

# Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



SUNDAY BULLETIN | February 4, 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

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**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, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

8:30 AM - Esther Black  
(Chris & Monica)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

8:30 AM - Joseph Bondi  
(MaryJo Bondi)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**No Mass**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

8:30 AM - Patricia Friel  
(Deacon Dave & Sue Matour)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

8:30 AM - Mike Palladino  
(Dee Landis)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

8:30 AM - Michele McDaniel  
(Joe Guarino)  
5:30 PM - For the Sanctity of Marriage

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

7:00 AM - Robert Bolger  
(Tony & Pat Mieczkowski)  
9:00 AM - Mildred Kibler  
(The Kibler Family)  
11:00 AM - Dr. A. Robert Cruz  
(Marie & Mike Moser)  
5:30 PM - Pro Populo

### LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Feb. 10 - 5:30 pm

**L** - B. Collins

**EM** - A. Collins,  
S. Robins

Feb. 11 - 11 am

**L** - K. McDonald

**EM** - M. Palmore,  
K. McTamney

Feb. 11 - 7 am

**L** - R. Gelet

**EM** - L. Steppe,  
T. Barbato

Feb. 11 - 5:30 pm

**L** - J. Martens

**EM** - J. Gallagher  
C. Hurd

Feb. 11 - 9 am

**L** - S. Matour

**EM** - J. Fitzpatrick,  
Deacon Matour

### 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

1:00 Seniors (MH)

#### WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

9:00 Church Cleaning (C)

1:00 Prayer Shawl Group (MH)

7:00 Men's Bible Study (MH)

7:00 Women's Bible Study (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:**

**Floral Arrangement, Main Altar:**

**Floral Arrangement, Blessed Mother Altar:**

**Floral Arrangement, St. Joseph Altar:**

**This Week's Memorial Society Enrollees:**

24 Hour Confidential Pregnancy Hotline 610-626-4006

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

## Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

St. Paul shows us the interesting and powerful relationship he has with the Gospel. He explains it to the Corinthians in a bit of a word puzzle which took me a few readings to see what he was trying to share. Paul sees his mission of spreading the Gospel as a response to the Gospel. He doesn't see it just as an obligation but more of a commitment to what the Gospel has given him.

The Gospel, Jesus himself, quite literally changed his life in a way he is still processing. Later on, he would describe it that he would burst if he didn't preach the Gospel. What is so powerful about this is that his response is out of gratitude and love to the Gospel. Let us today, through the example of St. Paul, learn to fall in love with the Gospel. If we can build a loving and committed relationship with the scriptures, then we too can preach and spread the Gospel just like St. Paul.

San Pablo nos muestra la interesante y poderosa relación que tiene con el Evangelio. Se lo explico a los corintios en un pequeño rompecabezas de palabras que me llevó algunas lecturas para ver qué estaba tratando de compartir. Pablo ve su misión de difundir el Evangelio como una respuesta al Evangelio. No lo ve sólo como una obligación sino más bien como un compromiso con lo que el Evangelio le ha dado.

El Evangelio, Jesús mismo, literalmente cambió su vida de una manera que todavía está procesando. Más tarde describiría que estallararía si no predicaba el Evangelio. Lo poderoso de esto es que su respuesta es por gratitud y amor al Evangelio. Aprendamos hoy, a través del ejemplo de san Pablo, a enamorarnos del Evangelio. Si podemos construir una relación amorosa y comprometida con las Escrituras, entonces nosotros también podremos predicar y difundir el Evangelio tal como San Pablo.

**Fifth  
Sunday  
in  
Ordinary  
Time**

**Reading I: Job 7: 1-4, 6-7**

Job compares human life to military service, and also to a day laborer's work, and ultimately to plain slavery. At this time his life is replete with misery and hopelessness.

**Reading II: 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23**

For Paul, the healing of hearts is itself a blessing, flowing as it does from the gospel.

**Gospel: Mark 1; 29-39**

The cure of Peter's mother-in-law happens so quickly and fully that it is truly miraculous. The evening cures so many others stresses the love and the hope Jesus offers to all those who trust Him.

## 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 28, 2024

Sunday	\$8,602
E-Giving	\$1,538

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.

## 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](mailto:admin@sfanorristown.com).

Thank you!

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303



# School News

Last week, we launched our annual observance of Catholic Schools' Week, a time to celebrate the enduring value of Catholic Education. We set aside this week every year to focus on the gift that Catholic Education provides to America's young people and its contributions to our church, our community, and our nation. We reach out to the wider community beyond our parish doors to build awareness of what our school has to offer. We thank all those who work hard every day to make our school excellent: students, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, community supporters, local, state, and national leaders, and alumni.

One of the most important roles of a parish and its families is preparing young people for fulfilling lives of love and service to their families, their communities, and the Lord. That is why the 2024 Catholic Schools' Week theme is particularly fitting. "Catholic Schools: United in Faith & Community" underscores the long-standing tradition of Catholic Education to instill in students the faith, knowledge, morals, and discipline that will enable them to fulfill their future roles in life. Now, more than ever, a Catholic Education is truly an investment in the future that is worth the consideration of every family.

Since opening our doors in 1926, Saint Francis of Assisi School (SFA) has been faithful in its mission to serve our community teaching students our Catholic Faith and to make judgments based on solid moral values. The Administration, Faculty, and Staff of SFA are dedicated to teaching the Gospel message of Jesus. We strive to model and to give witness to our Catholic Faith as we prepare students for leadership roles in a multi-cultural society. In our school, 21st century learning is evident as each classroom is equipped with a new state of the art SMARTBoard and new classroom furniture. In addition, our faculty and students use Chromebooks, Google Classroom, & iPads daily for lessons. Currently, we are now 1:1 in 3rd Grade through 8th Grade.

Encourage your friends and neighbors to schedule an appointment to visit our school, especially those who may be considering Catholic education for their own children. I think they will be impressed by the attitude, behavior, and accomplishments of the students they observe. Come see the SFA difference!



## 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](mailto:olgarusso6255@gmail.com) or  
Theresa Greco at [theresagreco67@gmail.com](mailto:theresagreco67@gmail.com)

## SFA Seniors

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

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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>*

*March 6<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>*

*April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>*

*May 1<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>*

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](mailto: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](http://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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:admin@sfanorristown.com) or mail them to the Rectory!!!**

## World Marriage Day Mass

World Marriage Day is on Sunday, February 11, 2024. We cordially invite all those who were validly married here at St. Francis of Assisi to attend a special Mass on Saturday, February 10 at 5:30 PM.

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

U.S. Army - *CPT Nathan Bevans*  
Army National Guard - *SPC Nathan Enslin*  
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.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*