throat ailments. He is often portrayed holding two crossed candles in his hand or in a cave with wild animals.

St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
Patron Saint of those with Breast Cancer and People Who Suffer from Fires
February 5

St. Agatha dedicated her life to God from a very early age. She became a consecrated virgin, a state in life where young women choose to remain celibate and give themselves wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service.

However, Agatha was very beautiful and many men wanted to marry her. One of these men was an important judge who told her that she would be tortured if she refused his proposal.

She reaffirmed her belief in God by praying: "Jesus Christ, Lord of all, You see my heart, You know my desires. Possess all that I am. I am Your sheep: make me worthy to overcome the devil." With tears falling from her eyes, she prayed for courage.

Agatha was steadfast in her love for Christ and was martyred around the year 251.

Prayer for courage

Dear God,
make me strong at heart
and fill me with your hope.
Give me courage so that
I will never give up
when I am afraid.
Amen.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

†

THIS IS TO CERTIFY

That _____

Address _____

Donated to this Parish

The Sum of $ _____ In the Year ended _____

Rev. _____

Church of _____

_____

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Contribution Statements for 2025

If you are in need of a Contribution Statement for 2025, please contact Tara at the Rectory by phone or by email.

Phone: 718-728-7801
Email: chsecy@sfaacademy.org

Please kindly allow up to 48 hours for processing, and be sure to give your Envelope Number, First & Last Name, Current Address and preferred Contact Phone Number.

Thank you for your generosity this year!

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