

Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



SUNDAY BULLETIN | March 17, 2024

600 Hamilton Street · Norristown, PA · 19401
(p) 610-272-0402 · (e) admin@sfanorristown.com
www.sfanorristown.com

Rev. Richard J. Smith, M.Div., Pastor

Deacon David J. Matour

Weekend Assistants: Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Doody; Rev. Abner Gonzalez Bonilla, SP

Mass Times:

Daily: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8:30am *No Wednesday Masses*

Weekend: Vigil: Saturday 5:30pm;

7:00am, 9:00am (Bilingual), 11:00am, 5:30pm

Misa en Español es el 1 y 3 Domingo del mes a las 1:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays: 9:00 am & 4:00pm - 5:00pm, or by appointment - please call 610-272-0402.

Adoration Times:

Mondays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm October - May; Mondays 9:00 am - 10 am June - September

Parish Secretary: Miss Lauren Kibler

Office Manager: Mrs. Dolores Landis

Business Manager: Mr. Carl Needles

St. Francis Rectory Hours

Monday thru Thursday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Noon

closed on weekends

St. Francis Early Learning Center

636 Hamilton Street, Norristown

Mrs. Virginia Bueno, Director

Phone: (610) 757-1523

Website: www.saintfranciselc.org

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

601-A Buttonwood Street, Norristown

Miss Bridget Tigie, Principal

Phone: (610) 272-0501

Website: www.sfacatholic.org



SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, MARCH 18
8:30 AM - People of the Parish

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 - *St. Joseph*
8:30 AM - Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
No Mass

THURSDAY, MARCH 21
8:30 AM - Margaret Donnelly
(Pat Fazio)

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 *Abs.*
8:30 AM - John Ruser
(Barbara Ruser & Family)

SATURDAY, MARCH 23
8:30 AM - Jim Schonely
(Joanne Schonely)
5:30 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY, MARCH 24
7:00 AM - William Goodwin
(Kevin Murray)
9:00 AM - The Ranieri Family
11:00 AM - Charles DeCarlo Jr.
(Susanna Fahey)
5:30 PM - Peter Romano
(Family)

LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

<u>Mar. 23 - 5:30 pm</u>	<u>Mar. 24 - 11 am</u>
L - J. McLaughlin, S. Matour	L - K. McDonald, L. Hallahan
EM - M. Anders, J. Shearer	EM - K. McTamney, J. Gallagher
<u>Mar. 24 - 7 am</u>	<u>Mar. 24 - 5:30 pm</u>
L - D. DiLucia, C. Zurek	L - B. Collins, C. Hurd
EM - C. Zurek, T. Barbato	EM - C. Hurd, A. Collins
<u>Mar. 24 - 9 am</u>	
L - T. Leone, O. Russo	
EM - O. Russo, D. Skaw	

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is every Monday from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY / LUNES

1:00 Benediction (C)
6:00 Palm Braiding (S)

TUESDAY / MARTES

1:00 Seniors (MH)
6:00 Palm Braiding (S)

WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

6:00 Palm Braiding (S)
7:00 Men's Bible Study (MH)
7:00 Women's Bible Study (MH)

THURSDAY / JUEVES

7:00 Parish Confessions (C)
6:00 Palm Braiding (S)
6:00 Palm Sale (S)

FRIDAY / VIERNES

6:00 Palm Sale (S)
7:00 Stations of the Cross (C)

SATURDAY / SÁBADO

9:00 Palm Sale (S)
3:00-5:00 Confessions (C)

(C) Church
(MH) Meeting House
(R) Rectory
(S) School

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Robin Caza, Maria Giovinco, Michele Hamilton, Patty Iaccarino, Lois Leggerie, Edward Mateja, Joe McDonald, Meghan McLaughlin, Sandy Orth, Kathleen Prinzevalli, Christina Shea, Anthony Tarmin, James Tuggle, Michele Tuggle, Olivia Tuturice, Brandon Washinko, Peter Wiggins, Mai Wise, Charles Yura, All Those Homebound, All Our Deceased.

MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Sanctuary Lamp, Blessed Mother Altar:
Sanctuary Lamp, St. Joseph Altar:
Altar Bread at Mass this Week:
Floral Arrangement, Main Altar:
Floral Arrangement, Blessed Mother Altar:
Floral Arrangement, St. Joseph Altar:
This Weeks' Memorial Society Enrollees:

24 Hour Confidential Pregnancy Hotline 610-626-4006

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

On Tuesday, we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph. For a man who is briefly talked about in the Gospels and then lost to history, he has attained quite a few titles. Many know him as the “Worker”; “Head of the Holy Family”; “Husband of Mary”; and so on. Would you be surprised to know that there are several other titles that are common for him and some that are being rediscovered? We know about how he is the Hope of the Sick and the Patron of the dying. However, do we know about any of the other titles that he has been given?

