

Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



SUNDAY BULLETIN | January 14, 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 14, 2024

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 15
8:30 AM - Pdraig Hurd - Liv.
(Family)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16
8:30 AM - Increase in Vocations

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17
No Mass

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
8:30 AM - Lucio Pellegrini
(Jim Smith)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
8:30 AM - Calvin Akers
(Bridget Tigue)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
8:30 AM - Victims of War
5:30 PM - Felix Cartegena
(Wife Myrna & Family)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21
7:00 AM - Mary Lou Sabol
(The O'Neill Family)
9:00 AM - Pro Populo
11:00 AM - Vincent & Theresa Ritrovato
(Sal Ritrovato & Family)
1:00 - Spanish Mass
5:30 PM - Deceased Parishioners

LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Jan. 20 - 5:30 pm

L - B. Collins

EM - A. Collins,
M. Anders

Jan. 21 - 11 am

L - L. Gambone

EM - T. Greco,
L. O'Donnell

Jan. 21 - 7 am

L - R. Gelet

EM - C. DeGrazio,
J. DeGrazio

Jan. 21 - 5:30 pm

L - J. Martens

EM - C. Hurd
D. Skaw

Jan. 21 - 9 am

L - K. Bradbury

EM - T. Leone,
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

RECTORY CLOSED - FEDERAL HOLIDAY
NO BENEDICTION

TUESDAY / MARTES

ALL DAY - Via Veneto SFA Dine & Donate
7:00 All-Class Reunion Planning Meeting (MH)

WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

7:00 Men's Bible Study (MH)
7:00 Women's Bible Study (MH)

THURSDAY / JUEVES

7:00 First Reconciliation Parent Meeting (C)

(C) Church

(MH) Meeting House

(R) Rectory

(S) School

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Maria Hernandez Alcala, Robin Caza, Maria Giovinco,
Michelle Hamilton, Patty Iaccarino, 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:

Flower Envelopes (Parishioners & Friends of SFA)

Floral Arrangement, Blessed Mother Altar:

Flower Envelopes (Parishioners & Friends of SFA)

Floral Arrangement, St. Joseph Altar:

Flower Envelopes (Parishioners & Friends of SFA)

This Weeks' Memorial Society Enrollees:

24 Hour Confidential Pregnancy Hotline 610-626-4006

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

On one Sunday, if I were to stand up suddenly and say, “Look, the Pope is here!”, everyone would immediately turn and look. There are certain titles that, when we hear it, we know what person should be walking into the room.

So when John the Baptist proclaims, “Behold the Lamb of God.”, the people of that time know what they should be looking for. Now here comes the confusion. At the time, the Lamb of God was an actual lamb that was sacrificed once a year for the sins of the entire nation. So for John to use this title and be pointing at Jesus must have confused everyone there.

Why would John do this? As it is with most things with our faith, we are invited to go deeper into the meaning of what is said. John is foreshadowing for us what Jesus will be for all of us. It is interesting that on this second Sunday of Ordinary time, we are already foreshadowing the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. This is very appropriate. As we finish putting away all the Christmas decorations, it is good for us to be reminded why we celebrated Christmas. It wasn't simply the birth of Jesus but it is the beginning of our salvation which will take place on the cross.

Today, we commit ourselves to preparing for the Cross. Today, we begin to look at Jesus not just as a great prophet or man but as John pointed out to us. He is the Lamb of God.

Un domingo, si me levantara de repente y dijera: “¡Mira, el Papa está aquí!”, todos inmediatamente se volverían y mirarían. Hay ciertos títulos, cuando los escuchamos, sabemos qué persona debería entrar en la habitación.

Entonces, cuando Juan el Bautista proclama: “He aquí el Cordero de Dios”, la gente de esa época sabe lo que debería estar buscando. Ahora aquí viene la confusión. En ese momento, el Cordero de Dios era un cordero real que era sacrificado una vez al año por los pecados de toda la nación. Entonces, que Juan usará este título y señala a Jesús debe haber confundido a todos los presentes.

¿Por qué Juan haría esto? Como ocurre con la mayoría de las cosas en nuestra fe, estamos invitados a profundizar en el significado de lo que se dice. Juan nos está presagiando lo que Jesús será para todos nosotros. Es interesante que en este segundo domingo del tiempo ordinario ya estemos presagiando la Muerte y Resurrección de Jesús. Esto es muy apropiado. Mientras terminamos de guardar toda la decoración navideña, es bueno que recordemos por qué celebramos la Navidad. No fue simplemente el nacimiento de Jesús, sino el comienzo de nuestra salvación que tendrá lugar en la cruz.

Hoy nos comprometemos a prepararnos para la Cruz. Hoy comenzamos a mirar a Jesús no sólo como un gran profeta u hombre, sino como Juan nos lo señaló. Él es el Cordero de Dios.

Second
Sunday
in
Ordinary
Time

Reading I: 1 Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19

The call of young Samuel is itself a classic description of how such a call can be misinterpreted at first. In this case, the future prophet is given a command to communicate a particular Word to the people.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20

Sexual pleasure for its own sake and unconnected with conception contradicts the fact that our bodies “are not our own.” Saint Paul’s powerful message is that our bodies are Temples of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Gospel: John 1: 35-42

The Baptist’s preaching is fulfilled when two of his former disciples, namely Andrew and his brother Simon, decide to follow Jesus. The Lord, in turn, poses to them (and us) a life-altering question: “What are you looking for?”

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 7, 2023

Sunday	\$7,710
E-Giving	\$1,644

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 sfnorristown.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@sfnorristown.com.

Thank you!

RECTORY CLOSING

Please Note: The Rectory will be CLOSED
on Monday, January 15, 2024 for MLK Day.
We will reopen with normal business hours
on Tuesday, January 16.

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303

School News



SFA Dine & Donate Tuesday, January 16th All Day

Dine in, Take Out, or Door Dash at Via Veneto Pizza & Family Restaurant on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 ALL DAY and 20% of your bill will be donated back to Saint Francis of Assisi School. Be sure to present this page in the Bulletin or the flyer from the website to your server or at the counter for takeout. If using Door Dash, please type Saint Francis in the special instructions box. Thank you for supporting our SFA Wolverines!

Via Veneto Pizza & Family
Restaurant
2688 DeKalb Pike
East Norriton, PA 19401
(610) 279-7413



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.

Important Meetings:

- Thursday, January 18th, 2024

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting
If your child is receiving First Reconciliation this year, and you are a St. Francis Parishioner, please attend this meeting. We will meet in the Church.

- Thursday, January 25th, 2024

First Holy Communion Parent Meeting
If your child is receiving First Holy Communion this year, and you are a St. Francis Parishioner, please attend this meeting. We will meet in the Church.

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.

Reuniones importantes:

- Jueves 18 de enero de 2024

Reunión de Padres para la Primera Reconciliación
Si su hijo recibirá la Primera Reconciliación este año y usted es feligrese de St. Francis, asista a esta reunión. Nos reuniremos en la Iglesia.

- Jueves 25 de enero de 2024

Reunión de padres de la Primera Comunión
Si su hijo recibirá la Primera Comunión este año y usted es feligrese de St. Francis, asista a esta reunión. Nos reuniremos en la Iglesia.

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:

*January 24th
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.

We are going to be having a meeting on **Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 at 7:00 PM** to discuss the Reunion and begin planning. We will meet in the Meetinghouse. All are welcome to attend. We hope you will help us make this experience as exciting as possible for all those who have attended Saint Francis of Assisi School!

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*