Twenty-Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Sunday, Sept. 27	*26th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00AM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
9:30AM	**Mauricio Mesa**
11:00AM	**John Mondello (L)**
	Assunta Di Benedetto
	Maria Kuljanic
	Michael A. McNamara
	Slavia Contratti
	Fiorina Coloangelo
	Aldo Donato
Monday, Sept. 28	*St. Wenceslaus, Martyr*
9:00AM	**Thomas Higgins**
Tuesday, Sept. 29	*Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels*
9:00AM	**Elizabeth Cseri**
Wednesday, Sept. 30	*St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor Of the Church*
9:00AM	**Anthony & Frankie Polito**
Thursday, October 1	*St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church*
9:00AM	**Han Choi & Earl Ferguson**
Friday, October 2	*The Holy Guardian Angels*
9:00AM	**Han Choi Ferguson**
Saturday, October 3	*The Blessed Virgin Mary*
9:00AM	**Purgatorial Society**
	The Living & Deceased Members Of The Legion of Mary & Their Families
	John Hengl
	Pat Gioino
	Elizabeth Cseri
	Sime Skara
	Joseph Gonzalez Inducil
	Aldo Donato
5:00PM	**Steve Fulop**
Sunday, October 4	*27th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00AM	**Alicia Vos**
9:30AM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
11:00AM	**96th Anniversary of St. Francis Of Assisi Parish**

Today's Readings

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18:25-28
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32

Readings For The Week

Monday	***Job 1:6-22***
	Luke 9:46-50
Tuesday	***Daniel 7:9-10,13-14***
	John 1:47-51
Wednesday	***Job 9:1-12,14-16***
	Luke 9:57-62
Thursday	***Job 19:21-27***
	Luke 10:1-12
Friday	***Job 38:1,12-21; 40:3-5***
	Matthew 18:1-5,10
Saturday	***Job 42:1-3,5-6,12-17***
	Luke 10:17-24

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5:1-7
Philippians 4:6-9
Matthew 21:33-43

FOCUS:

God is just and rewards the humble and repentant heart.

One must be a disciple of Christ to enter the Lord's kingdom. A disciple is one who has turned away from sin, repented, and through God's grace, eagerly strives to follow His ways. No matter one's past, anyone can enter the kingdom of God by turning to the Lord and offering his or her sincere "yes" to God in word and deed.

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.

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	Jim Schneggenburger	Benedicto Randazzo
Jack Orlando	Anthony Criscuolo	Peter Lopez
Steven Joyce	Samantha O'Sullivan	Rick Simonsen
John Wrenn	Marilyn Miller	Aubrey Madden
Augustin Cisneros	Pat Gravino	Madison Millett
James Nunez	John Carmody	Leonardo Di Marco
Vincent Wytak	Rosario Duran	Michelle Yashita
John & Carol Ross	Vivian Papa	The Polychronakis
Jeffrey Hyans	Joel Steinmann	Family
Marie LoVolpe	Anna Governali	Angel Garcia
Jessica St. Preux	Tim Graham	Bob Bala
Al Ciani	Antonio Postiglione	Anthony Fiorino
Alesha Moses	Mario Tamburello	Joseph Klos
Nancy McCaffrey	Christopher Araimo	Jan Hengl
Christoper Wojtalik	Charles Principato	John Mondello
Theresa Pacheco	Jim Kreitler	Joseph & Eunju Carbone
William Goss	Humberto Cordova	Antonio Lupetin
Luke Pacheco	John Schakir	Lauren Haber Berens
Vincenza Papa	Margaret Culhane	Joseph Schweb

Twenty-Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

September 27, 2026

Priesthood Sunday

"He humbled Himself and became obedient…" If the Lord invites you to follow Him in humble obedience as a priest or in the consecrated life, how will you respond?
Contact the Vocation Office at:

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

Diocese of Brooklyn Vocation Office

Memorials for The Week of September 27, 2026

Sanctuary Lamp
In Loving Memory of
Han Choi Ferguson & Earl Ferguson

Requested By:
Laura Pomares & Lucille Kalandranis

Altar Bread
In Loving Memory of
Han Choi Ferguson & Earl Ferguson

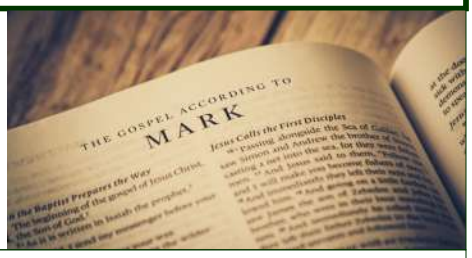
Requested By:
Laura Pomares & Lucille Kalandranis

Altar Wine
In Loving Memory of
Han Choi Ferguson & Earl Ferguson

Requested By:
Laura Pomares & Lucille Kalandranis

St. Francis of Assisi

Scripture Study Group



The Gospel According To Mark

Dear SFA Friends and Family,

The Scripture Study Group will meet on Thursday, October 1st from 7:20PM - 8:50PM in the St. Joseph Room of the Rectory.
This week's study will be on Mark 4-5.