Have you ever heard of St. Joseph as “Chaste Guardian of the Virgin” or “Terror of Demons”? There are a lot more that I could list but it had me thinking about the importance of St. Joseph. Each of the many titles that he has points to a way that he can help us. He can help us through every stage of our lives. He can help us understand the importance of Mary in our lives. He can help us with our temptations and those evil forces that try to pull us away from God. It is amazing to me that all of this has come from a man that we know very little about. St. Joseph today also shows us that we do not need to be mighty or hold importance in the world to make an impact in our society. Let us this week pick a title of St. Joseph that speaks to us so we can not just improve our own lives but the world around us.

El martes celebramos la Solemnidad de San José. Para ser un hombre del que se habla brevemente en los Evangelios y luego se pierde en la historia, ha obtenido bastantes títulos. Muchos lo conocen como el “Trabajador”; “Jefe de la Sagrada Familia”; “Esposo de María”, etc. ¿Le sorprendería saber que hay varios otros que son comunes con él y algunos que se están redescubriendo? Sabemos que él es la Esperanza de los enfermos y el Patrón de los moribundos. Sin embargo, ¿sabemos de alguno de los otros títulos que le han otorgado?

¿Has oído hablar alguna vez de San José como “Casto Guardián de la Virgen” o “Terror de los Demonios”? Hay muchos más que podría enumerar, pero me hizo pensar en la importancia de San José. Cada uno de los muchos títulos que tiene apunta a una forma en la que puede ayudarnos. Él puede ayudarnos en cada etapa de nuestras vidas. Él puede ayudarnos a comprender la importancia de María en nuestras vidas. Él puede ayudarnos con nuestras tentaciones y esas fuerzas del mal que intentan alejarnos de Dios. Es sorprendente para mí que todo esto haya venido de un hombre del que sabemos muy poco. San José hoy también nos muestra que no necesitamos ser poderosos o tener importancia en el mundo para tener un impacto en nuestra sociedad. Escojamos esta semana un título de San José que nos hable para que podamos no solo mejorar nuestras propias vidas sino también el mundo que nos rodea.

Fifth
Sunday
in
Lent

Reading I: Jeremiah 31:31-34

This short oracle has been called “one of the most profound and moving passages in the entire Bible.” Note the use of the words “new Covenant.” It is the only time they are used in the entire Old Testament.

Reading II: Hebrews 5:7-9

The author considers Jesus’ ability to sympathize with sinners arises from the fact that He knew temptation. His obedience led to His priestly consecration.

Gospel: John 12: 20-33

Some Greeks come to see Jesus. He tells Andrew and Philip that “when a grain of wheat dies it produces much fruit.” This is a direct reference to His upcoming passion and death.

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to
love.
For it is in giving that we receive; it is in
pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

LA ORACIÓN DE SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS

Señor, hazme un instrumento de tu paz
Para sembrar amor donde hay odio
Donde hay ofensa, dar perdón
Donde hay duda, fé
Donde hay desesperación, esperanza
Donde hay obscuridad, luz
Donde hay tristeza, alegría.
O Maestro divino, concédeme
que no busque el ser consolado, sino el poder
consolar que no busque el ser comprendido,
sino el comprender que no busque el ser amado,
sino el amar
Porque es en dar, que recibimos
Es en perdonar, que somos perdonados
Es en morir, que nacemos a la vida eterna. Amén.

DEVOTIONS at ST. FRANCIS

The Rosary is recited daily before the 8:30 am
Mass

Divine Mercy Chaplet - Tuesdays after Mass

Sacred Heart Devotions - Fridays after Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena - Saturdays after daily
Mass

Visits to the Blessed Sacrament -

Tuesday - Saturday from 9 am - 4 pm

Stop by the Rectory for the keypad code.



COLLECTION

MARCH 10, 2024

Sunday	\$7,580
E-Giving	\$1,866

Thank you for your continued kindness and
generosity towards our Parish and may God Bless
you in all you do. ~ Fr. Smith



Easily tithe with online giving and
no longer worry about envelopes.
Visit sfanorristown.com/donate
to learn more.



If you would like a statement of your 2023
logged donations, please fill out this coupon &
place it in the collection basket, mail to the
Rectory, or drop it off at the Rectory mailbox. **Be
sure to mark how you want your donation
statement sent to you, otherwise it will be
mailed.** NOTE: Those using Parish Giving will have
their statements emailed to them by the company.
Online giving numbers will not be included in the
statements provided by SFA.

Name

Address

City, State, & Zip

Phone Number

Mail statement to name & address above

Call when ready & I will pick statement up

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303

Religious Education



Here, you will find important information, updates, and dates to know!
¡Aquí encontrará información importante, actualizaciones y fechas que debe conocer!

Congratulations to our students in PREP and in our School who received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation for the first time last week!

REMINDERS:

There is NO CLASS on Sunday, March 24 OR Sunday, March 31. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 7. Have a Blessed Easter!!

If you/your family attend and/or are registered at Saint Patrick's Church and are attending PREP classes here at St. Francis, PLEASE CONTACT ST. PATRICK'S. They have your dates for Sacrament Meetings.

Don't Forget: All Catholic School Students and ALL PREP Students are now required to use Mass Attendance Forms. If you lost yours, they're available on the PREP website.

