Twenty-Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Sunday, Oct. 11	*28th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00AM	**Holy Name Mass**
9:30AM	**Marion Greer**
11:00AM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
	John Mondello (L)
	Assunta Di Benedetto
	Fortunata Di Lorenzo
	Mary Saliba
	Alfred Xuereb
	Alfredo D'Angelo
Monday, Oct. 12	*Weekday*
9:00AM	**Patricia Durante Gioino**
Tuesday, Oct. 13	*Weekday*
9:00AM	**Mario Di Leo**
Wednesday, Oct. 14	*Pope St. Callistus I, Martyr*
9:00AM	**Josip Vlakancic**
Thursday, Oct. 15	*St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church*
9:00AM	**Maria Koutsagelos**
Friday, Oct. 16	*St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin*
9:00AM	**Anne Foley**
Saturday, Oct. 17	*St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr*
9:00AM	**Purgatorial Society**
	Elizabeth Cseri
	Beatrice Santana
5:00PM	**For the People of St. Francis Of Assisi**
Sunday, Oct. 18	*29th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00AM	**The Geosits Family**
9:30AM	**Robert Foerster**
11:00AM	**John Mondello (L)**
	Assunta Di Benedetto
	Aldo Donato
	Angelo Niakas

Today's Readings

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25:6-10a
Philippians 4:12-14,19-20
Matthew 22:1-14

Readings For The Week

Monday	***Galatians 4:22-24,26-27,31—5:1***
	Luke 11:29-32
Tuesday	***Galatians 5:1-6***
	Luke 11:37-41
Wednesday	***Galatians 5:18-25***
	Luke 11:42-46
Thursday	***Ephesians 1:1-10***
	Luke 11:47-54
Friday	***Ephesians 1:11-14***
	Luke 12:1-7
Saturday	***Ephesians 1:15-23***
	Luke 12:8-12

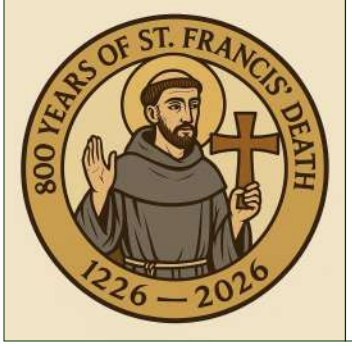
The Twenty-Ninth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45:1,4-6
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Matthew 22:15-21

FOCUS:

We are invited to the heavenly feast.

Both the first reading and today's Gospel portray the heavenly kingdom as a banquet. Each time we participate in Mass, we receive a foretaste of this heavenly feast and are nourished by Christ's Body and Blood. We can prepare for the feast with repentance and by clothing ourselves with good deeds.



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
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
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
Antonio Lupetin
Lauren Haber Berens
Joseph Schweb

Twenty-Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time

October 11, 2026

"Many are called, few are chosen." Consider following Christ more closely as a priest, deacon, or in consecrated life.
Contact the Vocation Office at:

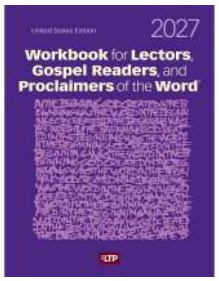
(718)-827-2454
vocations@diobrook.org

Diocese of Brooklyn Vocation Office

LECTORS:

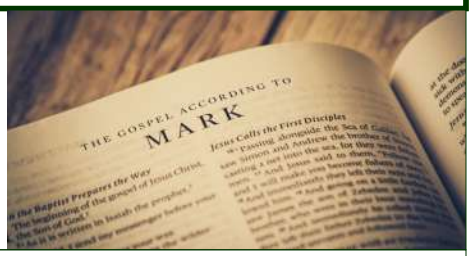
You may pick up your new 2027 Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word in the Sacristy after all Masses.

You will find a label with your name on the Book that belongs to you. Please be sure to look for your book to avoid confusion. Thank you for the work that you do in sharing the Word of God.



