

# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

600 Hamilton Street, Norristown, PA 19401

(p) 610-272-0402 | (e) admin@sfanorristown.com

[www.sfanorristown.com](http://www.sfanorristown.com)



August 18, 2024

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

Deacon David J. Matour

Weekend Assistant: Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Doody

## **Mass Schedule:**

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

**Sunday:** 7:00AM, 9:00AM (Bilingual), 11:00AM & 5:30PM

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

**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 Office for the Chapel code]*

## **OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday-Thursday 9:30AM-4:00PM**

*(closed 12-12:30PM daily)*

**Friday 9:00AM-Noon**

## **Parish Office Staff**

**Administrative Assistant:** Miss Lauren Kibler

**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)

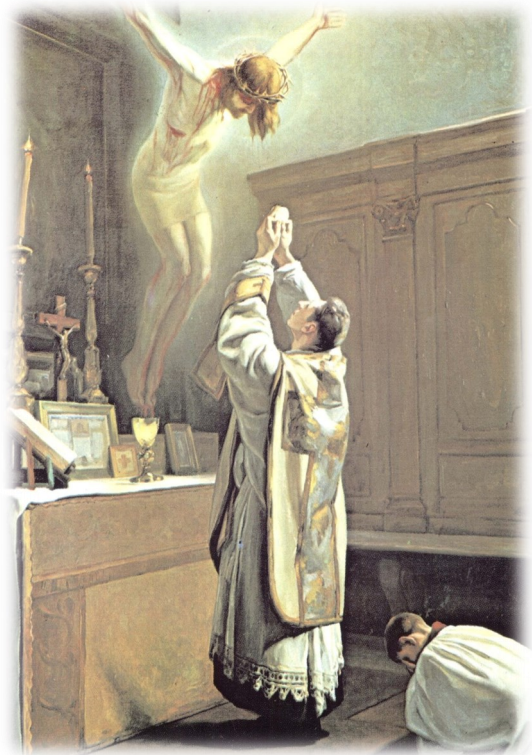
## **St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School**

601-A Buttonwood Street, Norristown

Miss Bridget Tigue, Principal

Phone: (610) 272-0501

Website: [www.sfacatholic.org](http://www.sfacatholic.org)



**SUNDAY, August 18, 2024**

Prv 9:1-6; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7;

Eph 5:15-20; Jn 6:51-58

# Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## MONDAY, AUGUST 19

*Ordinary Weekday*

8:30AM Jack Smith by Rev. Richard Smith

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

*Memorial of St. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor*

8:30AM Vincent Joseph Bransfield by Paul Bransfield

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

*Memorial of St. Pius X, Pope*

No Mass

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

*The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:30AM Vincent Joseph Bransfield by Deacon Dave &

Sue Matour

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

*Memorial of St. Rose of Lima, Virgin*

8:30AM Joseph Shenosky by Deacon Dave & Sue Matour

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

*Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle*

8:30AM Deceased Parishioners

5:30PM Joseph Bondi by Family

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

7:00AM Seminarians of St. Charles Seminary

9:00AM Pro Populo

11:00AM Edward O'Brien by Margaret O'Brien & Family

5:30PM Deceased Priests of the Parish

## LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 - 5:30PM

L - K. Bradbury

EM - S. Robins

MJ Bondi

Aug. 25 - 11AM

L - O. Russo

EM - K. McTamney,

T. Greco

Aug. 25 - 7AM

L - R. Gelet

EM - C. Zurek,

BJ Mumford

Aug. 25 - 5:30PM

L - B. Collins

EM - A. Collins

Aug. 25 - 9AM

L - T. Leone

EM - J. Fitzpatrick

## 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 Benediction

### WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

6:00 Benediction

6:30 The Chosen (MH)

7:00 Men's Bible Study (MH)

### THURSDAY / JUEVES

7:00 Marriage Blessing Meeting (MH)

### FRIDAY / VIERNES

6:00 Benediction

7:00 Marriage Blessing Meeting (MH)

(C) Church

(MH) Meeting House

(R) Rectory

(S) School

## PRAYER LIST

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:**

24 Hour Confidential Pregnancy Hotline 610-626-4006

**SUNDAY, August 18, 2024**

**Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith**

As we continue to hear from the Bread of Life discourse in John’s Gospel, we hear Jesus explain the power found in the Bread of Life. It won’t just simply make us better people or help us to make better decisions in life. As Jesus tells us, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” It is in the great sacrament of the Eucharist that we are made one with Christ. Now, we hear this description in the other sacraments as well but have you ever wondered how Baptism or Confirmation unites us to Christ? This is how. Every sacrament comes from the Eucharist.

