



# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 22, 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

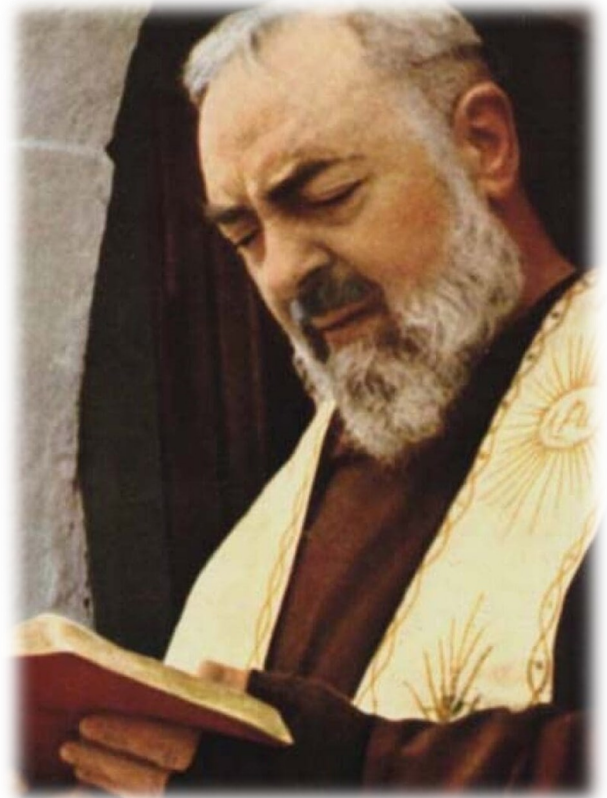
**Saturday:** 8:30AM & 5:30PM (Vigil)

## 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, September 22, 2024

Wis 2:12, 17-20; Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6 and 8;  
Jas 3:16-4:3; Mk 9:30-37

## Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Monday, September 23

Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

8:30 Anne Zurek by David & Anita DiLucia

#### Tuesday, September 24

Ordinary Weekday

8:30 Ofc. Arthur R. Erle by The Kibler Family

#### Wednesday, September 25

Ordinary Weekday

No Mass

#### Thursday, September 26

Memorial of Sts. Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs

8:30 Anne Piantone by Deacon Dave & Sue Matour

#### Friday, September 27

Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul, Priest

8:30 Liam Hurd (Liv.) by Family

#### Saturday, September 28

Memorial of St. Wenceslaus, Martyr

Memorial of St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, Martyrs

8:30 Anne Zurek by Jim Smith

5:30 All First Responders

#### Sunday, September 29

7:00 Attilio & Mary DiLucia by David & Anita DiLucia

9:00 Pro Populo

11:30 Gary Buchler by David & Anita DiLucia

### COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

#### SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

Sunday	\$6,966
E-Giving	\$1,774

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](https://sfanorristown.com/donate) to learn more.

### 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

#### TUESDAY / MARTES

7:00 PM - RCIA (PC)

#### WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

8:30 AM - Church Cleaners (C)

6:00 PM - Benediction

6:30 PM - The Chosen (PC)

7:00 PM - Men's Bible Study (PC)

#### FRIDAY / VIERNES

6:00 PM - Benediction

#### SUNDAY / SABADO

10:00 AM - PREP (S)

(C) Church (PC) Parish Center (R) Rectory (S) School
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### LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Sept. 28 - 5:30PM

L - J. McLaughlin

EM - M. Anders,  
K. Bradbury

Sept. 29 - 9AM

L - D. Silva,

E. Muñoz

Sept. 29 - 7AM

L - L. Steppe

EM - C. Zurek,  
J. Fitzpatrick

Sept. 29 - 11:30AM

L - O. Russo

EM - T. Greco,  
C. Hurd

SUNDAY, September 22, 2024

## Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

Many of our successes come from being first. Whether it is academic, professional or in sports, we are deemed successful if we are the first. Never would we look at someone who had lost and think they were someone of note. Yet, Jesus is telling us today that if we want to be successful, if we want to be great, then we must be last. This goes against everything that we have been raised to believe. Jesus is pointing out to us today that greatness in the Kingdom of God comes from humility. We win when we see others around us succeed. To do this, Jesus points to a child for us to imitate. Now this is shocking because at the time of Jesus, a child had no voice and very few people would look to a child as an example for anything. So what should we emulate? A child is successful when they learn something new. Most of their time is learning and asking questions. For some reason, we stop asking and learning. I have no idea why since none of us possess the full knowledge of human existence. We should never stop asking questions nor should we hinder others from asking them as well. We must humble ourselves to realize that we do not know it all and we have so much more to learn. So let us this week ask questions, admit we do not know it all, so that we can be more successful in the Kingdom of God.

Muchos de nuestros éxitos provienen de ser los primeros. Ya sea académico, profesional o deportivo, se nos considera exitosos si somos los primeros. Nunca veríamos a alguien que había perdido y pensaríamos que era alguien destacado. Sin embargo, Jesús nos está diciendo hoy que si queremos tener éxito, si queremos ser grandes, entonces debemos ser los últimos. Esto va en contra de todo lo que nos han enseñado a creer. Jesús nos está señalando hoy que la grandeza en el Reino de Dios proviene de la humildad. Ganamos cuando vemos que otros a nuestro alrededor triunfan. Para ello, Jesús nos señala un niño para que imitemos. Ahora bien, esto es impactante porque en la época de Jesús, un niño no tenía voz y muy pocas personas consideran a un niño como un ejemplo de algo. Entonces, ¿qué deberíamos emular? Un niño tiene éxito cuando aprende algo nuevo. La mayor parte de su tiempo está aprendiendo y haciendo preguntas. Por alguna razón, dejamos de preguntar y aprender. No tengo idea de por qué, ya que ninguno de nosotros posee el conocimiento completo de la existencia humana. Nunca debemos dejar de hacer preguntas ni debemos impedir que otros también las hagan. Debemos humillarnos para darnos cuenta de que no lo sabemos todo y que tenemos mucho más que aprender. Así que esta semana hagamos preguntas y admitamos que no lo sabemos todo, para que podamos tener más éxito en el Reino de Dios.