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 15th at 7:20PM-8:50PM in the St. Joseph Room of the Rectory. This week's study will be on Mark 8:1—9:32.
All are invited - All are welcome!
Transfiguration- - New Perceptions:
"...But, if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can! Everything is possible to one who has faith." Then the boy's father cried out, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:22-25)...When he entered the house, his disciples asked him in private, "Why could we not drive it (the demon) out?" He said to them, "This kind can only come out through prayer." (Mark 9:28-29)

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.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

MONDAY-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."

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.

From the Pastor's Desk:

My Dear Parishioners,

Today's readings can help us reflect on the goodness, abundance and generosity of the Lord, and what our response to these things should be. The first reading describes a banquet on a mountaintop. This banquet is an image of the final banquet that will occur when God completes His plan for the salvation of the world. There will be rich food and choice wines, but more importantly, God will destroy death forever. There will be no more suffering, as tears are wiped away.

As Christians, we understand the reading to be a clear allusion to the heavenly banquet. And every time we come forward to receive the Eucharist, we are given a foretaste of the perfect joy and happiness that awaits us if we remain steadfast in faith.

In the second reading, we are reminded that relying on God and His goodness will bring us to have all that we really need. Whether we are living in abundance or in poverty, God provides for us. Then the Gospel presents us with a parable about a wedding feast. At this feast the feeling is in high contrast to the one in our first reading. There is a decided lack of enthusiasm on the part of those who were invited.

It seems odd, but these people refuse the invitation of their king. Some do initially accept the invitation, but they do not show up. One group even kills the messengers who deliver their invitation. *The feast is ready, but those who are invited were not worthy to come,* says the king in response to the invitee's insults. He then issues another invitation. This one is to any and to all, bad or good alike.

Many readers of this parable feel badly for the man who is thrown out of the banquet for not wearing the proper wedding garment. After all, how was he supposed to know that he was going to attend a wedding in the royal palace? The point seems to be that it is not enough to accept the invitation. There is something more we are to do to make ourselves ready to participate in the banquet.

As we look more closely at this parable, we ask ourselves, *what does it mean for our lives?* This banquet, which received so few positive responses after so many invitations were issued, might be seen in our time as referring to the meal will celebrate each time we come to Mass. The menu, so to speak, is simple, but miraculous. The Lord chooses this setting to nourish our minds and hearts with His word, and our bodies and souls with His Flesh and Blood.

There is a standing invitation, week after week, for this meal, which is held for our benefit. Yet, fewer and fewer people seem to accept the invitation, and many make excuses: *We are too busy, We are too tired today, We have places to go, We can wait until week.* Others show up but perhaps arrive late or leave early. It may be that these are the guests who are not really investing themselves in this great event-the ones who are not wearing the proper wedding garment. As Jesus continues to invite us to celebrate God's love through the banquet of the Eucharist, let us respond with humility and gratitude. Let us come to the Lord's table and respond with our own invitation that He come more fully into our hearts.

All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca

THANK YOU to all who supported our Fall Festival. The Lord blessed us with a beautiful day!

We had great crowds throughout the day and evening, and the support of so many people was truly an inspiration to me.

I want to thank all our workers, who sacrificed so much of their time in preparation for the festival and on the actual day. I am so proud of each of you for all you did to make the Festival so successful. Your dedication is a great expression of love for our parish and academy.

I want to thank so many who made donations to help support the Festival. Your continued support of our efforts makes the Festival a success.

In particular I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to Anthony Siano for all his hard work in coordinating all the activities of the Festival. He did a wonderful job in bringing us all together to have a great Festival. All his meetings pre-Festival helped us to know what our responsibilities were and gave us the enthusiasm needed to make the Festival a memorable event in the life of our parish and academy.

Please know all of you are in my prayers for all your efforts.

Msgr. Maresca

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.

October 3/4: $4,056

School Parents must use Church Envelopes.

