



## SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

*The Mission of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Springfield, PA is to be disciples. Centered in the Eucharist, we are called to encounter, follow, and imitate Jesus' way of life through the humble example of our patron, St. Francis of Assisi.*

### Worship

**Adoration** – The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar for Adoration following the 8AM Mass each Wednesday in church, with Benediction following Holy Hour 7-8PM. During December, Adoration begins at 3PM. Adorers can sign up for a specific hour.

**Altar Servers** – Assist at Mass and other parish liturgies. By serving at the altar, you have the opportunity to experience Mass in a dynamic way. Open to boys and girls grades 5 through 8; training is provided.

**Breaking Open the Word Reflection Writers** – Volunteers offer to write the reflection questions for the church bulletin which assist parishioners in preparing for the upcoming Sunday readings. Each volunteer writes the questions for one month on a rotating basis.

**Cenacle - Flame of Love** – Members meet each Wednesday at 1:30 PM in Church for Adoration and Flame of Love Rosary for priests, souls in purgatory and for our parish.

**Church Environment** – Parishioners volunteer to decorate the Church for liturgical seasons.

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** – Parishioners who have been commissioned to distribute the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass and take Communion to the homebound. Ministers are chosen based on their demonstrated faith as well as their moral

standing in the community. Call the rectory if there is someone who wants or needs a home visit.

**Intercession Writer** – Parishioners who compose the General Intercessions for weekly liturgies, special feasts and parish Masses.

**Lectors** – Proclaim the Word of God at weekly liturgies, holy days and daily Mass.

**Liturgy Committee** – A group who devotes their time and talent planning parish liturgies.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** – Children's Liturgy of the Word ministers guide our parishioners age 5 until they receive First Communion through a Liturgy of the Word Program designed for their ages by celebrating with them in the children's library (basement of the Church) during the 9:30AM Mass on Sunday each weekend during the school calendar year (except Christmas).

**Ministers of Hospitality** – Welcome all who enter church and assist with the offertory collection.

**Music Ministry** – The Adult Choir meets in the choir loft of church Thursday evening from 7:00-8:30 PM to practice for weekly Masses and other liturgies throughout the year. Cantors lead the congregation in singing the Mass responses. Musicians share their talents at liturgies.

**Rosary Group** - The rosary is prayed Monday through Saturday before the 8:00 AM Mass.

### Education

#### Children:

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** - Religious formation for children ages 3 to 4 based on the educational philosophies of Maria Montessori. Children experience Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in an "atrium," a sacred space where work and study spontaneously become contemplation and prayer. In the atrium, children are exposed to hands-on catechetical learning materials guided by trained catechists.  
(Currently this program is not active)

**Parish School** – Since 1929, St. Francis of Assisi Parish School has served the Springfield, Delaware County community. Ranging from age 3 in our Pre-School, to age 14 in our eighth grade, we strive to meet the needs of every child we are blessed to have as a member of our school community. Since Christ is the reason for the school, we ensure that the truths of the Catholic faith are taught and learned by all students. Our technology program is twenty-first century as we try to develop all the talents of our students. For any information about St. Francis of Assisi Parish School, please visit our web site: [www.SFASchool.com](http://www.SFASchool.com).

**Parish School Home & School Association** – The St. Francis of Assisi School Home & School Association is a tremendous asset to our school community. Always striving to meet the needs of the school, the members dedicate themselves to fundraising, as well as "spirit-raising" when we just get together to enjoy each other's company. The Home & School Association arranges assemblies for the students and speakers for the general Home & School meetings. We are so grateful for the active membership that truly joins home with school.

**Parish Religious Education Program (PREP)** – Catechesis is provided by volunteer catechists for parish children who attend public schools. Catechists follow the guidelines set by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Training and other formation opportunities are available for classroom catechists. Classroom Aides and general clerical help are also needed. The parish religious education program meets on Tuesdays from September through May for two different sessions: 4:40-5:45 PM (Grades 1 – 3) and 6:45-8:00 PM (Grades 3-6).

