



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
601 Buttonwood Street, Norristown, PA 19401
(Phone) 610-272-0402 |
(Email) admin@sfanorristown.com |
(Website) 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, December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14;
 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 2

Advent Weekday

8:30 Anthony & Anna Picard by Family

Tuesday, December 3

Memorial of St. Francis Xavier, Priest

8:30 John F. Scanlan by The Busciacco Family

Wednesday, December 4

Memorial of St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor

No Mass

Thursday, December 5

Advent Weekday

8:30 Chase Rosato by Mom & Dad

Friday, December 6

Memorial of St. Nicholas, Bishop

8:30 All Those in the SFA Memorial Society

Saturday, December 7

Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

8:30 Josephine & Crispino Iannone by Theresa Dever

5:30 Dominick Nicola by Carol Butler & Diane Gillette

Sunday, December 8

7:00 Pro Populo

9:00 Maria Hernandez Alcala by Familia

11:30 Leonard Kelly by Family



God of hope,
 awaken our hearts
 to You this Advent season
 and fill our hearts
 with hopeful anticipation
 of Your coming
 so that when Jesus arrives,
 we are ready to receive Him
 in our hearts and minds.
 Amen.

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

1:00 PM - School Confessions (C)

6:00 PM - Benediction (A)

TUESDAY / MARTES

7:00 PM - RCIA (PC)

WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES

9:00 AM - Church Cleaners (C)

6:00 PM - Benediction (A)

6:30 PM - The Chosen (PC)

7:00 PM - Men's Bible Study (PC)

FRIDAY / VIERNES

6:00 PM - Benediction (A)

SATURDAY / SABADO

9:00 AM - Christmas Bazaar (S)

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

LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Dec. 7 - 5:30PM

L - J. McLaughlin

EM - S. Robins,
 MJ Bondi

Dec. 1 - 9AM

L - M. Chanez,

F. Davila
EM - N. Guzman,
 L. Adan

Dec. 8 - 7AM

L - C. Zurek

EM - J. Fitzpatrick
 T. Barbato

Dec. 8 - 11:30AM

L - L. Hallahan

EM - K. McTamney,
 T. Greco



SUNDAY, December 1, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith



As we begin our new liturgical year, we also begin the season of Advent. In a few short weeks, we will celebrate what the prophet Jeremiah was referring to in our First Reading this weekend. “The days are coming, says the Lord, that I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel.” That promise was to raise up our world from the pain and suffering that we so often find ourselves in.

This could only be accomplished with Christ coming into our world. The great miracle of the Incarnation that we will celebrate at Christmas, gives us this hope and reassurance that God has never abandoned us. We are given not just this season of Advent, but the entire year to welcome and embrace this miracle into our daily lives. This is how our world and our own lives can be lifted up out of all the chaos and uncertainty we may face in our lives.

So, as we begin our yearly journey of Advent, our welcoming of God into our lives, let that hope and joy guide and protect you. May it lift you up when you feel despair. Let it bring you out of any darkness of sin you may find yourself caught in. Most importantly, may this time help you see the promise God has fulfilled for us and for the world.

A medida que comenzamos el nuevo año litúrgico también comenzamos la temporada de Adviento. En unas cuantas semanas, celebraremos lo que el profeta Jeremías se había referido en nuestra primera lectura este fin de semana. “Estos días vienen, dice el Señor, que yo cumpliré la promesa que le hice a la casa de Israel.” Esa promesa fue, de levantar a nuestro mundo del dolor y sufrimiento en el que tan a menudo nos encontramos.

Esto solo se puede lograr con Cristo entrando en nuestro mundo. El gran milagro de la encarnación que celebraremos en Navidad, nos da la esperanza y la seguridad que Dios nunca nos ha abandonado. No se nos da solo esta temporada de Adviento si no todo el año para dar la bienvenida y abrazar este milagro en nuestras vidas diarias. Es así como nuestro mundo y nuestras propias vidas pueden ser elevadas fuera del caos e incertidumbre que podamos enfrentar en nuestras vidas.

Así que a medida que comenzamos nuestro viaje anual de Adviento, la bienvenida de Dios en nuestras vidas, dejemos que la esperanza y la alegría nos guíen y protejan. Que los alcen cuando se sientan desesperados. Que los saquen de cualquier oscuridad de pecado en el que se encuentren atrapados. Pero aún más importante, que este tiempo los ayude a ver la promesa que Dios ha cumplido para nosotros y para el mundo.

First Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The oracles of the prophet that are presented concern the future new king who will rule Israel and produce a “just shoot,” namely Jesus.

Reading II: I Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Paul offers a petition to Christ for His love to be bestowed on the community. He also urges the community to maintain good conduct.

