Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

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
Monday, Feb. 9	*Weekday*
9:00AM	**Marie Salamone**
Tuesday, Feb. 10	*St. Scholastica, Virgin*
9:00AM	**Joseph Salamone**
Wednesday, Feb. 11	*Our Lady of Lourdes*
9:00AM	**Antonina Kos**
Thursday, Feb. 12	*Weekday*
9:00AM	**Victor Salamone**
Friday, Feb. 13	*Weekday*
9:00AM	**Mary Di Pietro**
Saturday, Feb. 14	*Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop*
9:00AM	**Purgatorial Society**
	Rosaria & Antonio Nicola Petito
	Francesco Tenaglia
	Vincenzo Armano
5:00PM	**Mary & John Garofalo**
Sunday, Feb. 15	*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00AM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
9:30AM	**Michael Cilia**
11:00AM	**John Izzard**
	Francesco Tenaglia

Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.
You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Readings For The Week

Monday	***1 Kings 8:1-7,9-13***
	Mark 6:53-56
Tuesday	***1 Kings 8:22-23,27-30***
	Mark 7:1-13
Wednesday	***1 Kings 10:1-10***
	Mark 7:14-23
Thursday	***1 Kings 11:4-13***
	Mark 7:24-30
Friday	***1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19***
	Mark 7:31-37
Saturday	***1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34***
	Mark 8:1-10

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37

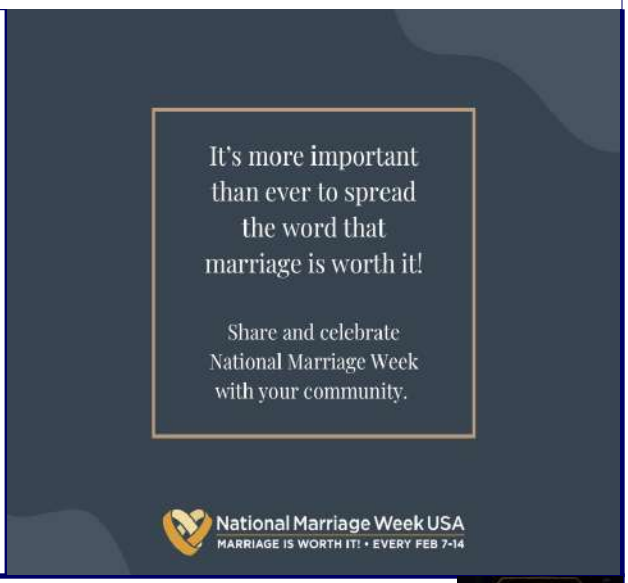
Remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick, that they may find health and comfort.

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 JUST MAN IS A LIGHT IN DARKNESS TO THE UPRIGHT.

At our baptism, we receive the light of Christ. While this light of faith certainly illumines our path, it is also meant to be shared with others. Through our good works, the light of Christ shines forth, helping others to recognize the work of God in our lives and drawing them to give him thanks and praise.

St. Francis of Assisi Scripture Study

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

Dear SFA Family & Friends,

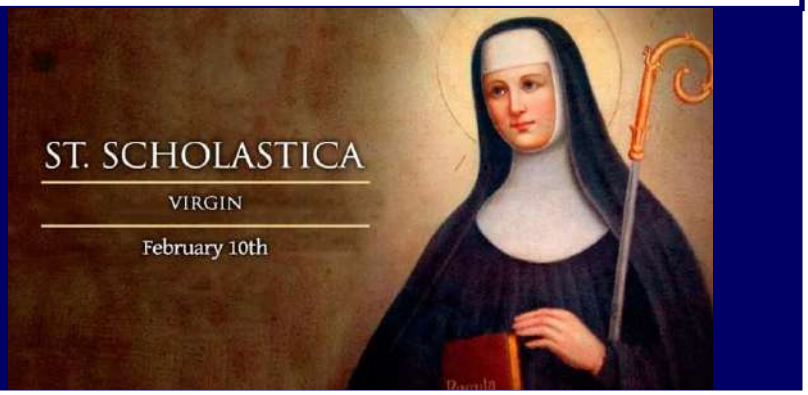
The Letter to the Hebrews

You are invited to join us on Thursday, February 12, in the St. Joseph Room of the Rectory from 7:20PM to 8:50PM. We will continue the study 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 and for all." (Hebrews 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,

In the beautiful words, which we just heard, taken from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us to let our light shine forth. But, what is this light? Where does it come from? And just how important is it to our ability to share the Gospel, or evangelize, which we hear quite often? This Gospel highlights evangelization, as it speaks of letting our light shine before others.

