Third Sunday of Lent ~ March 23, 2025



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

610-543-0848 (fax) 610-604-0283 <u>www.sfaparish.org</u> <u>contactsfaparish@sfaparish.org</u> ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL 610-543-0546

Rev. Matthew J. Tralies ~ Pastor Deacon W. Timothy Baxter Rev. Henry J. McKee ~ In Residence Deacon James J. McGonigal



Interested in having your child Baptized here at St. Francis? Please contact Joan Curtis at the Rectory 610-543-0848 or email us at: BaptismsSFA@gmail.com



For Information regarding Upcoming Funerals & Services, Please visit our Parish Website at <u>www.sfaparish.org</u> and click on...





3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



Sunday, March 23, 2025 7:30AM Betty Green 9:30AM Ron Grapin (2nd Ann) 11:30AM Rev. Joseph J. Meehan Monday, March 24, 2025 8:00AM John R. Wells Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:00AM Mary Armillei (1st Ann) Wednesday, March 26, 2025 8:00AM Rev. Joseph J. Meehan NO ADORATION OR EVENING HOLY HOUR (Cleaning Church Floors) Thursday, March 27, 2025 8:00AM Kathleen Dougherty Friday, March 28, 2025 8:00AM Pam Flood (5th Ann) **NO 1:30PM School Stations** 6:30PM Stations of the Cross Saturday, March 29, 2025 8:00AM Norman Chartier **3:00PM Confessions** 4:00PM For the People of the Parish Sunday, March 30, 2025 7:30AM Rev. Joseph J. Meehan (1st Ann) *9:30AM Nadia Philiposian (*New Parishioner Welcoming Mass) 11:30AM Shawn Bennett and Marguerite McLaughlin

REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED Especially Mary Ann Ganley and Michael Corea May they rest in God's peace and may their families be comforted.



MEMORIAL FOR MARCH Bread~ Dennis & Agnes McNichol Wine~ John & Cathrine McGee

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE

This candle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. For the week of March 23rd, the candle will burn in loving memory of Katherine Varga as requested by a Friend.

PRAYER REQUESTS TOGETHER WE WILL PRAY

Baby Margot Steindl Baby DeSantis Dominic Rosini Andrew Colona **Monique Carpenter** Anne McGlone Maria DiGiacinto David Clemmer **Catherine Lindsey Danny Hynes** Robert W. Bollinger Leslie Dougherty **Margaret Binetsky** Jack Braconnier, Sr. Marvann McCaulev **Bob Buchanan** Alicia Bona **Mary Jean Grandizio** Natalie Berry **Carolina Longmore** Maryann Murphy Cathy Baj Jenine Amato **Deacon Joe Gousie** Sandv Keller **Chris Touchton** Tim Corlies Susan Aljets Fox Family **Kevin Fries** Rav Binni **Brittany Killen Howard Tina Farally**

Baby Daniel Ruszai Emilv Belfie Arthur LeTourneau Lucretia Murphy William Feindt **Brian Marandola Carmen Salerno** Amy Faulls **Mary Benedetti Shealyn Mencel** Kathy Fritz Jeannie Brattini **Joanne DeSantis Ron Fraatz Denise DeAngelis Marie Martin** Greg Schmidt Susan Lower **Inger Sexton** Gerald Berry Ann Farren Dan Bruno **Malcolm Wills** Joe Mastalski Sadie Keller Mark McKinsev **Paul Ansaldo** Scott Aljets Merkle Family **Bryan Treude David Maxwell Ellen Ribbs**

Evan Farrington Michael Farley Bill Seavey Dolores Govannicci Ethel LeVasseur **Michael Costa** Joanne Marks Veronica Suppa **Caroline Donovan Amy Travers** Emily Meakim Paula Bazela Patti Frost Cinko Joe Calabrese **Beverly Scarani** Madelvn O'Keefe Hank McElwee **Colleen Fullerton Eileen Bowdren Brian Griffin Marsha Four** Patricia Lafferty Jack Schultz Michelle Rodger Ambrose Hummel Patricia Lindsey Ian Regino Peggy Burke Franny Devlin **Dobbs Family** Neil Bohley, Sr. **Raysond Mills** Jake Trimmer

For Our St. Francis of Assisi Parish Community If you have someone you would like prayed for, OR have **REMOVED** from prayer list, please email Joan Curtis at sfabulletin@hotmail.com or call the Rectory at 610-543-0848. Thank you for your prayers.



