



# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 8, 2024

## CLERGY

Rev. Richard J. Smith, M.Div., Pastor  
Deacon David J. Matour

Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Doody Weekend Assistant  
Rev. Abel Osorio, C.M. Weekend Assistant

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Miss Lauren Kibler

## COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Maritza Reyes

## BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Carl Needles

## ST. FRANCIS EARLY LEARNING CENTER

636 Hamilton Street, Norristown  
Mrs. Virginia Bueno, Director  
Phone: (610) 757-1523  
Website: [www.saintfranciselc.org](http://www.saintfranciselc.org)

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

601A Buttonwood Street, Norristown  
Miss Bridget Tigue, Principal  
Phone: (610) 272-0501  
Website: [www.sfacatholic.org](http://www.sfacatholic.org)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
601 Buttonwood Street, Norristown, PA 19401  
(Phone) 610-272-0402 |  
(Email) [admin@sfanorristown.com](mailto:admin@sfanorristown.com) |  
(Website) [www.sfanorristown.com](http://www.sfanorristown.com) |

## OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:30AM-4:00PM  
(closed 12-12:30PM daily)  
Friday 9:00AM-Noon

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Daily:** M/T/Th/F - 8:30AM

no Wednesday Mass

**Sunday:** 7:00AM, 9:00AM (Spanish), &  
11:30AM

**Saturday:** 8:30AM & 5:30PM (Vigil)

## CONFESSION

Saturday: 9:00AM & 4:00PM - 5:00PM

## ADORATION

M/W/F 9:00AM - 6:00PM in the  
Adoration Chapel [stop by the Parish Center  
for the Chapel code]



# SUNDAY, December 8, 2024

## Second Sunday of Advent

Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6;  
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Monday, December 9

*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
8:30 Francis Monastero, Jr. by Rose Marie Monastero

#### Tuesday, December 10

*Advent Weekday*  
8:30 Francis Monastero, Sr.

#### Wednesday, December 11

*Advent Weekday*  
**No Mass**

#### Thursday, December 12

*Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
8:30 Para todos los inmigrantes

#### Friday, December 13

*Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr*  
8:30 Aileen Kain by Deacon Dave & Sue Matour

#### Saturday, December 14

*Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor*  
8:30 Carol Vandergast by Sharon Robins  
5:30 Guiseppe Cantone by Sister-in-Law & Family

#### Sunday, December 15

7:00 Brian McCourt by Michael, Connor & Simon  
9:00 Pro Populo  
11:30 William & Joan Plutte by Sons Jim & Joe



God of peace,  
instill in us Your peace  
that surpasses all understanding.  
As we prepare for His coming,  
make us instruments of Your peace  
and help us to find rest  
in the Prince of Peace,  
Your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

### PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is Monday,  
Wednesday, & Friday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM in the  
Adoration Chapel, unless otherwise noted.*

#### MONDAY / LUNES

6:00 PM - Benediction (A)

#### TUESDAY / MARTES

7:00 PM - RCIA (PC)

#### WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

9:00 AM - Church Cleaners (C)  
6:00 PM - Benediction (A)  
6:30 PM - The Chosen (PC)  
7:00 PM - Men's Bible Study (PC)

#### THURSDAY / JUEVES

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
4:30 AM - Las Mañanitas (C)  
7:30 AM - Adoration (C)  
8:30 AM - Holy Mass

#### FRIDAY / VIERNES

6:00 PM - Benediction (A)

(A) Adoration Chapel  
(C) Church  
(PC) Parish Center  
(R) Rectory  
(S) School

### LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Dec. 14 - 5:30PM

**L** - K. Bradbury  
**EM** - J. Shearer,  
C. Hurd

Dec. 14 - 9AM

**L** -  
**EM** -

Dec. 15 - 7AM

**L** - L. Steppe  
**EM** - BJ Mumford  
J. Korkus

Dec. 15 - 11:30AM

**L** - L. Gambone  
**EM** - L. O'Donnell,  
D. Skaw

SUNDAY, December 8, 2024

## Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

There is a lot to get done in the Advent season in preparation for Christmas. There is all the shopping and decorating that needs to get done. I am horrible at gift wrapping so I get a lot of cards for everyone. There are also the spiritual preparations that we need. In these early days of Advent, let us take a few moments to consider how we will go about this. One way we can spiritually prepare is to reflect on those who make this celebration of Christmas possible. The first person that comes to mind is our Blessed Mother. This week, we will have two opportunities to reflect on this amazing woman. The first is on Monday since the feast of the Immaculate Conception landed on a Sunday this year, it was transferred to Monday. The second is on Thursday when we celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Both these feast days show us the power that Mary has in our lives. It also shows us how much she wants to be part of our lives. Her Immaculate Conception gives us so much hope for what humanity can become. Her appearance in Mexico is another time she reminds us that when we turn to her, we turn to her son. In these busy days, it will help us all a great deal to have someone guide us on our journey. I can think of no one better than the mother of our Savior. Let us spend a little more time this week with Mary so we can properly prepare for her Son's coming into the world.

