Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mass Intentions

Sunday, May 3	*Fourth Sunday of Easter*
8:00AM	**Luca Kurtz**
9:30AM	**Joan Carpanini**
11:00AM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi** **Carmen Gauci** **John Mondello** **Joel Kuzyk** **Francesco Marzella** **Assunta Di Benedetto**
Monday, May 4	*Monday of the Fifth Week Of Easter*
9:00AM	**The Holy Souls in Purgatory**
Tuesday, May 5	*Tuesday of the Fifth Week Of Easter*
9:00AM	**Sarina Marie Carbone**
Wednesday, May 6	*Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Easter*
9:00AM	**Joseph Hili, Sr.**
Thursday, May 7	*Thursday of the Fifth Week of Easter*
9:00AM	**Leticia G. Morales**
Friday, May 8	*Friday of the Fifth Week of Easter*
9:00AM	**Nerina Llossas**
Saturday, May 9	*Saturday of the Fifth Week of Easter*
9:00AM	**Purgatorial Society** **Matteo Curcuru** **Assunta Di Benedetto**
5:00PM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
Sunday, May 10	*Sixth Sunday of Easter*
8:00AM	**Holy Name Mass**
9:30AM	**Patricia Hili**
11:00AM	**Mother's Day Novena** **Andrew & Concetta Gandolfo** **Gizella Fulop** **David Walsh** **John Mondello** **Assunta Di Benedetto** **Tiziana Bruno** **William Martin**

Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you Myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you know Me, you will know My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him." (*John 14:1-7*)

Readings For The Week

Monday	***Acts 14:5-18*** ***John 14:21-26***
Tuesday	***Acts 14:19-28*** ***John 14:27-31a***
Wednesday	***Acts 15:1-6*** ***John 15:1-8***
Thursday	***Acts 15:7-21*** ***John 15:9-11***
Friday	***Acts 15:22-31*** ***John 15:12-17***
Saturday	***Acts 16:1-10*** ***John 15:18-21***

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8,14-17
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

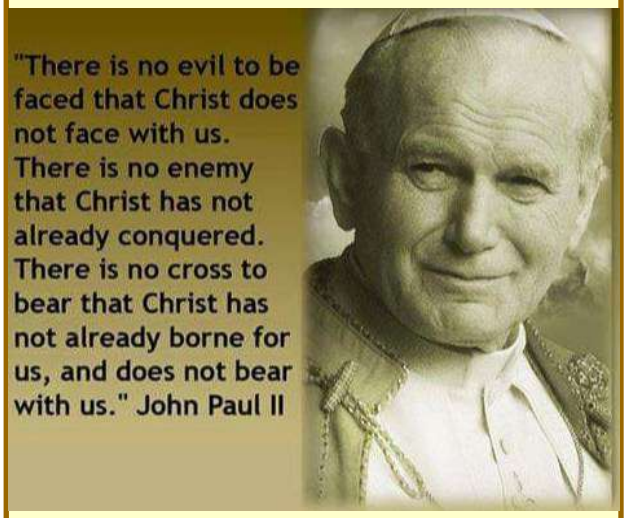
Remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick, that they may find health and comfort.

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
Bob Bala
Anthony Fiorino
Joseph Klos
Jan Hengl
John Mondello



FOCUS:

God has made us a chosen race and a royal priesthood. In him we find our deepest identity.

The second reading from the First Letter of Peter provides a beautiful and yet challenging description of who we are as Christians. We are, by virtue of baptism, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a people set apart to give praise to God. Taken together, these statements remind us what a grace and privilege it is to be chosen, but they also reassure us of how God sees us and how we ought to see ourselves and others. Everything we do must reflect this holy and royal status.