St. Francis of Assisi Memorial Fund

A Contribution can be made to the Memorial Fund in the Memory of a loved one. A Mass will be Offered on the First Friday of each month for the year for all Members of the Memorial Fund. Contribution of \$10 is requested and can be arranged at the **Rectory Office.**

WEEKLY DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Please join us Wednesday mornings immediately following the 8AM Mass in front of the Sacred Heart statue in Church for the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Breaking Open the Word 4th Sunday of Lent ~ March 30th, 2025 Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

"... they ate of the produce of the land..."

The people of Israel were blessed to be fed and nourished, first by manna, then by produce of the land. Can you think of ways where you have received 'spiritual manna' in your life? When you awoke and felt inspired, spiritually nourished?

Now reflect upon the gift of actual food. Do you take your 'daily bread' for granted at times? In what ways, can you change and take steps to employ gratitude each day for your daily sustenance? What are the ways in which you can help others in their quest for spiritual as well as physical nourishment?

<u>2 Corinthians 5: 17-21</u>

"...as if God were appealing through us..."

Ponder those words, "As if God were appearing through us."

Reflect upon the simple but powerful ways each day you can live that out...at work....at home.... on the road...in social settings...at the grocery store...at a ballpark...at your child's Little League game. Can you consciously try to be 'as if God were appearing through you' three times a day as a start? Then build up from there.

Luke 15:1-3;11-32

"...you are here with Me always...."

Admit it. Are you like me, your knee jerk reaction is to identify with the 'Good Son,' not the Prodigal Son? I get it.

Yet, over the years, I've come to see that if someone were to ask me where do I fall on the 'scale'...closer to the Good Son (or Daughter) or the Prodigal Son (or Daughter)....I am skewing to the side where I have too often 'fallen down on the job.' I can almost hear God saying, "What did he do now?"

So, if you happen to be closer to the Good Son, that is great. However, Good Son\Daughter or Prodigal Son\Daughter, isn't it nice God is with us always? In what ways, can you best live out your life knowing this fact?

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY



If anyone is in need of assistance with utility bills, or other bills, or in need of food, or, if you

bills, or other bills, or in need of food, or, if you know of someone who needs help, call 610-212-4932 and someone from the St. Vincent will call you.

RIDE FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

If you are in need of a ride to a doctor or test appointment, please call the Rectory 610-543-0848 and someone from the St. Vincent de Paul Society will call you back to coordinate a ride for you.

UPCOMING ST. VINCENT de PAUL EVENT:

<u>April 26th</u> - clothing drive truck pickup in SFA parking lot from 10 AM to 1:00 PM (clothing & small appliances).

Weekly Comparison Parish Financial Report

<u>3/17/2024</u> Sunday Envelopes ~ \$10,166.24 Electronic Giving ~ \$5,147.11 \$15,313.35

> <u>3/16/2025</u> Sunday Envelopes ~ \$ 11,490.02 Electronic Giving ~ \$ 5,924.19 \$17,415.11

RCIA UPDATE FOR PARISHIONERS



Alyssa Chedeville, who we now call the "elect" and who will be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time on Holy Saturday evening, will take part in special rites called "*Scrutinies*" on the 3rd , 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent. The Scrutinies celebrate a deep mystery of our spiritual journey. Through these rites, Alyssa, in preparation for baptism, will be turning over to God any hold sin has on her.

Along with Alyssa, we are also invited to allow God's grace to scrutinize our hearts as we, too once again and more fully this Lent turn over to God any hold sin has on us.

