We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners, all new members and guests celebrating with us today.

We are a Catholic Community, rooted in the Trinity, sustained by the Eucharist and the Word of God, called to witness, to serve and to educate.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP
You are invited to join our parish family. We are committed to meeting the needs of all members. Please register by contacting our Parish Office. (Please notify the Parish Office of change in address or phone number and if you are moving out of the parish.)

RELIGIOUS DEVOTIONS
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena is on Monday after 8:00 am Mass
Novena Prayers in Honor of the Blessed Mother and St. Anthony: Are said every Tuesday after 8:00 am Mass
Prayer Group: Meets at 11:00 am - every Thursday
Adoration: Every Friday after Mass
Divine Mercy: Daily recitation of Chaplet after Mass

MINISTRIES
Join the various ministries and associations:
Ministry of Lector, Eucharist, Usher, Altar Server, Respect Life and Lazarus Ministry, St. Francis Ladies Guild, Emmaus Prayer Group, Youth Group, Carnival, Knights of Columbus and other volunteers associated with the Church of St. Francis of Assisi.

MASS SCHEDULE
Weekends
Saturday: 5:30 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 noon
Weekdays & Holy Days
See schedule in bulletin.

REV. GREG GOLBA, Pastor
LOYOLA JESUIT COMMUNITY, Weekend Associates
MSGR. REMIGIO G. ROCCO, Pastor Emeritus
DEACON JOSE RIVERA

OFFICE OF SECRETARY & ACCOUNTS
Mrs. Jane Wright & Mrs. Melissa Rivera

PARISH COUNCIL [TRUSTEES & FINANCES]
Mr. Ron Morano • Mrs. Claire Kressaty • Mr. Dale Ostrander
Mr. Tom Luciani • Mr. Bill Boswell

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE / 973-835-1946
Mrs. Maryann Marren, Coordinator
Mrs. Betty Norton, Secretary

YOUTH MINISTRY / 973-835-0480
Our youth ministry is open to all Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade students. Come join us.

BAPTISM: Parishioners are welcome to have their children baptized at St. Francis of Assisi. Please call the rectory for an appointment to discuss the arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: Saturday: 4:30-5:00 pm or at other times upon request.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements to be made at least 1 year in advance by calling the Parish Office.

R.C.I.A.: Anyone interested in an update of their faith or wanting to become Catholic, call the Parish Office.

MINISTRY OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY: For the confined, elderly and/or shut-in, be they at home or in the hospital, please call the Rectory. Holy Communion is offered to any person permanently or temporarily homebound. For the seriously sick and dying contact the Rectory immediately.
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 26, 2020

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2020
5:30 P.M.  Eleanor Bolsman
Ralph Cortellessa
Eleanor Bandera – 5th Anniversary
Tom Karwacki

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020
7:30 A.M.  Parishioners
Basil Bavun
10:00 A.M. Marcelino Glorioso, Sr.
Jan Gesla
Sister Annette Lucchese
12 NOON  John Dipiro

MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020
8:00 A.M.  Anthony Cafarella

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020
8:00 A.M.  Matthew Bourgholtzer
Marie & Edward Kulak

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020
8:00 A.M.  Msgr. Hans Weidner

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020
8:00 A.M.  Rev. Otto Hearle

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020
5:30 P.M.  John Renick
Doris McGillick

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020
7:30 A.M.  Parishioners
Walter Donnelly
10:00 A.M. Joseph Negrini, Sr.
Marcelino Glorioso, Jr.
Enriquito Go
12 NOON  Mr. & Mrs. William Montgoris

Pray daily for our servicemen and women serving their country.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
Mary Carton  Jacob Hicks  Estella Soto
Ava Rae Nebbia  Matthew Polifonte  Lois Maskley
Gary Ragusa  Herman Koenig  Evelyn Means
George Link  Michael Soojian  Valentina Manuele
Susan Nichols-Boggio  Kevin Kerrigan  Ryder Sasso
Mike Tidaback  Robert Moreno  Lydia Rivera
Jerome Foray  Loretta LaSala  Infant Ronan Suatoni
Richard Barnett  Manuel Esguerra  Kenny Sequeira
Robert Nebbia  Christopher Berry  Frank Polglaze
Sharon Acquaire  Noah Lorenco  Florence Grim
Josephine Venezia  Richard DeFalco  Alex Coronel
Geraldine Kearns  Alice Roslund  Alejandro Salcedo
Bernie Shushan  Jean’a Wojik Post  Patrick Keegan
Jason Skorubski  Jessica Skorubski  Marianne Dorn
Grace Garbarino