St. Francis of Assisi Scripture Study

"In His hand is the soul of every living thing, and the life breath of all mortal flesh." (Job 12:10)

Dear SFA Family & Friends,

All are invited to join us on Thursday, May 7th, in the St. Joseph Room of the Rectory from 7:20PM - 8:50PM. This week's study will be on **The Book of Job 11-19.**

The Book of Job: Faith Amidst Trials. Why does God allow human suffering? ....Job is a righteous man, stripped of all he holds dear, who engages in a powerful dialogue with his friends on the nature and cause of suffering. Job's friends struggle to justify Job's suffering, determined to find fault with Job rather than God. Job encounters their arguments and then turns his attention to God in a desperate plea for justice. When God's answer comes from the whirlwind, it is not what we expect.
(The Book of Job: Little Rock Scripture Study, Liturgical Press)

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.

Memorials for The week of May 3, 2026

Sanctuary Lamp
In Loving Memory of Carmen Gauci

Requested By:
The Spiteri Family

From the Pastor's Desk:

My Dear Parishioners,

Probably one of the most common ways that people think about darkness is being in some situation where there is little or no light. While this is certainly a correct way to think about darkness, there are other ways that a person may experience themselves as being trapped in darkness.

For instance, people who suffer from chronic and debilitating pain, who live with a chronic mental illness, or who are in the throes of an addiction may describe the state and quality of their lives as being *dark,* as being diminished from the way their lives once were. People trapped in sinful ways of living, which fail to yield lasting happiness, or those struggling and searching for direction and purpose in their lives quite often describe the situation they find themselves in as that of being *in the dark.*

For these situations, and for those times in our own lives when we experience ourselves trapped in darkness in some way, today's readings offer consolation and hope. The words and teachings of Jesus recounted in today's gospel reading are certainly powerful, poignant and uplifting. Jesus tells us that we are not to let our hearts be troubled but rather have faith in the Father and in him. This certainly sounds appealing, but you might be wondering, given the realities and difficulties of life, how can I ever possibly come to experience such a deep and abiding peace in my life and heart?

The answer lies in taking to heart the teaching of Jesus, that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This means believing that Jesus is the only one who can bring us salvation and the true and lasting peace for which our hearts yearn. This means wholeheartedly committing ourselves to living as faithful disciples of Jesus and seeking to love him above all things. This means doing the things necessary to cultivate a strong and vibrant faith, such as praying daily, reading and reflecting upon Sacred Scripture, regularly attending Mass, and being nourished and strengthened by the graces of the Sacraments, most especially the eucharist.

Also, it means truly placing our lives into the hands of the Lord. Accomplishing this is no easy task, as it requires a willingness on our part to strive to give Jesus a little more control of our lives each day. It means trusting that Jesus is with us always. It calls for us to have confidence that He will provide us with what we most truly need, that he will give us the strength we need to persevere in faith, and that he will guide us along the way. This can be difficult to do at any time but can be especially difficult during those dark times and seasons of our lives.

But even during dark times, peace can reign in our hearts if we cling to Jesus. Let us trust that the Risen Lord is the Light that pierces the darkness, that he strengthens and sustains us, and that he will lead us to the light of a brighter day.

All the Blessings of the Risen Lord,
Msgr. Maresca

EASTER CANDLE DONATIONS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

ANTONIO CARULLO
MARIO CARULLO
ANTHONY CARULLO
MARINA & FIORELLO PINOTTI
ROSA & ANTONIO FILETTO
MARY K. LOUD
RITA & RALPH MARESCA
BISHOP THOMAS V. DAILY
REV. PETER D. GILLEN
EILEEN JASINSKI
UNCLE MARIO ESPOSITO
ANTONINA & JOHN KOS
GABRIELLA KOS
LILIANA & VITO BIANCOSPINO
SYLVESTER & MARIE GUERRIERO
HAROLD ELMENDORF
DE CICCO FAMILY
IORIO FAMILY
SONNY & ROSEMARY (COOKIE) RAGONESE
FELIX JOSEPH DE VITO
JOHN PURICH
WILLIAM LEDONE
LOUIS & THERESA FALCO
NICK & MILLIE MISTRETTA
FRANK & ADELINA FALZETTI
VINCENZO & MARIA FALCO
VICTORIA MARINO
JERZY MASLUK
DOLORES & FERDINANDO PRETE

Congratulations to all our Students who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday May 2, 2026.