Mass Attendance For October 3/4, 2026

5:00PM	**89**
8:00AM	**57**
9:30AM	**126**
11:00AM	**187**
	Total: 459

Second Collection
Next Sunday October 17/18, 2026
for *World Mission Sunday*

The Second Collection next weekend, October 17th and 18th, is for World Mission Sunday.
Please be as generous as your means allow.

Columbus Day
Monday, October 12, 2026

The Rectory Office will be Closed on Monday, October 12, 2026 in observance of Columbus Day.
The Rectory Office will reopen on Tuesday, October 13th, from 9:00AM-12:00NOON;1:00PM-9:00PM.

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

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 **$34,092** 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 $100.00.

Altar Flowers are $125.

Calendar of Events

This Week

October 11 - October 17

Sunday, October 11
8:00AM Holy Name Mass
NO CCD CLASS

Monday, October 12
Columbus Day - School & Rectory Office Closed

Tuesday, October 13
3:00PM SFACA Singers - MMC
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, October 14
3:00PM Drama Club - MCH
6:15PM ACA Support Group - SFR
7:00PM Baptism Class - Rectory
7:45PM Bereavement Group - SFR

Thursday, October 15
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR
6:30PM IACA - SFR
7:20PM Scripture Study - StJoR

Friday, October 16
Halloween Dance - MCH

Saturday, October 17

Next Week

October 18 - October 24

Sunday, October 18
9:30AM Children's Liturgy
10:40AM Parents' Penance Meeting & CCD Class

Monday, October 19
12:00NOON Golden Age - MCH
3:00PM Children's Choir - Church
6:00PM Adult Choir - Church
7:00PM Festival Evaluation Meeting - Rectory Bsmnt

Tuesday, October 20
3:00PM SFACA Singers - MMC
6:30PM AA Meeting - Rectory Basement

Wednesday, October 21
3:00PM Drama Club - MCH
6:15PM ACA Support Group - SFR
7:45PM Bereavement Group - SFR

Thursday, October 22
10:00AM Legion of Mary - SFR
6:30PM IACA - SFR
7:20PM Scripture Study - StJoR

Friday, October 23
2027 Mass Book Opens - See Bulletin Details
4:00PM Trunk or Treat - Schoolyard

Saturday, October 24

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION

You are invited to participate in the 40 Days for Life campaign outside Planned Parenthood, 21-41 45th Road, in Long Island City. It is near the Court Square subway station (7, E, F, & G lines). We need people to pray outside the facility or, if you are comfortable with it, to counsel women to choose life.

The campaign runs from 8:00AM to 6:00PM Mondays through Saturdays through October 31st. You can sign up for vigil hours by scanning this QR Code:

If you have any questions, please call or text the campaign leader, Phil McManus, at 718-679-5309.

*Information provided by the Knights of Columbus

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

2027 Mass Book Opens on Friday, October 23rd

Starting Friday, October 23, 2026, the 2027 Mass Book will be open for Mass Intentions from 9:30AM-11:30AM; and 1:00PM-5:00PM.

12NOON-1:00PM the Office will be closed for Lunch.

2027 Mass Reservations will not be taken before October 23rd and must be made in person.

Single Intention Masses (only 1 person):
Monday-Friday 9:00AM
Saturday 5:00PM
Sunday 8:00AM & 9:30AM

Multiple Intention Masses (more than 1 person):
Saturday 9:00AM
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 _____

Growing in FAITH™

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

October 2026

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

One Minute Meditations

St. John Henry Newman

St. John's path to Roman Catholicism began when he read the Church Fathers while tutoring at Oxford University. After much prayer, study, and the guidance of a Passionist priest, he converted in 1845. He was ordained a priest in 1847 and founded an Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Birmingham. In 1879, he was nominated cardinal. His famous works include *A Grammar of Assent* and his *Apologia*. He spent his office writing and offering spiritual advice.

