

# Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



SUNDAY BULLETIN | March 3, 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

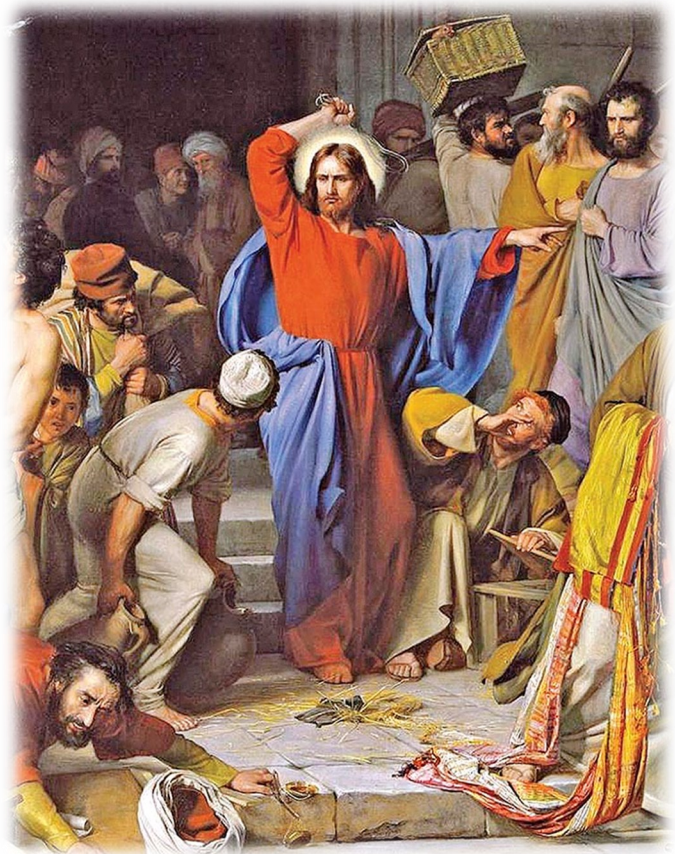
**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School**

601-A Buttonwood Street, Norristown

Miss Bridget Tigie, Principal

Phone: (610) 272-0501

Website: www.sfacatholic.org



# SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

## Third Sunday of Lent

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, MARCH 4  
8:30 AM - Edward Breslin  
(Family)

TUESDAY, MARCH 5  
8:30 AM - Susan L. Tassoni  
(Rev. Smith)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6  
**No Mass**

THURSDAY, MARCH 7  
8:30 AM - Debra Hurd - *liv.*  
(Family)

FRIDAY, MARCH 8 *Abs.*  
8:30 AM - Carol Gonzalez  
(Sue Matour)

SATURDAY, MARCH 9  
8:30 AM - Deceased Priests of the Parish  
5:30 PM - Increase in Vocations

SUNDAY, MARCH 10  
7:00 AM - Deceased Parishioners  
9:00 AM - Pro Populo  
11:00 AM - Kathleen Ritrovato  
(Sal Ritrovato & Family)  
5:30 PM - People of the Parish

### 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. 9 - 5:30 pm

**L** - P. Smith

**EM** - J. Shearer,  
MJ Bondi

Mar. 9 - 11 am

**L** - L. Gambone

**EM** - L. O'Donnell,  
K. McTamney

Mar. 9 - 7 am

**L** - L. Steppe

**EM** - BJ Mumford,  
C. Zurek

Mar. 9 - 5:30 pm

**L** - C. Hurd

**EM** - M. Anders  
K. Bradbury

Mar. 9 - 9 am

**L** - A. Franz

**EM** - R. Sirkissoon,  
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

1:00 Seniors Group (MH)

6:00 Finance Council Meeting (MH)

#### WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

9:00 Cleaners (C)

7:00 Men's Bible Study (MH)

7:00 Women's Bible Study (MH)

#### THURSDAY / JUEVES

2:00 Episcopal Ordination of Auxiliary Bishops

#### FRIDAY / VIERNES

7:00 Stations of the Cross (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, MARCH 3, 2024

## Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

“Zeal for your house will consume me ” We see this as the line of why Jesus clears the temple so it is a house of prayer once again. For perspective, imagine I was selling lottery tickets from the pulpit. That is what was happening in the Temple when Jesus walked in. People were allowed to sell things but they had moved to a place where they were not supposed to be. It is the zeal that Jesus had for the Temple that caught my attention this week. You do not hear people talking about a house of prayer like that. Yes, we believe a Church can be beautiful and can be inspiring but do we ever have zeal for our Church?