I want to invite you to take some time and look at the window right above the Baptistry in the Church. You will notice that it is Jesus, the High Priest, celebrating mass. He is holding the Eucharist, the host and the chalice. There is a unique feature in the window. You will see three red lines coming from the chalice and going into the main body of the window. These lines lead to scenes of all the Sacraments being celebrated. Without the Eucharist, our entire Sacramental life would not exist. When we think of this, calling the Eucharist the Bread of Life becomes even more powerful. It leads me to ask the question, how could you not believe in the Eucharist? What is that last third of Sunday Mass attending Catholics missing and how can we help them see it? Let us start asking that question of ourselves. Not just simply how can we help others believe in the True Presence in the Eucharist, but how can we help others accept the life that comes from the Eucharist. Let us help each other live in the life that Jesus offers all of us.

A medida que continuamos escuchando el discurso del Pan de Vida en el evangelio de Juan, escuchamos a Jesus explicarnos el poder que se encuentra en el Pan de Vida. No solo nos hará mejores personas o nos ayudará a tomar mejores decisiones en la vida. Como Jesus nos dice, “El que come mi carne y bebe mi sangre permanece en mí y yo en él”. Es en el gran sacramento de la Eucaristía que somos hechos solo uno con Cristo. Ahora, hemos escuchado esta descripción de otros sacramentos también pero alguna vez te has preguntado, ¿cómo el Bautismo y la Confirmación nos une a Cristo? Así es como. Cada sacramento viene de la Eucaristía.

Los quiero invitar a cada uno de ustedes a que se tomen el tiempo y miren a la ventana justo encima del Baptisterio en la Iglesia. Van a notar que es Jesus, el Sumo Sacerdote, celebrando la misa. Él sostiene la Eucaristía, la hostia y el cáliz. Hay una característica única en la ventana. Verás tres líneas rojas que salen del cáliz y entran al centro principal de la ventana. Estas líneas conducen a escenas de celebración de todos los sacramentos. Sin la Eucaristía, nuestra vida entera sacramental no existiría. Cuando pensamos en esto, el llamado de la Eucaristía el Pan de Vida se vuelve aún más poderoso. Me lleva hacerles esta pregunta, ¿cómo no creer en la Eucaristía? ¿Qué es lo que les falta a ese tercio de católicos que asisten a Misa del domingo y cómo podemos ayudarles a verlo? Empecemos a hacernos esa pregunta a nosotros mismos. No solo cómo podemos ayudar a otros a creer en la verdadera presencia en la Eucaristía, sino cómo podemos ayudar a otros a aceptar la vida que proviene de la Eucaristía. Ayudémonos unos a otros a vivir en la vida que Jesús nos ofrece a todos.

*Twentieth  
Sunday in  
Ordinary  
Time*

**Reading I: Proverbs 9:1-6**

The “house” mentioned is the school of Wisdom. The “banquet” is her teaching. She invites “simple and humble” people to enjoy it.

**Reading II: Ephesians 6: 15-20**

In communion with the Lord, we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Our daily lives are meant to reflect this truth.

**Gospel: John 6: 51-58**

Jesus clearly equates eating His flesh and drinking His blood as the only true access to salvation.

# The CHOSEN watch | discuss | reflect | rejoice



The Chosen is shown on Wednesday Nights in the Meetinghouse (Parish Center) 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. **Beginning on 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 1PM 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.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

## MARRIAGE BLESSING MEETING

Are you married civilly but not in the Catholic Church? Do you want to have your marriage blessed? Come to our marriage blessing meeting nights! Here you can meet with Fr. Smith to learn about how to get your marriage blessed in the Church! August 22 & 23 at 7 PM in the Meetinghouse. To sign up, call the Rectory at 610-272-0402, email [sfa600prep@gmail.com](mailto:sfa600prep@gmail.com) or sign up on the sheets in the back of the Church!

