

# Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



SUNDAY BULLETIN | April 21, 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, APRIL 21, 2024

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, APRIL 22  
8:30 AM - Pasqual Santangelo  
(Family)

TUESDAY, APRIL 23  
8:30 AM - Mary Bibbo  
(Barbara Ruser)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24  
**No Mass**

THURSDAY, APRIL 25 - *Saint Mark*  
8:30 AM - S. Marge Miller, SSJ.  
(Dee Landis)

FRIDAY, APRIL 26  
8:30 AM - Jane F. Hamilton  
(Stan & Mary Ann Serosky)

SATURDAY, APRIL 27  
8:30 AM - John L. Dickinson, III  
(Gabriele & Rachael)  
5:30 PM - Dec. Members of the Harkin Family  
(Patricia McNamee)

SUNDAY, APRIL 28  
7:00 AM - Pro Populo  
9:00 AM - Souls in Purgatory  
11:00 AM - Msgr. Howard Flood  
5:30 PM - Guido Bartholomew  
(Claire Madden)

### LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Apr. 27 - 5:30 pm

L - J. McLaughlin,  
EM - J. Shearer,  
S. Robins

Apr. 28 - 11 am

L - R. Lattanze,  
EM - M. Palmore,  
J. Gallagher

Apr. 28 - 7 am

L - D. DiLucia  
EM - C. Zurek,  
L. Steppe

Apr. 28 - 5:30 pm

L - C. Hurd  
EM - M. Anders,  
P. Smith

Apr. 28 - 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

1:00 Benediction (C)

#### TUESDAY / MARTES

7:00 Confirmation Practice (C)

#### WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

7:00 Men's Bible Study (MH)

7:00 Women's Bible Study (MH)

#### THURSDAY / JUEVES

4:00 Confirmation (C)

#### SATURDAY / SÁBADO

11:00 First Holy Communion Practice (C)

5:00 Designer Bag Bingo (S)

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

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Robin Caza, Maria Giovinco, Michele Hamilton, Patty Iaccarino, Lois Leggerie, Edward Mateja, Joe McDonald, Meghan McLaughlin, Constance Monastero, Sandy Orth, Kathleen Prinzivalli, Christina Shea, Anthony Tarmin, James Tuggle, Michele Tuggle, Olivia Tuturice, Brandon Washinko, 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 Weeks' Memorial Society Enrollees:**

24 Hour Confidential Pregnancy Hotline 610-626-4006

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

## Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

Being a shepherd has taken on a new meaning for me over these last four years. When I hear Jesus in the Gospel today talking about what it means to be a shepherd, I have in the past focused on his sacrifice on the Cross. This is where Jesus ultimately laid down his life. However, this was not the only time. He laid down his life each time he entered a synagogue, the Temple in Jerusalem, or whenever he put himself out there for the people. Whether he was accepted by the people, rejected by them, or left them with more questions than answers, Jesus put himself out there. That is what a shepherd is called to do. Not to lay down his life once, but every day for his flock. This is what Christ the Good Shepherd did and calls on all shepherds to do the same. Now I tell you this not to put myself on a pedestal. I tell you this in asking for your prayers for me and all shepherds of the Church. There are times when it is hard to step out of our rectories or sacristies. The negativity and aggression that can be thrown at our shepherds can be overwhelming. The demands of the flock can at times be too much for one shepherd to handle. This is why you pray that the hearts of your shepherds become more and more like Christ the Good Shepherd. This is what I have come to rely on more and more over these last four years. So I ask you once again, please pray for me that I can become more like the Good Shepherd every day.

Ser pastor ha adquirido para mí un nuevo significado durante estos últimos cuatro años. Cuando escucho a Jesús en el Evangelio de hoy hablar sobre lo que significa ser pastor, en el pasado me he centrado en su sacrificio en la Cruz. Aquí es donde Jesús finalmente entregó su vida. Sin embargo, esta no fue la única vez. Él entregó su vida cada vez que entró en una sinagoga, en el Templo de Jerusalén, o cada vez que se puso a disposición del pueblo. Ya sea que el pueblo lo aceptara, lo rechazara o los dejará con más preguntas que respuestas, Jesús se puso ahí fuera. Eso es lo que un pastor está llamado a hacer. No para dar su vida una vez, sino todos los días por su rebaño. Esto es lo que hizo Cristo Buen Pastor y llama a todos los pastores a hacer lo mismo. Ahora les digo esto para no ponerme en un pedestal. Os digo esto pidiendo vuestras oraciones por mí y por todos los pastores de la Iglesia. Hay momentos en los que cuesta salir de nuestras rectorías o sacristías. La negatividad y la agresión que se les puede lanzar a nuestros pastores pueden ser abrumadoras. Las exigencias del rebaño a veces pueden ser demasiado para que las pueda manejar un solo pastor. Por eso oráis para que los corazones de vuestros pastores se parezcan cada vez más a Cristo Buen Pastor. Esto es en lo que he llegado a confiar cada vez más durante estos últimos cuatro años. Por eso os pido una vez más que oréis por mí para que pueda llegar a ser cada día más como el Buen Pastor.

