

Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



SUNDAY BULLETIN | February 18, 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, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19
8:30 AM - Jacqueline Barry-Wypych
(*The Fuller Family*)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
8:30 AM - Francis Monastero Jr.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
No Mass

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22
8:30 AM - Bonnie Keenan
(*Joe Guarino*)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 *Abs.*
8:30 AM - Beverly Ann Zapata
(*Deacon Dave & Sue Matour*)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
8:30 AM - For Husbands & Fathers
5:30 PM - Francis Hahn Sr.
(*Family*)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
7:00 AM - Pro Populo
9:00 AM - Sis Hannan
(*Jeanne Marie*)
11:00 AM - Richard J. McNamara
(*Wife & Family*)
5:30 PM - Holy Souls in Purgatory

LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Feb. 24 - 5:30 pm

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

Feb. 25 - 11 am

L - K. McDonald
EM - M. Palmore,
D. Skaw

Feb. 25 - 7 am

L - L. Steppe
EM - C. Zurek,
BJ Mumford

Feb. 25 - 5:30 pm

L - C. Hurd
EM - J. Gallagher
M. Anders

Feb. 25 - 9 am

L - K. Bradbury
EM - J. Fitzpatrick,
T. Leone

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is every Monday
from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, unless otherwise noted.*

MONDAY / LUNES

NO ADORATION

RECTORY CLOSED - HOLIDAY

TUESDAY / MARTES

1:00 Seniors (MH)

WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

9:00 Church Cleaning (C)

7:00 Men's Bible Study (MH)

7:00 Women's Bible Study (MH)

FRIDAY / VIERNES

7:00 Stations of the Cross (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, Lois Leggerie, Edward
Mateja, Joe McDonald, Sandy Orth, Kathleen Prinzivalli,
Christina Shea, Anthony Tarmin, James Tuggle, Michele
Tuggle, Olivia Tutarice, 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:

Calvin Akers (*SFA School*)

Steve Roffo (*Jack Lunden & Tracy*)

Mary Bibbo (*Rita Marie & Ian Ritrovato*)

Thomas Joseph Foley (*McNamee Family*)

Sullivan Andy Gelet (*Patricia McNamee*)

24 Hour Confidential Pregnancy Hotline 610-626-4006

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

The season of Lent has so much going on that it is easy to get lost in all of it. Trying to juggle all the different spiritual exercises, presentations, and other events that come only during this time of the year can be exhausting. I know I must check my calendar every morning just to remind myself what is going on. It is a blessing, then, to have Peter's letter today to remind us and focus on what these forty days are all about.

“Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God.” What a clear description of what Jesus came into our world to do. This is very profound to see just how much Jesus took on for us who in no way deserved it. Now as clear as Peter explains to us the mission of Jesus, it is still called upon us to explore what this means for each of us. How has the suffering of Jesus made my life better? This is why we have the season of Lent.

Let us commit ourselves this Lent to better understanding the suffering Christ freely took on for our sins. Let us this Lent open ourselves even more to his guidance so we can have a deeper relationship with God.

En la temporada de Cuaresma suceden tantas cosas que es fácil perderse en ellas. Tratar de hacer malabarismos con todos los diferentes ejercicios espirituales, presentaciones y otros eventos que ocurren sólo durante esta época del año puede resultar agotador. Sé que debo consultar mi calendario todas las mañanas sólo para recordar lo que está pasando. Entonces, es una bendición tener la carta de Pedro hoy para recordarnos y centrarnos en de qué se tratan estos cuarenta días.

“Cristo padeció una sola vez por los pecados, el justo por amor de los injustos, para llevarnos a Dios”. Qué descripción tan clara de lo que Jesús vino a hacer a nuestro mundo. Es muy profundo ver cuánto asumió Jesús por nosotros que de ninguna manera lo merecíamos. Ahora bien, por muy claro que Pedro nos explique la misión de Jesús, todavía nos llama a explorar lo que esto significa para cada uno de nosotros. ¿Cómo ha mejorado mi vida el sufrimiento de Jesús? Por eso tenemos el tiempo de Cuaresma.

Comprometámonos esta Cuaresma a comprender mejor el sufrimiento que Cristo asumió libremente por nuestros pecados. En esta Cuaresma, abriéndonos aún más a su guía para que podamos tener una relación más profunda con Dios.

First Sunday in Lent

Reading I: Genesis 9: 8-15

The story of the Great Flood and Noah's leadership is one in which the world is cleansed by water. There follows a covenant between God and the people symbolized by a rainbow which will mean the end of future rainstorms before they destroy the world.

Reading II: 1 Peter 3: 18-22

The victory of Christ over sin is applied to Christians by baptism. This was prefigured by the cleansing waters of the Great Flood.

Gospel: Mark 1: 12-15

The brief and simple narrative of Mark contrasts with the more elaborate scriptural debate between the devil and Jesus, as portrayed in both Matthew and Luke, both of which followed Mark in time.

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 11, 2024

Sunday	\$7,466
E-Giving	\$1,871

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.



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

6th Grade News

Our 1st Trimester began with laughter and getting to know each other and quickly moved onto our Summer Reading Group project. Students were grouped by the Summer Reading Book they had read and asked to "go deeper" into reading comprehension and a small sample of each of their writing. Since then, we have been reviewing our grammar, working on new vocabulary and beginning our first essay in conjunction with their Spanish and STREAM project on the Day of the Dead. Within this project students also received a Religion grade on their altar (ofrenda).

In our Science class, we reviewed Science 'vocabulary and the scientific method and began working on our first LabLearner CELL on the Properties of Matter. Students had four investigations in this section of science where they experimented with chemicals, learned about atoms and molecules, and finally how to identify compounds and elements through investigations.

Religion began with reviewing our prayers, talking about the saint of the day, going to Mass with our Prayer Partners in 3rd Grade on Tuesday mornings and learning how to navigate the Bible and understanding what it means to live our faith every day.

So, what is in our 6th Grade future? We will be reading Hidden Figures, the Young Readers edition as a class. In this we will identify new vocabulary and talk about writing with figurative language and imagery as well as the science of this very important time in our history. Literature will also be our focus and students will be expected to compare different genres of Literature and identify the difference in the writing styles as well as writing their own poetry journals.

I am so excited to be a part of this faith family of Saint Francis of Assisi and to watch these amazing young students deepen their knowledge and faith as a joint venture.



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 1 of your Saint Project is due **today!** Your final project is due March 17!

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 1 de su Proyecto Santo vence **hoy!** ¡Tu proyecto final vence el 17 de marzo!

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 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.

February 20 - Soup & Pizza Day
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.*

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, March 3, 2024

***We will be selling Irish Potatoes at our next social!
Supplies are limited!***



The Ladies of Saint Francis are looking for volunteers on **Sunday, February 25th, 2024**. We are going to be making Irish Potatoes, and we need volunteers! Come to the Meetinghouse on 2/25 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:

*February 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 sfapro lifegroup@gmail.com.

Catholic Social Services 267-331-2490

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Every Friday in Lent

7:00 PM

In the Church



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL ALL-CLASS REUNION

On April 20th, 2024, we will be hosting an All-Class Reunion for all SFA graduates.

If you have any photos from your time as a student here at SFA, please send them to admin@sfanorristown.com or mail them to the Rectory!!!

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.

RECTORY CLOSING

Please Note: The Rectory will be CLOSED on Monday, February 19, 2024 for Presidents' Day. We will reopen on Tuesday with normal hours.

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.



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*