So, with all this talk about letting our light shine forth, look at the person next to you. Are they glowing? Well, they should be! Seriously, this light, of course, is not a natural light but a *supernatural or spiritual one.* This light, which each of us has, and which the Gospel today tells us to *let shine,* is a brightness within us that comes from our relationship with God. It is the light of Christ that brings us inner joy that cannot be restrained. It is, for sure, evident in our good deeds, as Scripture says. In fact, those deeds are the outward expression of the presence of the light of Christ in us.

The Gospel uses other images to help us understand that this light comes from knowing God and following Jesus is to be shared with others. Jesus does not want us to miss the point. We should not hide our light under a bushel basket, He tells us. Rather, we are to put it out there for all to see! Light the way for others! We are to let our light be as a pathway for those in darkness! This light-burning through our faith-is so significant, that if it were to go out, or go flat, like salt losing its taste, it would be of no use to anyone!

As our relationship with God deepens, the love that we have from him grows. Our faith also grows and we naturally want to share it with others. Christ's light and love are not to be kept to ourselves! We are to let our light shine so as to glorify God. Yes, God is glorified whenever we love each other. God is glorified whenever we bring Christ's message of salvation to our neighbor. God is glorified when our light is set on a lampstand, or shines forth, like a city shining from a mountaintop.

God is glorified whenever we accept his love, and, in turn, offer it to others. Now, in practical terms, that may be done in a variety of ways. We may sit and listen to a friend or a stranger when we would prefer to be doing something else. We may reach out and help someone in need. We may share our own faith story, or quietly pray for someone, but that deep love we have for God is to be shown by sharing it with others. In all of these ways, and so many more, we let our light shine, just as God intends. It is a gift-this life of faith and love-and it is to be shared.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

St. Valentine And Valentine's Day: A Model of Christ-like Love

The Life and Martyrdom of St. Valentine

St. Valentine, whose feast day is celebrated on February 14th, was a Christian priest and martyr who lived during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd Century. Although the details of his life remain somewhat unclear, several accounts of his martyrdom have survived throughout the ages. According to one of the most well-known legends, Valentine was arrested for secretly performing Christian marriages for young couples, defying an edict from Emperor Claudius II that prohibited marriage for young soldiers. The emperor believed that unmarried men made better soldiers. Despite the danger, Valentine continued to marry couples in secret, embodying the Christian understanding of marriage as a sacrament—an act of faith and love that mirrors Christ's union with His Church. His defiance led to his imprisonment, and he was eventually martyred for his unwavering commitment to Christ and His teachings on love and marriage.

St. Valentine: A Model of Christ-like Love

St. Valentine's life is a testament to the selfless love that Christ calls all of His followers to embody. True love, as exemplified by Valentine, is not self-serving but sacrificial. Valentine's willingness to risk his own life for the well-being of others and his dedication to the sacrament of marriage reflect the profound nature of Christian love—love that mirrors the love of Christ for His Church.

The Significance of St. Valentine's Feast Day

As Catholics, St. Valentine's feast day is an opportunity not only to celebrate love but also to reflect on the deeper meaning of love in our faith. The secular focus on romantic love is an entry point for Catholics to elevate the conversation about love to a higher level, reminding ourselves that true love is rooted in Christ.

St. Valentine's Day offers a chance to pray for those seeking spouses, those in the Vocation of Marriage, and those who are struggling with relationships. It is also a day to reflect on the love of God, which calls us to serve one another with humility, respect, and sacrifice.