Hay mucho por hacer en la temporada de Adviento en preparación para Navidad. Hay compras y la decoración que se tiene que hacer. Yo soy terrible envolviendo regalos así que compro muchas tarjetas para todos. También hay los preparativos espirituales que necesitamos. En estos primeros días de Adviento, tomémonos unos momentos para considerar como vamos hacer esto. Una manera de que nos podemos preparar espiritualmente es reflexionando sobre los que hacen la Navidad posible. La primera persona que me viene a mente es nuestra Santísima Madre. Esta semana, tenemos dos oportunidades para reflexionar sobre esta increíble mujer. La primera es el Lunes ya que la fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción cae en Domingo este año, fue transferido al lunes. La segunda es el Jueves cuando celebremos la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Ambos días de fiesta nos enseñan el poder que Maria tiene en nuestras vidas. También nos enseña cuanto ella quiere ser parte de nuestras vidas. Su Inmaculada Concepción nos da tanta esperanza sobre lo que la humanidad puede llegar a ser. Su aparición en México es otro momento que nos recuerda que cuando acudimos a ella, acudimos a su hijo. En estos días tan ocupados, nos va ayudar mucho a todos tener a alguien que nos guíe. No puedo pensar en alguien mejor que la madre de nuestro Salvador. Tomemos un poquito más de tiempo esta semana con Maria para prepararse apropiadamente para la llegada de su hijo a este mundo.

### Second Sunday of Advent

#### **Reading I: Baruch 5: 1-9**

The setting here is the ceremony whereby Jerusalem mourns her lost children while in exile. The speaker offers hope and comfort because they are still the Lord's people. He will lead them in joy out of their captivity.

#### **Reading II: Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11**

The community has a share in the joy of the gospel through their conversion, and their support of the Apostle. They have good standing with the Lord that comes through Christ.

#### **Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6**

The story of the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry as prophet opens with a list of the major rulers at the time. St. Luke uses this to illustrate that John's announcement of the Messiah will have worldwide impact.

# SFA Seniors

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

December 17 - Christmas Show from School Students

*Please do not park in our Lower Parking Lot behind the School. Parking is available on Buttonwood Street and in our Upper Lot.*

### ANATOMY OF AN ADVENT WREATH



Candles, because Jesus is the Light of the World, the Light in the darkness of winter

Purple for royalty, anticipation, repentance

Pointy leaves to remind us of the crown of thorns

Red holly for the blood of Christ

Pink for Joy

Evergreen, a plant that lives through the winter when all else dies, because God's love is everlasting @LittleWayChapel


Arranged in a circle because like a circle, God has no beginning or end

**Busy at PREP! Our PREP Students made their own Advent Wreaths in class!**



Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255


Crisis Lifeline 988



## Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Thursday, December 12, 2024  
St. Francis of Assisi Church  
600 Hamilton St.  
Norristown, PA 19401

**4:30 AM – LAS MAÑANITAS**  
**7:30 AM – ADORATION**  
**8:30 AM – HOLY MASS**  
**CELEBRATED BY REV. RICHARD J. SMITH**



## CHURCH CLEANERS

We are looking for volunteers to assist with gently cleaning our Church. We will be meeting every other Wednesday at 8:30AM to clean. If you are interested in helping, simply show up!

Winter 2024 cleaning dates:

December 18<sup>th</sup>

THANK YOU!





# SCHOOL NEWS

## Lt. Patty Simons Food Drive

The students of Saint Francis of Assisi School will be participating in the **Lt. Patty Simons Food Drive**. Please send in needed supplies to help the needy families in the Norristown area. Please give what you can in support of this worthy cause.

Now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, the Law Enforcement Food Drive was dedicated in 2007 to the memory of Norristown Police Officer Lt. Patty Simons who was an active and vocal member of the food drive committee since its inception. Patty was also a member of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish. Some of her family members are still parish members.

More than a dozen local law enforcement agencies as well as area businesses will collect over nine tons of food which will be used to supply Catholic Social Services in Norristown, Eagleville Elementary School Snack Backpack Program, Patrician Society in Norristown, The Salvation Army Norristown Corps and Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard in Ambler with food for use throughout next year.

Here is a list of non-perishable items that are requested by the committee: Boxes of pasta, canned soup, cereal, fruit, rice, & vegetables. Please check expiration dates before sending items into school. Donations can be brought into school any time between now and Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**THANK YOU!**



## Religious Education

Welcome to the Blessed Carlo Acutis Religious Education Page at Saint Francis of Assisi! Here, you will find important information, updates, and dates to know!

Remember to get your Mass Attendance Sheets stamped **every Sunday!!**

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¡Recuerde sellar sus Hojas de Asistencia a Misa todos los domingos!

