Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Sunday, August 9	*19th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00AM	**Holy Name Mass**
9:30AM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
11:00AM	**John Mondello (L)** **Assunta Di Benedetto** **Rachel Vella** **Michael Finnerty** **Mary Ethel McCann** **Raquel Fruchter**
Monday, August 10	*St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr*
9:00AM	**Arthur Xuereb**
Tuesday, August 11	*St. Clare, Virgin*
9:00AM	**Steven Gosses**
Wednesday, August 12	*St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious*
9:00AM	**Angelo Brucculeri**
Thursday, August 13	*Pope St. Pontian & St. Hippolytus, Martyrs*
9:00AM	**Joshua Kakraba**
Friday, August 14	*St. Maximilan Kolbe, Priest & Martyr*
9:00AM	**Tina Coppolla**
Saturday, August 15	*Solemnity of the Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary*
9:00AM	**Purgatorial Society** **Catherine Finerty** **Victor A. Di Donato** **Frank T. Di Donato**
5:00PM	**Anne Thompson**
Sunday, August 16	*20th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00AM	**Phyllis Siano**
9:30AM	**Rose Buhagiar**
11:00AM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi** **John Mondello (L)** **Assunta Di Benedetto** **Jean Martin** **Arthur Xuereb** **John Serpagli**

Today's Readings

The Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

Readings For The Week

Monday	***2 Corinthians 9:6-10*** ***John 12:24-26***
Tuesday	***Ezekiel 2:8—3:4*** ***Matthew 18:1-5,10,12-14***
Wednesday	***Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10:18-22*** ***Matthew 18:15-20***
Thursday	***Ezekiel 12:1-12*** ***Matthew 18:21—19:1***
Friday	***Ezekiel 16:1-15,60,63*** ***Matthew 19:3-12***
Saturday	***Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab*** ***1 Corinthians 15:20-27*** ***Luke 1:39-56***

The Twentieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Isaiah 56:1,6-7
Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
Matthew 15:21-28

FOCUS:

God speaks to our hearts in quiet moments.

In today's Gospel, Jesus goes up the mountain by Himself to pray. Jesus often spends the whole night in prayer, teaching us that it is good to seek quietness and stillness when in prayer. God is always with us, but we need to seek Him out and listen for the *tiny whispering sound* of His voice calling us to Him.

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
Joseph & Eunju Carbone

Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

August 9, 2026

"Get hold of yourselves! It is I. Do not be afraid." Uncertainty can sometimes bring fear along with God's call to consecrated life or priesthood. If the Lord is truly calling you, what is needed is trust. If you are discerning your vocation, contact the Vocation Office at:

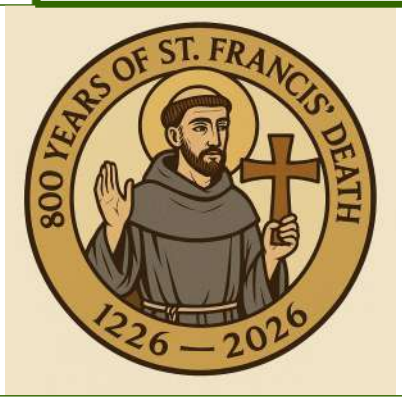
(718)-827-2454
vocations@diobrook.org

Diocese of Brooklyn Vocation Office

Summertime

During the Summer, many go away or are out of town for the weekends. May I ask you to please continue your weekly offering. Your support is essential for the parish during the summer months. As you know, like yourselves, we still have our monthly bills to be paid. I appreciate your attention to this important matter. If you plan to go away for the summer, please hand in your envelopes before you leave. For your information our fiscal year ends August 31st, and the new fiscal year begins September 1st.
I want to wish each of you a restful and relaxing summer.
THANK YOU for all you do in supporting our parish.
Msgr. Maresca

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



Prayer for the Special Year of St. Francis Provided by Pope Leo XIV

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.
Amen.

