

# Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



**SUNDAY BULLETIN | March 24, 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

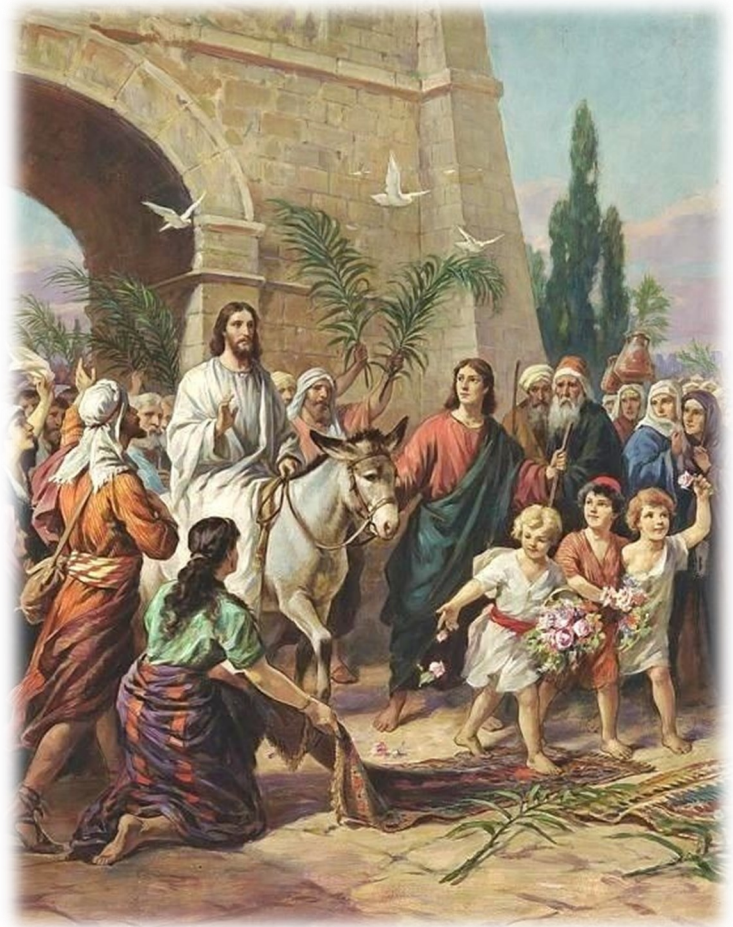
**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School**

601-A Buttonwood Street, Norristown

Miss Bridget Tigie, Principal

Phone: (610) 272-0501

Website: www.sfacatholic.org



**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024**  
**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

MONDAY, MARCH 25  
8:30 AM - Elizabeth Tarrence  
*(Sal Ritrovato & Family)*

TUESDAY, MARCH 26  
8:30 AM - Marie Monastero

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27  
**No Mass**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 28 - Holy Thursday**  
**7:00 PM - Mass of the Lord's Supper**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29 - Good Friday *Fast & Abst.***  
**9:00 AM - Morning Prayer**  
**3:00 PM - Liturgy**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30 - Holy Saturday**  
**12:00 PM - Blessing of the Food**  
**7:30 PM - Easter Vigil**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31 - Easter Sunday**  
**7:00 AM - Pro Populo**  
**9:00 AM - Pro Populo**  
**11:00 AM - Pro Populo**  
*No Evening Mass*

**LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE**

Mar. 30 - 5:30 pm  
**L** - S. Matour,  
L. Gambone  
**EM** - D. DiLucia,  
T. Greco

Mar. 31 - 11 am  
**L** - O. Russo,  
**EM** - D. Skaw,  
O. Russo

Mar. 31 - 7 am  
**L** - C. Zurek  
**EM** - T. Barbato,  
L. Steppe

Mar. 31 - 5:30 pm  
**L** - N/A  
**EM** - N/A

Mar. 31 - 9 am  
**L** - K. Bradbury,  
**EM** - T. Leone,  
K. McTamney

**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 Cleaning (C)

THURSDAY / JUEVES

RECTORY CLOSED

FRIDAY / VIERNES

RECTORY CLOSED

7:00 Stations of the Cross (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, 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:** *Easter Envelopes*  
**Floral Arrangement, Blessed Mother Altar:**  
**Floral Arrangement, St. Joseph Altar:**  
**This Weeks' Memorial Society Enrollees:**

24 Hour Confidential Pregnancy Hotline 610-626-4006

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

## Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

“Hosanna to the Son of David! O Blest is he, O Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” This hymn we sang this weekend at the beginning of all our Masses echoes the crowd in Jerusalem over two thousand years ago. They were so excited that Jesus was coming into Jerusalem. We too should also be excited for our Lord’s entrance into Jerusalem. Here is where things differ. The people of Jerusalem believed he would come and reestablish the kingdom of Israel. We should be excited because we know we are getting a lot more than a kingdom.

Today kicks off our salvation. Since Christmas, we have been preparing for this moment. Since Ash Wednesday, we have been singularly focused on what this will mean for all of us. In the upcoming days, we will dive deeper into each part of our salvation and how much our Lord reaches out to us. There is so much excitement that has been built up for this week that today we should sing Hosanna as loudly as we can. When we come to the liturgies this week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, let us do so with an enthusiasm that would rival that day two thousand years ago. We have so much to celebrate on this Palm Sunday. Let’s make sure they can hear us across Norristown, Pennsylvania, and throughout the world.

