

Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



SUNDAY BULLETIN | January 28, 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

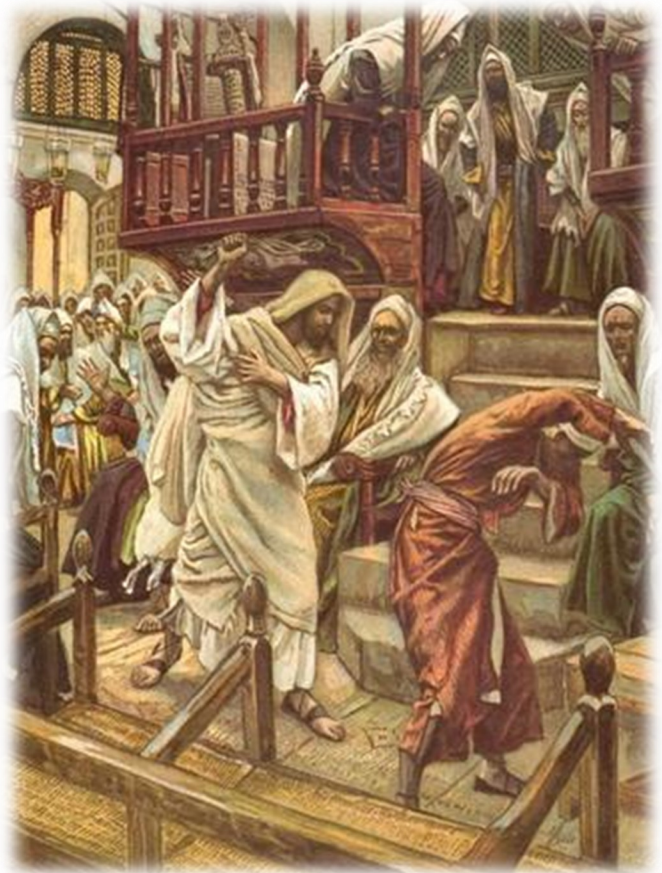
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

601-A Buttonwood Street, Norristown

Miss Bridget Tigie, Principal

Phone: (610) 272-0501

Website: www.sfacatholic.org



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

8:30 AM - Jennifer Larkin
(*Frank Panfile & Family*)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

8:30 AM - David Kirk
(*Wife Carol*)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

No Mass

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

8:30 AM - Rev. Ronald Jakows
(*Rev. Richard Smith*)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:30 AM - All Those in the SFA Memorial Society

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:30 AM - Increase in Religious Vocations
5:30 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

7:00 AM - Pro Populo
9:00 AM - Margaret Donnelly
(*Pat Fazio*)

11:00 AM - David McCabe
(*The Schonely Family*)

Spanish - 1:00 - Angel Guzman
(*The Guzman Family*)

5:30 PM - Mildred D. Moore
(*Jane & Susan Schultz*)

LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Feb. 3 - 5:30 pm

L - P. Smith

EM - M. Anders,
MJ Bondi

Feb. 4 - 11 am

L - O. Russo

EM - T. Greco,
K. McTamney

Feb. 4 - 7 am

L - C. Zurek

EM - C. DeGrazio,
J. DeGrazio

Feb. 4 - 5:30 pm

L - L. Gambone

EM - L. O'Donnell
D. Skaw

Feb. 4 - 9 am

L - K. Bradbury

EM - T. Leone,
L. Perna

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)

WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

7:00 Men's Bible Study (MH)

7:00 Women's Bible Study (MH)

SATURDAY / SÁBADO

9:00 Pro-Life Meeting (MH)

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

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Maria Hernandez Alcalá, Robin Caza, Maria Giovinco,
Michelle Hamilton, Patty Iaccarino, Lois Leggerie, Edward
Mateja, Joe McDonald, Sandy Orth, Kathleen Prinzivalli,
Christina Shea, Anthony Tarmin, James Tuggle, Michele
Tuggle, Olivia Tuturice, 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:

Michael Butler (*Diane & Ray Gillette*)

Floral Arrangement, Main Altar:

Michael Butler (*Mom & Dad*)

Floral Arrangement, Blessed Mother Altar:

Floral Arrangement, St. Joseph Altar:

This Weeks' Memorial Society Enrollees:

24 Hour Confidential Pregnancy Hotline 610-626-4006

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

There is an odd dichotomy in the scriptures. The people who should be acknowledging who Jesus is reject him all the time and those who should be rejecting Jesus point him out all the time. The people that Jesus came to save and show the love of God seem to always be confused and lack understanding while the demons that Jesus casts out know exactly who he is and acknowledge him. I've always used this as a barometer in my own life. Clearly, I can do better than a demon when recognizing Jesus in my life. So how can we go about better recognizing Christ in our lives?

It can start with how we attend Mass. It is at Mass that we encounter Christ directly in the Eucharist. By coming to Mass early and spending some extra time after Mass, we can spend more time acknowledging who Jesus is and how much He means to us. There is nothing in our day more precious and rewarding than spending time with Christ. Let us over the next few weeks work on how we attend Mass so we can better acknowledge Jesus in the world.

Hay una extraña dicotomía en las Escrituras. La gente que debería reconocer quién es Jesús lo rechaza todo el tiempo y aquellos que deberían rechazar a Jesús lo señalan todo el tiempo. Las personas que Jesús vino a salvar y mostrar el amor de Dios parecen estar siempre confundidas y carentes de comprensión, mientras que los demonios que Jesús expulsa saben exactamente quién es él y lo reconocen. Siempre he usado esto como barómetro en mi propia vida. Claramente, puedo hacerlo mejor que un demonio al reconocer a Jesús en mi vida. Entonces, ¿cómo podemos reconocer mejor a Cristo en nuestras vidas?