Praying to St. Valentine

As the patron saint of lovers, married couples, and beekeepers, St. Valentine is often called upon for intercession in matters of the heart. Catholics can seek his guidance and support in prayer, asking for the strength to love selflessly and to remain faithful to the vows they have made in marriage. May his example guide us in all our relationships, drawing us ever closer to the heart of God.

A Prayer to St. Valentine:

St. Valentine, you gave your life to protect the sanctity of marriage and to bring love and joy into the lives of countless couples. We ask for your intercession, that we may always live out the love of Christ in our relationships. Help us to be patient and kind, to honor and cherish our loved ones, and to see in them the reflection of God's perfect love. Through your prayers, may we grow in faith, hope, and charity. Amen.

**taken from www.catholiconline.news*

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

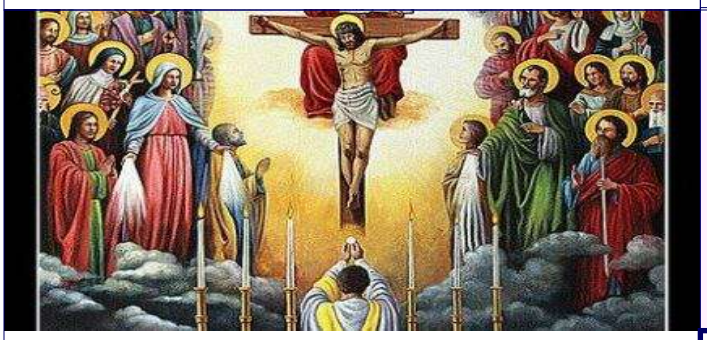
Eucharistic Adoration takes place Monday through Saturday, from 8:00AM to 8:50AM. As Pope St. John Paul II has said, "Christian life is expressed in the fulfilling of the greatest Commandment, that is to say, in the love of God and neighbor, and this love finds its source in the Blessed Sacrament….Eucharistic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

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 8, 2026

"I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life." If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, 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.

Catholic Schools Week Mass 1/28	**$168**
Jan. 31/Feb. 1:	**$3,127**
Second Collection	
For Churches in Need:	**$615**

School Parents must use Church Envelopes.

Mass Attendance For
Jan. 31/Feb. 1, 2026

5:00PM	**88**
8:00AM	**55**
9:30AM	**138**
11:00AM	**101**
	Total: 382

Coming up!
Monday, February 16
The School & Rectory Office will be closed in observance of Presidents' Day.

The 9:00AM Mass will be celebrated as usual.

Annual Catholic Appeal

The Annual Catholic Appeal for 2026 has begun in our Diocese. I first want to thank all those who supported the appeal last year. I appreciate your generosity.
This year our goal has been reduced to **$33,760.** The theme is: ***"One Church, Diverse Ministries. United Mission."***

I ask you to prayerfully reflect on what you are able to contribute to support the appeal.
The monies contributed goes to Vocations, Care for retired priest, Faith Formation, Catholic Charities, Chaplaincies, Catholic Migration Services, and Catholic School Tuition Assistance.
Please make every effort to support this appeal and help us reach our goal.

I share 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

January's Monthly 50/50 Winners are:

1st Place: The Bromley Family
2nd Place: Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mistretta III
3rd Place: Miss Mary T. Dudek

Congratulations to the Winners!

Second Collection Next Weekend, February 14/15

There will be a second collection next weekend for Black and Native America.

Please be as generous as your means allow.

Calendar of Events

This Week

February 8 - February 14

Sunday, February 8
National Marriage Week
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
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. Valentine, Patron Saint of Lovers