Chapter 4: Jesus as Wisdom Teacher
"He answered them [the Twelve], "the mystery of the kingdom of God has been granted to you. But to those outside, everything comes in parables," (Mark 4:11)… "those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." (Mark 4:20)
Chapter 5: The Transforming Effect of Jesus
"He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha Koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" (Mark 5:41)

The Gospel readings and study will be conducted using the Little Rock Scripture Study program. Study booklets will be provided.
If you are interested in joining the study group or would like further information, please contact us through the Rectory at (718) 728-7801.
Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture.

From the Pastor's Desk:

My Dear Parishioners,

This changes everything is an often-quoted line in the advertising world. It is used for everything, from cars to cell phones, to many other things. Are we really supposed to believe that something we might buy can really change *everything?*

As Christians, we know that our goal is not far from that overused advertising claim. We are called to change everything by being obedient to God's commands and doing his will. This is what conversion is all about. What is truly awesome is that conversion really does *change everything.* The call to change is clear in all of our readings today.

Our Gospel teaches that we are to be attentive to the change of heart and mind to which obedience calls us. Clearly, the son who changes his mind and does his father's will by going into the vineyard is an example to us. To drive home his point with the chief priests and the elders, Jesus acknowledges the conversions that public sinners, like tax collectors and prostitutes, responded to when they heard John the Baptist's powerful call to obedience to God's will, repentance and conversion. Conversely, the hardness of heart and the resistance to conversion of so many of the chief priests and elders is not only disappointing to Jesus, it will be the essential cause of the worsening conflict between him and them. It will ultimately lead to his arrest and crucifixion.

Jesus, of course, is our best model of obedience and faithfulness to God. He had no need of conversion, but he continually turned to his Father for direction and strength. This was so he could always do his Father's will and complete the mission for which he was sent. Our second reading gives a dramatic and poetic rendering of the lengths to which Jesus went to bring about that mission-our salvation.

When we strive to follow the example of Jesus, by emptying ourselves of selfish desires, we allow God's grace to work in us, and changes can come about in our lives. These changes may entail big challenges and sacrifices, yet the result we are seeking is worth it. We will be helping to build up God's Kingdom here on earth and preparing ourselves to be with God in heaven. Like the second son in the Gospel, may we be of the same mind with Christ. May we be united in the common call to obedience and conversion-these really do *change everything!*

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels
Friday, October 2nd

The Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels, celebrated on October 2nd, honors those blessed spirits appointed by God to guard and guide men on their pilgrimage through life.

While not a "hagiography" in the strict sense—since angels are pure spirits, not human saints canonized by the Church—the Church, in her tradition, venerates them with liturgical honor and devotional practices, as if providing us a "collective hagiography" of their mission and protection.

The Guardian Angels are not created at the moment of our birth, but from the beginning of creation, each angel received from God his mission. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, every human being is entrusted to a Guardian Angel from the moment of conception until the hour of death. Their ministry is one of:
1) Protection: Restraining the devil's assaults and bodily dangers.
2) Illumination: Inspiring holy thoughts, reminding us of duty, and aiding our perseverance.
3) Intercession: Carrying our prayers before God's throne and obtaining graces for us.

Scripture testifies:
"He hath given His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." (Psalm 90/91:11)
"See that you despise not one of these little ones: for I say to you, that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10)

Though Guardian Angels often remain unseen, hagiographical tradition records many interventions:
1) St. Francis of Assisi saw his Guardian Angel more than once, especially during ecstasies.
2) St. Gemma Galgani conversed familiarly with her angel, who corrected, guided, and consoled her.
3) Countless lives of saints contain similar testimonies, reflecting the angels' constant, though invisible, presence.

Spiritual Lessons:
Gratitude: Thank your Guardian Angel daily.
Obedience: Listen to his inspirations, especially when they restrain you from sin.
Confidence: Trust his vigilance in dangers of soul and body.
Companionship: Live in holy friendship with your angel, never despising his presence.

