

# Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



SUNDAY BULLETIN | April 28, 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, APRIL 28, 2024

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, APRIL 29 - *St. Catherine of Siena*

8:30 AM - Mary Bibbo  
(*Ladies of St. Francis*)

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

8:30 AM - Gregory Arakelian - Liv.  
(*Mother*)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

**No Mass**

THURSDAY, MAY 2 - *St. Athanasius*

8:30 AM - Mary Bibbo  
(*Andi Picard*)

FRIDAY, MAY 3 - *Sts. Philip & James*

8:30 AM - All Those in the SFA Memorial Society

SATURDAY, MAY 4

8:30 AM - Guido Bartholomew Jr.  
(*Donna Schaffer*)

5:30 PM - Guido Bartholomew Jr.  
(*Sandy Pascavage & Family*)

SUNDAY, MAY 5

7:00 AM - Rose Goodwin  
(*Family*)

9:00 AM - Rev. Paul Maloney

11:00 AM - Pro Populo

1:00 PM - Eduardo Anaya  
(*Family*)

5:30 PM - Clifford LaVair  
(*Marie & Mike Moser*)

### LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

May 4 - 5:30 pm

L - P. Smith

EM - J. Shearer

May 5 - 11 am

L - K. McDonald,

EM - T. Greco,

M. Palmore

May 5 - 7 am

L - D. DiLucia

EM - BJ Mumford,

T. Barbato

May 5 - 5:30 pm

L - B. Collins

EM - A. Collins

May 5 - 9 am

L - A. Franz,

EM - O. Russo

### 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)

#### WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

9:00 Church Cleaners (C)

1:00 Prayer Shawl Group (MH)

7:00 Men's Bible Study (MH)

7:00 Women's Bible Study (MH)

#### SATURDAY / SÁBADO

11:00 First Holy Communion (C)

#### SUNDAY / DOMINGO

11:00 May Procession (C)

(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 28, 2024

## Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

John today gives us a challenge and a solution to that challenge in our lives as Catholics. His challenge comes in his letter. Our faith needs to be more than just “word and speech but in deed and truth.” It is not enough to say that we are Catholic but we must also conduct ourselves as we are Catholic. Now this is not easy, especially in our world today. We have seen many people arrested for their Catholic faith and attacked in their own homes for their public profession of their Catholic faith. It is moments like this that I am reminded of a homily I heard as a child: If you think being a Catholic is easy, then you are not doing it right. I truly believe that all of us have a desire to live out our Catholic faith to the best of our ability but so many things get in the way. Sometimes it is fear and other times it can be a lack of conviction. We see it but we do not know how to rise above it. John then gives us the solution to our difficulties. “Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit.” Our success as Catholics depends on how united we are to Christ. This again can not be simply saying I believe in Jesus. We must actively work with Him and pursue Him. This can be done with frequent reception of the Eucharist on Sundays, going to Confession at least once a month, and having a daily prayer life. By spending more time with Jesus and engaging Him in the sacraments, we will be given the grace and strength to live the life of a Catholic. I encourage all of you today, let your profession in Jesus not just be your words but with every action you take. Open your hearts and souls to the Sacraments so you can have the grace and strength to show the world that you are a follower of Christ.

Juan hoy nos presenta un desafío y una solución a ese desafío en nuestras vidas como católicos. Su desafío viene en su carta. Nuestra fe debe ser más que sólo “palabra y discurso, sino en hechos y en verdad”. No basta con decir que somos católicos sino que también debemos comportarnos como somos católicos. Ahora bien, esto no es fácil, especialmente en nuestro mundo actual. Hemos visto a muchas personas arrestadas por su fe católica y atacadas en sus propios hogares por su profesión pública de su fe católica. En momentos como este recuerdo una homilía que escuché cuando era niño: Si crees que ser católico es fácil, entonces no lo estás haciendo bien. Realmente creo que todos tenemos el deseo de vivir nuestra fe católica lo mejor que podamos, pero hay muchas cosas que se interponen en nuestro camino. A veces es miedo y otras puede ser falta de convicción. Lo vemos pero no sabemos cómo superarlo. Luego Juan nos da la solución a nuestras dificultades. “El que permanece en mí y yo en él, dará mucho fruto”. Nuestro éxito como católicos depende de cuán unidos estemos a Cristo. Nuevamente, esto no puede ser simplemente decir: Creo en Jesús. Debemos trabajar activamente con Él y buscarlo. Esto se puede hacer con la recepción frecuente de la Eucaristía los domingos, confesándose al menos una vez al mes y teniendo una vida de oración diaria. Al pasar más tiempo con Jesús e involucrarnos en los sacramentos, recibiremos la gracia y la fuerza para vivir una vida católica. Los animo a todos ustedes hoy a que su profesión en Jesús no sea solo con sus palabras sino con cada acción que realicen. Abre tu corazón y tu alma a los Sacramentos para que puedas tener la gracia y la fuerza de mostrarle al mundo que eres un seguidor de Cristo.

