



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 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 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;
 Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 16

Advent Weekday

8:30 For World Peace

Tuesday, December 17

Advent Weekday

8:30 Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, December 18

Advent Weekday

No Mass

Thursday, December 19

Advent Weekday

8:30 Andrew & Josephine Gulotta Family by Family

Friday, December 20

Advent Weekday

8:30 Anthony & Anna Picard Family by Family

Saturday, December 21

Memorial of St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor

8:30 Mary Beth McGrath by Sal Ritrovato & Family

5:30 Pro Populo

Sunday, December 22

7:00 Edward O'Brien by Margaret O'Brien & Family

9:00 Thomas J. Murray & Family by Mark Cherelli

11:30 Joseph Buchler by Carol Buchler & Family



God of joy,
 it is in Your love
 that we find lasting joy.
 Teach us to find joy
 in the gift of Your Son,
 who came into this world with nothing,
 yet gave us everything.
 May His joy fill our hearts
 and overflow to all we encounter.
 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

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)

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

LECTOR & EM SCHEDULE

Dec. 21 - 5:30PM

L - B. Collins

EM - A. Collins,
 J. Shearer

Dec. 22 - 9AM

L -

EM -

Dec. 22 - 7AM

L - D. DiLucia

EM - T. Barbato
 L. Steppe

Dec. 22 - 11:30AM

L - J. Martens

EM - K. McTamney,
 T. Antunes



SUNDAY, December 15, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Richard J. Smith

On this Gaudete Sunday, I would like everyone to do the following: relax. Now, this may seem a little off putting but let me explain what I mean. This season always seems to bring out the worst kind of stress. We have a limited amount of time to finish the shopping, baking, cleaning and anything else that is on our list. If we keep up this frantic pace, we will all be burned out by Christmas. Look at our readings this weekend and you will see what we are supposed to be doing.

The prophet Zephaniah tells us to rejoice because “The Lord has removed the judgement against you,” Christ coming into our world is to free us from all anxiety, not add to it. St. Paul tells the Philippians to “Rejoice in the Lord always.” No where does he say panic because time is running out. St. John the Baptist encourages us to be generous and merciful to everyone that we meet and to not be overwhelmed by what to give each other. This is supposed to be a time of rejoicing and celebration, not the stress that seems to have taken over. This is why I am calling on all of us to relax and remember why we have this season of Advent. Let it be for all of us a season to rejoice in the coming of Jesus into our lives.

En este Domingo de Gaudete, me gustaría que todos hicieran lo siguiente: relajarse. Ahora, esto puede parecer un poco desalentador pero déjenme explicarles a lo que me refiero. Esta temporada siempre parece sacar el peor tipo de estrés en nosotros. Tenemos tiempo limitado para terminar nuestras compras, hornear, limpiar y cualquier otra cosa en nuestra lista. Si seguimos con este ritmo frenético, todos estaremos agotados para Navidad. Miren nuestras lecturas de este fin de semana verán lo que lo que deberíamos estar haciendo.

El profeta Sofonías, nos dice que nos regocijemos porque “El Señor ha anulado el juicio contra ti”, la llegada de Cristo a este mundo nos libera de toda la ansiedad, no añade más. San Pablo le dice a los Filipenses, “regocijaos en el Señor siempre.” En ningún lado dice pánico porque el tiempo se está acabando. San Juan Bautista nos anima a ser generosos y misericordiosos con todos los que conocemos y a no sentirse abrumados por que darnos unos a otros. Este tiempo debe ser de alegría y celebración, no de estrés que parece apoderarse. Es por eso que les hago un llamado a todos a relajarse y recordar porque tenemos esta temporada de Adviento. Dejemos que sea para todos una temporada de regocijarnos en la venida de Jesús a nuestras vidas.

Third Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Zephaniah 3: 14-18a

Here we have a summons for people to begin rejoicing, through the intervention of Yahweh, genuine victory is coming to end their present defeat.

Reading II: Philippians 4: 4-7

God’s peace “surpasses all understanding,” and so it is always cause for us to rejoice.

Gospel: Luke 3: 10-18

John the Baptist preaches that the way to salvation is through service of others. He also insists that he is not the Messiah, but only his spokesperson.

SFA Seniors

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

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.



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 18th

THANK YOU!

