

Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church

SUNDAY BULLETIN | February 25, 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 Tigue, Principal

Phone: (610) 272-0501

Website: www.sfacatholic.org



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26
8:30 AM - For an Increase in Vocations

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27
8:30 AM - Priests of the Archdiocese

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
No Mass

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29
8:30 AM - Cancer Patients

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 *Abs.*
8:30 AM - All Those in the SFA Memorial Society

SATURDAY, MARCH 2
8:30 AM - Deceased Priests of the Parish
5:30 PM - Increase in Vocations

SUNDAY, MARCH 3
7:00 AM - Deceased Parishioners
9:00 AM - Pro Populo
11:00 AM - Souls in Purgatory

1:00 - Angel Guzman
(The Guzman Family)
5:30 PM - Pro Populo

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Maria Hernandez Alcala, Robin Caza, Maria Giovinco, Michelle Hamilton, Patty Iaccarino, Lois Leggerie, Edward Mateja, Joe McDonald, Meghan McLaughlin, Sandy Orth, Kathleen Prinziavalli, Christina Shea, Anthony Tarmin, James Tuggle, Michele Tuggle, Olivia Tuturice, Brandon Washinko, Peter Wiggins, Mai Wise, Charles Yura, All Those Homebound, All Our Deceased.

LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Mar. 2 - 5:30 pm

L - P. Smith
EM - M. Anders,
MJ Bondi

Mar. 3 - 11 am

L - O. Russo
EM - T. Greco,
M. Palmore

Mar. 3 - 7 am

L - L. Steppe
EM - BJ Mumford,
C. Zurek

Mar. 3 - 5:30 pm

L - J. Martens
EM - J. Gallagher
D. Skaw

Mar. 3 - 9 am

L - S. Matour
EM - T. Leone,
Deacon Dave

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)

TUESDAY / MARTES

7:00 Centennial Meeting (R)

WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

7:00 Men's Bible Study (MH)

7:00 Women's Bible Study (MH)

THURSDAY / JUEVES

7:00 Lenten Reflection (C)

FRIDAY / VIERNES

7:00 Stations of the Cross (C)

SATURDAY / SÁBADO

2:00 Confirmation Retreat (S / C)

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

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, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

Trust does not come easy to humanity. There are probably several volumes of books that dives into the psychological causes of all of this. There is a good chance that we only need one hand to count the number of people that we trust. When we trust someone, we are letting our guard down and letting that person into our lives. When we have this trust, we can do almost anything. Both Abraham and Issac showed a deep trust with God. They never wavered in that trust even when what was being asked of them seemed completely impossible. Both these men today show us that it is possible to trust this deeply. It may seem very hard but look at whom they are putting their trust in. They placed their trust in God who will never break that trust. This is only possible because of the immense love God has for all of us. Trusting becomes so much easier when it is rooted in love. Let us learn from this and learn to love as we trust in each other and in our God.

La confianza no le resulta fácil a la humanidad. Probablemente existan varios volúmenes de libros que profundizan en las causas psicológicas de todo esto. Es muy probable que solo necesitemos una mano para contar la cantidad de personas en las que confiamos. Cuando confiamos en alguien, estamos bajando la guardia y dejando que esa persona entre en nuestras vidas. Cuando tenemos esta confianza, podemos hacer casi cualquier cosa. Tanto Abraham como Isaac mostraron una profunda confianza en Dios. Nunca flaquearon en esa confianza, incluso cuando lo que se les pedía parecía completamente imposible. Ambos hombres nos muestran hoy que es posible confiar en esto profundamente. Puede parecer muy difícil, pero mire en quién están poniendo su confianza. Pusieron su confianza en Dios, quien nunca romperá esa confianza. Esto sólo es posible gracias al inmenso amor que Dios tiene por todos nosotros. La confianza se vuelve mucho más fácil cuando está arraigada en el amor. Aprendamos de esto y aprendamos a amar mientras confiamos unos en otros y en nuestro Dios.

Second
Sunday
in
Lent

Reading I: Genesis 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Abraham passes God's test of him, and we witness a powerful sign of the obedience we should give God. Reading to kill Isaac as ordered, his obedience is rewarded; the sword withdrawn, and a glorious reward is promised.

Reading II: Romans 8: 31b-34

This section is a hymn to the love of God for us is made plain to see in the Father's willingness to hand over His Son to death for our redemption, now that same Son intercedes for us with the Father.

Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10

In the first part of this story Jesus is established as the beloved Son for all the world to know. In the second part, Jesus' obedient sonship is placed in the context of Jewish hopes about the kingdom and resurrection.

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

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Sunday	\$6,785
E-Giving	\$1,911

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

Confirmation News

As a reminder, all St. Francis of Assisi Students that are receiving Confirmation THIS YEAR are **REQUIRED** to attend our Confirmation Retreat!

The Retreat is on Saturday,
March 2nd, 2024!

Please be sure to arrive by 1:45
PM in the School Gym.

The Retreat ends at 6:30 PM.
Pickup is in the Church.

Please bring a canned good item.

A late lunch will be provided. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the School at 610-272-0501 or the Rectory at 610-272-0402.

**We look forward to seeing
all of our Confirmandi at
our Confirmation Retreat!**

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!



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: Don't forget: The Confirmation Retreat for St. Francis Parishioners is THIS Saturday, March 2nd, at 2 PM!! Don't be late!

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:* No olviden: El retiro de Confirmación de San Francisco Feligreses es ESTE sábado 2 de marzo a las 2 PM!! ¡No llegues tarde!

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 5 - Hot Dog Day

March 19 - Zep Day

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

Irish Potato Sale

The Ladies of St. Francis will be selling homemade Irish Potatoes on March 3rd at the Sunday Socials!

\$5.00 for a box of 12 - stop by the Meetinghouse after the 9 & 11 AM Masses and pick up a box!!

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 - 22nd 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!!

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 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 sfapro lifegroup@gmail.com.

Catholic Social Services 267-331-2490

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Every Friday in Lent

7:00 PM

In the Church



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 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!!!

Pro-Life Baby Supply 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 so much!!

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.

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*