Fifth  
Sunday  
of  
Easter

**Reading I: Acts 9: 26-31**

Paul is at first much feared by the disciples because of his past persecution of them. But his conversion led to the peace described here.

**Reading II: 1 John 3: 18-24**

The test of one’s acceptance by God is the willingness to do “what pleases Him,” namely loving one another as He commands.

**Gospel: John 15: 1-8**

Jesus describes Himself as the true vine, replacing the older image of Israel as the vine. The disciples, representing Jesus in the world, give glory to the Father.

## 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 21, 2024

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| Sunday   | \$7,346 |
| E-Giving | \$1,891 |

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! |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|

[www.elmwoodparkzoo.org](https://www.elmwoodparkzoo.org)

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303





# SCHOOL NEWS

## All Class Reunion

On Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, Saint Francis of Assisi School welcomed approximately 215 SFA Alumni back for the All Class Reunion as part of the Parish Centennial Celebration.

The day began with the 4:00 P.M.

Mass celebrated by Fr. Smith.

Afterwards, SFA Alumni and family members went over to the Gym and Tent for the All Class Reunion with food provided by Zone Catering.

Current Saint Francis of Assisi students and teachers welcomed our SFA Alumni as they toured both the Early Learning Center (ELC)/Annex and SFA School. The Alumni enjoyed touring the building and reminiscing about their time here at Saint Francis of Assisi School.

We would like to thank the All Class Reunion Committee, Al Zone and his Catering Staff, Anthony Party Rentals, and our current SFA students and teachers who helped with the celebration. A special thank you to all SFA Alumni who came back to our support our school! We look forward to welcoming our Alumni back again in a few years when Saint Francis of Assisi School celebrates 100 years!



## 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!

**NOTE: Registration for PREP for next year will begin in the next few weeks. Please keep an eye out for announcements in the bulletin and on the website.**

*First Holy Communion Students: First Holy Communion is on SATURDAY, May 4, at 11:00. Don't be late!*

*Confirmation Students: Congratulations on Confirmation! If you did not receive your Confirmation Certificate, please stop by the Rectorry.*

**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.

**NOTA: La inscripción para PREP para el próximo año comenzará en las próximas semanas. Esté atento a los anuncios en el boletín y en el sitio web.**

*Estudiantes de Primera Comunión: La Primera Comunión será el sábado 4 de mayo a las 11:00 horas. ¡No llegues tarde!*

*Estudiantes de Confirmación: ¡Felicitaciones por su Confirmación! Si no recibió su Certificado de Confirmación, pase por la Rectoría.*

**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  
May 21 - Essie's Ice Cream Social  
June 4 - Covered Dish

*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 [sfaprolifegroup@gmail.com](mailto:sfaprolifegroup@gmail.com).

Catholic Social Services 267-331-2490

# PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN

who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on May 4, 2024

## **Congratulations to our young parishioners!**

The following young parishioners of Saint Francis received Honor Roll at Pope John Paul II High School:

*Pope John Paul II High School*

### **First Honors:**

Reese Horn, Class of 2027

### **Second Honors:**

Gabriel Lopez, Class of 2024

Andrew Fortanel-Benitez, Class of 2027

Mariesa Osorio, Class of 2027



## HELP WANTED:

- volunteers
- catechists
- hall monitors
- classroom aides

for our Religious Education program on Sunday Mornings - our program keeps growing & we need more help!

bilingual preferred (not necessary)

contact the Rectory for more information! 610-272-0402 or email [admin@sfanorristown.com](mailto:admin@sfanorristown.com)

# 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!

## 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*