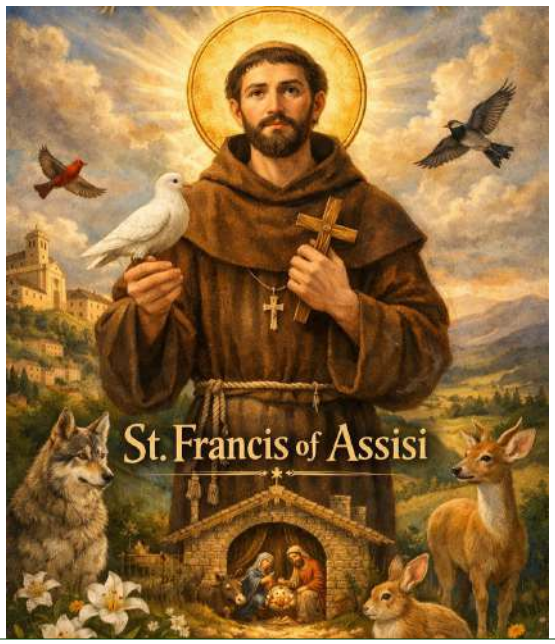
Celebrating the 800th Anniversary of the Death of St. Francis of Assisi

During the Jubilee of St. Francis, before the final blessing at Mass, we will recite the Prayer of St. Francis. This will be prayed each day and on Sundays until October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Cards will be in the pews. Please leave the prayer card for everyone's use. After October 4th you are welcome to take them home.

Also, we will begin our 9 Day Novena in preparation for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The novena will take place after the 9:00AM Mass each morning *beginning Thursday September 24th* and will conclude on Friday, October 2nd. On the Sunday of September 27th, we will recite the novena prayers after the morning Masses. Booklets will be available for your use. Please leave them in the pews so they can be used each day. When the novena is over you may take the booklet home with you.

On *Sunday, October 4th*, the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi and the 96th anniversary of our parish, Bishop Massa will be here to celebrate the 11:00AM Mass. All are invited to join us in this celebration.

On *Sunday October 4th* at 1:00PM we will have the blessing of the animals in the schoolyard. All are invited to bring their pets for this blessing.



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.

Sept. 19/20:	**$4,070**
Second Collection for Catholic University:	**$504**

School Parents must use Church Envelopes.

Mass Attendance For September 19/20, 2026

5:00PM	**94**
8:00AM	**41**
9:30AM	**182**
11:00AM	**93**
	Total: 410

Festival Information:

Volunteers are needed for the festival. If you have some time to give to support the festival please see the flyer in the Bulletin with information on how to sign up. Your service is needed to continue to help our Festival be a success.

Chance books will be sold at the doors of the Church this weekend, September 26th & 27th. Get your chances to be able to win money prizes. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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 **$33,092** 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

September 27 - October 3

Sunday, September 27
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40AM CCD Class - School
12:30PM Baptisms - Church

Monday, September 28
12:00NOON Golden Age - MCH
6:00PM Adult Choir (New Start Time) - Church

Tuesday, September 29
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, September 30
6:15PM ACA Support Group - SFR
7:45PM Bereavement Group - SFR

Thursday, October 1
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR
6:30PM IACA - SFR
7:20PM Scripture Study - StJoR

Friday, October 2
Fall Festival Set-Up
9:00AM First Friday Feast Day School Mass - Church
7:00PM Diocesan Youth Holy Hour - Church

Saturday, October 3
Fall Festival 12:00NOON - 9:00PM
9:00AM Anointing Mass
11:30AM Outdoor Mass

Eucharistic Adoration has Resumed

Monday-Saturday 8:00AM to 8:50AM

Eucharistic Adoration has resumed, 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."

We encourage everyone to make an effort to spend time with our Lord. It is time well spent in prayer for your own intentions and also for our Parish Family.

