

Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



SUNDAY BULLETIN | March 10, 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, MARCH 10, 2024

Laetare Sunday

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, MARCH 11
8:30 AM - Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, MARCH 12
8:30 AM - Francis Hurd - *liv.*
(*Family*)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13
No Mass

THURSDAY, MARCH 14
8:30 AM - Deceased Priests of the Parish

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 *Abs.*
8:30 AM - Beth Gazonas
(*St. Francis Parish*)

SATURDAY, MARCH 16
8:30 AM - Increase in Vocations
5:30 PM - Shana Marie Enochs
(*Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Romano*)

SUNDAY, MARCH 17
7:00 AM - Deceased Parishioners
9:00 AM - Peter Romano
(*Courtney Rhone*)
11:00 AM - Pro Populo
1:00 PM - Maria Hernandez Alcala
(*Family*)
5:30 PM - Joseph P. Gallagher Sr.
(*Jim & Joe Gallagher*)

LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Mar. 16 - 5:30 pm

L - J. Martens

EM - MJ Bondi,
S. Robins

Mar. 17 - 11 am

L - K. McDonald

EM - T. Greco,
M. Palmore

Mar. 17 - 7 am

L - R. Gelet

EM - C. DeGrazio,
J. DeGrazio

Mar. 17 - 5:30 pm

L - C. Hurd

EM - P. Smith
J. Gallagher

Mar. 17 - 9 am

L - A. Franz

EM - O. Russo,
J. Fitzpatrick

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)

7:00 Lenten Reflection (C)

TUESDAY / MARTES

6:00 Palm Braiding Class (MH)

7:30 All Class Reunion Meeting (MH)

WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

6:00 Palm Braiding Class (MH)

7:00 Men's Bible Study (MH)

7:00 Women's Bible Study (MH)

THURSDAY / JUEVES

7:00 First Reconciliation (C)

FRIDAY / VIERNES

7:00 Stations of the Cross (C)

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

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Maria Hernandez Alcala, Robin Caza, Maria Giovinco, Michele Hamilton, Patty Iaccarino, Lois Leggerie, Edward Mateja, Joe McDonald, Meghan McLaughlin, Sandy Orth, Kathleen Prinzevalli, Christina Shea, Anthony Tarmin, James Tuggle, Michele Tuggle, Olivia Tuturice, Brandon Washinko, 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:

Floral Arrangement, Main Altar:

Kathleen Ritrovato (*Husband Sal & Children*)

Floral Arrangement, Blessed Mother Altar:

Floral Arrangement, St. Joseph Altar:

This Weeks' Memorial Society Enrollees:

24 Hour Confidential Pregnancy Hotline 610-626-4006

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

Watch any sports event and eventually you will see someone with a sign that says John 3:16. It's been used so many times in varying ways I wonder if those who use it even know what it truly means. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." We could spend a lifetime just with this one verse. The impact of this verse has reverberated through time and you and I are still feeling its effects. You can imagine how hard it is to compress its power to a small article for the bulletin. However, this is exactly what we are preparing for this Lent. Lent is a time of preparation for us to celebrate this loving act of our Heavenly Father. That He cared so much for us, that He did not want to see us captured and defined by our sins that He decided to show us how deep that love for us went.

To add to this, we are also shown how much Jesus shared in that love for us by freely accepting this plan and becoming one of us to die for us. The culmination of all of this explodes for us on Easter. As we have arrived at the midpoint of Lent, let us reevaluate how we have used our time. Have we been properly preparing for this explosion of Divine Love? You can only answer that question but when we take into consideration what it is we are preparing to celebrate, it does give us a better focus for our efforts. Let us double our efforts in these final weeks of Lent so we may fully be embraced and appreciate the full meaning of John 3:16. Let us all get caught up in the explosion of God's eternal love for us all.

Mire cualquier evento deportivo y eventualmente verá a alguien con un cartel que dice Juan 3:16. Se ha utilizado tantas veces de diversas maneras que me pregunto si quienes lo usan saben lo que realmente significa. "Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo que dio a su único hijo, para que todo el que cree en él no perezca, sino que tenga vida eterna". Podríamos pasar toda la vida con solo este versículo. El impacto de este versículo ha resonado a través del tiempo y tú y yo todavía sentimos sus efectos. Puedes imaginar lo difícil que es comprimir su poder en un pequeño artículo para el boletín. Sin embargo, esto es exactamente lo que estamos preparando para esta Cuaresma. La Cuaresma es un tiempo de preparación para celebrar este acto de amor de nuestro Padre Celestial. Que Él se preocupaba tanto por nosotros, que no quería vernos capturados y definidos por nuestros pecados, que decidió mostrarnos cuán profundo era ese amor por nosotros.