God is closer than you think

It's easy to take God's presence for granted because we already know He is everywhere. Yet His presence is personal and relational. He is with us because He wants to be with us. We see this throughout salvation history: in the Incarnation, His earthly ministry, the Cross, the Resurrection, and the sending of the Holy Spirit.

God seeks us, draws near to us, and remains with us. So whether your "today" feels like Good Friday, Easter Sunday, or an ordinary Tuesday, God is with you. And in the Eucharist, He invites you to draw near and be with Him.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

5 Ways St. Francis can help deepen your love for God

People often associate St. Francis with nature, peace, and simplicity. Yet his entire life was centered on God, His mysteries, and His love. His example offers five ways to encounter God's love more deeply:

Christ-centered life: St. Francis was a man deeply in love with God. He put honoring God first. He embraced radical poverty yet gladly accepted the finest vestments, altar linens, and vessels for the Mass. In imitation, we can ask ourselves often: "Does this honor God? Is it aligned with the Gospel?"

Seeing the person: Captivated by the Incarnation, St. Francis sought to treat each person as "another Christ," regardless of health, wealth, or status. We follow his example when we learn to see every person as a beloved child of God.

Delight in God's creation: St. Francis famously delighted in and cared for creation, praising it as God's handiwork. Even a sunset, flower, or beautiful landscape can become an invitation to praise God and grow closer to Him.

Simplicity of life: Most of us aren't called to literally "leave everything" to follow Jesus. But we can declutter our homes, make room for silence, or limit digital distractions, freeing more of our attention for God and neighbor.

Humility of heart: St. Francis' humility flowed from his desire to love the person before him. He wanted people to walk away knowing, "God loves me!" When we're with others, do we make the conversation about elevating ourselves, or about loving them?

"At all times and seasons, in every country and place, every day and all day, we must have a true and humble faith." –St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis experienced God's love deeply and wanted everyone else to experience that same Love. His radical life points us back to the extravagant love of God and the life we're called to live in response.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have items blessed?

Sacramentals are sacred signs instituted by the Church to praise God for His works and gifts and dedicate them to His service. While sacramentals take different forms, they involve the Church's prayer and often a blessing of a person, place, event, or object according to an approved rite. For example, wedding rings are sacramentals; marriage is the Sacrament. The rings don't make the marriage sacramental but remind and encourage spouses to live their vocation faithfully. Sacramentals deepen our devotion, support us on the path to salvation, and prepare our hearts to receive God's grace.

© Copyright 2026 Success Publishing & Media, LLC All Rights Reserved

Climb the mountain. Bring Jesus along.

Time in prayer is not a luxury or secondary to service, mission, or productivity. Nothing we do all day is more important than spending time with Jesus. Prayer gives life to our mission, and mission draws us back to prayer. We need both.

Climb the mountain: People may rightly say, "My work is my prayer." Yet spouses would struggle to stay close if they only met to divide the chores. In the same way, we need time with God apart from our work. Following Christ requires knowing Him. We sit at His feet and let Him teach us. In His presence, we learn to see as He sees, value what He values, and love as He loves.

Return to the plains: We aren't meant to stay on the mountain. Jesus sends us back into ordinary life carrying what we received in prayer: a peaceful presence, a new insight, a kind word at the right moment. Some even begin the day by asking God to place in their path the people He wants them to encounter.

The Christian life moves between the mountain and the plain: drawing close to Jesus in prayer, then carrying His presence into the world. And in both places, He remains at our side.

from Scripture — Matthew 22:34-40, The Two Greatest Commandments

The Pharisees sought to test Jesus with a difficult and much-debated question. Jewish tradition identified 613 commandments in the Torah, and a lawyer asked Jesus to name the greatest. Of all the commandments governing Jewish life, which mattered most?

Jesus answered by going to the heart of them all: love God with your whole being, and love your neighbor as yourself. Everything begins and ends with love. And loving God means learning to love what, and whom, He loves. Jesus taught that these two commandments are the foundation of the entire Law.

