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

Mass Schedule

Weekends
Saturday: 5:30 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days
See schedule in bulletin.

Parish Office: 973-835-0480 / 0489
Fax: 973-835-3277
Email: stfrancis@optonline.net / frgregg@optonline.net
Website: stfrancishaskell.org
C.C.D.: 973-835-1946

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.

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.

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.
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 30, 2020

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2020
5:30 P.M. Ralph Cortellessa
      Intentions of Rosemarie LaLonde
      Grace Garbarino

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020
. 7:30 A.M. Parishioners
      Mary & Aileo Gazella
10:00 A.M. Anthony Cutro
      Sr. Annette Luchesse, OSF
      Grace Garbarino
      John Del Buono – 15th Anniversary
12 NOON Mary & Ted Luciani
      Alicia Montalvo
      Frosty Lawson

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020
8:00 A.M. Joseph & Gea Giavannone

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020
8:00 A.M. Kathleen & Ruth Fearon
      Martin Reddin

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020
.8:00 A.M. Intentions of Infant Evalina Hartnett
      & Parents

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020
8:00 A.M. PARISH PURGATORIAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2020
5:30 P.M Mary & Joseph Purcella
      Intentions of Lynn & Joe Skorubski
      Alexandra Goebel
      Ruth Pasquariello

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020
.7:30 A.M. Parishioners
      Danny Romeo
      Rocco Florio
10:00 A.M. Ted Luciani
      Joseph Negrini, Sr.
      John McMurray
      Ralph Cortellessa
12 NOON Vinny Scola
      Frosty Lawson

Pray daily for our servicemen and women serving their country.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
Mary Carton  Jacob Hicks  Judy Moran  Gary Ragusa
Ava Rae Nebbia  Matthew Polifonte  Lois Maskley
Herman Koenig  Evelyn Means  Bob Delventhal
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  Michael Gotti
Robert Nebbia  Christopher Berry  Frank Polglaze
Sharon Acquaire  Noah Lorencozvit  Florence Grim
Josephine Venezia  Alex Coronel  Geraldine Kearns
Alice Roslund  Alejandro Salcedo  Bernie Shushan
Jean’na Wojik Post  Patrick Keegan  Elizabeth Marren
Jessica Skorubski  Marianne Dorn

DECEASED: Thomas Kearns

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, August 23, 2020 - $4,083.00
Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY REFLECTION
Dear Friends in Christ,
In the Gospel narrative today, Jesus makes a direct connection between discipleship and the cross. The cross was indeed a genuine and real instrument of abusive torture, suffering, and death in Jesus’ life. It had no happy component. But, for subsequent Christians it has become a symbol of Jesus’ Salvific Death and Resurrection along with being a metaphor for fully and freely engaging in real human life, whether messy and painful or happy and fulfilling. The discipleship bestowed by the Gospel message of today demands that each believer embrace life as fully as possible, and in doing so, that each embrace the cross. This is a necessary connection. **No Cross; no discipleship.** From such faith-filled embrace of life with the Gospel derive for Christians all the virtues of compassion, mercy, fidelity, truthfulness, forgiveness, conversion, charity, and the like. Believers know intuitively that life is indeed worth living, and that it is good to suffer for a noble and worthy purpose. No disciple of Jesus Christ would have a life free from suffering and pain. Again, it is not unfair to say that the cross has become somewhat glamorous. Crosses are displayed in Churches, in homes, on jewelry and in other places. The cross has lost the original significance of its symbolism. Yet this must not allow us to lessen the profundity of Jesus’ call.
There are often times when we would seek to escape suffering, but many people today still die for their faith. Many people who walk among us, who share our daily lives, remain steadfast in faith despite great suffering. Often this happens silently, but it always reflects a similar truth— that the Christian faith is more profoundly focused when it is seen through the lens of this suffering. “TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME!”

OUR AMERICAN SAINTS
Elizabeth Ann Seton
Feast Day January 4
(August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821)

Mother Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. She opened the first American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage.

By birth and marriage, she was linked to the first families of New York and enjoyed the fruits of high society. Reared a staunch Episcopalian, she learned the value of prayer, Scripture and a nightly examination of conscience. Her father, Dr. Richard Bayley, did not have much use for churches but was a great humanitarian, teaching his daughter to love and serve others.

The early deaths of her mother in 1777 and her baby sister in 1778 gave Elizabeth a feel for eternity and the temporariness of the pilgrim life on earth. Far from being brooding and sullen, she faced each new “holocaust,” as she put it, with hopeful cheerfulness.

At 19, Elizabeth was the belle of New York and married a handsome, wealthy businessman, William Magee Seton. They had five children before his business failed and he died of tuberculosis. At 30, Elizabeth was widowed, penniless, with five small children to support.

While in Italy with her dying husband, Elizabeth witnessed Catholicity in action through family friends. Three basic points led her to become a Catholic: belief in the Real Presence, devotion to the Blessed Mother and conviction that the Catholic Church led back to the apostles and to Christ. Many of her family and friends rejected her when she became a Catholic in March 1805.

To support her children, she opened a school in Baltimore. From the beginning, her group followed the lines of a religious community, which was officially founded in 1809.

