

Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



SUNDAY BULLETIN | January 7, 2024

600 Hamilton Street · Norristown, PA · 19401
(p) 610-272-0402 · (e) admin@sfnorristown.com
www.sfnorristown.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 7, 2024

The Epiphany of The Lord

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

8:30 AM - Mary Ann Geary
(Mr. & Mrs. Donald Shannon)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

8:30 AM - Reverend Gus Esposito
(Frank Panfile & Family)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

No Mass

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

8:30 AM - Josephine Corropolese
(Mike & Marie Moser)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

8:30 AM - Maureen Mitchell

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

8:30 AM - Isabelle Grace Howell
(Frank Panfile & Family)

5:30 PM - Catherine Brewington
(Stephen & Helga Kwatkowski)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

7:00 AM - Souls in Purgatory

9:00 AM - Pro Populo

11:00 AM - Maryann Raffa
(Children)

5:30 PM - Deceased Priests of the Parish

LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Jan. 13 - 5:30 pm

L - P. Smith

EM - S. Robins,
J. Shearer

Jan. 14 - 11 am

L - L. Hallahan

EM - M. Palmore,
K. McTamney

Jan. 14 - 7 am

L - D. DiLucia

EM - L. Steppe,
BJ Mumford

Jan. 14 - 5:30 pm

L - B. Collins

EM - A. Collins
J. Gallagher

Jan. 14 - 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.*

MONDAY / LUNES

1:00 Benediction (C)

WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

9:00 Church Cleaning (C)

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 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 7, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

In 2006, one of my favorite Christmas movies, “The Nativity Story”, came out in theaters. What I enjoy about it the most is the portrayal of the Magi. Scripture doesn’t give us much on them. Matthew’s Gospel, which we heard this year, calls them just “magi from the east”. The other three Gospels do not capture this moment and yet it is such a powerful scene.

What I enjoyed is how the Magi seem to not fully understand what it is that they are moving towards. They know it's something great and will only happen once, but still they have questions and doubts. All of us can relate with the Magi in this sense. Coming to adore the newborn Messiah does not mean we possess understanding, but it shows our desire to learn & receive this precious gift into our lives.

It is not until they finally arrive at the manger does it all come together for the three Magi. The next scene I must admit I almost stood and applauded when it was done. Each Magi comes and presents their gift and why they are giving it. Gold, for the king of kings; Frankincense for the priest of all priests; Myrrh to honor the sacrifice. Each gift shows us how this newborn child will affect our lives. He will lead us as our king, teach us to pray as your high priest and offer himself as a sacrifice for the salvation of all.

This is the Epiphany. It is this moment that the entire world is made known of the great gift given to all through these three men. They were not Jews or even men of faith. All they knew was something wondrous was happening and they needed to be there. Let this moment not pass us by but let us celebrate as the Magi did. Let us move forward to experience this great gift and always search for its impact in our lives.

En 2006, se estrenó en los cines una de mis películas navideñas favoritas, “El cuento de la Natividad”. Lo que más disfruto es la representación de los Reyes Magos. Las Escrituras no nos dan mucho sobre ellos. El Evangelio de Mateo, que escuchamos este año, los llama simplemente “magos del este”. Los otros tres evangelios no captaron este momento y, sin embargo, es una escena muy poderosa.

Lo que disfruté es cómo los Reyes Magos parecen no comprender plenamente hacia qué se dirigen. Saben que es algo grandioso y que sólo sucederá una vez, pero aún así tienen preguntas y dudas. Todos nosotros podemos relacionarnos con los Reyes Magos en este sentido. Venir a adorar al Mesías recién nacido no significa poseer comprensión, pero muestra nuestro deseo de aprender y recibir este precioso regalo en nuestras vidas.

No es hasta que finalmente llegan al pesebre que todo se junta para los tres Reyes Magos. Debo admitir que en la siguiente escena casi me puse de pie y aplaudí cuando terminó. Cada Reyes Magos viene y presenta su regalo y el motivo por el que lo están dando. Oro, para el rey de reyes; Incienso para el sacerdote de todos los sacerdotes; Mirra para honrar el sacrificio. Cada regalo nos muestra cómo este niño recién nacido afectará nuestras vidas. Él nos guiará como nuestro rey, nos enseñará a orar como tu sumo sacerdote y se ofrecerá a sí mismo como sacrificio por la salvación de todos.

Esta es la Epifanía. Es en este momento que el mundo entero se da a conocer el gran regalo dado a todos a través de estos tres hombres. No eran judíos ni siquiera hombres de fe. Todo lo que sabían era que algo maravilloso estaba sucediendo y necesitaban estar ahí. Dejar que esto El momento no nos pase de largo sino celebrémoslo como lo hicieron los Reyes Magos. Sigamos adelante para experimentar este gran regalo y busquemos siempre su impacto en nuestras vidas.

The Epiphany of The Lord

Reading I: Isaiah 60: 1-6

The prophet announces that all parts of the world will come to Zion to rebuild Jerusalem. Then throughout land the glory of the Lord will shine forth.

Reading II: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6

Paul’s chief insight into the mystery of Christ is that Gentiles are to be recognized as full participants in the life of the Church.

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

The special personages in this episode are the magi, or wise men, who come to visit Jesus. Over time, Christianity has made them into kings, numbering them as 3 because of the number of gifts they presented to the Child. Above all, they symbolize the Gentile world coming to the Jewish Christ.

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.

COLLECTION DECEMBER 24, 2023

Sunday	\$7,684
Christmas	\$27,849
E-Giving	\$1,410

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!

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303

School News

7TH GRADE NEWS

7th Grade has been very busy! In Social Studies, we've been delving into the fascinating European Exploration of the New World and completed our study of the individual 13 Original Colonies. As a creative culmination of this unit, the students engaged in an exciting project where students created travel posters for the Colonies. This not only enhances their understanding of the Colonies but also hones their artistic skills, making learning an enjoyable and enriching experience.

In Math, we've covered a lot of ground recently. First, we reviewed the number system, ensuring that our students have a strong foundation in understanding numbers, place value, and basic operations. After this comprehensive review, we successfully completed the unit on ratios and proportional relationships. The students have gained a deep understanding of how to analyze proportional relationships and apply these skills to real-world and mathematical problems. This is an essential skill that they will continue to use throughout their mathematical journey.

As we move forward, our focus has shifted to expression and equations. In this new unit, we will learn how to express mathematical relationships and solve equations, which are fundamental skills for algebra and many real-world applications.



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!

Please Note: There is NO CLASS on Sunday, December 31st. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th, 2024. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Safe New Year!

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.*

Tenga en cuenta: NO HAY CLASES el Domingo 31 de diciembre. Las clases se reanudarán el domingo 7 de enero de 2024. ¡Que tengas una bendita Navidad y un seguro año nuevo!

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, January 7, 2024
Sunday, February 4, 2024
Sunday, March 3, 2024

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*

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 10th & 24th

February 7th & 21st

March 6th & 27th

April 3rd & 17th

May 1st & 22nd

THANK YOU!

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

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.** Most of January is still open, especially the weekday Masses.

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*