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.

August 1/2:	**$2,974**
Maintenance Fund Collection:	**$777**
Second Collection for the Carmelite Friars: Province of St. Elias:	**$1,745**

School Parents must use Church Envelopes.

Mass Attendance For August 1/2, 2026

5:00PM	**92**
8:00AM	**58**
9:30AM	**72**
11:00AM	**131**
	Total: 353

Second Collection
Next Sunday August 14/15, 2026
for Air Conditioning/Energy

The Second Collection next weekend, August 14th and 15th, is for Air Conditioning & Energy Needs. Please be as generous as your means allow.

Thank you for helping us keep the Church at a comfortable temperature throughout the summer season.

REMINDERS

PLEASE keep the Church doors closed with the air conditioning on. Let's keep the cool air inside.

Also, when parking in the lot, please park in one spot only.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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 **$32,442** 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

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.

Calendar of Events

This Week

August 9 - August 15

Sunday, August 9
8:00AM Holy Name Mass

Monday, August 10

Tuesday, August 11
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, August 12
6:00PM ACA Support Group - SFR
7:00PM Baptism Class - Rectory
7:45PM Bereavement Group - SFR

Thursday, August 13
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR

Friday, August 14

Saturday, August 15

Next Week

August 16 - August 22

Sunday, August 16

Monday, August 17

Tuesday, August 18
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, August 19
6:00PM ACA Support Group - SFR
7:45PM Bereavement Group - SFR

Thursday, August 20
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR

Friday, August 21

Saturday, August 22

Summer Months

As we did last summer, we will be reciting the Gloria and chanting the Our Father from July 1st to September 6th. The Gloria is a beautiful prayer and reciting it will enable us to reflect on the words we pray and come to a better appreciation of this prayer.
Chanting the Our Father will help us appreciate the power of this prayer.

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 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday, August 15, 2026

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated at the 9:00AM Mass.

The 5:00PM Mass will be the Vigil Mass for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

It is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, but we encourage you to come to the 9:00AM Mass.

Growing in FAITH™

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

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Although born into wealth, St. Bernard desired a life of simplicity, holiness, and austerity. Born in 1090 in Fontaines, France, he entered the monastery at Cîteaux in his twenties, followed by most of his family. Recognizing his holiness and noting the overcrowding of the monastery, the abbot sent St. Bernard to establish a new monastery in Clairvaux. St. Bernard went on to found monasteries for nuns, worked for the Holy See, and preached the Second Crusade.

More than the mission

No matter our age, we all need to hear these words: "I love you without measure." At the Transfiguration, the Father declared of Jesus, *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"* (Matthew 17:5). He means those words for us as well. Before all else, we are God's beloved children.

Significantly, the Father speaks these words before Jesus goes to the Cross, before His saving mission is complete. We often reverse that order, allowing our identity to depend on our accomplishments or faithfulness. We assume God will love us once we have fulfilled our mission. But the Gospel reveals the opposite. God's love is not earned but freely **given**. Our mission flows from our identity, not the other way around.

"For I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

Be Like Christ. Love Like Christ.

What does it mean to "be like Christ" in the context of our everyday lives? The key is to love as He loves. Here are five practical ways to love like Jesus.

Learn His pattern. The Gospels show us how Jesus responded to the sick, the brokenhearted, the marginalized, and even His enemies. Scripture provides the pattern, while prayer and the Sacraments provide the grace to live it. The more we immerse ourselves in Christ's life, the more naturally His way of loving becomes our own.

Cultivate His heart. Jesus describes Himself as *"gentle and humble of heart"* (Matthew 11:29). His humility comes from His complete obedience to the Father's will. His gentleness is strength under perfect self-control, expressed in His patience, mercy, and compassion, even toward those who rejected Him. As we imitate His way of love, our own hearts are slowly transformed as His.

