



# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
November 3, 2024

## CLERGY

Rev. Richard J. Smith, M.Div., Pastor  
Deacon David J. Matour

Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Doody Weekend Assistant  
Rev. Abel Osorio, C.M. Weekend Assistant

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Miss Lauren Kibler

## COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Maritza Reyes

## BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Carl Needles

## ST. FRANCIS EARLY LEARNING CENTER

636 Hamilton Street, Norristown  
Mrs. Virginia Bueno, Director  
Phone: (610) 757-1523  
Website: [www.saintfranciselc.org](http://www.saintfranciselc.org)

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

601A Buttonwood Street, Norristown  
Miss Bridget Tigue, Principal  
Phone: (610) 272-0501  
Website: [www.sfacatholic.org](http://www.sfacatholic.org)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
601 Buttonwood Street, Norristown, PA 19401  
(Phone) 610-272-0402 |  
(Email) [admin@sfanorristown.com](mailto:admin@sfanorristown.com) |  
(Website) [www.sfanorristown.com](http://www.sfanorristown.com) |

## OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:30AM-4:00PM  
(closed 12-12:30PM daily)  
Friday 9:00AM-Noon

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Daily:** M/T/Th/F - 8:30AM  
no Wednesday Mass

**Sunday:** 7:00AM, 9:00AM (Spanish), &  
11:30AM

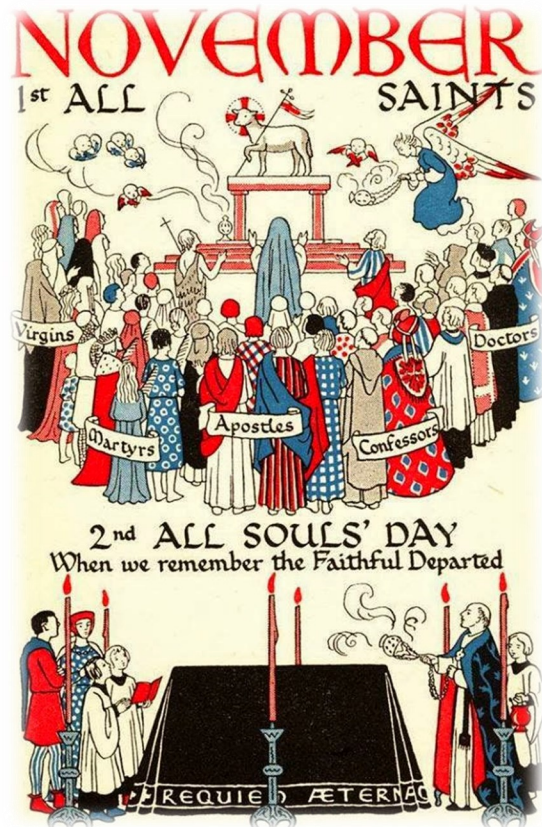
**Saturday:** 8:30AM & 5:30PM (Vigil)

## CONFESSION

Saturday: 9:00AM & 4:00PM - 5:00PM

## ADORATION

M/W/F 9:00AM - 6:00PM in the  
Adoration Chapel [stop by the Parish Center  
for the Chapel code]



SUNDAY, November 3, 2024

Dt 6:2-6; Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51;  
Heb 7:23-28; Mk 12:28b-34

# Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, November 4

Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop  
8:30 For Survivors of the Hurricanes

### Tuesday, November 5

Ordinary Weekday  
8:30 James A. Madden, Jr. by Family

### Wednesday, November 6

Ordinary Weekday  
No Mass

### Thursday, November 7

Ordinary Weekday  
8:30 Alexandra Lombardo by Family

### Friday, November 8

Ordinary Weekday  
8:30 Andrew Tuturice by Joanne Schonely

### Saturday, November 9

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica  
8:30 Helen Moore by Sharon Robins  
5:30 Antonio & Eufemia Melillo by Daughter & Family

### Sunday, November 10

7:00 Pro Populo  
9:00 Maria Hernandez Alcala by Familia  
11:30 United States Marine Corps

## LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Nov. 9 - 5:30PM

**L** - J. Martens  
**EM** - S. Robins,  
J. Shearer

Nov. 10 - 9AM

**L** - R. Chavez,  
M. de la Torre  
**EM** - G. Mendiola,  
N. Guzman

Nov. 10 - 7AM

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

Nov. 10 - 11:30AM

**L** - L. Hallahan  
**EM** - M. Palmore,  
T. Greco

## COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

### OCTOBER 27, 2024

Sunday \$7,047  
E-Giving \$1,087

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.

## PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM in the Adoration Chapel, unless otherwise noted.

### MONDAY / LUNES

6:00 PM - Benediction (A)

### TUESDAY / MARTES

1:00 PM - Seniors (PC)  
7:00 PM - RCIA (PC)

### WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

1:00 PM - Prayer Shawl (PC)  
6:00 PM - Benediction (A)  
6:30 PM - The Chosen (PC)  
7:00 PM - Men's Bible Study (PC)

### THURSDAY / JUEVES

6:30 PM - Christmas Bazaar Meeting (PC)

### FRIDAY / VIERNES

6:00 PM - Benediction (A)

### SUNDAY / DOMINGO

10:00 AM - PREP (S)

(A) Adoration Chapel  
(C) Church  
(PC) Parish Center  
(R) Rectory  
(S) School

SUNDAY, November 3, 2024

## Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. This is a month for us to remember all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. We can do this in many different ways. We can have a mass celebrated for them. We can offer our rosary or daily prayers so that their time in Purgatory can be lessened. We can offer up any of our difficulties and sacrifices for them as well. Another tradition is to visit their graves and spend some time in prayer. Whatever we choose to honor them and help them, it points to a greater reality in our lives. This is not the end. There is a greater purpose and existence for all of us. So many of the readings for the Feast Day of All Souls (Nov. 2nd) encourage us to see this truth. Many of these same readings we hear at a funeral mass. They all point to the joy and peace that awaits for us in Heaven and this is a joy we can count on. As Paul says in the letter to the Romans, "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts". The hope of eternal life is what we are called to reflect on this month. Let us take some extra time this month to pray for our deceased family and friends that they are enjoying the warm embrace of paradise.

El mes de Noviembre está dedicado a las santas almas del purgatorio. Este mes es para recordar a todos los que se han ido antes que nosotros marcados con la señal de fe. Podemos hacer esto de diferentes maneras. Podemos celebrar una misa por ellos. Podemos ofrecer un rosario o oración diaria para que su tiempo en el purgatorio sea más corto. También podemos ofrecerles cualquiera de nuestras dificultades y sacrificios. Otra tradición es visitar su tumba y pasar algún tiempo en oración. Cualquiera que escojamos para honrarlos y ayudarlos, apunta a una realidad más grande en nuestras vidas. Este no es el final. Hay un mayor propósito y existencia para todos nosotros. Muchas de las lecturas para el día de fiesta de todas las almas (Nov. 2) nos anima a ver la realidad. Muchas de estas mismas lecturas las escuchamos en misas fúnebres. Todas apuntan a la alegría y paz que nos espera en el cielo y esta es una alegría con la que contamos. Como Pablo dice en la carta a los Romanos, "La esperanza no decepciona, porque el amor de Dios ha sido derramado en nuestros corazones." La esperanza de vida eterna es lo que somos llamados a reflexionar este mes. Tomemos un tiempo extra este mes para rezar por nuestras familias y amigos fallecidos que estén disfrutando del cálido abrazo del paraíso.

*Thirty-First  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time*

### **Reading I: Deuteronomy 6: 2-6**

Along with the call to "hear" comes the command to love God fully. The great "Shema" (v.6 -9) appears for the first time as Israel's act of faith.

### **Reading II: Hebrews 7: 23-28**

The priesthood of Jesus is not bound by time, for He is "higher than the heavens" and is perfect. Through Him we are united with God.

### **Gospel: Mark 12: 28b-34**

Jesus, prompted by a questioning Scribe, issues the great two-part Commandment. He forever equates love of God with love of neighbor.

# The CHOSEN watch | discuss | reflect | rejoice



The Chosen is shown on Wednesday Nights in the Parish Center (formerly the Meetinghouse) at 6:30 PM, followed by a discussion. This is a free event, all are welcome to attend! ***This will take The place of the Women's Bible Study.***

## SFA Seniors

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

November 5 - Zep Day

November 19 - Attny. Shallcross speaks about scams

*Please do not park in our Lower Parking Lot behind the School. Parking is available on Buttonwood Street and in our Upper Lot.*



## CHURCH CLEANERS

We are looking for volunteers to assist with gently cleaning our Church. We will be meeting every other Wednesday at 8:30AM to clean. If you are interested in helping, simply show up!

*Fall 2024 cleaning dates:*

*November 13<sup>th</sup>*

THANK YOU!

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday | 7 PM | In the Parish Center  
No registration required  
*Studies led by Deacon Dave Matour*

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas bazaar committee is seeking volunteers to help plan for the 2024 Bazaar which will be held December 7. For table information & space availability, contact Jane Caruso at 610-539-1681. To volunteer your time in any way, please email [admin@sfanorristown.com](mailto:admin@sfanorristown.com) or call the Parish Center.

*Our next Christmas Bazaar meetings will be Thursday, November 7 & November 21 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center.*

## Prayer Shawl Group

first Wednesday of the month | 1 PM  
We meet in the Parish Center. 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*



## St. Ephrem Parish Presents... **UNPLANNED**

*The extraordinary movie of Abby Johnson's journey from a director at Planned Parenthood and abortion 'rights' advocate to a pro-life activist, who is now a prominent, national speaker in defense of the sanctity of human life.*

**When:** Thursday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30PM

**Where:** St. Ephrem Church, 5400 Hulmeville Rd., Bensalem, PA 19020

**How to get tickets:**

Tickets are FREE, but are required for admission. To order tickets, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

SAINT EPHREM RECTORY  
5400 HULMEVILLE ROAD  
BENSALEM, PA 19020

Please indicate the number of tickets requested. Limit of 4 per request. **This film is rated "R"; parental discretion is advised. Children under the age of 13 are discouraged from attending.**

*Following the movie, you are welcome to stay & listen as Abby shares the story of her conversion to the Catholic Faith. An opportunity for questions will follow Abby's presentation.*

### Advent by Candlelight

Women, are you looking to have a purposeful Advent season? Please join the women of St. Helena's Walking with Purpose on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for an evening of spiritual reflection as we begin the season of Advent. Light supper will be served. Program begins at 6pm, doors open at 5:30, in the St. Helena Empress Room, located beneath the church, with an outside entrance. A free will offering will be gratefully accepted. For planning purposes, please RSVP by Nov. 26, to [sthelenawwp@gmail.com](mailto:sthelenawwp@gmail.com) or Susan at 610-952-2330.