**Family Catechesis** – St. Francis of Assisi offers a "Family Home-based Catechesis" Program. To accommodate the demands of family life and assist parents with making religious education a priority in their homes.

#### Adults:

**Adult Faith Formation** – Adult faith formation sessions, planned throughout the year, provide adults an opportunity to grow in knowledge and practice of the faith. Parishioners are encouraged to seek spiritual growth through educational programs and parish involvement.

**Parish Men's Group** – Meets every Saturday from 7 AM to 8 AM virtually to share the desire to follow Jesus more closely by being better husbands, fathers, grandfathers, leaders, followers, sons and friends.

**RCIA** – The "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" is the process by which adults are fully initiated into the Roman Catholic Church. It serves as a spiritual and formational welcoming process for adults who have not been baptized or have been baptized in another faith tradition. Those who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but have not been catechized or completely initiated may also inquire at the rectory. Interested parishioners are invited to become RCIA team members or sponsors.

**Small Church Communities** – These groups gather during Lent and sometimes throughout the year in private homes or in a parish facility. The coming Sunday readings or spiritual books are the focus of the weekly/monthly meetings.

**Women's Bible Study Group** – An opportunity for women to strengthen their faith and journey closer to the heart of God. All women are invited to join. The group meets September ~ April on Saturday mornings.

### Service/Outreach

**Caring for Friends (formerly Aid for Friends)** – A non-profit organization that provides meals to the homebound people in our 5-county area. Volunteers prepare meals in their homes and other volunteers deliver them once a week to the needy. Meal preparers and Home visitors are always needed.

**Bereavement Support Team** – Members of this team assist grieving parishioners in the planning of the funeral liturgy for their family member and the printing of a liturgy booklet used during the funeral liturgy. Other members act as greeters for the Mass/liturgy. Members also plan a yearly memorial Mass in November close to the feast of All Souls. Anniversary cards are also sent to families by this team.

**Child Care During Mass** – Child Care is made available in the Pre-School Room in School during the 9:30 AM Mass for infants to age 4.

**Collection Counters** – Assist on Sundays on a rotating basis to count the weekend Mass collections.

**Elizabeth Ministry** – Following the example of Mary and Elizabeth, this parish ministry values the role women hold in the Church and in society and reaches out to women and their families during times of joy and sorrow in childbearing years: pregnancy, celebration of birth, grandparent support, miscarriage, infant/child crisis, infant/child death, infertility, and adoption. This ministry holds an annual Mass of Remembrance for families who have lost a child of any age. This Ministry meets in the Library on the 2nd Monday of the month, September through May, (except December) 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

**Evangelization Team** – Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself (Go and Make Disciples, #10) The parish team assists the parish in discovering ways to deepen the faith, share the faith and invite others to faith. Members act as a catalyst for evangelization to happen in the parish. They work to raise awareness within the congregation of their role in evangelization.

**Fellowship Committee** – Volunteers who plan the parish socials for special events and following certain Masses.

**Health & Wellness Ministry**– Volunteers visit with those in need, who are diagnosed with an illness, recovering from surgery, or dealing with a stressful situation. The goal is to integrate faith with spiritual, physical, and emotional healing.

**Intercessory Prayer** – A group of parishioners who pray for the needs of parishioners, their families and friends using a telephone prayer chain. Please call 610-328-0741 to present prayer requests.

**The Legion of Mary** - A lay apostolic association of Catholics whose priority is the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. Members participate in the life of the parish by visiting families, home bound parishioners, and the sick in their homes, hospitals, or nursing homes, and by collaborating in the apostolic and missionary undertakings sponsored by the Parish. Our Lady Queen of Peace Praesidium (The St. Francis of Assisi Group) meets weekly in the Rectory Chapel .

**Parish Food Collection** – An outreach ministry of St. Vincent de Paul Society, is a monthly collection of food by parishioners (September through May). The food collected is distributed to needy parish families and other community food pantries. Collection dates are announced in the bulletin and at the doors of church.