Show genuine interest. Jesus often asked open-ended questions, not because He lacked the answers, but to draw people out. *"What do you seek?"* (John 1:38). *"What are you discussing with each other?"* (Luke 24:17) Genuine love begins with genuine interest. Asking thoughtful questions communicates that people are seen, heard, and valued.

Choose the charitable interpretation. St. Theresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart wrote, "If the actions of our neighbors have a hundred sides, we ought always to look at them on the best side." Love resists rushing to judgment and gives others the benefit of the doubt, creating space for understanding rather than suspicion.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29).

Always act out of love. St. Paul exhorts us, *"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31). Jesus lived every moment in perfect love for His Father and for us. Love was not merely one aspect of His life; *it* was the motive behind everything He did. Following Christ means allowing love to shape not only our greatest sacrifices but also our smallest daily actions.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics pray formula prayers?

Formula prayers are not a substitute for personal prayer but a time-tested way of entering into it and deepening it. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, He gave them the Our Father (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4), a prayer to be prayed repeatedly. Scripture also contains many communal prayers, especially the Psalms, which served as Israel's prayer book and remain the Church's today. By praying these inspired words, Catholics join generations of believers in worship. Whether at Mass or beside a hospital bed, formula prayers unite the faithful, expressing not only personal devotion but also the shared faith of the whole Church.

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What to do when you don't feel like praying

Not feeling like praying is something even faithful Christians experience. In fact, seasons of dryness can be a normal part of spiritual growth. While they may have different causes, they do not necessarily mean something is wrong. Here are three ways to respond:

Pray about not wanting to pray. Bring your reluctance to God. You don't have to overcome your feelings before coming to Him. Honest prayer is still prayer, and God meets you with love exactly where you are.

Keep it simple. We value brief messages from those we love: "I love you," "Good luck today," or "Thinking of you." Prayer can be that simple. The goal is relationship, not length. A heartfelt "God, help me," "Jesus, I trust in You," or "Come, Holy Spirit" is enough.

Choose presence over performance. Approach prayer the way you would spending time with a close friend. We don't cancel plans with someone we love simply because we're tired.

In the same way, keep showing up. God delights in your company (Proverbs 8:31). He is not looking for a perfect performance but for a heart that continues to seek Him, even when prayer feels dry or difficult.

from Scripture — Matthew 16:21-27, God's ways are not our ways

At first glance, this passage seems like bad news. Jesus predicts His own death, a revelation that must have stunned the disciples. They had just come to recognize Him as the long-awaited Messiah. Instead of leading a triumphant victory over Rome, Jesus spoke of suffering, rejection, and execution. To them, it looked like failure, not triumph.

Peter responded as many of us do when faced with suffering: he resisted the Cross. He wanted Jesus to avoid it and was sharply rebuked. Yet had Jesus turned aside, we would have remained in our sins, separated from God. Instead, He freely embraced the Cross. He chose us. From the perspective of the Resurrection, what appeared to be defeat was in fact Christ's decisive victory over sin and death.

God desires our happiness, not merely our temporary comfort. He desires our eternal joy. The Christian life is not about avoiding the crosses God permits but embracing them with trust, as Jesus did. And we never carry them alone. Christ walks beside us, bearing the heavier end of every cross.

Feasts & Celebrations

August 7—St. Cajetan (1547). St. Cajetan was born in Italy to a noble family. He went on to study civil and canon (Church) law at the University of Padua. He worked to reform the Church by founding the Theatines, a religious order modeled on the teachings of the Apostles.

August 9—St. Edith Stein (1942). Formerly Jewish, she was an atheist intellectual in Germany. After studying St. Teresa of Ávila, she converted to Catholicism, and became a Carmelite nun. Although her order tried to shelter her from the Nazis, she was taken to and executed at Auschwitz.

August 15—The Assumption of Mary. Declared a dogma of faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption celebrates Mary's being taken up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life. This feast highlights the Church's respect for the dignity of the body in view of our future resurrection. Note: This year, it is not a holy day of obligation.