Next Week

February 15 - February 21

Sunday, February 15

Monday, February 16
President's Day
School and Rectory Office Closed

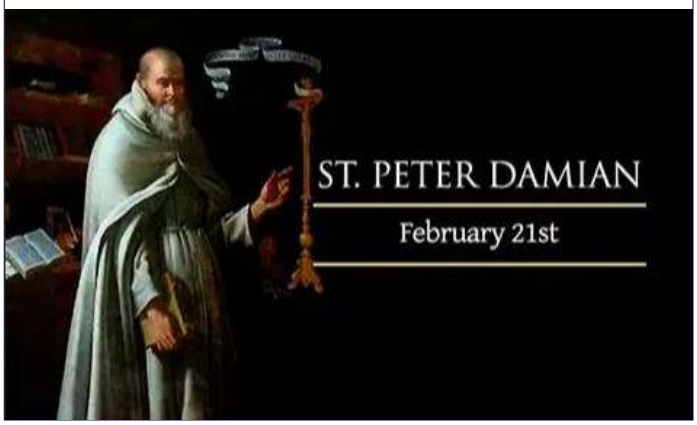
Tuesday, February 17
School Closed
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, February 18
Ash Wednesday
Masses at 7:00AM, 9:00AM, & 7:30PM
Prayer Services at 12:00 NOON & 3:00PM
School Closed
6:00PM ACA Support Group - ZOOM
7:45PM Bereavement Group - ZOOM

Thursday, February 19
School Closed
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR

Friday, February 20
School Closed
7:30PM Stations of the Cross - Church

Saturday, February 21



St. Peter Damian, Patron Saint of the Church and a Reformer

The 2026 theme for National Marriage Week is:

Together with *purpose*

A marriage with purpose goes beyond day-to-day life—it is about a higher commitment to walk side by side, building a life that is intentional, meaningful, and enduring.

Join us for a live virtual event each day of National Marriage Week by National Marriage Leaders aimed at growing, helping, and improving your marriage.

marriageweek.org/broadcasts

Sign up for our newsletter on our website to get more information and register as we draw closer to February!

Lectio Divina for February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
National Marriage Week

We begin our prayer:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O God, Creator of all things,
who in the beginning made man and woman
that they might form the marriage bond,
bless and strengthen the union of your servants,
that they may show forth an ever more perfect image
of the union of Christ with his Church.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, On Anniversaries of Marriage)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the LORD:
Share your bread with the hungry,
shelter the oppressed and the homeless;
clothe the naked when you see them,
and do not turn your back on your own.
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed;
your vindication shall go before you,
and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer,
you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am!
If you remove from your midst
oppression, false accusation and malicious speech;
if you bestow your bread on the hungry
and satisfy the afflicted;
then light shall rise for you in the darkness,
and the gloom shall become for you like midday.

Meditation (*Meditatio*)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

If practicing lectio divina *as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.*

Prayer (*Oratio*)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

CATHOLIC.BIBLE

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

Do not turn your back on your own. Who do I consider to be "my own"? When have I turned my back on those in need?

If you remove from your midst ... malicious speech. When have I hurt my spouse with careless or harsh speech? How can I be more kind and supportive in my speech?

Then light shall rise for you in the darkness. What parts of my life are in darkness? What brings light and life into our marriage?

After a period of silent reflection and/or discussion, all recite the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Closing Prayer

Light shines through the darkness for the upright;
he is gracious and merciful and just.
Well for the man who is gracious and lends,
who conducts his affairs with justice.

He shall never be moved;
the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance.
An evil report he shall not fear;
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear.
Lavishly he gives to the poor;
His justice shall endure forever;
his horn shall be exalted in glory.

(From Psalm 112)

Living the Word This Week

How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?

Write your spouse a letter (or record a video) expressing your love. Plan a special meal together to share these messages.

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Growing in FAITH™

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

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Onesimus

Born in Phrygia, St. Onesimus was enslaved to Philemon of Colossae in present-day Turkey. He encountered St. Paul during the apostle's imprisonment in Rome, where Onesimus had fled after stealing from his master. Moved by Paul's witness, he repented, was baptized, and later gained his freedom. Onesimus became a trusted companion and co-worker of St. Paul and was eventually martyred for the faith during the persecutions under Emperor Domitian.

God's Valentine to us

If God sent a Valentine, it might sound something like this: *"My darling child"* (Jeremiah 31:20), *"You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you"* (Isaiah 43:4). *"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love"* (John 15:9). *"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends…"* (John 15:13-14). *"Do you love me?"* (John 21:16) That makes the Bible the world's longest love letter.