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Reading I: Acts 4: 8-12**

Peter's first discourse is more like an "apologia" than a sermon. In it, Peter answers the Sanhedrin's question directly.

**Reading II: 1 John 3: 1-2**

By way of the Paschal mystery, we have truly become the children of God.

**Gospel: John 10: 11-18**

In this section, "good" really means "noble" or "ideal", and not just "good at" something or other. Unlike bad shepherds, who allow the sheep to be eaten by wolves, Jesus lays down His life for His sheep.

## 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.

## 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.



## COLLECTION

APRIL 14, 2024

Sunday	\$6,431
E-Giving	\$1,750

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.

## FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE ELMWOOD PARK ZOO

Sunday, May 19, 2024 | 1pm - 5pm

SFA has reserved the Stoney Creek  
Pavilion for our attendees! Come out for  
a fun afternoon with our SFA family!!

**Ticket information:**

\$14.95 online	\$15.95 at gate	children 0-2 free!
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[www.elmwoodparkzoo.org](https://www.elmwoodparkzoo.org)

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303



# SCHOOL NEWS

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News

Our Second Grade Superstars have a lot to shine about these days! These young children of God learned that although we always try to do the right thing, we will sometimes make mistakes. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the children received God's love and forgiveness in March. They will make their First Holy Communion next year in Third Grade.

Each morning, the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders sing a song together called Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry. These are the beautiful words spoken by Padre Pio. Some of the lyrics include: If you feel sad and down, don't forget Jesus is around. He is there through the highs and lows. Don't you know, all you have to do is pray, hope, and don't worry!

We have been working our little hands very hard these last few months on learning how to write in cursive. We are getting better and better each and every day. It's tough, but we can do it!

Although we have learned about place value, many types of graphs, addition, subtraction, and skip counting, we easily forget that we are learning through games too! Our class favorite is called "Race to 100". With the roll of two dice, partners use their adding skills quickly to move their token through a hundred's chart. The goal of the game is to reach 100 first in order to be the champion!

Our reading series teaches us such a variety of cool things! We read all about fairy tales. Did you know that there is more than one Cinderella story out there? It was pure coincidence that we read about an amazing woman, Wilma Rudolph, during Black History Month. She overcame Polio as a child and worked very hard learning how to play basketball and how to run fast. She won a bronze medal for the 100-meter relay race in the 1956 Olympics at the age of 16. We are also currently reading stories about weather and are writing our own nonfiction stories about our favorite type of weather.

We look forward to our performance in our Spring Show and are ready to share our catchy tunes with everyone from the movie Sing 2. Of course, we already know we will rock the house with our third grade singing partners!

Don't forget to learn from the great saint Padre Pio with his simple words... Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry!



## 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!**

*First Holy Communion Students: You have MANDATORY practice on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 11:00 AM in the Church.*

*Confirmation Students: You have MANDATORY practice on Tuesday, April 23 at 7 PM. Your sponsor MUST ATTEND this practice. Confirmation is on Thursday, April 25 at 4:00. Please be at the Church by 3:00.*

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.

*Estudiantes de Primera Comunión: Tienen práctica OBLIGATORIA el día sábado 27 de abril de 2024 a las 11:00 AM en la Iglesia.*

*Estudiantes de Confirmación: Tienes práctica OBLIGATORIA el martes 23 de abril a las 19 h. Su patrocinador DEBE ASISTIR a esta práctica. La confirmación es el jueves 25 de abril a las 4:00. Por favor esté en la iglesia a las 3:00.*

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.

May 7 - Bingo & Dessert / Soft Pretzel Sale

*Please do not park in our Lower Parking Lot behind the School. 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, May 5, 2024

## 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!

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

## 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:*

*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!  
***note - we do not meet in June/July/August***

*for more information, contact  
Kay Boyce at 610-772-7216*

## SFA PRO-LIFE

Our Pro-Life group meets on the First Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM in the Parish Meetinghouse. Meetings are 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

## A Thank You from our Palm Braiders:

Our Palm Sale was a big success and we would like to thank everyone who helped in any way. We came together and made it happen! Thank you and God Bless you! See you next year!



PRAY FOR OUR  
CONFIRMATION  
CANDIDATES

who will be receiving the  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
on April 25, 2024



Blue Mass  
for Police

Saturday, May 18, 2024  
5:30 PM

St. Francis of Assisi  
Roman Catholic Church

join us in honoring & praying  
for our local law enforcement  
officers - all are welcome!

## DESIGNER BAG BINGO

TICKETS  
\$30

- 50/50 ●
- DOOR PRIZES ●
- RAFFLE BASKETS ●

BYOB and Food

St. Francis of Assisi School Gym  
601 Buttonwood St. Norristown

**SATURDAY**  
APRIL 27, 2024

**7 PM**

DOORS OPEN  
@ 6PM

For tickets & information contact:  
Julie Fusco Schad 484-686-9813  
David Fusco 610-389-2086  
SFA School 610-272-0501



ALL THE DARKNESS IN THE  
WORLD CANNOT  
EXTINGUISH THE  
LIGHT OF A SINGLE  
CANDLE.

- SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI



## 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*