¿Estás casado por el civil pero no por la iglesia? ¿Te gustaría que tu matrimonio fuera bendecido? ¡Ven a nuestras reuniones de bendición matrimonial! El 22 y 23 de Agosto a las 7:00 pm en la Casa de Reuniones. Para inscribirte, llama a la Rectoría al 610-272-0402, mandanos un correo electrónico a [sfa600prep@gmail.com](mailto:sfa600prep@gmail.com) o inscríbete en las hojas que están en la parte de atrás de la Iglesia!

## 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 Rectory for the keypad code.*



# SCHOOL NEWS

## End of Year Awards

On Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, we celebrated student achievements at our End of Year Awards Assembly for 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> Grades in the Gym. We are pleased to announce the following Award Winners:

### Highest Academic Average Award:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Summer Matthews
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Hannah Martinez Solano
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Gisele Duversaint
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Bernardo Orea Castro

### Drug Awareness Essay Contest

#### 1st Place Southeast District:

Lilyana Martinez-Bell

### Perfect Attendance

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - John Hughes Jr.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Bradly Moreno-Alvarez
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Ashley Diaz



## 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!

**REGISTRATION FOR PREP/CCD IS NOW CLOSED. LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Please keep an eye on the website and bulletin for updates about when classes will start, as well as important meetings.

- There will be a parent meeting on **Thursday, September 5 at 7 PM** in the Church.

- If you haven't already, please bring a copy of your child's Baptism and First Communion certificates to the Rectory.

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**LAS REGISTRACIONES PARA PREP/CCD HAN CERRADO, NO SE ACEPTARAN REGISTRACIONES TARDE.**

Esté atento al sitio web y al boletín para obtener actualizaciones sobre cuándo comenzarán las clases, así como reuniones importantes.

- Habrá una junta para los padres el **Jueves, Septiembre 5 a las 7PM** en la iglesia.

- Si aún no lo ha hecho, por favor pase a la Rectoría a dejar una copia del certificado de Bautizo y Primera Comunión.

**PRAYER TO SAINT 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.*

**COLLECTION**

**AUGUST 11, 2024**

Sunday \$6,361

E-Giving \$1,840

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.

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303

**Saint of the Week:  
Saint Bartholomew**

Feast Day: August 24

St. Bartholomew was born in the 1st Century in Cana, in the Roman Empire. Not much is documented about his early life, other than that he was one of the Apostles. After the Ascension, Bartholomew went to India as a missionary, where he left behind a copy of the Gospel of Matthew.

*Did you know... St. Bartholomew is the Patron Saint of merchants, bookbinders, neurological and skin diseases, and shoemakers?*

After India, tradition believes that Bartholomew served as a missionary in Mesopotamia, Ethiopia, and Parthia, a historical region in northern Iran. Along with his fellow Apostle St. Jude (Thaddeus), Bartholomew is believed to have brought Christianity to Armenia in the 1st Century. It is here that it is believed Bartholomew was Martyred, although there are a few different variations of his death.

*Did you know... most scholars today believe that Bartholomew is the same person as Nathanael, who is mentioned in the Gospel of John, Chapters 1 and 21?*

**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 either the Sunday morning or Tuesday evening classes for our children! For more information or to volunteer, please contact Father Smith at the Rectory!!***



Catholic Social Services 267-331-2490

# Pray 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*

## RECTORY CLOSING

As you may have heard Father Smith mention at Mass, the Rectory Office will be **CLOSED** for the final week of August. This is the week of August 26 - August 30. We are moving our offices from the Rectory to the former convent, which will now be called the Parish Center. For those unfamiliar, this building is located at 601 Buttonwood Street, directly next to the school. After the move, **ALL PARISH/CHURCH BUSINESS WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM THE PARISH CENTER.** If you have any questions regarding the closure or the move, please contact us.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas bazaar committee is seeking volunteers to help plan for the 2024 Bazaar which will be held December 7. Our next meeting will be August 29 at 6:30pm in the meetinghouse. All are welcome!

## 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!

*Summer 2024 cleaning dates:*

*August 28<sup>th</sup>*

THANK YOU!

## SFA Pro Life

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