Felicitaciones a nuestros estudiantes en PREP y en nuestra Escuela que ¡Recibimos el Sacramento de la Primera Reconciliación por primera vez la semana pasada!

RECORDATORIOS:

NO HAY CLASES el domingo 24 de marzo NI el domingo 31 de marzo. Las clases se reanudarán el domingo 7 de abril. ¡¡Que tengan una Bendita Pascua!!

Si usted o su familia asisten y están registrados en la Iglesia de San Patricio y asistiendo a clases de PREP aquí en San Francis, POR FAVOR CONTACTE A SAN PATRICIO. Tienen tus fechas para las Reuniones Sacramentos.

No lo olvide: Todos los estudiantes de escuelas católicas y TODOS los estudiantes de PREP ahora deben usar formularios de asistencia a misa. Si perdiste el tuyo, están disponibles en el sitio web de PREP.

Women's Gospel Reflection

Every Wednesday | 7 PM | In the Meetinghouse
No registration required
for information, contact Olga Russo at
olgarusso6255@gmail.com or
Theresa Greco at theresagreco67@gmail.com

SFA Seniors

Here are our upcoming meeting dates for the Seniors group. All meetings are at 1 PM in the Meetinghouse.

March 19 - Zep Day
April 2 - Bingo & Dessert
April 16 - Chick-Fil-A Day & Spring Sale
May 7 - Bingo & Dessert / Soft Pretzel Sale
*Please do not park in our Lower Parking Lot.
Parking is available on Buttonwood Street and in our Upper Lot.*

Palm Braiding

St. Francis Palm Braiding & Palm Cross Making will be held from March 18th - 21st in the School Gym from 6 - 9 PM. Come by and help with this beautiful tradition! Bring the whole family!

The Ladies of St. Francis are also collecting donations of new Silk Flowers for the Beautiful Palm Cemetery Crosses for our Palm Sale. Drop donations off in the bin in the Main Entrance of the Church. Thank you!!

SFA ALL-CLASS REUNION

On April 20th, 2024, we will be hosting an All-Class Reunion for all SFA graduates.

If you have any photos from your time as a student here at SFA, please send them to admin@sfanorristown.com or mail them to the Rectory!!!

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

Men's Bible Study

Every Wednesday | 7 PM | In the Meetinghouse
No registration required
Studies led by Deacon Dave Matour

Church Cleaners

We are looking for volunteers to assist with gently cleaning our Church. We will be meeting every other Wednesday at 9 AM to clean. If you are interested in helping, simply show up!

Spring 2024 cleaning dates:

*March 27th
April 3rd & 17th
May 1st & 22nd*

THANK YOU!

Prayer Shawl Group

first Wednesday of the month | 1 PM
We meet in the Meetinghouse. No experience needed -- if you don't know how to crochet/knit, someone in the group would be happy to teach you!
note - we do not meet in June/July/August

*for more information, contact
Kay Boyce at 610-772-7216*

SFA PRO-LIFE

Our Pro-Life group meets on the First Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM in the Parish Meetinghouse. Meetings are followed by a prayer vigil at the Planned Parenthood on Powell Street. All are welcome to join in the fight to save the unborn.

Keep an eye out on the bulletin board in the back of church for upcoming local Pro-Life events! All Pro-Life correspondence for St. Francis of Assisi can be sent to Judy at sfapro lifegroup@gmail.com.

Catholic Social Services 267-331-2490

SAINT FRANCIS

LENT

SCHEDULE

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent
7pm in the Church



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday
after 8:30am Mass;
4pm-5pm

Lenten Parish Confessions
March 21st at 7pm
March 23rd 3pm-5pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Monday
9am-1pm in Church



A Baby's Breath Drive

Our Pro-Life group is hosting a supply drive in collaboration with *A Baby's Breath* for Lent!

Donations can be left in the tubs in the back of Church. We are accepting diapers (sizes 4-5-6) and children's clothing for spring (sizes 6 months-4T)!

The drive will run through Palm Sunday. Thank you!

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration Until Midnight

Good Friday

9:00am Morning Prayer
3:00pm Liturgy

Holy Saturday

12:00pm Blessing of the Food
7:30pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Mass - 7:00am; 9:00am; 11:00am
no evening Mass



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

U.S. Army - *CPT Nathan Bevans*
Army National Guard - *SPC Nathan Enslin*
U.S. Army - *PVT 2nd Cl. Matthew Hahn*
U.S. Army - *MAJ John Orendorff*
U.S. Army - *SSGT Eric D. Pearson*
U.S.A.F. - *SSG Jonathan D. Pearson*
U.S.A.F. - *SSGT Katlyn Pearson*
U.S. Navy - *PO1 Evan Slizofski*
U.S. Navy - *PO2 Jonathan Slizofski*
U.S.A.F. - *SrA Joseph M. Stasik*
U.S. Army - *SGT James Stephenson*
U.S. Army - *LTC Ramon A. Ramos*
Army National Guard - *Col Steven Zahuranec*