Saint Francis of Assisi Parish
600 Hamilton Street, Norristown, PA 19401

SACRAMENTS AND DEVOTIONS

Baptism: Usually the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 1:15 PM. Pre-Jordan class in English is the third Monday of odd-numbered months. Pre-Jordan must be attended by all parents expecting their first child. Please call the rectory to register for Pre-Jordan.

Marriage: Initial arrangements must be made at least six months prior to your wedding date. Please call the rectory and set up an appointment with the pastor.

Communion Calls: Holy Communion is brought by the deacon and Extraordinary Ministers on a monthly basis to elderly and ill parishioners who are unable to attend Mass. Please notify the Rectory to arrange a visit.

Hospitals: Pastoral care for Catholic patients in area hospitals is shared by the local parishes. When you or a loved one is admitted please inform the hospital that you are a Catholic so that you will receive Holy Communion and the Sacrament of the Sick from the parish responsible for the hospital that day.

Devotions:
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament—Mon 9 AM to 4 PM September thru May; 9 to 10 AM June thru August. The church is accessible by the handicap door after the 8:30 AM Mass until 4:00 PM (Sept.-May)
- Rosary – Monday thru Saturday at 8 AM
- Divine Mercy Chaplet—Tues after the 8:30 AM Mass.
- Infant of Prague Novena- Wed after the 8:30 AM Mass.
- Sacred Heart Devotions—Fri after the 8:30 AM Mass.
- Miraculous Medal Novena- Sat after the 8:30 AM Mass.

Visits to the Blessed Sacrament—Tuesday through Saturday after the 8:30 AM Mass until 4 PM—Stop at the rectory for the keypad code.
PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT EVERY
MONDAY BEGINNING FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK
The sick list will be updated monthly. We will be glad to keep the name of your loved one on the list for one month. If you want to extend a request for prayers beyond that time, please call the Rectory to let us know so we do not remove your loved one’s name from the list.

Please remember only the names of the seriously ill should be placed on our sick list.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
MARCH 20, 2016

Monday, March 21st
8:30 William McGhee—Janice Landy
Tuesday, March 22nd
8:30 Florence Pagliaro—Daughter, Florence
Wednesday, March 23rd
8:30 Prayer Service
Holy Thursday, March 24th
7:00 Mass of the Lord’s Supper (Adoration until 10:00pm)
Good Friday, March 25th
3:00 Good Friday Liturgy
Holy Saturday, March 26th
12:00 Blessing of Food
7:30 Easter Vigil (Includes Blessing of Easter Fire and Easter Water)
Easter Sunday, March 27th
7:00 Wayne Tenney—Catherine Clark
9:30 Marie Monastero—Family
12:00 For the Parishioners

ALTAR SERVERS—MARCH 26/27
7:00 AM Charles Reinert, Rachel Tapleava
9:30 AM Brigid Anders, Camillo Ciccipio
12:00 PM Esteban Cano, Millie Collins

LECTORS—MARCH 26/27
7:30 PM Lil Gambone, Dave DiLucia
7:00 AM Rob Gelet
9:30 AM Bryn Iacobacci
12:00 PM Brendan Collins

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS—MARCH 26/27
7:30 PM Anita DiLucia, Donald Skaw
7:00 AM Denise Branca, Tony Barbato
9:30 AM Mary Anders, Runica Smith
12:00 PM Annmarie Collins, Teresa Greco

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS— MARCH 13, 2016
Sunday Collection …………………….………………. $ 9,941
Sunday Collection One Year Ago………………. $10,114
Change from Last Year………………………….. $ 173
Change YTD (7/1/15) ……………………………… $ 309

THANK YOU for supporting your parish!
PLEASE REMEMBER to use your weekly envelope so you are credited for your donation.
PLEASE REMEMBER to include St. Francis Parish in your estate planning and your will.
PLEASE REMEMBER if you are away your weekly contribution may be mailed directly to the parish office.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS (PRE JORDAN)
The next class in English will be on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7pm. The next class in Spanish will be on Monday, April 18, 2016 at 7pm. Pre Jordan classes are held in the Parish Meeting House. Contact the rectory to register.

FAMILY REGISTER
We are glad to welcome into our parish community:
Gerald Corrao and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Maurer Lecane and Family
We mourn those who have gone before us in death and commend them to the Lord and the Communion of Saints:
James Reilly

Vivian Beto
Michael Cantello
Brian DeCarlo
Vince DeCarlo
Daniel Enz
Ginger Field
Fr. Dominick Finn
Joseph Korkus
Mary Korkus
Mary Ellen Kramer
Jane Leflar
Debbie Lucchese
Philomena Martino
Bethann McElroy
Mary Meacham
Edward O’Brien
Ernie Paravati
Blanche Petko
Juanita Sanchez
Joseph Sotera
Louis Statuti
Jim Tarlecki
Kim Villanova
**VOLUNTEER FOR PRO-LIFE!**

Volunteers are needed to help with raising money for the culture of life cause. Volunteers are only needed for one Mass twice a year (usually in May or October). If you wish to volunteer call Joe Aquilani 610-539-0592.