DECEASED:  Deceased Parishioners

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, July 19, 2020 - $3,010.00
Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY REFLECTION
Dear Friends in Christ,
“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field” (Mt 13:44). When we speak of a treasure we are always referring to something of exceptional value, of extreme importance, not to things or situations that, even though valuable for us are, nonetheless, nothing but futile and worthless refuse, for this is what temporal satisfactions and pleasures actually are: what so many people are striving to find outside, to end up totally thwarted, once experienced.

The treasure Jesus announces here is flowing in the midst of our soul, in the very nucleus of our being. It is the Kingdom of Heaven. It consists in lovingly finding, in a mysterious way, the Source of life, of all beauty, truth and goodness, and to remain united to the same Source until, our pilgrimage over and free of all useless trinkets, the Kingdom of Heaven we have been looking for in our heart and have fostered with faith and love, blossoms forth like the glowing flower that lets its hidden treasure appear in all its splendor.

Some, as St. Paul and the same good thief, unexpectedly run into the Kingdom of Heaven, without any previous thought, because God’s ways are infinite, but, normally, to discover this treasure, we have to purposely look for it: “Again the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who is looking for fine pearls” (Mt 13:45). Maybe this treasure
is only to be found by those difficult to be satisfied, or who do not make do with what they got, i.e. by idealists and adventurers.

In our temporal order, we tend to qualify the eager and unconformists as ambitious persons, but in the spiritual world, they are the saints. They are those willing to sell everything to buy the field, as St. John of the Cross points out when he says: “That you may possess all things, seek to possess nothing. That you may be everything, seek to be nothing.”

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Where is the Kingdom in our life today? For us, this kingdom begins by finding out what gifts God has given us, or by asking for some special gift from God for the benefit of others as well as ourselves, and then using them for His honor and glory.

In the First Reading, from the First Book of Kings (3:5-12), we hear how King Solomon inherits the throne of his father, David, at a very young age. This is an awesome task and Solomon knows he is not mature enough to fulfill it properly. God offers divine help but disguises it within an offer of anything that Solomon might want. Solomon asks for wisdom and knowledge to enable him to serve God and His people as God would want him to. When we fulfill our duties as God would want us to do, we are then in His presence and on the threshold of the Kingdom.

The Responsorial Psalm (19) picks up the theme of the joy that comes from obedience to the will of God, and fulfilling our role in His Plan of Salvation. This "Plan" is, in reality, God's desire to bring everyone back to the "kingdom," but He will not force us. We must choose to be with God and want to be heading toward the Kingdom.

In the Second Reading, from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:28-30), we hear one of Paul's strange statements; but his insight into the ways of the Kingdom was far better than ours, so we have to dig a little to find out what he means. The "all things work together, etc." is straightforward, and means that regardless of how confusing or difficult daily life might get, if we are following in the footsteps of Christ then they will lead us to the Kingdom of the Father. The second part says that all mankind is destined for heaven. This is not predestination, as some people believe. It means that God's original intention (and still existing desire) is for all mankind to be with Him in heaven; but only those who fulfill what is asked of them will reach the throne of God.

**The Gospel Reading from Matthew (13:44-46)**

Jesus uses simple examples from daily life to describe the "Kingdom of Heaven (or the Kingdom of God, which are the same) such as buried treasure, a fine pearl (and from other gospel passages), we can add, yeast, seeds and weeds, etc. (all things that grow), are imbedded, hard to find, yet have value and are worthy of our efforts. These are symbols of the faith given to us at baptism, but we must nourish and use our faith, because as Jesus says, "At the last judgment, the angels will separate those who fulfilled their role from those who did not."

**THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

After the first reading at Mass comes the Responsorial Psalm. This part of the Liturgy of the Word is a bit different as it is participatory. The congregation joins as one voice to chant or sing a response between verses.

