

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

For today in the city of
David a savior has been
born for you
who is

MESSIAH and LORD.

Luke 2:11

Porque hoy os ha nacido en
la ciudad de David un
salvador
que es el

MESÍAS y el SEÑOR.

Lucas 2:11



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
601 Buttonwood St.
Norristown, PA 19401

Rev. Richard J. Smith, M.Div. *Pastor*
Deacon David Matour, *Permanent Deacon*
610-272-0402

SUNDAY, December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;
 Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 23

Advent Weekday

8:30 Carmella & Pasqual Santangelo by Family

Tuesday, December 24

Advent Weekday

8:30 Napoleon & Rose Cherelli by Mark Cherelli

4:00 Pro Populo

7:00 Pro Populo

Wednesday, December 25

The Nativity of The Lord

7:00 Pro Populo

9:00 Pro Populo (Spanish)

11:30 Pro Populo

Thursday, December 26

Feast of St. Stephen, The First Martyr

8:30 Rose Grace Cherelli & Family by Mark Cherelli

Friday, December 27

Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:30 Napoleon L. Cherelli & Family by Mark Cherelli

Saturday, December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:30 The DeMedio Family (living)

5:30 Pro Populo

Sunday, December 29

7:00 Dorothea Smith by Rev. Richard Smith

9:00 John & Katherine McNamara by Lee McNamara

11:30 Walter Margavich by Wife & Children



God of love,
 You sent Your Son, Jesus,
 to shine bright like the sun,
 lighting the way for all
 who walk in darkness.
 Let Your love shine
 like a light to all people,
 and may the light of Your love
 always shine in our hearts.
 Let Your love transform us
 and inspire us to love more deeply.
 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

RECTORY CLOSED

WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

RECTORY CLOSED

NO ADORATION

FRIDAY / VIERNES

NO ADORATION

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

LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Dec. 28 - 5:30PM

L - C. Hurd

EM - K. Bradbury,
 S. Robins

Dec. 29 - 9AM

L -

EM -

Dec. 29 - 7AM

L - C. Zurek

EM - T. Barbato
 J. Fitzpatrick

Dec. 29 - 11:30AM

L - R. Lattanze

EM - M. Palmore,
 S. Matour



SUNDAY, December 22, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

The fourth week of Advent is a short one. A quick few days and we are celebrating Christmas. The Church looks beautiful for this day and there is a sense of excitement in the air. You will see a smile on my face for many different reasons these days. I've been thinking about how different we celebrate Christmas today than the first one was celebrated. Everyone around the world knows what we celebrate on the twenty fifth of December. Only a small handful of people knew what was going on that night in Bethlehem. We use all these lights and decorations to honor the day. There were probably only a few lamps that the shepherds carried and one or two hanging in the stable for the new Holy Family. Gifts will be exchanged this day in our homes while the only gift that day given was the birth of a child.

You see, all the work and décor we have put into this day, let us not forget how simple we first were given such a great gift. Yes, over the years we have learned to give even more appreciation for God coming into the world as we should. Never forget how humbly it all began. There was no tree or lights. There were no trays of cookies and only one song being sung by the choir of angels. The celebration of Christmas is a beautiful time and can be celebrated in the humblest of ways. Let us, in these days of Christmas, humble our lives so we can truly celebrate the birth of the King of Kings.

La cuarta semana de Adviento es una corta. Unos cuantos días rápidos y estaremos celebrando la Navidad. La Iglesia se ve hermosa este día y hay una sensación de emoción en el aire. Verán una sonrisa en mi cara por diferentes razones durante estos días. He estado pensando en qué tan diferente celebramos la Navidad hoy en día que cuando se celebró por primera vez. Todos alrededor del mundo saben que celebramos el veinticinco de Diciembre. Solo unas cuantas personas sabían lo que estaba pasando esa noche en Belén. Usamos todas estas luces y decoraciones para honrar ese día. De seguro había solo unas cuantas lámparas que llevaban los pastores y una o dos colgadas en el pesebre para la Santa Familia. Regalos van a ser intercambiados en ese día en nuestros hogares mientras que el único regalo dado ese día fue el nacimiento de un niño.

Ven, todo el trabajo y decoraciones que hemos puesto en este día, no nos olvidemos de cómo tan simplemente fuimos dados tan grande regalo. Si, a lo largo de los años hemos aprendido a darle aún más aprecio a Dios viniendo a este mundo, como deberíamos. Nunca olviden que tan humilde todo empezó. No había árbol ni luces. No había bandejas de galletas y solo una canción era cantada por el coro de los ángeles. La celebración de Navidad es un tiempo hermoso y puede ser celebrado de las maneras más humildes. Dejemos, en estos días de Navidad, humildemos nuestras vidas para que podamos verdaderamente celebrar el nacimiento del Rey de Reyes.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Micah 5: 1-4a

David, son of Jesse, will be the future ruler of Israel. He will be the long-awaited Messiah, and he will bring peace.

Reading II: Hebrews 10: 5-10

God prefers obedience to His commands to sacrifice. It is a simple statement about our priorities as well.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Luke brings together the 2 mothers-to-be so that both might praise God. Elizabeth's child will be the precursor for Mary's Child.