ST. FRANCIS IN ACTION !!

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Springfield PA seeks to emulate our patron saint in service to others. We seek to encounter people in need through a variety of offerings that provide us with the opportunity to be Christ like and to meet Christ in those we serve.



Please join us on Sunday March 30 at the 9:30 AM Mass to welcome the new parishioners who have joined our SFA family since November. All are invited to a reception after Mass in front of the church. We look forward to seeing you!

SAINT John'S Ministry HOSPICE Homeless

St John's Hospice- is a men's homeless shelter and also serves meals to homeless men. The collection is next weekend, **March 29 & 30.** Please bring breakfast items (cereal, breakfast bars, coffee, tea, juice), personal care items (hand sanitizer, bath soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, lip balm and shaving items) and new/gently used men clothes. Items can be left in the church entranceways/ vestibule. Contact Cathy and Mark Kenney at

<u>cfkenney@verizon.net</u> if you wish to drop off items at our home or for further information about the ministry.

CARING FOR FRIENDS (CFF)

Prepared meals for *Caring for Friends* should be dropped off at St. Francis of Assisi Rectory during NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS. The Freezer is located in the Rectory basement. To Drop off on weekends or off hours contact Jill Hoffner or Cheryl Monkman. Meal tins are located in the SFA rectory (during regular business hours) and the vestibule of the church.

If you are interested in this ministry or have any questions, please contact Cheryl Monkman (610)574-5541 or Jill Hoffner (610)733-1593.

SFA CYO is the recipient of the United Way under the Honor Option Plan. Your donation supports our activities for the youth of our parish. If you wish to support the CYO, please indicate: CYO/ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI/SPRINGFIELD #7046 SFA CYO



NUTRTIOUS MEALS HELP CHILDREN GROW HEALTHY IN GUATEMALA

In Santa Maria Chiquimula, Guatemala, over half the community is affected by malnutrition. Amid rising food prices and job loss, Ana Belén and her husband were struggling to provide for their growing family. But they saw a ray of hope through their participation in a Catholic Relief Services' program that helps them ensure their children are healthy and have the nutrition they need to thrive and play. Visit <u>www.crsricebowl.org/join</u> to share your Lenten prayer intentions.



Join us as we pray the Novena of the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary **Wednesdays at 1:30PM** in the Church.

FLAME & LOVE

To Host the Pilgrim Queen Statue in your home for one week, (Sunday to Sunday), visit the Parish website at <u>sfaparish.org</u> and click on the link to *Sign Up* to reserve your week and Be Blessed by Our Lady and Our Lord. For more information, call Roseann Squitiere at 610-328-0635.

THE THREE PARISH BOOK CLUB



The Three Parish Book Club will hold its March meeting in the Family Life Center at Holy Cross on Wednesday, March 26th at 7:00pm. If you would like to join the meeting or would like more information, please contact Terry Price at 610.506.6449 or via email at <u>termprice@verizon.net</u>. <u>March Book</u> - Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less by Greg McKeown.

SAINT FRANCIS OVER 50 CLUB



The meeting is this Thursday, March 27th. We will be entertained by "Dr. Johnny D." The doors to Leonard Hall (Gym) open at 12:30pm and starts at 1:15pm.

Casino Trips: 4/9, 5/14 & 6/11. Cost is **\$35** with return of \$15 in slot play. Bus leaves at 10am from the St. Kevin parking lot (200 W. Sproul Road). Park in spaces adjacent to the Springfield Country Club. **Call Joe Gowen at 610-739-8146.**

<u>Membership</u> to our Club is open to the entire community. Anyone who is 50 years of age or older may join the Club regardless of sex, religion, or race. For Membership information, call Cathy Randazzo at 610-328-0408 or 610-389-5225.



"<u>PRO-LIFE" LINES"</u>

Crisis Pregnancy Resource hotline: 610-626-4006. Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion healing: 877-HOPE-4-ME <u>www.rachelsvineyard.org</u>. A Baby's Breath 24-hour hotline: 484-571-5540. www.ababysbreath.org.