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**This Week’s Memorial Intentions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intention</th>
<th>Donor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary Lamp (BVM side)</td>
<td>Marie Naseef</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanctuary Lamp (St. Joseph side)</td>
<td>Albert Naseef</td>
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<td>Altar Bread this Week</td>
<td>Fran Korkus</td>
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<td>Wife, Anne</td>
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<td>Floral Arrangement (Main Altar)</td>
<td>Flower Envelope Intentions</td>
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<td>Parishioners and Friends of SFA</td>
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<td>Floral Arrangement (BVM Chapel)</td>
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<td>Parishioners and Friends of SFA</td>
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<td>Floral Arrangement (Christ Chapel)</td>
<td>Flower Envelope Intentions</td>
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<td>Parishioners and Friends of SFA</td>
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<td>Memorial Society</td>
<td>Dorothy Chiaravalloti, John Bartholomeo, John Bartholomeo, Louis Statuti, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stan and Mary Ann Serosky, Charles and Joan Ware, Stevenson Environmental Services, Carol Ann Volante, Cheryl Paciello</td>
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**SAVE THE DATE**

Please check the upcoming bulletins for more details about these events.

**Easter Egg Hunt—March 26—11:00 AM**

**Spring Carnival—May 3 through May 7**

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Mark your calendars—Footsteps to the Cross—Palm Sunday Evening, Sunday, March 20th at 7:30 pm at St. Titus Church, 3006 Keenwood Road, East Norriton. If you are looking for a contemporary way to pray the stations this year for Lent, join Bethany Music Ministry at the Footsteps of the Cross. If you have never experienced this you won’t want to miss it! “Footsteps” is a prayerful meditation focusing on the final hours of Christ as told through scripture, narration and music. All are welcome!

**“THE LIVING STATIONS”**

Sacred Heart Parish will host “The Living Stations” on Palm Sunday evening, March 20th, at 7 pm in their church. All are welcome to attend a presentation using Scripture and song. A cast of over thirty parishioners will lead you in a prayer centered reenactment of our Lord’s Passion, Death and Resurrection. For more information call Sacred Heart Rectory 610-275-1750. The church is located at 120 Jefferson Street in Bridgeport.

**Golfers and non-golfers…have fun and protect life!** The Valley Forge Chapter, Knights of Columbus, is holding its 8th Annual Pro-Life Golf Tournament on Friday, May 6, 2016 at Twin Ponds Golf Course, Gilbertsville, PA. Event includes breakfast, lunch, banquet dinner, golf and individual/team skill prizes. Cost is $100 per golfer. Dinner only tickets available for $35/person. Sponsorships are welcomed. Contact Gary Huster 610.972.0356 thebighue@aol.com or Mark Nunan 610.754.7185 marknunan@dejazzd.com. All proceeds benefit local crisis pregnancy centers.

**VOLUNTEER FOR PRO-LIFE!**

Volunteers are needed to help with raising money for the culture of life cause. Volunteers are only needed for one Mass twice a year (usually in May or October). If you wish to volunteer call Joe Aquilani 610-539-0592.

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**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Monday, March 21**

8:30 AM Mass  
7:00 PM Confessions  
(last confessions before Easter)

**Tuesday, March 22**

8:30 AM Mass

**Wednesday, March 23**

8:30 AM Prayer Service

**Holy Thursday, March 24**

*No Morning Mass permitted.*  
7:00 PM Mass of the Lord’s Supper  
The Church will be open until 10:00 PM for private prayer at the repository.

**Good Friday, March 25**

*No Morning Mass permitted.*  
9:00 AM Church will open for private prayer at the repository.  
3:00 PM Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

**Holy Saturday, March 26**

*No Confessions, No 5:30 PM Mass*  
12:00 Noon Blessing of Easter Food  
7:30 PM Easter Vigil (includes blessing of Easter Fire and Easter Water)

**Easter Sunday, March 27**

7:00, 9:30 AM & 12:00 Noon Mass  
*There is NO evening Mass on Easter*
The Blessing of Easter Food

Many cultures, especially Eastern European, have the tradition of bringing some of the food that will be served on Easter Sunday to the parish church to be blessed. Many people have asked what should be in the Easter Food Basket and also what the different foods represent. There are many variations according to nationality as to what foods are in the basket and their significance. Below is a list of the most popular foods. Many people also bring their children to this blessing giving them a small Easter basket with some colored eggs so they can feel as if they are part of the service. This year we will have the blessing of the Easter food on Holy Saturday at 12:00 PM. The prayers and blessings take no more than a half hour.

The Traditional Easter Basket

BUTTER: This dairy product is often shaped into a lamb or a cross. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

EASTER BREAD: A round loaf topped with a cross or a fish, symbolic or Jesus, who is our True Bread of Life.

HORSERADISH WITH GRATED RED BEETS: Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection.

EGGS: (Decorated with the symbols of Easter): Indicate new life and Christ’s Resurrection from the tomb.

SAUSAGE: A spicy sausage of pork products, indicative of God’s favor and generosity.