“Hosana al Hijo de David! ¡Bendito es él, bendito el que viene en el nombre del Señor!” Este himno que nosotros cantamos este fin de semana al comienzo de todas nuestras Misas se hace eco de la multitud en Jerusalén hace más de dos mil años. Estaban tan emocionados de que Jesús viniera a Jerusalén. Nosotros también deberíamos estar entusiasmados por la entrada de nuestro Señor en Jerusalén. Aquí es donde las cosas difieren. El pueblo de Jerusalén creía que él vendría y establecería el reino de Israel. Deberíamos estar emocionados porque sabemos que obtendremos mucho más que un reino.

Hoy comienza nuestra salvación. Desde Navidad nos hemos estado preparando para este momento. Desde el Miércoles de Ceniza, nos hemos centrado especialmente en lo que esto significa para todos nosotros. En los próximos días, profundizaremos en cada parte de nuestra salvación y en cuánto nuestro Señor nos llega. Hay tanta emoción que se ha acumulado para esta semana que hoy deberíamos cantar hosanna tan fuerte como podamos. Cuando asistamos a las liturgias de esta semana los jueves, viernes y sábados, hagámoslo con un entusiasmo que rivalizaba con el de hace dos mil años. Tenemos mucho que celebrar en este Domingo de Ramos. Asegurémonos de que puedan escucharnos en Norristown, Pensilvania y en todo el mundo.

### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

#### **Reading I: Isaiah 50: 4-7**

From the prophet’s “Book of Comfort” section we find an obvious reference to Jesus, whose confidence remains even with His face covered in spittle.

#### **Reading II: Philippians 2: 6-11**

Paul quotes a beautiful hymn of his time which describes Christ’s self-emptying and His exaltation. The hymn may have been in Aramaic.

#### **Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47, or 15: 1-39**

Mark’s gospel has been described as “A Passion narrative with a long introduction.” He wrote to comfort his community sometime in the 60’s AD before the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD.

# 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

## MARCH 17, 2024

Sunday	\$7,882
E-Giving	\$2,043

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.



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

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

First Grade just keeps getting better! We have been very busy and working hard every day. Our favorite time of day is our Jesus Time. We are learning about God's love, the Church Year, and the Blessed

Trinity. Starting the month of March, we are learning how Saint Patrick taught the people of Ireland about the Blessed Trinity using a shamrock. We have also decorated our own shamrock with symbols for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Our days are filled with learning so many new and wonderful things! We look forward to using all of our Math tools like connecting cubes, counting bears, and tens frames. We keep practicing our addition and subtraction facts, learning about place value, and reading bar graphs through hands-on activities and Math games.

Every week we venture to the Science Lab to conduct exciting experiments. Right now, we are learning all about the weather! We are learning how to read a thermometer in Fahrenheit and Celsius, compare the temperature inside and outside, and compare temperatures in the winter versus the summer. We will also learn about the water cycle, investigate wind, and explore ways to protect ourselves from various forms of weather. Time sure flies when you can have fun while learning and that's exactly what we do in First Grade!

# First Grade



## 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:**

*There is NO CLASS on Sunday, March 24 or Sunday, March 31. Classes will resume as normal on Sunday, April 7 with our KidTalk Lesson.*

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:**

*NO HAY CLASES el domingo 24 de marzo ni el domingo 31 de marzo. Las clases se reanudarán normalmente el domingo 7 de abril con nuestra lección KidTalk.*

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

There is **NO** Women's Gospel Study Group *this Wednesday, March 27, 2024* due to Holy Week. We will resume next week. Thank you!

## SFA Seniors

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

April 2 - Bingo & Dessert

April 16 - Chick-Fil-A Day & Spring Sale

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, April 7, 2024  
Sunday, May 5, 2024

## SFA ALL-CLASS REUNION

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, we will be hosting an All-Class Reunion for all SFA graduates. For more information, go to [www.sfanorristown.com/reunion](http://www.sfanorristown.com/reunion)

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

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

## Men's Bible Study

There is **NO** Men's Bible Study *this Wednesday, March 27, 2024* due to Holy Week. We will resume next week. Thank you!

## 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:*

*March 27<sup>th</sup>*

*April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>*

*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

## SAINT FRANCIS

# Triduum

## SCHEDULE

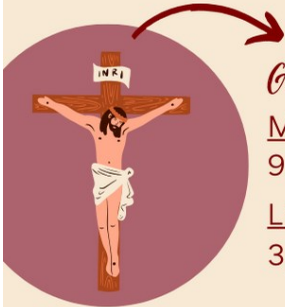
### Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper  
7pm in Church  
Adoration until Midnight



### Good Friday

Morning Prayer  
9am in Church  
Liturgy  
3pm in Church



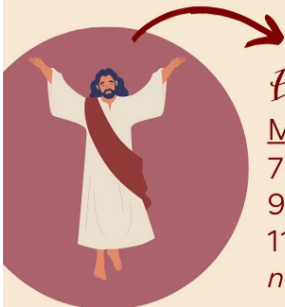
### Holy Saturday

Blessing of the Food  
12 Noon in Church  
Easter Vigil Mass  
7:30pm in Church



### Easter Sunday

Mass  
7am  
9am  
11am  
no evening Mass



## RECTORY CLOSING

**Please Note:** The Rectory will be CLOSED on Thursday, March 28, Friday, March 29, and Monday, April 1 for Easter. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 2 with normal hours.

## SFA ALL-CLASS REUNION

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 20, 2024  
4pm Mass  
5-9pm Dinner & Reunion

**WHERE:** SFA Church & School  
601 Buttonwood St.  
Norristown, PA 19401

**TICKETS:** Scan the QR Code or go to  
[www.sfanorristown.com/reunion](http://www.sfanorristown.com/reunion)



Scan Me!

*Please note: This is a 21+ event! Thank you.*

## 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