Además de esto, también se nos muestra cuánto Jesús compartió ese amor por nosotros al aceptar libremente este plan y convertirse en uno de nosotros para morir por nosotros. La culminación de todo esto estalla para nosotros en la Pascua. Cómo hemos llegado al punto medio de la Cuaresma, reevalúe cómo hemos usado nuestro tiempo. ¿Nos hemos estado preparando adecuadamente para esta explosión de Amor Divino? Sólo se puede responder a esa pregunta, pero cuando tomamos en consideración qué es lo que nos estamos preparando para celebrar, eso nos da un mejor enfoque para nuestros esfuerzos. Duplicamos nuestros esfuerzos en estas últimas semanas de Cuaresma para que podamos ser plenamente aceptados y apreciar el significado completo de Juan 3:16. Dejemos que todos queden atrapados en la explosión del amor eterno de Dios por todos nosotros.

Third
Sunday
in
Lent

Reading I: 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23

A reflection on the evil of not paying attention to God's prophets compels the Israelites to endure a 70 year exile in Babylon.

Reading II: Ephesians 2: 4-10

St. Paul tells Christians that they can be identified with Christ in that they too will be enthroned with Him in heaven.

Gospel: John 3: 14-21

The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus continues with a discussion about God sending His only Son to earth to bring light and love to the world.

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.

Congratulations to our young parishioners!

The following young parishioners of Saint Francis received Honor Roll at Pope John Paul II High School:

Pope John Paul II High School

First Honors: Reese Horn, Class of 2027

Second Honors: Dayana Hernandez, Class of 2024



COLLECTION MARCH 3, 2024

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Sunday | \$7,966 |
| E-Giving | \$1,950 |

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.



If you would like a statement of your 2023 logged donations, please fill out this coupon & place it in the collection basket, mail to the Rectory, or drop it off at the Rectory mailbox. **Be sure to mark how you want your donation statement sent to you, otherwise it will be mailed.** NOTE: Those using Parish Giving will have their statements emailed to them by the company. Online giving numbers will not be included in the statements provided by SFA.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, & Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Mail statement to name & address above

Call when ready & I will pick statement up

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303

School News

Little Caesars Fundraiser

Our Home & School Association is sponsoring a Little Caesars Fundraiser for the month of March. There are a variety of kits available. Each kit is convenient and so delicious! These Pizza Kits are perfect to have on hand for busy days. \$6.00 of each Pizza Kit goes to Saint Francis of Assisi.

Each Pizza Kit will arrive via FedEx in a chilled box and you can heat it up right away or freeze them for use later. You can also order Breadsticks and Cookie Dough.

The Online Order Link also includes links to purchase Little Caesars Vouchers that can be used at any Little Caesars location. Please use the Saint Francis of Assisi link to order below.

<https://fundraising.littlecaesars.com/products?support=890ea83e-7b3f-466d-b191-08dfd13d9db0&c=5>

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

**FUNDRAISE
WITH PIZZA?**
You betcha!



Little Caesars
Fundraising



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!

REMINDERS:

Confirmation Students: Part 2 of your Confirmation Saint Project is due on March 17! Don't forget!

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: All Catholic School Students and ALL PREP Students are now required to use Mass Attendance Forms. If you lost yours, they're available on the PREP website.

RECORDATORIOS: *Estudiantes de Confirmación:* ¡La parte 2 de su Proyecto Santo de la Confirmación vence el 17 de marzo! ¡No lo olvides!

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: todos los estudiantes de escuelas católicas y TODOS los estudiantes de PREP ahora deben usar formularios de asistencia a misa. Si perdiste el tuyo, están disponibles en el sitio web de PREP.

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.

March 19 - Zep Day

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

Palm Braiding

This year, there are 2 dates specifically for those who would like to learn how to braid palm! Come to the Meetinghouse on March 12th and/or 13th from 6 - 7:30 PM!

St. Francis Palm Braiding & Palm Cross Making will be held from March 18th - 21st in the School Gym from 6 - 9 PM. Come by and help with this beautiful tradition! Bring the whole family!

The Ladies of St. Francis are also collecting donations of new Silk Flowers for the Beautiful Palm Cemetery Crosses for our Palm Sale. Drop donations off in the bin in the Main Entrance of the Church. Thank you!!

Daniel at Sight and Sound Theatre

Holy Saviour is running a trip to see *Daniel* at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster on Saturday, April 13th. Tickets are \$180 and include round trip motor coach transportation, orchestra seating, and all-you-can-eat lunch at Miller's smorgasbord after the show.

For tickets, contact Michael Angelucci at vangelucci@verizon.net or 610-213-1196.

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

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:

*March 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

SAINT FRANCIS

LENT

SCHEDULE

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent
7pm in the Church



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday
after 8:30am Mass;
4pm-5pm

Lenten Parish Confessions
March 21st at 7pm
March 23rd 3pm-5pm



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Monday
9am-1pm in Church



Stay tuned for the Holy Week & Easter Triduum schedule!

A Baby's Breath Drive

Our Pro-Life group is hosting a supply drive in collaboration with *A Baby's Breath* for Lent!

Donations can be left in the tubs in the back of Church. We are accepting diapers (sizes 4-5-6) and children's clothing for spring (sizes 6 months-4T)!

The drive will run through Palm Sunday. Thank you!

SFA ALL-CLASS REUNION

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

Our next Reunion Planning Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30pm in the Meetinghouse.

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!!!

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.



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*