HAM: Symbolic of great joy and abundance. Some prefer lamb or veal. The lamb also reminds Catholic that the Risen Christ is the “Lamb of God.”

SMOKED BACON: A symbol of the over-abundance of God’s mercy and generosity.

SALT: So necessary an element in our physical life, that Jesus used its symbolism: “You are the salt of the earth.”

CHEESE: Shaped into a ball, it is the symbol of the moderation Christians should have at all times.

CANDLE: A candle is inserted into the basket to represent Christ, the light of the World.

Sometimes a ribbon and greenery are attached to the basket. The linen cover is drawn over the top and the basket is ready for the journey to church where it is joined with the baskets of others to await the blessing that will render it ready for consumption on Easter Sunday.

2016 Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy Archdiocesan Pilgrimage

All are welcome to participate! Holy Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy - Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. Program begins at noon and includes confessions, procession and crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the holy Rosary, and concludes with a Solemn Mass at 3:00 PM. Archbishop Charles Chaput, celebrant and homilist. Let’s fill the Basilica as the sons and daughters of Mary!
PARISH ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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<td>Lillian Aguilar</td>
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<td>Bereavement Committee</td>
<td>Fr. James Goerner</td>
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<td>Carnival Committee</td>
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<td>Cub Scouts</td>
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<td>CYO</td>
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<td>Mary Anders</td>
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<td>Greeters</td>
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<td>St. Vincent dePaul</td>
<td>Tony Antunes</td>
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<td>Ushers</td>
<td>John Bilella</td>
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PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nancy DeKok, Rev. James E. Goerner, Deacon Jim Mahar, Kay McDonald, Lillian O’Donnell, Patricia Perna, Nancy Sanchez, Linda Steppe, Bridget Tigue

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Patricia Bader, Jim Buscicco, Rev. James E. Goerner, Patricia Perna, Felicia Riehman, Mary Anne Serosky, Edward Shaw, Edward Scott, Mark Stuart

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our parish recently received notification of the performance of our high school students on the First Semester Report. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence.

At Archbishop Carroll High School Jovante Anderson and Maria Montanez achieved First Honors; Mariely Nogueda, Tyler Murray, Angelica Palmore and Abigail Riehman achieved Second Honors.

At Pope John Paul II High School Megan Horst achieved First Honors.

At Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School Brianna DeGrazio and Deavin Ryley achieved Second Honors.

The Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network will be celebrating its 4th Annual Terri’s Day Memorial Mass on Thursday, March 31st at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul in Center City, Philadelphia. All are welcome. A ticketed “Trailer for Life” cocktail hour with buffet-style food and open bar will be held afterwards at The Stotesbury Mansion nearby on Rittenhouse Square. Tickets can be purchased by calling (855) 300-4673 or by visiting lifeandhope.com.

March 20, 2016—Palm Sunday of the Passion

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

I have a close friend who tends to use the word “awesome” a bit more than I prefer. He applies the adjective to everything from a plate of sushi to a ski slope. Friendship trumps grammar, and I would never want to be a curmudgeonly ex-English teacher. So I offer him neither correction nor suggestion. But I did think of my friend’s habit as I pondered the Passion of Jesus, and thought to myself: “How awesome!”

This account of God’s unparalleled love for us almost baffles the mind, and brings to light how puny our response often is. Or how quickly and often we forget what Jesus endured for our sake.

We know deep down that the lesser characters in the drama act as stand-ins for us and how we act. We betray Him. We deny Him. We run from Him. We’re there in the crowd that shouts “Crucify Him!” to Pilate. Maybe often. Maybe seldom. But we do these things in our relationship with God. We need His mercy to survive and start over.

Our guilt is assuaged somewhat by those stout hearts and loyal followers who stayed with Jesus to the end. They were mostly women, who dare us from their vantage point at the foot of the cross, to call them “the weaker sex.” Mary His Mother, “Tower of gold and ivory” stands among them, bloodied from His wounds.

The Church holds us back today from letting us hear officially about the events of Easter morning. We stop reading at the point in the gospel where Pilate lets the chief priests and the Pharisees use his soldiers as a guard at the temporary tomb of God.

We will wait out the week ahead and recall and honor the events that will come. The Holy Eucharist and the new priesthood will originate before the nails get driven into His hands and feet. We will watch in our minds’ eyes as the story is read to us twenty-one centuries afterward. We will be stunned to see the dark side in each of us contrasted sharply with the holiness of the Nazarene. We will perhaps hear with our imagination the words and music of Handel’s “Messiah” as background for our meditation. But at certain points this week we will be compelled to silence in the face of what happened before Easter. It is Holy Week, and it is entirely… awesome.

Laudato Si: Evening of Reflection and Action — April 20—Celebrate Earth Day “Catholic style!” Come for an evening of reflection and action based on Pope Francis’ recent encyclical Laudato Si, on care for the environment. Ricardo Simmonds, M.S. in environmental studies, will introduce us to the document’s main themes and various organizations will be present to offer attendees ways to get involved. Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 7-9pm, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 222 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA. Parking is free. No registration required. For more information visit phillyevang.org/events.

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