The thousand or more letters of Mother Seton reveal the development of her spiritual life from ordinary goodness to heroic sanctity. She suffered great trials of sickness, misunderstanding, the death of loved ones (her husband and two young daughters) and the heartache of a wayward son. She died January 4, 1821, and became the first American-born citizen to be beatified (1963) and then canonized (1975). She is buried in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Courtesy of Franciscan Media

The Power of Faith

Imagine a young woman standing beside a frozen pond in a local park. There’s a sign beside the pond which says ‘Danger – Thin Ice’. But the young woman is carrying a large suitcase which has the word ‘Faith’ in bold letters on the side of it. She thinks to herself: ‘I’ve got lots of faith, so I’ll step out onto the ice. I believe that the ice will support me.’ Is this what we think faith is? Something that, if we have enough of it, will enable us to do seemingly impossible things?

The words of Jesus today could appear to imply this. Even the disciples asked that their faith be increased — as though it was important to have lots of it. Did the disciples really know what faith is? Now imagine a similar, but significantly different scene. The same young woman is standing by the frozen pond. But this time the sign reads ‘Safe - Thick Ice’. She is holding not a great suitcase, but a mini-purse and you can hardly read the word ‘Faith’ embroidered on it. She thinks to herself: ‘I really don’t have very much faith - but I’ll use it to put my trust in what the sign says!’ Does this scene more clearly
reflect what faith really is? Certainly, it does help us
to see that the true focus is what we put our faith in
rather than faith itself (and how much of it we have).
Jesus’ words seem to suggest that it really doesn’t
matter how much faith we have.

A grain of mustard seed is the smallest possible
grain. Having the tiniest speck of willingness is
enough, he said, to uproot a sycamore and plant it in
the sea. So does this mean that we can perform
mighty miracles just by exercising a bit of faith? Not
really! There is something unspoken in the text of the
Gospel. What is that? It is the word of God that we
put our faith in. When God reveals his will, or when
God speaks his word, even the tiniest willingness to
believe him will connect us to his power and we shall
see his will or his word being fulfilled. If God
revealed that he wanted
the sycamore uprooted,
we could command it to
do so, and it would. The
key to faith is to know
God’s will or to hear his
word.

From: Bible Alive

**EUCHARISTICADORATION**

On Sept. 14th, we celebrate the feast of the
Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Cross on which
Jesus died to redeem us from our sins and open for
us the gates of Heaven. What better way to thank
Our Lord for His willingness to suffer and die for us
then by spending some time before Him in Adoration
and Thanksgiving!

There will be Overnight Adoration on Friday,
September 4th which will begin at 7:00 PM and
conclude at 10:30 AM on Saturday, Sept.
5th. A sign-up sheet is available in the
Narthex. Only those who sign up will be permitted
in the Church during the overnight hours. The
Church will open at 9:00 AM for anyone who wishes
to make an unscheduled visit. Please leave your
name and phone number so that we can contact you
to confirm your scheduled time and give you any
additional 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!

**SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS**

Couples, were you married in 1995? The Diocese of
Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th wedding
anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ.
Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this
joyful occasion to be held: Sunday, November 8th,
2020 at 3:30pm. Arrangements can be made by
contacting the parish office. The deadline to register
is Thursday, October 1st, 2020. You will receive
additional information from the Office of Family
Life once your registration has been processed.
Congratulations on this joyous occasion!

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Let us stand now and profess our faith – I believe in
God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible. Sound familiar? If
you’re a Catholic, you could probably recite the rest
of that from memory, couldn’t you? But what are
those words we say at every Mass? It’s called the
Nicene Creed, and it’s a synopsis of the things that
we, as Christians believe.

The original Nicene Creed was issued in 325 A.D. It
was written to clear up a number of heresies going
around at that time, particularly Arianism, which
denied the divinity of Christ. But that’s not the same
thing we say at Mass on Sunday. The Nicene Creed
we still recite today came from the Council of
Constantinople in 381. The council fathers there
added to the Nicene Creed more about the person of
Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, baptism, the
resurrection and eternal life.

So, if you’re ever asked what you believe as a
Christian, you can give a complete answer in about
sixty second…with the Nicene Creed.

**LECTORS**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2020**
5:30 P.M. Lynn Magnini

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020**
7:30 A.M. Jason Velante
10:00 A.M. Giovanna Vollaro
12 NOON Linda O’Connell
The young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer.

"Lord, I can't go on," he said. "I have too heavy a cross to bear."

The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear it's weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then open another door and pick any cross you wish."

The man was filled with relief. "Thank you, Lord," he sighed, and did as he was told.

As he looked around the room he saw many different crosses; some so large the tops were not visible. Then he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered.

And the Lord replied, "My son, that's the cross you brought in." -Unknown

Taking up a cross doesn't mean we carry a real cross like Jesus did, it means “follow Jesus”. We are told doing so is sometimes hard work or great labor, but it is a labor of love for Jesus, with great rewards.

IN THE CROSS ROOM STORY THE MAN THOUGHT HIS LABOR WAS TOO GREAT. WHAT DID HE LEARN?

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28
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