SFA Seniors

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

THERE ARE NO MEETINGS IN JANUARY. WE WILL RESUME MEETING ON FEBRUARY 4.

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



MAILING ADDRESS

This is a reminder that the Parish Offices have **moved**. We are no longer located in the Rectory. All business is conducted from the Parish Center, located at 601 Buttonwood Street. This building is the former Convent, next to the School. All mail should be addressed to/mailed to this address, and anything being dropped off should be done so at the mailbox at the Parish Center. The mailing address for the Parish Center is: **601 Buttonwood Street, Norristown, PA 19401.** If you have any questions about this, feel free to call the office.

CONGRATULATIONS

A **huge** congratulations to SFA Alum and current PJP11 senior Esteban Machorro Espinoza for his acceptance to the University of Pennsylvania on a **full, four-year scholarship** through the Questbridge National Match Scholarship!! We are all so proud of you, Esteban!

CANDLES IN CHURCH

This is a reminder that we are selling candles for church before/after Masses. The candles are still \$3. If you would like to volunteer to help with selling candles, please contact the Parish Center via email at admin@sfanorristown.com or by phone at 610-272-0402.

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our 2024 Christmas Bazaar was a success! Thank you so much to all who participated, including:

- Our Christmas Bazaar Committee, led by Bridget Msciz;
- Sandy Pascavage;
- All of our vendors;
- Our students, for helping to set up and break down the Bazaar; &
- Santa, for taking time out of his busy Christmas Schedule to stop by for pictures!

If you have photos from the Bazaar that you would like to share, please email them to admin@sfanorristown.com!

Norristown Code Blue

Recently, temperatures in Norristown & Montgomery County have dropped below freezing, and a Code Blue has been announced.

When a Code Blue is declared, multiple County agencies and private health / social organizations offer expanded services for those without adequate shelter, including the chronically homeless and homeless families with children. The goal of the Code Blue plan is to provide temporary shelter, food, and clothing to those in need.

What To Do In "Code Blue" Conditions

- If you or someone you know needs help with temporary shelter from the cold weather or a longer-term housing issue, call the Your Way Home Call Center at 610-278-3522.
- If you see someone experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call 9-1-1.
- For 24/7 information about crisis resources for housing, utilities, food resources, and more, call 2-1-1.
- Check on elderly friends and neighbors frequently to ensure that their homes are adequately heated.



Religious Education

Welcome to the Blessed Carlo Acutis Religious Education Corner 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!!**

There is no PREP on Sunday, December 22 or December 29.

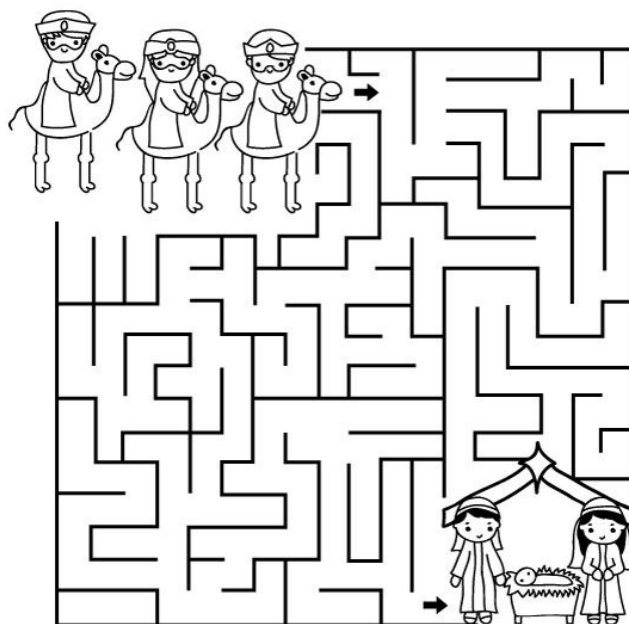
¡¡Recuerde sellar sus Hojas de Asistencia a Misa todos los Domingos!!

No hay PREP el Domingo 22 y 29 de Diciembre.



Nativity Maze

Help the Three Wise Men find the manger.



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.

Church Envelopes

We have been made aware that some
parishioners are not receiving their church
envelopes. Unfortunately, this is not something that
we have control over. These are coming from the
Post Office, and any delays or mistakes in
delivery are due to USPS. We apologize for the
inconvenience this may cause, especially during
the Christmas Season.

RCIA

**There will NOT be RCIA on December 24th
or December 31st. Thank you!**

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303



CHRISTMAS EVE

4 PM
7 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

7 AM
9 AM Misa en Español
11:30 AM

*Visit our website for more
information www.sfanorristown.com*

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation
Mass Schedule

Tues, December 31, 2024

5:30 PM
(Vigil Mass)

Wed, January 1, 2025

8:30 AM
12:15 PM



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 2nd 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 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:

All Christmas Envelopes

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



Scan the QR Code below to sign up for Constant Contact! You'll be added to our email list, where you'll receive an online version of the bulletin each week, as well as other updates about parish events and important information!



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.

"THE CHOSEN" SHOWINGS

The Chosen is shown on Wednesday Nights in the 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.*

24 HOUR CONFIDENTIAL PREGNANCY HOTLINE 610-626-4006