Www.audoysoleaninoig. Delaware County Pregnancy Center: 610-872-2229, <u>www.dcpcchester.org</u> Mother's Home: 610-583-HOME, <u>www.mothershome.org</u>. Pro-Life Union of Delaware County: 610-789-LIFE.

The Saint Anastasia Respect Life Ministry is sponsoring a one-day Youth retreat entitled, <u>Theology of the Body</u> -<u>Igniting the Divine Spark</u>. The retreat will be held at Cardinal O'Hara High School on **Saturday**, **March 29** and will feature Samantha Kelley who is an engaging and dynamic speaker on the topic of St. John Paul's Theology of the Body. Young people need to hear a message that counters the message given in our culture and as a Church, we are blessed to have the answer with St. John Paul's masterpiece. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at

www.sarespectlifeministry@gmail.com.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace Presidium Legion of Mary



Legion of Mary

The Saint Francis Chapter of the Legion of Mary (Our Lady, Queen of Peace Praesidium) invites you to become an active or auxiliary member of Mary's Legion. Active members attend a weekly meeting and commit to doing two hours of work each week for Mary and her Son. Auxiliary members pray the Legion prayers daily for the intentions of our Blessed Mother. **Our Legion meets on Monday afternoons at 1:30 P.M. in the Rectory Chapel.** We invite you to join us to learn more about our work. For more information, call Gus McClay at 610 544-7223.



Parish Men's Group meets every Saturday morning virtually from 6:45~8:00AM to share the desire to follow Jesus more closely by being better husbands, fathers, grandfathers, leaders, followers, sons, and friends. All are welcome to join us! Please call in at 6:45AM at 646-558-8656 **Meeting ID**: 738 611 2876 **Passcode**: 111501.



SCRIP sales are held in the gym from 9:30–11am every Sunday (except holidays). If you have any questions, please contact Deb Peterson or Amy Foran at <u>sfascripsales@gmail.com</u> call 484-432-1472 or: <u>https://www.sfaschool.com/scrip/</u>

Phillip Baumberger Pro-Life Scholarship

Do you know of any high school Seniors planning to attend one of these universities or any current college students at these schools?

- University of Pittsburgh Penn State University Park
- · University of Delaware
- West Chester University of Pennsylvania . .

To Learn More, Visit:

- Temple University
- Thomas Edison State University Rowan University

If so, we would like to share this scholarship opportunity with them.

Phillip Baumberger Scholars can earn \$2,000 per year while changing hearts and minds on abortion. The Deadline to Apply is May 2, 2025.



Abortion Dialogue Academy

https://www.abortiondialogueacademy.org/scholarship/



All women are invited to join us in fellowship, aimed at strengthening our faith and journeying closer to the heart of God. This year, we will be using Walking with Purpose's "Touching the Divine" bible study. https://walkingwithpurpose.com/bible-study/ for more info and to order the book. Meetings will take place in SFA's Library on select Saturday mornings at 8:30am, beginning September 14th. If you have questions or want more info, please reach out to: Jen Lorenz 610-333-3011.



ALL ARE INVITED !!! Come let your heart be soothed and experience the peace and serenity of our Parish Holy Hour on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Church. If you have questions or wish to volunteer and help reach out, please contact Rob Longo (Rob@LiveVertical.org) or Luke LeTourneau (Luke@LiveVertical.org) or call 610-986-6660. For more info, visit: www.livevertical.org

BE ENCOURAGED: CATHOLIC SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH WEBSITE

www.archphila.org/support.