Gospel: Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

The cosmic disasters at the end of time will echo the destruction of Jerusalem. Jesus uses these facts to urge a sense of readiness in His disciples.

SFA Seniors

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

December 3 - Bingo & Dessert

December 17 - Christmas Show from School Students

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

ANATOMY OF AN ADVENT WREATH

Candles, because Jesus is the Light of the World, the Light in the darkness of winter



Purple for royalty, anticipation, repentance

Pointy leaves to remind us of the crown of thorns

Red holly for the blood of Christ

Pink for Joy

Evergreen, a plant that lives through the winter when all else dies, because God's love is everlasting

Arranged in a circle because like a circle, God has no beginning or end

@LittleWayChapel

SERVICE HOURS

Are you a **school student** in need of service hours? SFA needs help setting up & breaking down the Christmas Bazaar December 6 & 7!

December 6: Set Up

Arrive at the School Gym at 4:00 pm.

December 7: Break Down

Be at the School Gym no later than 2:30 pm.

We also need volunteers during the Bazaar itself, from 9 am - 2 pm.

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS BAZAR NAVIDEÑO



Gimnasio de la Escuela
San Francisco de Asis
601 Buttonwood St.
Norristown, PA 19401



Dec. 7, 2024
9AM - 2PM



Christmas Bazaar Bake Sale

We will be taking donations of baked goods on Friday, December 6 from 5 PM - 7 PM and on Saturday, December 7 from 8 AM - 11 AM. Donations can be dropped off at the School Gym. For questions or more information, contact Barbara at 610-831-1063 or Shirley at 610-539-5851.

Thank you for all your help!!

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



St. Francis of Assisi
School Gym
601 Buttonwood St.
Norristown, PA 19401



Dec. 7, 2024
9AM - 2PM



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!

Winter 2024 cleaning dates:

December 4th & 18th

THANK YOU!



SCHOOL NEWS

Lt. Patty Simons Food Drive

The students of Saint Francis of Assisi School will be participating in the **Lt. Patty Simons Food Drive**. Please send in needed supplies to help the needy families in the Norristown area. Please give what you can in support of this worthy cause.

Now in its 29th year, the Law Enforcement Food Drive was dedicated in 2007 to the memory of Norristown Police Officer Lt. Patty Simons who was an active and vocal member of the food drive committee since its inception. Patty was also a member of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish. Some of her family members are still parish members.

More than a dozen local law enforcement agencies as well as area businesses will collect over nine tons of food which will be used to supply Catholic Social Services in Norristown, Eagleville Elementary School Snack Backpack Program, Patrician Society in Norristown, The Salvation Army Norristown Corps and Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard in Ambler with food for use throughout next year.

Here is a list of non-perishable items that are requested by the committee: Boxes of pasta, canned soup, cereal, fruit, rice, & vegetables. **Please check expiration dates before sending items into school.** Donations can be brought into school any time between now and Tuesday, December 10th, 2024.

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!

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

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

Kids Corner

Advent Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below!

DNETAV _____

GLNAES _____

RULPPE _____

EHOP _____

OJPEHS _____

ELOV _____

YRAM _____

SSUEJ _____

YJO _____

EPEAC _____

REAWHT _____

CDEANL _____

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.

CHRISTMAS CEMETERY CROSS SALE

**The Ladies of St. Francis will be
selling their beautiful handmade
Christmas Cemetery Crosses at their
craft booth at the Christmas Bazaar!**

They are priced to sell!

\$15 each or 2 for \$25

while supplies last!

We look forward to seeing you!

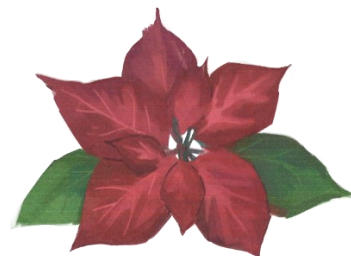
National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303

2025 MASS BOOK

The 2024 Mass Book is **FULL**. The 2025 Book opened on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11**. 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.**

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. Instead, we will soon begin to sell candles before or after Masses, to ensure we can continue to have our devotional candles without losing our Church money. We are seeking volunteers to sell candles. If you would like to stay after Mass or come early to Mass and assist, please contact the Parish Center at 610-272-0402 or via email at admin@sfanorristown.com.
Thank you.



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 2nd 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

Theresa Akers, Robin Caza, Maria Giovinco, Michele Hamilton, Patty Iaccarino, Anne Korkus, Lois Leggerie, Edward Mateja, Joe McDonald, Constance Monastero, Sandy Orth, Kathleen Prinivalli, 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:

Michael Butler from Diane & Ray Gillette

Floral Arrangement, Main Altar:

Michael Butler from Mom & Dad

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.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

"THE CHOSEN" SHOWINGS

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.***

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