Suicide Prevention Helpline 800-273-8255

Crisis Lifeline 988

MAILING ADDRESS

This is a reminder that the Parish Offices have **moved**. We are *no longer located in the Rectory*. All business is conducted from the Parish Center, located at 601 Buttonwood Street. This building is the former Convent, next to the School. All mail should be addressed to/mailed to this address, and anything being dropped off should be done so at the mailbox at the Parish Center. The mailing address for the Parish Center is: **601 Buttonwood Street, Norristown, PA 19401.**

If you have any questions about this, feel free to call the office.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our 2024 Christmas Bazaar was a success! Thank you so *much* to all who participated, including:

- Our Christmas Bazaar Committee, led by Bridget Msciz;
- Sandy Pascavage;
- All of our vendors;
- Our students, for helping to set up and break down the Bazaar; &
- Santa, for taking time out of his busy Christmas Schedule to stop by for pictures!

If you have photos from the Bazaar that you would like to share, please email them to admin@sfanorristown.com!

Norristown Code Blue

Recently, temperatures in Norristown & Montgomery County have dropped below freezing, and a Code Blue has been announced.

When a Code Blue is declared, multiple County agencies and private health / social organizations offer expanded services for those without adequate shelter, including the chronically homeless and homeless families with children. The goal of the Code Blue plan is to provide temporary shelter, food, and clothing to those in need.

What To Do In "Code Blue" Conditions

- If you or someone you know needs help with temporary shelter from the cold weather or a longer-term housing issue, call the Your Way Home Call Center at 610-278-3522.
- If you see someone experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call 9-1-1.
- For 24/7 information about crisis resources for housing, utilities, food resources, and more, call 2-1-1.
- Check on elderly friends and neighbors frequently to ensure that their homes are adequately heated.



Religious Education

Welcome to the Blessed Carlo Acutis Religious Education Corner 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!!**

The Class Mass is THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 11:30 AM.

There is no PREP on Sunday, December 22 or December 29.

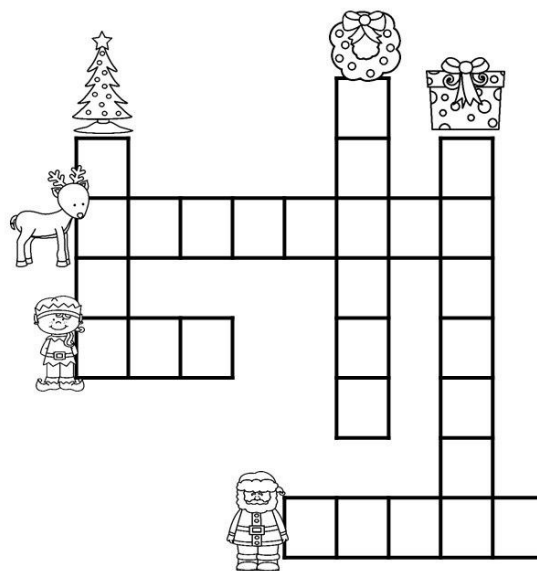
¡¡Recuerde sellar sus Hojas de Asistencia a Misa todos los Domingos!!

La Misa de clase sera este Domingo 15 a las 11:30 AM.

No hay PREP el Domingo 22 y 29 de Diciembre.



SANTA'S Wordshop



Word Bank:

Santa tree reindeer
wreath elf present

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.

Church Envelopes

We have been made aware that some
parishioners are not receiving their church
envelopes. Unfortunately, this is not something that
we have control over. These are coming from the
Post Office, and any delays or mistakes in
delivery are due to USPS. We apologize for the
inconvenience this may cause, especially during
the Christmas Season.

RCIA

There will NOT be RCIA on December 24th
or December 31st. Thank you!

National Rehab Hotline 866-210-1303



CHRISTMAS EVE

4 PM
7 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

7 AM
9 AM Misa en Español
11:30 AM

Visit our website for more
information www.sfanorristown.com

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

SFA 2024 Giving Tree

A Celebration of Parish Giving

How to give: Pick an organization from the two
below and purchase a gift card from their list. If you
are purchasing a gift card - **mark the card with the
name of the organization and the amount** (\$10,
\$25, etc.) and drop the card into the collection
basket, or drop them off at the Parish Center.

**Please DO NOT leave Gift Cards under the
trees!**

Patrician Society

Gas gift cards - Royal Farms and Wawa
Gift Cards for Target, Walmart, Acme, Weis,
Grocery Outlet, Giant

Martha's Choice Marketplace (Catholic Social Services)

\$25 Gift cards to:
Walmart; Target; Amazon

**Gift Cards MUST be dropped off no later than
Sunday, December 22nd, 2024.**

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 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.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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



Scan the QR Code below to sign up for Constant Contact! You'll be added to our email list, where you'll receive an online version of the bulletin each week, as well as other updates about parish events and important information!



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.

"THE CHOSEN" SHOWINGS

The Chosen is shown on Wednesday Nights in the Parish Center 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.*

24 HOUR CONFIDENTIAL PREGNANCY HOTLINE 610-626-4006