Esto puede comenzar con la manera en que asistimos a Misa. Es en la Misa donde encontramos a Cristo directamente en la Eucaristía. Al venir a Misa temprano y pasar más tiempo después de Misa, podemos dedicar más tiempo a reconocer quién es Jesús y cuánto significa para nosotros. No hay nada en nuestros días más precioso y gratificante que pasar tiempo con Cristo. Trabajemos durante las próximas semanas en cómo asistimos a Misa para que podamos reconocer mejor a Jesús en el mundo.

Fourth
Sunday
in
Ordinary
Time

Reading I: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

Prophets will be "raised up" as the need arises. Then the people must listen to these authentic prophets called by Yahweh to succeed Moses.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35

Paul offers clear advice to both the married and the unmarried in the community. Yet he does not impose any solution, as they strive for true "adherence to the Lord."

Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28

Mark concludes his stories of Jesus' healing with the tag that "His fame spread everywhere," even though it sometimes did so against Our Lord's will. Above all, He taught "with authority."

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.

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

COLLECTION

JANUARY 21, 2023

Sunday	\$6,030
E-Giving	\$1,690

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Reminder: The 2024 Mass Book is *open*.
Please be mindful that you are following our
updated guidelines when ordering a Mass
Card or Intention. If you are unsure about
what our guidelines are, please check our
website. ***Please remember that Mass Cards
and/or Intentions cannot be ordered in
person at the Parish Office.***

To order a Mass Card/Intention via phone,
call 610-272-0402.

To order a Mass Card/Intention via email,
email admin@sfanorristown.com.

Thank you!

RECTORY CLOSING

Please Note: The Rectory will be CLOSED
on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303

School News

St. Francis of Assisi OPEN HOUSE

When: Sunday, 1/28
9 AM - 1 PM

Where:

St. Francis of Assisi
Catholic School -
601 Buttonwood Street,
Norristown, PA 19401

This is a great time to
come tour our school
and facilities, meet our
staff and pastor, and
see why St. Francis of
Assisi is the right fit
for you and your family!

If you can't make it to
the open house, call the
Main Office to
schedule a tour!
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!

REMINDER: If you/your family attend & 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: Beginning in January, students are required to bring their Mass Attendance Sheets to Mass on Sunday to be signed by the Pastor. If you lose your sheet, they can be found on St. Francis of Assisi's website under PREP.

Make sure your child's Confirmation Sponsor is getting their Letter of Eligibility! They are due on February 4!

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

No lo olvide: a partir de enero, los estudiantes deben traer sus hojas de asistencia a misa el domingo para que las firme el párroco. Si pierde su hoja, puede encontrarla en el sitio web de San Francisco de Asís en PREP.

Asegúrese de que la Confirmación de su hijo ¡El patrocinador está recibiendo su carta de elegibilidad! ¡Vencen el 4 de febrero!

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.

January - No Meetings due to weather
February 6 - Bingo & Dessert
February 20 - Soup & Pizza Day

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

Sunday Socials

The Ladies of St. Francis invite you to our Sunday Socials, held on the first Sunday of every month after the 9 & 11 AM Masses. Join us in the Parish Meetinghouse for coffee, doughnuts, and other refreshments and get to know your fellow parishioners!

The next Sunday Socials will be on:
Sunday, February 4, 2024
Sunday, March 3, 2024

Ladies of SFA

The Ladies of Saint Francis are looking for volunteers on **Sunday, January 28th, 2024**. We are finishing up our Valentine's Day Gift Project for our homebound parishioners, and we need people to come help! Come to the Meetinghouse on 1/28 at 12 Noon if interested. Thank you!!

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:

February 7th & 21st

March 6th & 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!

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

SFA PRO-LIFE

Our Pro-Life group will be meeting on the First Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM. We will meet in the Parish Meetinghouse. Meetings will be 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 sfaprolifegroup@gmail.com.

Catholic Social Services 267-331-2490

Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center

Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center, Stone Harbor, NJ, has posted its schedule of programs for the winter and spring of 2024. For more information or to register, visit www.VMbytheSea.com.

Villa Maria by the Sea, located in Stone Harbor, New Jersey, is the retreat center of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Malvern, Pennsylvania.

CHURCH CANDLES

The cost of our candles in church continues to rise. Recently, we have noticed that people are lighting the candles in church without donating anything. We would like to remind everyone that our church candles are \$3. When you light a candle in church, **please place \$3 per candle in one of the donation boxes in the church.**

Please do not light candles without donating money. Thank you.

PARISH ENVELOPES



If you have not recently received your parish envelopes, *please contact the Rectory*. We can confirm that the mailing address we have on file is correct. Also, if you have **MOVED**, please contact the Rectory so we can update your address. Thank you!

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.



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL ALL-CLASS REUNION

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

If you were unable to make our first meetings, that's ok!! Please keep an eye out for more information as we continue to prepare for this event! **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!!!**

MASS BOOK

The 2024 Mass Book is not filling up as quickly as we had hoped. It has come to our attention that people are not wanting their Mass Intentions said on weekdays or during cold weather. **You do not have to physically be in church for your intention to be prayed for.**

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*