Loving God may seem easier than loving our neighbor. Loving others means welcoming people we might naturally exclude, dismiss, or avoid. Jesus drew near to sinners, outcasts, the sick, and even those who opposed Him. Our love of neighbor is tested especially in how we treat the poor, the vulnerable, the difficult, and even our enemies. This is how God loves, and He calls us to love the same way.

Feasts & Celebrations

October 2 – Feast of the Guardian Angels. All of us have a guardian angel in charge of protecting us and watching over us: *"For I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 18:10). Remember to thank the Guardian Angels for the work they have done in helping us.

October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary. Pope Gregory XIII named this feast because it was believed that Christians won a critical victory at the Battle of Lepanto after praying the Rosary.

October 15 – St. Teresa of Ávila (1582). Teresa joined the Carmelites, against her father's wishes. In 1563, she was inspired to reform her order. Despite serious opposition, she founded more than 17 convents of Discalced Carmelites and helped reform the Carmelite friars.

October 16 – St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1690). Margaret joined the Sisters of the Visitation at Paray-le-Monial when she was twenty-four. In 1674, she began having visions of Jesus Christ, in which He asked for a feast dedicated to His Sacred Heart to acknowledge His love for us and to encourage reparation for sins.

October 18 – St. Luke the Evangelist (First century). St. Luke was a Christian physician from Antioch. His Gospel and Acts of the Apostles were probably written between 70 and 85 A.D.

October 19 – Saints John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions (1649). Six Jesuits and two laymen became missionaries to Native American tribes in North America. After spending more than 20 years in a difficult ministry, St. John de Brébeuf won the Iroquois' respect by his valor in death. St. Isaac Jogues escaped only to return to his ministry but was also murdered.

Q & A — What is the Franciscan Crown?

The Franciscan Crown is a devotion that meditates on seven joys in Mary's life: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Birth of Jesus, the Adoration of the Magi, the Finding of Jesus in the Temple, the Resurrection, and Mary's Assumption and Coronation as Queen of Heaven and Earth. The devotion is prayed using seven decades of Hail Marys and is also known as the Franciscan or Seraphic Rosary.

According to Franciscan tradition, the devotion began with a young man named James, who regularly wove crowns of roses to honor the Blessed Mother. After joining the Franciscans, he could no longer continue the practice and became so discouraged that he considered leaving the Order. Tradition holds that Mary appeared to James and gave him a new way to honor her: the Franciscan Crown.

Like the traditional Rosary, the Franciscan Crown is addressed to Mary but centered entirely on Jesus. By meditating on Mary's seven joys, we contemplate the joyful and miraculous events of Christ's life through the eyes of His mother. Rooted in the Gospel and marked by Franciscan simplicity, the Crown offers a distinctly Franciscan way to draw closer to Christ through Mary.

Our Mission
To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of *Growing in Faith*™ and *Partners in Faith*™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
http://www.infaithpublishing.com
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New American Bible - Revised*)

© Copyright 2026 Success Publishing & Media, LLC All Rights Reserved

SFA ALTAR SERVERS

Go Up to the Altar of God…

We're in need of ***A***ltar ***S***ervers, boys and girls (beginning in Grade 3) who are willing to serve at Holy Masses during the weekend and special liturgies throughout the year at the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi.

PLEASE PRINT

_____

First Name **Last Name**

_____ _____

Grade Level **School Name**

_____

Parent/Guardian First and Last Names

_____

Home Address

_____

City **State** **Zip**

_____

Mobile Telephone Number **Home Telephone Number**

_____

Email Address

I hereby grant permission for my child to serve as an Altar Server.

_____

Signature of the Parent/Guardian

DUE DATE: November 2026 A.D.

Please return this application to your child's Catechist - Teacher or to the Rectory Office.
Thank you!

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.

Adult Choir
Mondays at 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 on Mondays 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!