Let us continue to pray for them that they will always remain close to the Lord.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. If you know Me, you also know My Father."

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

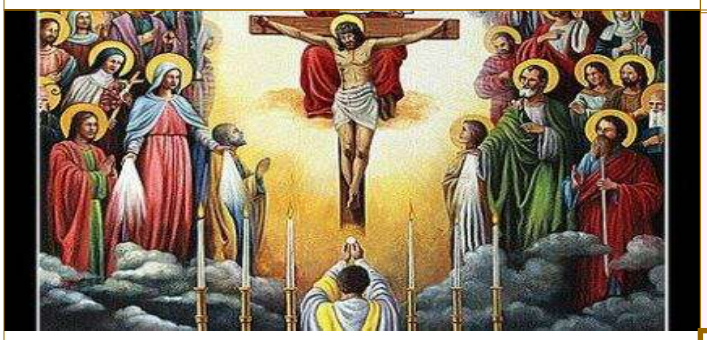
Eucharistic Adoration takes place Monday through Saturday, from 8:00AM to 8:50AM. As Pope St. John Paul II has said, "Christian life is expressed in the fulfilling of the greatest Commandment, that is to say, in the love of God and neighbor, and this love finds its source in the Blessed Sacrament….Eucharistic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

May 3, 2026

"Who has faith in Me will do the works I do, and far greater than these." Are you being called to do the work of the Lord as a priest, deacon, sister, or brother? If you are considering this possibility, 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.

April 25/26:	**$4,020**
Second Collection For Catholic Home Missions:	**$528**

School Parents must use Church Envelopes.

Mass Attendance For April 25/26, 2026

5:00PM	**80**
8:00AM	**49**
9:30AM	**129**
11:00AM	**134**
	Total: 392

April's Monthly 50/50 Winners are:

1st Place: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Ward
2nd Place: Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kubina
3rd Place: Mr. Dominic Camastra

Congratulations to the Winners!

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."*** So far we have **$22,117** pledged towards our goal.

I ask you to prayerful 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

VIRTUS TRAINING: TUESDAY MAY 5, 2026

For any parents, guardians, or volunteers needing VIRTUS Training for the Diocesan Safe Environment Program, there will be a Training held on **Tuesday May 5, 2026 at 6:30PM** in Monsignor Campbell Hall.

To register, please go to **www.virtusonline.org**, or scan the QR Code below, and click on First Time Registrant.

Mother's Day Novena Masses

Enroll your Mother, living or deceased, in our Mother's Day Novena Masses.

You may return your envelope in any collection. Envelopes can be found at the back of the Church.

Calendar of Events

This Week

May 3 - May 9

Sunday, May 3
10:40AM Post Communion Breakfast - MCH

Monday, May 4
12:00 NOON Golden Age - MCH
3:00PM Children's Choir - Church
7:00PM Adult Choir - Church

Tuesday, May 5
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

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

Thursday, May 7
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR
10:45AM May Crowning
6:00PM IACA - SFR
7:20PM Scripture Study - St. Joseph Room

Friday, May 8
7:00PM Radio Bingo - MMC

Saturday, May 9

Paul preaches to his fellow Jews.

Next Week

May 10 - May 16

Sunday, May 10
Mother's Day
8:00AM Holy Name Mass

Monday, May 11
School Cultural Week
12:00 NOON Golden Age - MCH
3:00PM Children's Choir - Church
7:00PM Adult Choir - Church

Tuesday, May 12
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, May 13
6:00PM ACA Support Group - St. Joseph Room
7:00PM Baptism Class
7:45PM Bereavement Group - St. Joseph Room

Thursday, May 14
Feast of the Ascension of the Lord
Holy Day of Obligation
Masses at 9:00AM, 11:00AM, & 7:30PM
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR

Friday, May 15

Saturday, May 16

The Ascension of the Lord into heaven.

HAPPENING THIS WEEKEND!

Help Support Our Parish Youth Group!

The Youth Group will be selling raffle tickets before and after each Mass on the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd.