While there are a few exceptions, the Responsorial Psalm is normally taken from the Book of Psalms. Most often at Sunday Mass, the Responsorial Psalm is sung. The leader or cantor will sing an antiphon and then the congregation repeats it. The cantor will then sing a number of verses, and the congregation repeats the antiphon at the end of each stanza.

I always tell Catholics that they know a lot more Scripture than they think. The Responsorial Psalm is a great example of this. While many people may have a hard time remembering the spoken word, music tends to stick with us, especially when it is something that we sing over and over again. That's exactly what the Responsorial Psalm does. Instead of having just a Top 40, the Church has a Top 150! (There are 150 Psalms in the Book of Psalms.)
Interestingly, in the New Testament, the most often quoted Old Testament book is the Book of Psalms. So when we sing the Psalms, we’re in good company!

**EUCARISTIC ADORATION**

On Aug 15th, we celebrate the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother into Heaven, body and soul. What better way to thank Our Lord who, on the Cross, gave us His Mother to be our mother too than by coming before Him in Adoration, thanking Him for sharing His Mother with us. Since her Assumption into Heaven, Our Lady has appeared to us countless times showing her concern for us, her spiritual children, and guiding us back to her Son. How better to thank Him for the gift of His Mother than by spending time with Him.

On Friday, August 7th, the 1st Friday of the month, we will have **Overnight Adoration** beginning at 7:00 PM and concluding at 9:00 AM on Saturday, Aug 8th. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Only those who sign up will be permitted in the Church during those hours. Please leave your name and phone number so that we can contact you to confirm your scheduled time and give you any necessary updates. Because of social distancing, only 3 people/families will be permitted to sign up for a given hour.

Come spend some time with Our Lord!

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**CANCELLATION OF ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL CARNIVAL**

St Francis of Assisi Church has been closely monitoring the state’s reopening guidelines for Covid 19. Given the continued uncertainty for commencing large events, social distancing obstacles and concerns for everyone’s safety, we regret to announce that this year’s Carnival scheduled for July has been canceled. We look forward to seeing you all again at next year’s carnival.

**“PROTECTION PRAYER”**

Dear Saint Christopher, protect me today in all my travels along the road’s way. Give your warning sign if danger is near so that I may stop while the path is clear. Be at my window and direct me through when the vision blurs from out of the blue. Carry me safely to my destined place, like you carried Christ in your close embrace. Amen.

St. Christopher, holy patron of travelers, protect me and lead me safely to my destiny.

**RELY ON THE LORD**

I must rely on You, Lord,
In everything that I do,
For I know with absolute certainty
That Your words are trustworthy and true.

My trust in You must not falter
As my strength is drawn from You.
You give me the power and courage
To conquer each day anew.

To live my life for You, Lord,
Is to keep You in my heart
And make You the Master of my soul,
Knowing that You will never depart.

Let all that is within me
Give You praise and glory each day,
And may I never fail to give thanks
For the happiness sent my way.

*Shirley Hile Powell*

**LECTORS**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020**
5:30 P.M.  Martha Bisaccio

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020**
7:30 A.M.  Jason Valente
10:00 A.M.  Linda O’Connell
12 NOON  Henry Mendoza
WITH PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD, THE FAMILY OF MR. AND MRS. CARLOS PARIÑAS TOGETHER WITH THE DIOCESE OF PATerson ANNOUNCE THE ORDINATION OF

REV. MR. JOEMIN KHRLO C. PARIÑAS
TO THE SACRED ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD
THROUGH THE IMPOSITION OF HANDS AND THE INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BY
THE MOST REVEREND KEVIN J. Sweeney, D.D.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020 AT 9:00 AM
AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
TO WATCH THE LIVESTREAM, PLEASE VISIT
www.patersondiocese.org

ALSO, WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE OUR GRATITUDE BY PARTICIPATING IN A
MASS OF THANKSGIVING
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020 AT 5:00 PM
AT OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH
209 ROUTE 206, BRANCHVILLE NJ 07826

RECEPTION IN HIS HONOR WILL FOLLOW THE MASS OF THANKSGIVING
A BOXED PICNIC DINNER WILL BE SERVED WITH BEVERAGES AND DESSERT
MASS AND RECEPTION WILL BE OUTDOORS
PLEASE WEAR A MASK
AND BRING A LAWN CHAIR OR PICNIC BLANKET, UMBRELLA, SUNGLASSES, AND BUG SPRAY

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