Does our Church ever move us to change how we present ourselves or how we conduct ourselves? Now, I’m not talking about the physical building but what happens inside that building should drive our zeal. The miracle of the Eucharist happens in that building. Sins are forgiven in that building. Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals happen in that building. All that we believe and act on can be found in that building. Shouldn’t this inspire us to do more than just show up on time? Should we not be inspired to present ourselves in the best possible way instead of jeans and a Phillies hoodie? Should it not compel us to spend as much time as we can in this building to experience our faith? Let us this Lent stop and consider how we are showing our appreciation but also our zeal for all that has been given to us in this building.

“El celo por tu casa me consumirá” Vemos esto como la línea de por qué Jesús limpia el templo para que sea una casa de oración una vez más. Para tener una perspectiva, imagine que estuviera vendiendo billetes de lotería desde el púlpito. Eso es lo que estaba sucediendo en el Templo cuando Jesús entró. A la gente se le permitía vender cosas, pero se habían mudado a un lugar donde se suponía que no debían estar. Es el celo que Jesús tenía por el Templo lo que me llamó la atención esta semana. No se oye a la gente hablar así de una casa de oración. Sí, creemos que una Iglesia puede ser hermosa e inspiradora, pero ¿tenemos alguna vez celo por nuestra Iglesia?

¿Nuestra Iglesia alguna vez nos mueve a cambiar la forma en que nos presentamos o cómo nos comportamos? Ahora bien, no me refiero al edificio físico, pero lo que sucede dentro de ese edificio debería impulsar nuestro entusiasmo. En ese edificio ocurre el milagro de la Eucaristía. Los pecados son perdonados en ese edificio. En ese edificio se llevan a cabo bautismos, bodas y funerales. Todo lo que creemos y en lo que actuamos se puede encontrar en ese edificio. ¿No debería esto inspirarnos a hacer algo más que llegar a tiempo? ¿No deberíamos inspirarnos para presentarnos de la mejor manera posible en lugar de jeans y una sudadera con capucha de los Phillies? ¿No debería obligarnos a pasar tanto tiempo como podamos en este edificio para experimentar nuestra fe? Detengámonos en esta Cuaresma y consideremos cómo estamos mostrando nuestro aprecio pero también nuestro celo por todo lo que se nos ha dado en este edificio.

Third  
Sunday  
in  
Lent

**Reading I: Exodus 20: 1-17, or 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17**

Yahweh asserts Himself as the only deity for Israel. Three commands pertain to Him, and seven apply to human behavior.

**Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25**

Paul declares that God’s foolishness is a crucified Christ, and that it is far superior to human wisdom.

**Gospel: John 2: 13-25**

After angrily cleansing the Temple of any commercialism practiced there, Jesus predicts His death and resurrection. The disciples will remember His words after the 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 25, 2024

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| Sunday   | \$8,101 |
| E-Giving | \$1,217 |

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.



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

## School News

Our Home & School Association hosted a successful Family Dance on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. in the Gym. Approximately 125 students and their families attended this fun night! The theme for the evening was "Love is in the Air". We would like to thank the following people who volunteered to make our dance happen:

- Amber, our DJ from Sound Sensation
- Yereni Garcia
- High School Volunteers from Pope John Paul II High School
- Jaime Marino - Home & School President
- Kim Reese
- Reese Family
- Salas Garcia Family
- Jamie & Gina Yeager
- Yeager Family



thank you!



## 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](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.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> and/or 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 7:30 PM!

St. Francis Palm Braiding & Palm Cross Making will be held from March 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 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 [sfapro lifegroup@gmail.com](mailto:sfapro lifegroup@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*

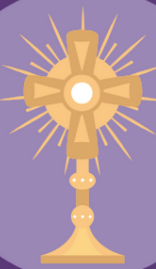
Every Saturday  
after 8:30am Mass;  
4pm-5pm

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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 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*