"God is not the enemy of our freedom but its ground. That is something we ought to relearn in these days. Only love that is almighty can ground a joy that is free from anxiety." Pope Benedict XVI

"What do you seek?" (John 1:38)

Have you ever felt restless or quietly dissatisfied, sensing that something in your life needs changing? Lent offers that opportunity. It is a spiritual reset, inviting us to reorient our hearts toward Christ, the true source of peace, joy, purpose, and meaning. Here are practical ways to deepen your encounter with God and His love this Lent.

Faith is relational, not informational. The first disciples were not content with simply hearing about Jesus. They wanted to be with Him and to know Him personally. Christ extends that same invitation to us today. We respond by making room for Him through prayer and meditation, regular participation in Mass, and time with Scripture, not as duties to complete, but as ways of choosing a living relationship with the One who loves us most.

Choose trust over control. "Let Him lead and guide you," Pope Leo has urged. God's invitation to deeper friendship is renewed each day, and Lent is a privileged time to respond with intention. Begin each morning by offering your day to God, placing your work, relationships, and uncertainties in His hands. This simple act of trust opens the door to genuine freedom.

Share what you have received. A true encounter with God naturally leads to what Pope Leo called "missionary zeal," the desire to share with others what we have received. After meeting Christ, St. Andrew simply brought his brother, Simon Peter, to Him. Likewise, sharing your faith is often as simple as an honest conversation with a friend about the source of your hope. You are not persuading or performing; you are inviting someone you care about to meet the Friend who has changed your life.

"If you sense the Lord calling you, do not be afraid…He alone knows the deepest, perhaps hidden, longings of your heart — the path that will lead you to true fulfillment." (Pope Leo XIV)

This Lent, let renewal take root. Choose presence, trust, and generosity, and allow God to do the rest.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics give up meat on Fridays in Lent?

Abstaining from meat on Fridays in Lent is not merely a rule, but a reverent sacrifice rooted in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice on Good Friday. By giving up something we enjoy but do not need, we unite a small, bodily sacrifice to His offering on the Cross. This "prayer of the body" strengthens the prayer of the soul, training our hearts in discipline and gratitude. It keeps our focus on Christ and serves as a quiet, outward sign of faith. For the same reasons, the Church encourages Friday penance throughout the year.

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When things go wrong, choose charity

When difficulties arise, our instinct is often to complain, assign blame, or turn inward with harsh self-criticism. These reactions rarely solve the problem. More often, they weaken charity, cloud judgment, and strain relationships. A more constructive response is to choose kindness deliberately, in thought, speech, and action.

Practice kindness in thought: When self-pity, resentment, comparison, or harsh self-judgment appear, treat them as temptations rather than truths. Pause and redirect your thinking. Replace them with a steady reminder such as, "This is difficult, but I can respond well." Offer yourself the same patience you would give a friend.

Practice kindness in speech: Before speaking, ask whether your words will help or simply vent frustration. If you would not say something to or about someone you love, refrain. When emotions run high, bring your complaints to prayer first. Naming them before God can bring clarity and restraint.

Practice kindness in action: Focus on what you can do rather than what you cannot control. Choose one concrete act of goodwill: express gratitude, offer help, listen attentively, or perform a small, unnoticed kindness. These simple actions restore perspective and soften difficult moments.

Responding with kindness does not ignore problems. It creates the conditions for peace, clearer judgment, and constructive action to take root.

from Scripture — Matthew 4:1-11, He chose us

In this passage, Jesus is tempted by the Devil. First, Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His hunger with a miracle – to put physical needs above spiritual needs. Jesus showed us that spiritual needs come first, and to entrust both to God's care. Next, Satan commanded Jesus to jump from the temple roof, forcing God's hand. Again, Jesus refused: serving God means doing things God's way.

Finally, Satan offered to surrender all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. While horrible, it promised a "painless" way to save the world. Jesus rejected it, choosing the Cross because it was the only way to save us. He chose us. When tempted to do what's "easy" versus what's morally right, ask for the strength to choose what's right.

The season of Lent is a powerful opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth in love. We can take comfort knowing Jesus faced the same temptations we do and conquered them. If we stay close to Jesus, He will lead us to victory.