Ticket Prices:

1 ticket for $3

2 tickets for $5

5 tickets for $10

There is a Summer Fun basket and a Gardening basket.

Be sure to stop and take a look.

Please help support the Youth of our Parish!

YOUTH GROUP

Lector & Minister Schedule May 2026

	Fifth Sunday Of Easter May 2/3	Sixth Sunday Of Easter May 9/10	Seventh Sunday Of Easter May 16/17	Solemnity of Pentecost May 23/24	Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity May 30/31
Lectors					
Saturday 5:00PM	Josephine Corso	Debbi Skinner	Edward Kubina	Josephine Corso	Debbi Skinner
Sunday 8:00AM	Andrew Soltesz	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz
Sunday 9:30AM	Sharon Costanza	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	*****	*****	Ray Conlon	*****	*****
Sunday 8:00AM	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Sunday 9:30AM	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Sunday 11:00AM	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

Growing in FAITH™

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

May 2026

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Rita of Cascia

Born in 1381 near Spoleto, Italy, St. Rita was known for her holiness and charity from a young age. She wanted to be a nun but was forced into marrying when she was twelve. Unfortunately, her husband was cruel and violent. After eighteen years, she was widowed. Following the deaths of her sons, she finally entered the convent, where she became known for her piety, kindness, and humility. She is the patron saint of impossible causes.

"Come, Holy Spirit!"

On the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and ignited their mission to baptize and preach. For this reason, Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church. This same Spirit, who empowered twelve frightened men to travel, preach, baptize, and labor for the Kingdom of God, also comes to our aid in our struggle for holiness, even in our prayer (Romans 8:26). This month, keep with you this short yet powerful prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love!"

"Jesus answered him, 'If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him'" (John 14:23).

Who is my neighbor?

This question matters. In the Two Greatest Commandments, Jesus calls us to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. But that raises a real, practical question: who is our neighbor? Our Lady offers a clear answer. Through her example, we begin to see that our neighbors include:

Family: Mary's first thought after the Annunciation was for her cousin Elizabeth. Despite the immense honor Mary had just received, she went in haste to serve Elizabeth. That sets the pattern. The first neighbors we're called to love are the ones closest to us: those in our own home and family.

Friends: Tradition holds that Mary and Jesus were close to the couple at the wedding in Cana. When the wine ran out, Mary didn't draw attention to herself. She noticed the need and acted, gently guiding things toward a solution. Loving our friends often looks the same—paying attention, stepping in quietly, and serving without needing recognition.

Those who suffer: At the Cross, Jesus entrusted His mother to St. John. In that moment of deep loss, Mary and John were given to each other, able to share a bond shaped by suffering. When someone in your life is hurting, that person is your neighbor. Who is carrying something heavy right now? How can you stand with them?

"If you want to change the world, go home and love your family."
St. Teresa of Calcutta

Each person we meet: As Queen of Heaven and Mother of the Church, Mary cares for all of us, especially through her prayers. To love God is to love those He loves—which means everyone. Sometimes the most meaningful act of love we can offer is also the simplest: to pray for them, asking that they come to know her Son more deeply.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics call Mary our Mother?

Mary's role in salvation history is to lead people to her Son. As the Church teaches, "The Virgin Mary… is the mother of the members of Christ" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 963). Her motherhood extends to all who belong to Him. At the Cross, in the Gospel of John, Jesus says, *"Behold your mother"* (John 19:27), entrusting Mary not only to St. John but to every disciple. From that moment, her care became personal. Because of her unique closeness to Jesus, she intercedes for us, always guiding us toward Him and helping us follow His will more faithfully.

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St. Joseph - the quiet strength behind May

Though May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, it fittingly begins with the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. The Church invites us to honor St. Joseph and entrust our lives to his care, just as Jesus did during His hidden life on earth.

He protects. St. Joseph safeguarded Mary when her pregnancy placed her at risk (Matthew 1:19) and led the Holy Family to safety in their flight from Herod (Matthew 2:14–15). We can place ourselves under that same protection—formally through consecration or simply through daily prayer—entrusting our families, homes, and responsibilities to his care.