## Kids Corner

### Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

M	M	J	L	R	L	P	S	L	T
P	M	U	B	O	L	V	I	G	I
D	N	A	I	S	M	I	O	T	L
E	O	N	S	A	E	R	P	S	M
C	N	E	H	S	X	G	E	D	A
E	L	J	O	D	I	E	G	O	X
M	X	J	P	U	C	N	N	C	L
B	A	L	C	R	O	X	V	C	J
E	G	U	A	D	A	L	U	P	E
R	U	S	E	Ñ	O	R	A	D	I

Guadalupe December Bishop Mexico  
Señora Virgen Diego Rosas  
Tilma Juan

## Prayer to St. Michael The Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God,

thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

*Amen.*

## Oración a San Miguel Arcángel

San Miguel Arcángel, defiéndenos en la batalla. Sé nuestra protección contra la maldad y las asechanzas del diablo;

Que Dios lo reprenda, te lo pedimos humildemente; y haz tú, oh Príncipe de las Huestes Celestiales, con el poder de Dios, arrojar al infierno a Satanás y a todos los espíritus malignos, que merodean por el mundo, buscando la ruina de las almas.

*Amén.*



National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303

## 2025 MASS BOOK

The 2024 Mass Book is **FULL**. The 2025 Book opened on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11**. When the 2025 Book opens, there will be a limit of 8 Masses per household, including a maximum of two (2) Sundays/Saturday Vigils. As always, Masses **MUST** be ordered via phone or email **ONLY**. **PLEASE do not come to the Parish Office to order Mass Intentions.**

## **SFA 2024 Giving Tree** *A Celebration of Parish Giving*

How to give: Pick an organization from the two below and purchase a gift card from their list. If you are purchasing a gift card - **mark the card with the name of the organization and the amount** (\$10, \$25, etc.) and drop the card into the collection basket, or drop them off at the Parish Center.

**Please DO NOT leave Gift Cards under the trees!**

### Patrician Society

Gas gift cards - Royal Farms and Wawa  
Gift Cards for Target, Walmart, Acme, Weis, Grocery Outlet, Giant

### Martha's Choice Marketplace (Catholic Social Services)

\$25 Gift cards to:  
Walmart; Target; Amazon

**Gift Cards MUST be dropped off no later than Sunday, December 22nd, 2024.**

Catholic Social Services 267-331-2490

# Thank you for your continuing prayers.

## Prayers for Those Serving our Country

**U.S. Army** - CPT Nathan Bevans

**U.S. Army** - PVT 2<sup>nd</sup> Cl. Matthew Hahn

**U.S. Army** - MAJ John Orendorff

**U.S. Army** - SSGT Eric D. Pearson

**U.S. Army** - SGT James Stephenson

**U.S. Army** - LTC Ramon A. Ramos

**U.S. Navy** - PO1 Evan Slizofski

**U.S. Navy** - PO2 Jonathan Slizofski

**U.S.A.F.** - SSG Jonathan D. Pearson

**U.S.A.F.** - SSGT Katlyn Pearson

**U.S.A.F.** - SrA Joseph M. Stasik

**Army Nat. Guard** - SPC Nathan Enslin

**Army Nat. Guard** - Col Steven Zahuranec

## Prayers for the Sick

Theresa Akers, Robin Caza, Maria Giovinco, Michele Hamilton, Patty Iaccarino, Anne Korkus, Lois Leggerie, Edward Mateja, Joe McDonald, Constance Monastero, Sandy Orth, Kathleen Prinivalli, Dolores Salvo, Veronica Severino, Christina Shea, Anthony Tarmin, James Tuggle, Michele Tuggle, Olivia Tuturice, Brandon Washinko, Peter Wiggins, Mai Wise, Charles Yura, All Those Homebound, & All Our Deceased.

*Please call the Parish Office to give us your name or the name of a loved one to be added to the prayer list. When your loved one recovers, please notify the Parish Office so we can offer a prayer of thanks!*

## 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:**

*To request any above memorials, please contact Miss Kibler in the Parish Center at 610-272-0402.*

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

## "THE CHOSEN" SHOWINGS

The Chosen is shown on Wednesday Nights in the Parish Center (formerly the Meetinghouse) at 6:30 PM, followed by a discussion. This is a free event, all are welcome to attend! ***This will take the place of the Women's Bible Study.***

## **DEVOTIONS at ST. FRANCIS**

**The Rosary** is recited daily before the 8:30AM Mass

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** - Tuesdays after Mass

**Sacred Heart Devotions** - Fridays after Mass

**Miraculous Medal Novena** - Saturdays after 8:30AM Mass

**Visits to the Blessed Sacrament** - Monday-Friday from 9AM - 6PM in the Chapel. Stop by the Parish Center for the keypad code.

**24 HOUR CONFIDENTIAL PREGNANCY HOTLINE 610-626-4006**