Next Week

October 4 - October 10

Sunday, October 4
Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
96th Anniversary of the Parish
8:00AM Mass
9:30AM Mass/Children's Liturgy
10:40AM CCD Class - School
11:00AM Mass with Bishop Massa
1:00PM Blessing of the Animals - Schoolyard

Monday, October 5
12:00NOON Golden Age - MCH
3:00PM - Children's Choir Begins - Church
6:00PM Adult Choir - Church

Tuesday, October 6
3:00PM SFACA Singers - MMC
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, October 7
3:00PM Drama Club - MCH
6:15PM ACA Support Group - SFR
7:45PM Bereavement Group - SFR

Thursday, October 8
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR
6:30PM IACA - SFR
7:20PM Scripture Study - StJoR

Friday, October 9
School Closed K-8/3K & PK Attend

Saturday, October 10

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

17TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD, 2026

FREE ADMISSION

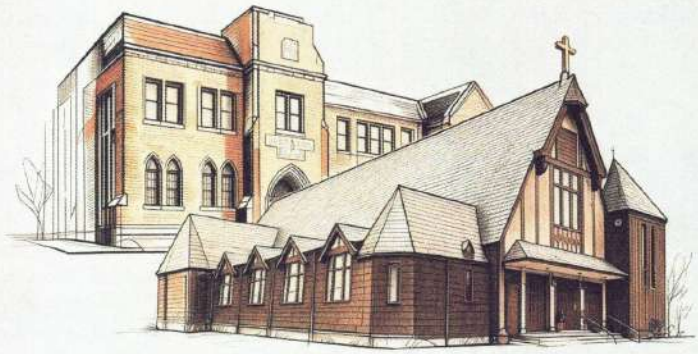
12:00PM - 9:00PM

OUTDOOR MASS @ 11:30AM - ALL ARE WELCOME!

RIDES...GAMES...PRIZES
RAFFLES...FOOD...& MUCH MORE

LIVE MUSIC BY SPITFIRE & FRIENDS

RAIN OR SHINE - 21ST AVENUE & 46TH STREET - ASTORIA - 718-728-7801



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

17TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD, 2026

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We look forward to welcoming back our seasoned volunteers and invite new volunteers to join us. Your time and helping hands will make this beloved community celebration a success!

MORNING SETUP
7:00–11:00 AM

EVENING CLEANUP
9:00–11:00 PM

SPECIAL THANK-YOU FOR OUR SCHOOL PARENT VOLUNTEERS
Their child(ren) will earn a special Dress Down Day on a future date to be announced!

Even if you can help for only part of a shift, we would be grateful to have you!

Volunteers will be contacted with additional details as the Festival draws near.

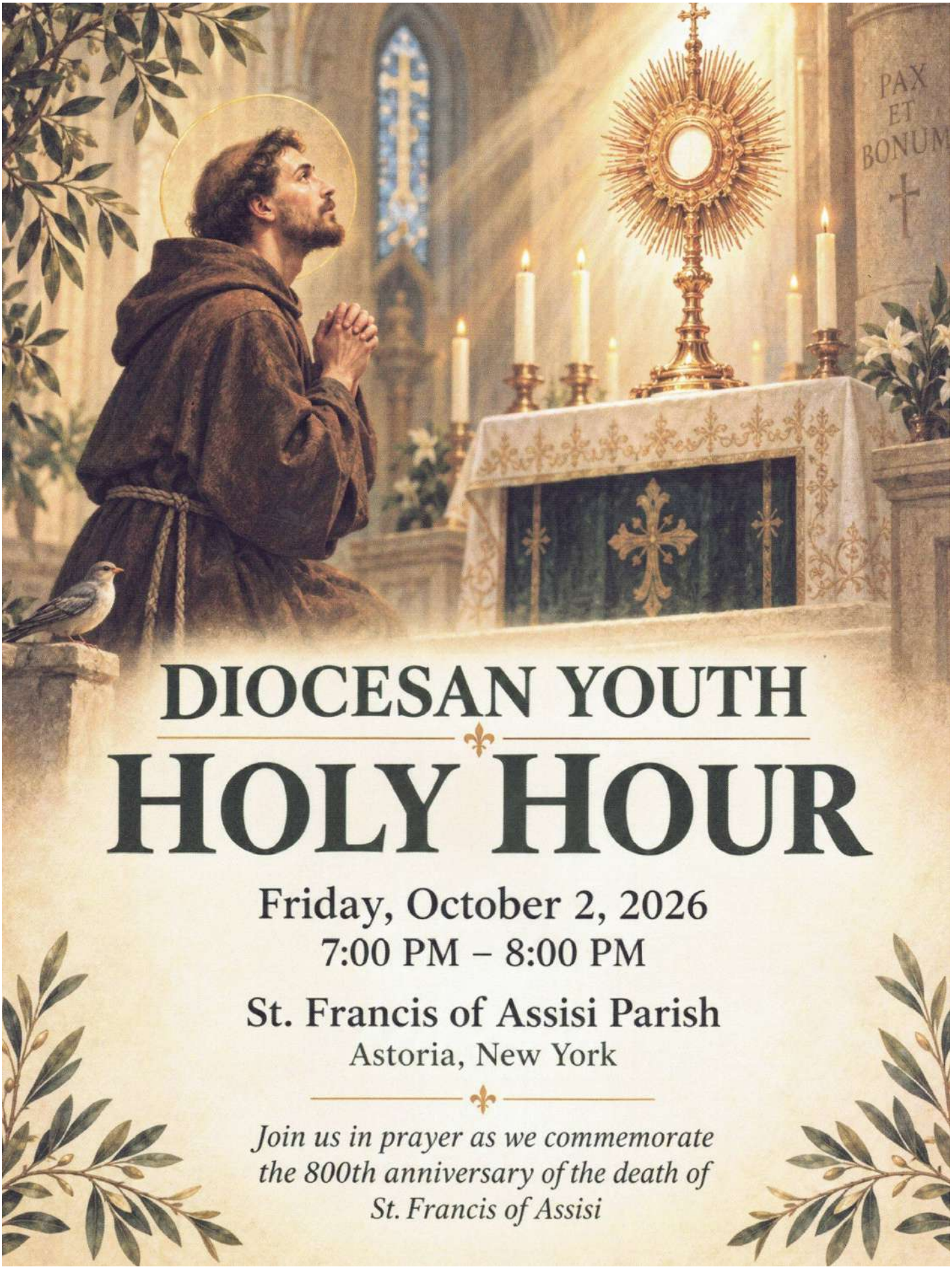
READY TO HELP?