**Pro- Life Group** [Three-Parish] – Parishioners who work to inculcate a respect for life as demanded by God’s laws, in our society in general, and in our parish in particular. The group promotes the teachings of the Catholic Church, especially in regard to family, marriage, chastity, healing and reconciliation for those suffering from abortion, advocacy for human life in any condition and age, public witness and civic action. Pro-life Group meets once a month, 7 - 8 PM, September through May.

**Sewing Ministry** – Parishioners who sew and/or embroider the white garments provided to families celebrating the baptism of their child.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society** – This ministry endeavors to practice the Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy in dealing with those who seek financial aid & assistance with providing food for their families. "No act of charity is too small" in the words of St. Vincent de Paul. Whatever it takes from assisting with a mortgage payment, reversing utility shutoff, giving grocery scrip, or providing rides to medical appointments for the elderly and ill, is accomplished through donations from the parish as well as our members and parishioners. The ministry meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday in a parish building and prospective members are always welcome.

**Welcoming Committee** – Teams of two, on a rotating basis, contact and visit new parishioners to welcome them to the parish and invite them to be active members.

**Women’s Prayer Group** - Monthly prayer group for women who want to be better mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends. The group helps to guide mothers to grow closer to God through camaraderie with fellow moms, faith sharing and reflection on weekly readings, and volunteer opportunities.

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## Creating Community

**Catholic Youth Organization** – CYO sports is a partnership of parishioners who manage and support a sports program (13 sports with over 30 teams) that allows youth in grades 1-12 to grow in their relationship with God and come to better understand themselves and their Catholic faith.

**Parish Social Group – The Fryers** - The goal of St Francis Fryers is to carry out the mission of the parish via dinners and other food related activities. This group attempts to draw parishioners and others into a welcoming social setting with high quality foods at reasonable cost. Over the past five years the Fryers have sponsored Fish Fries, Italian Night Dinners, Ice Cream Socials, and Pancake Breakfasts. New members are *always* welcome.

**St. Francis Players** - The Players carry out their mission to serve as a parish ministry for adults and children alike by fostering fellowship and community involvement in theatre and the fine arts. The group puts on an annual production every spring with its season running from early January to early May.

**Young Adults Group** - The Springfield Catholic Young Adult Group is an organization that hopes to deepen members’ faith while exploring three core principles: Community, Spirituality and Charity. This group provides individuals ages 21-35 an opportunity to experience their Catholic faith in a supportive and open environment in fellowship with their peers.  
(springfielddyoungadults@gmail.com)

**Youth Groups** – [Three-Parish] A Regional Youth Ministry for the three Springfield parishes have a combined ministry under the direction of a full-time Youth Minister. There is a 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade group and a high school group. Please contact [jbraconnier@stkevin.com](mailto:jbraconnier@stkevin.com) for more information.

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## Stewardship

**Master Plan Committee (Buildings/Grounds)** - The committee consists of Parish Pastor, staff, and technically knowledgeable parishioners. The committee assesses parish buildings and grounds to prioritize urgent needs and assure the safe and reliable condition of all facilities and grounds.

**SCRIP Program** - Scrip is the Parish based program where you purchase gift cards to your favorite stores through SFA and get a percent of that purchase amount back as a tuition credit or rebate check. The scrip program is open to all registered members of St. Francis of Assisi parish. The goal is to assist parish members in meeting ever-increasing financial demands and to support the parish.

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## Special Parish Councils

**Finance Council**- A consultative body presided over by the Pastor whose role is to advise and assist the Pastor regarding the parish finances. The Council provides insights and support in the preparation of the operating budget, capital projects, and the overall financial condition of the parish.

**Parish Pastoral Council** - A consultative body presided over by the Pastor whose role is to advise and assist the Pastor in areas of pastoral concerns. The Council is comprised of parishioners, representative of the entire parish, recognizing and reflecting the parish’s rich diversity. The Pastoral Council develops and maintains a Strategic Pastoral Plan that reflects the identity and mission of the parish in light of the Gospel, Church teachings and the specific realities and needs of the parish. The Parish Pastoral Council is to cooperate with parish committees which address such areas of parish life as worship, spirituality, community, evangelization, education, and service.

Parish Website  
[www.sfaparish.org](http://www.sfaparish.org)

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