Feasts & Celebrations

February 5 – St. Agatha (c.251). Born to a noble Sicilian family, St. Agatha dedicated herself to God at the age of fifteen. The governor Quintianus was determined to marry her and threatened her if she refused him. She kept her vow despite torture, and imprisonment. God sent her a vision of St. Peter to comfort her, heal her, and fill her dungeon with heavenly light.

February 18 – Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent. The ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead in the shape of a Cross, as a sign of penance. It's also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don't equal a full meal.

February 22 – St. Margaret of Cortona (1297). St. Margaret's conversion came after the sudden death of the man she was having an affair with. Shaken, she repented and became a Franciscan tertiary. She founded a hospital and an order of Tertiary sisters — *le Poverelle* — to operate it.

February 22 – The Chair of St. Peter. Today marks St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See, the "seat" of authority, in Rome. We thank God for His Church and pray for its holy preservation.

Q & A — What to do with dryness in prayer

God never leaves us, yet our experience of prayer can ebb and flow. There are times of joy and peace, and others marked by dryness and difficulty. While dry seasons can be discouraging, that is often when our faith can grow the most. Don't avoid them, but live them well.

Ask why. Dryness in prayer can point to areas that need attention. Chronic stress, lack of rest, constant busyness, excessive screen time, or unresolved sin can weaken our attentiveness to God. Examine your habits and ask what may be interfering with prayer.

Remember the good times. When times are tough, memory sustains love. Follow Mary's example, who *"kept all these things, pondering them in her heart"* (Luke 2:19). Recall the ways God has acted in your life. Remembering His faithfulness restores confidence.

Renew your "yes" daily. Mary's consent to God's will was a daily surrender, even amid suffering. Resist the temptation to abandon prayer. Each day, echo her words: *"Let it be done unto me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38).

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New American Bible - Revised*)

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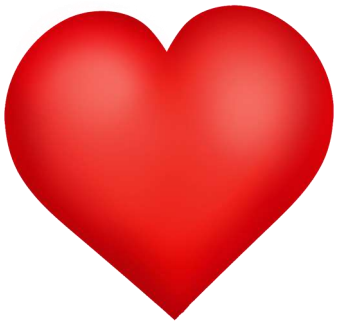
SFA YOUTH PAGE

ST VALENTINE

Act of Love

O Lord God, I love You above all things and I love my neighbor for Your sake because You are the highest, infinite, and perfect good, worthy of all my love. In this love I intend to live and die. Amen.



A Love Letter to God

Write your own love letter to God in the space provided below, telling him who and what you love and thank Him for everything!

Dear God,

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Love,

_____

Little Learners

Please join us for a special program geared towards children ages 18-32 months.

All you need to know.....

Who?

Your child and a special adult in their life will gather to play, learn and explore at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy.

When?

2 sessions are available:

Monday 12-1:30pm:
2/23, 3/2, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 6/1

Thursday 9-10:30am:
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28

What is the cost?

All families will pay a 1 time registration fee of $25. The sessions will cost $350, paid prior to the first class.

Participation in our Little Learners program gives you priority seating for our 3K enrollment.

Priority given to families registered at SFA Parish

What will the students do?

Children will enjoy a read-aloud, craft, snack time, music, movement and more. An adult is required to remain with the child at all times. Changing areas are available.

How do I register?

Please contact ereilly@sfaacademy.org or call (718) 726-9405 with questions.

Sample schedule:

Arrival & Free Play, 15 minutes:

- Greet friends and teacher
- Choice play
- Soft transition

Morning Circle, 15 minutes:

- Welcome song
- Name recognition
- Short story

Centers/Guided Play, 15 minutes:

- Sensory Table, Art, Fine motor activities
- Teacher interaction
- Language development

Snack/Social Time, 15 minutes:

- Handwashing
- Snack
- Social conversation

Gross Motor Play, 15 minutes:

- Indoor movement activities

Story & Music, 15 minutes:

- Read aloud
- Songs
- Goodbye

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

†

THIS IS TO CERTIFY

That _____

Address _____

Donated to this Parish

The Sum of $ _____ In the Year ended _____

Rev. _____

Church of _____

_____

FRA801-CT01 © DPM

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