## 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!**

Remember to get your Mass Attendance Sheets stamped **every Sunday!!**

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¡Recuerde sellar sus Hojas de Asistencia a Misa todos los domingos!

## Kids Corner

### CATHOLIC TERMS WORD SEARCH



- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Amen     | Mary       |
| Catholic | Rosary     |
| Crucifix | Sacraments |
| Holy     | Saints     |
| Jesus    |            |

## Prayer to St. Michael The Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the wickedness and  
snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and  
do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by  
the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin  
of souls.

*Amen.*

## Oración a San Miguel Arcángel

San Miguel Arcángel, defiéndenos en la  
batalla. Sé nuestra protección contra la  
maldad y las asechanzas del diablo;  
Que Dios lo reprenda, te lo pedimos  
humildemente; y haz tú, oh Príncipe de las  
Huestes Celestiales, con el poder de Dios,  
arrojar al infierno a Satanás y a todos los  
espíritus malignos, que merodean por el  
mundo, buscando la ruina de las almas.

*Amén.*

## PARISH CENSUS

If you have not done so already, please  
complete your parish census! We ask that you  
fill it out completely, even if you think we  
have all of your information already on file.  
Once completed, you can mail it back, place  
it in the collection basket, or drop it off at the  
Parish Center! Thank you!!

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303

## 2025 MASS BOOK

The 2024 Mass Book is **FULL**. The 2025  
Book IS NOT OPEN YET. When the  
2025 Book opens, there will be a limit  
of 8 Masses per household, including a  
maximum of two (2) Sundays/Saturday  
Vigils. As always, Masses **MUST** be  
ordered via phone or email **ONLY**.

**PLEASE** do not come to the Parish  
Office to order Mass Intentions. **Do not  
try to reserve dates in the 2025 Book  
before it opens.**

## CANDLES IN CHURCH

As you may have noticed, there are no  
candles in Church. This is because there  
has been a large increase in candles  
being lit without any money being put  
in the candle boxes. As candle costs  
continue to rise, we have had to make  
the decision to (temporarily) discontinue  
placing candles in church until further  
notice. We understand that this may be  
inconvenient, but we hope to come up  
with a solution that doesn't continue to  
lose the parish money.

Catholic Social Services 267-331-2490

# Thank you for your continuing prayers.

## Prayers for Those Serving our Country

**U.S. Army** - CPT Nathan Bevans

**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. Army** - SGT James Stephenson

**U.S. Army** - LTC Ramon A. Ramos

**U.S. Navy** - PO1 Evan Slizofski

**U.S. Navy** - PO2 Jonathan Slizofski

**U.S.A.F.** - SSG Jonathan D. Pearson

**U.S.A.F.** - SSGT Katlyn Pearson

**U.S.A.F.** - SrA Joseph M. Stasik

**Army Nat. Guard** - SPC Nathan Enslin

**Army Nat. Guard** - Col Steven Zahuranec

## Prayers for the Sick

Robin Caza, Maria Giovinco, Michele Hamilton, Patty Iaccarino, Anne Korkus, Lois Leggerie, Edward Mateja, Joe McDonald, Constance Monastero, Sandy Orth, Kathleen Prinzivalli, Dolores Salvo, Veronica Severino, Christina Shea, Anthony Tarmin, James Tuggle, Michele Tuggle, Olivia Tuturice, Brandon Washinko, Peter Wiggins, Mai Wise, Charles Yura, All Those Homebound, & All Our Deceased.

*Please call the Parish Office to give us your name or the name of a loved one to be added to the prayer list. When your loved one recovers, please notify the Parish Office so we can offer a prayer of thanks!*

## 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:**

*To request any above memorials, please contact Miss Kibler in the Parish Center at 610-272-0402.*

"PRAY, HOPE, AND  
DON'T WORRY.  
WORRY IS USELESS.  
GOD IS MERCIFUL  
AND WILL HEAR  
YOUR PRAYER."  
- PADRE PIO



## DEVOTIONS at ST. FRANCIS

**The Rosary** is recited daily before the 8:30AM Mass

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** - Tuesdays after Mass

**Sacred Heart Devotions** - Fridays after Mass

**Miraculous Medal Novena** - Saturdays after 8:30AM Mass

**Visits to the Blessed Sacrament** - Monday-Friday from 9AM - 6PM in the Chapel. Stop by the Parish Center for the keypad code.

**24 HOUR CONFIDENTIAL PREGNANCY HOTLINE 610-626-4006**