Scan the QR code and complete the volunteer form at your earliest convenience or stop by the rectory to sign up.

Prefer email?
sfafestivalvolunteers@gmail.com

You have our heartfelt thanks!

SFA YOUTH



DIOCESAN YOUTH

HOLY HOUR

Friday, October 2, 2026

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Astoria, New York

Join us in prayer as we commemorate the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi

October Lector & Minister Schedule

	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 3/4	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 10/11	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 17/18	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 24/25	All Saints Day Oct. 31/Nov. 1
Lectors					
Saturday 5:00PM	Debbi Skinner	Josephine Corso	Edward Kubina	Debbi Skinner	Josephine Corso
Sunday 8:00AM	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Rob Laucella
Sunday 9:30AM	Maria Brooks	Sharon Costanza	Maria Brooks	Sharon Costanza	Maria Brooks
Sunday 11:00AM	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato
Ministers					
Saturday 5:00PM	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Sunday 8:00AM	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Sunday 9:30AM	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Sunday 11:00AM	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

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. Domitilla 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. Domitilla 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 _____

IACA
Italian American Catholic Action Meeting on Thursdays at 6:30PM in the Rectory Basement

The Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary meets every Thursday at 10:00AM in the Rectory Basement. All are welcome!

The Legion of Mary is a prayer group consecrated to the Blessed Virgin, who is our Mother in the order of grace.

Members entrust themselves to Mary to sanctify souls and to better a troubled world, for she is a sure path to Christ.

In the words of Pope St. Pius X, we pray that Mary may, "Restore all things in Christ."

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS/ DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES

Reclaiming Ourselves: Feel, Talk & Trust in Astoria

Wednesdays 6:15PM - 7:30PM

Join us anytime.

All are welcome.

St. Francis of Assisi Church – Bereavement Support Group

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." – Psalm 34:18

Wednesday Evenings

7:45pm – 8:45pm

St. Francis of Assisi Church
Rectory Meeting Room
21-17 45th Street
Astoria, NY 11105

Please enter through
The basement back door.
(Accessible by the side gate. Follow the signs)

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, you are not alone. St. Francis of Assisi Church invites you to join a compassionate and supportive bereavement group. Together we will reflect, share, and find comfort through prayer and community. This group is open to all—parishioners and non-parishioners alike.

Come as you are. All are welcome.

Contact Carol Hickey at SFAparishcouncil@sfaacademy.org or inquire with the rectory for more information.

New Starting Time For Adult Choir: 6:00PM

Do you love to sing? Come and join us on Mondays at 6:00PM in the Church.

The Golden Age Club

Please note that the Golden Age Group meetings have resumed, at 12:00NOON - 3:30PM. The meetings take place in Monsignor Campbell Hall which is in the Church Basement. The Entrance is on the 45th Street side of the Church.
If you are 55 years or older, why not join us? We play Bingo together and Refreshments are served at each meeting. Bring a friend & God bless!