He provides. As a carpenter, St. Joseph faithfully provided for Jesus and Mary. Christians have long trusted in his continued help. St. Teresa of Ávila famously wrote that she never asked anything of him without receiving help. We can confidently bring him our needs, work, and concerns.

The saints became holy by being open to God's grace. In St. Joseph, we're given a quiet but steady guide—one who helps us, step by step, follow God more faithfully on the path to heaven.

from Scripture — John 3:16-18, Jesus' sacrifice reveals God's love

"For God so loved the world…" When doubt sets in—when God seems distant or silent—the Church directs our attention to the Cross. In the Crucifix, we don't see a contradiction of God's love, but its clearest expression. Christ does not stand apart from human suffering; He enters into it. What looks like defeat becomes the place where divine mercy is most fully revealed—a love that holds nothing back.

"He sent His only begotten Son." Faced with suffering and evil, we naturally look for solutions we can measure and manage—strategies, systems, progress. God's response is not a method but a gift: He gives Himself. Evil, which is a distortion or absence of the good, cannot ultimately be overcome by partial fixes. It yields only to perfect goodness, just as darkness gives way to light.

"That all who believe in Him might not perish but have eternal life." This life is not the destination but the path. Its trials, uncertainties, and even its sufferings are not meaningless when lived with Christ. If we remain close to Him—whether in darkness, in turmoil, or at the foot of the Cross—we are not off course. We are being led, step by step, toward the life that does not end.

Feasts & Celebrations

May 14 - The Ascension of the Lord. This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and His triumphant entry into Heaven. *Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.*

May 14 - St. Matthias (1st century). When the Apostles met to choose Judas' successor, Peter said that the new Apostle must have followed Jesus from His Baptism to His Ascension and witnessed His Resurrection. St. Matthias was chosen by lots to fill Judas' place.

May 18 - Pope St. John I (526). Born in Tuscany, Italy, John was elected pope in 523 while still a deacon. During his pontificate, he battled the Arian heresy, and worked to improve diplomatic relations with the East. He was the first pope to visit Constantinople, during which he restored peace with the Eastern Church yet raised political suspicions. Arrested by King Theodoric, St. John I died in prison.

May 25 - Mary, Mother of the Church (2018). On the Cross, Jesus gave us His mother to be our mother (John 19:27). Now in Heaven, she prays and cares for us as our spiritual mother until we are safely home with God. We can look to her motherly care with confidence since she always leads us to her Son by the shortest, safest, and fastest route. This memorial highlights one central truth: Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus, but the Mother of all who belong to Him—the Church.

Q & A — How can the Church be holy if her members aren't?

First, Jesus was aware of the failures within religious life. In the Gospel of Matthew, He strongly rebuked the Pharisees—the religious leaders of His time—for not practicing what they taught (Matthew 23:3). Among His own disciples, there were moments of division, betrayal, and abandonment (John 6:66). Yet the redemption He offers is not reserved for the perfect, but for all who place their faith in Him.

Second, the Church's holiness does not depend on the virtue of each individual member, but on the holiness of her Founder, Jesus Christ. A church building remains sacred even when its physical condition is imperfect because it is dedicated to God. In the same way, the Church, as the Mystical Body of Christ, remains holy even as her members continue to struggle and grow.

Third, history shows that God raises up saints precisely in times of difficulty. St. Athanasius, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Thomas More each responded to periods of division and crisis with prayer, sacrifice, witness, and fidelity to the truth. Their example reminds us that holiness is always possible—and that we are called to live it, even now.

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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy

GOLF

OUTING 2026

Friday, May 15 2026

Pelham Bay Split Rock Golf Club

Early Bird Special

REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- 7:00am Hot Breakfast
- 8:00am Shotgun Start
- 1:00 pm Pelham Bay Southern BBQ Lunch
- Parking, Bag Drop, and Refreshments

Individual Golfer: $225
($250 after April 30th)

Foursome (4 golfers): $900
($1,000 after April 30th)

Register Now!
Scan the QR Code Below

https://sfacagolf.square.site

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

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