*Twenty-Fifth  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time*

**Reading I: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20**

The wicked, in this case apostate Jews, want to make power the norm of goodness. This to allow them to persecute the just man, because his lifestyle is a silent reproach to theirs.

**Reading II: James 3: 16 -4:3**

The author provides the qualities of true wisdom, and then the causes of war and strife among peoples.

**Gospel: Mark 9: 30-37**

Jesus foretells His coming passion and death. Meanwhile His disciples discuss a completely unrelated matter that needs Jesus' input.

# The CHOSEN watch | discuss | reflect | rejoice



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.***

## MASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

As you all may know, Father Smith has been mentioning that we will need to make some adjustments to the Mass Schedule. Father Smith is the *only priest* here at St. Francis, and as such, we unfortunately need to cut back on the amount of Masses we have here.

***As of Sunday, September 8, 2024, the new Mass Changes are as follows:***

1. The 9:00AM Mass will now be *fully* in Spanish. We will no longer have the 1 PM bi-monthly Spanish Mass.
2. The 11:00AM Mass will be moved to 11:30AM.
3. We will ***no longer*** be offering the 5:30PM Mass on Sunday night.
4. The 5:30PM Vigil Mass on Saturday night will **REMAIN THE SAME.**

## 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!**

*Fall 2024 cleaning dates:*

*September 25<sup>th</sup>*

*October 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup>*

*November 13<sup>th</sup>*

**THANK YOU!**

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

## Craft Group

Next Meeting: Sunday, September 29, 2024  
12:30PM in the Parish Center

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas bazaar committee is seeking volunteers to help plan for the 2024 Bazaar which will be held December 7. For table information & space availability, contact Jane Caruso at 610-539-1681. To volunteer your time in any way, please email [admin@sfanorristown.com](mailto:admin@sfanorristown.com) or call the Parish Center.

## Prayer Shawl Group

first Wednesday of the month | 1 PM  
We meet in the Parish Center. 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*



# SCHOOL NEWS

## SFA CARES Program

Saint Francis of Assisi School is looking for qualified individuals to help with the CARES After School Program for the 2024-2025 School year. Part-time positions are available Monday through Friday from 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM. Applicants must possess the following:

- Minimum of a High School Diploma
- Minimum of 2 years working with children
- Required clearances (Child Abuse, PA State Criminal Record, & FBI Fingerprint)
- *If hired, the applicant will have to take the Protecting God's Children class as well as complete Mandated Reporter Training & Act 126 Training.*

Assistance can be provided in obtaining necessary clearances.

Please contact Miss Bridget M. Tigue, Principal, at [btigue@sfacatholic.org](mailto:btigue@sfacatholic.org) or you may contact the Main Office at school 610-272-0501.



## 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!

PREP began **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024.**

As a reminder, if you have not already done so, please submit a copy of your child's Baptism & Communion Certificates.

Mass Attendance forms began Sunday, September 15. They are available online, and will be distributed to all students during PREP classes. Remember to come up after Mass to get a stamp!!

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El programa PREP comenzó el **DOMINGO, 8 DE SEPTIEMBRE, 2024.** Como

recordatorio, si aún no lo han hecho, por favor proporcione una copia del certificado de Bautizo y Comunion de su hijo.

Las hojas de asistencia a Misa empiezan este Domingo, 15 de Septiembre. Están disponibles en línea y también serán distribuidas a todos los estudiantes durante la clase de PREP. ¡¡Recuerden pasar al frente después de Misa para sellarlo!!



## 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.*

## PREP HELP NEEDED

We are in need of Catechists & PREP Volunteers for  
this coming PREP year!! We are in search of people  
willing to teach Sunday morning classes or be  
classroom aides for our children! For more  
information or to volunteer, please contact Father  
Smith at the Parish Center!!

## NEW LOCATION

**WE'VE MOVED!** Our new parish  
offices are in the new Parish  
Center, located at 601  
Buttonwood Street. This is the  
former Convent/Meetinghouse.  
Please come to the Buttonwood  
Street door. **ALL CHURCH AND  
PARISH BUSINESS WILL BE  
CONDUCTED FROM THIS  
ADDRESS.** This includes offices for  
Religious Education, the Pastor,  
and all other church matters. For  
any questions about this, call  
610-272-0402 or email  
admin@sfanorristown.com

## FIRST RESPONDERS MASS

On Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be  
having a Mass in honor of *all* First  
Responders. This Mass will be the 5:30PM  
Vigil Mass. If you or someone you know is a  
First Responder (Police Officer, Firefighter,  
EMT, Military, etc.), we ask you attend in  
uniform if possible, so we can acknowledge  
your sacrifice. Please invite all those you  
know to attend this service - all are welcome!  
Father Smith will be available to bless any  
squad/emergency vehicles after Mass.

*Thank you for your service!*

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303

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

Robin Caza, Maria Giovinco, Michele Hamilton, Patty Iaccarino, Lois Leggerie, Edward Mateja, Joe McDonald, Constance Monastero, Sandy Orth, Kathleen Prinzivalli, 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:**

Sydney Ritter (Salvatore Ritrovato & Family)

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



## 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.

## SFA Pro Life

Our Pro-Life group meets on the First Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM in the Parish Center. 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](mailto:sfapro lifegroup@gmail.com).

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