August 24—St. Bartholomew (First Century). One of the Twelve Apostles and the son of Tolomai, Bartholomew is thought by some scholars to be the apostle, Nathanael, who went with Philip to see Jesus. After Jesus's Ascension, Nathanael spread Christianity to India and in Armenia, where he was martyred. He is the patron saint of Armenia and Belgium.

Q & A — Can the Pope make mistakes if he's infallible?

Yes. The pope is human and, like anyone else, can make mistakes in his personal opinions, decisions, or everyday statements. Papal infallibility does not mean the pope is incapable of error. Rather, it means that, under specific conditions, the Holy Spirit preserves him from definitively teaching error in matters of faith and morals (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 891).

Papal infallibility applies only when the pope is:

Defining a doctrine of faith or morals. The teaching must concern divine revelation or truths closely connected to it. It does not apply to scientific claims, political views, interviews, homilies, or personal opinions. For example, in 1950, Pope Pius XII infallibly defined the dogma of Mary's Assumption into heaven.

Speaking ex cathedra ("from the chair"). The pope must speak in his official capacity as the successor of St. Peter and clearly intend to proclaim a doctrine that is binding on the entire Church. In *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII explicitly invoked his apostolic authority to "pronounce, declare, and define" the Assumption as a divinely revealed dogma.

Our Mission
To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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SFA YOUTH

August is the Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Here are some things you can do to celebrate this special month!

1) Pray the Rosary.
2) Cut out and color the picture of our Blessed Mother Mary on the left and give it to someone special.
3) Say 3 Hail Mary's before bed: 1 for Pope Leo XIV, 1 for the Church, and 1 for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.
4) Donate some of your saved money to the Church or a Charity in honor of our Blessed Mother.

A New Year of Religious Education

Religious Education Registration

Those who have not yet registered for Religious Education classes can do so by using the Registration Form on the next page, or printing off the Registration Form online and bringing it to the Rectory Office. Registration is open for the 26/27 School Year.

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

St. Francis of Assisi Office of Religious Education

REGISTRATION FORM – 2026-2027

	Student Full Name	Date of Birth	Circle if Completed
1.	_____	[_____]	_____ Baptism Communion

2. School Attending and Grade in September 2026:

_____

3. Sacrament needed: [circle please] *Baptism Communion Confirmation*

Father's Name:

_____ Living/Deceased ***(Circle one)*** Religion: _____

Mother's Name:

_____ Living/Deceased ***(Circle one)*** Religion: _____
Include maiden name

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____
(Cell, Home, Mother, Father) *(Cell, Home, Mother, Father)*

Email 1: _____ Email 2: _____
(Mother) *(Father)*

Home Address _____
Street Town State Zip

EMERGENCY CONTACT: In case of emergency who should we contact other than Parent/s.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Contact Number: _____

Is there any additional information we should know? (Family situations. Medical conditions. Allergies. Special needs or other accommodations) If "NO" please write "NONE".

_____

Language spoken at home: English ____ Spanish ____ Italian ____ Other _____

Are you registered in the Parish? _____ If yes, envelope number: _____

I am interested in volunteering as a catechist, hall monitor, office assistant, or class parent. Please contact me. ☐

Tuition for the 2026-2027 Year

Registration Fee for Grades 1-8: **1 child** $100 **2 children or more** $175

Additional Fees: Grade 2: **First Communion Fee - $150.00** Grade 8: **Confirmation Fee - $150.00**

Family Name: _____

Grades: _____

Information Date added: _____

Registration remains open all year. *If you have any financial questions or scheduling conflicts, please do not hesitate to call our office so we can discuss your situation and work together to find a solution.*

Office Use ONLY

Date: _____ Amount: _____ Form of Payment: _____

Date: _____ Amount: _____ Form of Payment: _____

Office notes_____