Resources to assist with healing, accompaniment and flourishing. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has launched a website with resources to support those who are experiencing mental health struggles and those who love them. The website offers links to find Catholic clinicians, local crisis response phone numbers and ministries that can assist with recovery and healing. In addition, there are tools to help parishes, schools and institutions cultivate a deeper awareness of and responsiveness to these realities, suffered by so many. Visit the Be Encouraged website at www.archphila.org/support

HOPE IN CHRIST: SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR ADDICTIONS

Seeking solace and spiritual support in the journey towards recovery? Many local parishes are offering ways to experience Christ's extended hand of love and mercy in your time of need. Find Catholic resources for addiction for you or your loved one at www.archphila.org/hope

Also available for support is Faith-based drug rehab website: www.AddictionCenter.com/Treatment/Faith-Based-Drug-and-Alcohol-Rehab



Wednesday, April 9th.

GOD BLESS ALL WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY



Michael Armellini Christopher Baxter Davidson Cox Timothy Drabyak Kevin Geiger Aidan Jones Connor Lyons Shawn McConaghy James McDonald Nicholas McDonald Michael McGarvey Francis McGrail Stephen Peranteau Katherine Reider Chase Stewart Skip Turner Weston Haves

Cale Amador Colin Butler Thomas Cresta Mike Froeter Jon Hylton Matthew Jones Dan Marchini Bill McDermott Daniel McLee Ronan Plummer Patrick J. Ryan, Jr. Jesse Stewart

John Michael Bartivic Jonathan Butterfield Anthony DelVecchio Owen Galligan Jacob Johnson Matthew Kauffman Timothy McCanns Emma McDonald Nicholas Peranteau Peter Ouinn Joseph Spence Sean Sweenev

Let us pray for those who SERVE and PROTECT...

Dear Heavenly Father, we lift our sailors, soldiers, marines, airmen, coast guard and families into Your loving care. Protect our Nation from all that is evil. Guide our way through these difficult times. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

VEAD END CIVINC STATEMENTS

Requests for Year-End Financial Giving Statements can be
submitted online through the St. Francis of Assisi website:
www.sfaparish.org
If you contribute electronically, you can also obtain your
Contribution Report through your Parish Giving Account.
You can also use the form below to make your request. Request for Year-End Financial Statement If you would like a statement of your yearly contributions for tax purposes, please print and complete this request form.
Either mail it to or drop it off at the Rectory, or place it in the collection basket.
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Either mail it to or drop it off at the Rectory, or place it in the collection basket.
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SACRED HEART CHURCH, CLIFTON HEIGHTS

PIEROGI SALE (Pierogi is a case of dough filled with a savory potato and cheese filling and cooked by boiling and then pan frying). Made at St. Stephen's Church Hall, 199 W. Baltimore Ave. (Baltimore Pike & Church St), Clifton Heights, March 31 to April 11, \$9.00 per dozen. Order by Calling Joanne Bidoli at 610-574-7077 or the Rectory at 610-623-0409 between 10AM and 3PM. Pick up times at St. Stephen's Church Hall (pierogi must be ordered first).Weekdays Noon to 1:30PM or Special Evening Pickup Wednesday of both weeks 5:30 to 6:30PM.

UNBOUND-FREEDOM IN CHRIST ONE DAY CONFERENCE Saturday, April 12, 9AM-4:30PM.

What is Unbound? Are you struggling with the same sins, habits, and hang ups such as anger, resentment, or unforgiveness over and over again? Do you find yourself grappling to identify as the child of God that you are and receive the deep love God has for you? The Unbound One Day Conference provides a comprehensive overview of a gentle model of prayer based on the book, Unbound by Neal Lozano. Speakers: Matt Lozano and Neal Lozano. Church of St. Joseph, Aston/Degnan Hall, 3255 Concord Road, Aston, Pa 19015. Reg./more info: https://heartofthefather.com/

BONNER/PRENDIE CLASS OF 1975 50TH JOINT

CLASS REUNION Saturday, November 1, 4-8PM at the Drexelbrook Catering and Event Center. If interested in attending, kindly reach out to Deb Cooper Richey at (610)804-6920 or email debbie.cooperrichey95@gmail.com.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD: Come to our Healing Weekend Retreat April 4-6, in Doylestown, PA, at the National

Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. If you or someone you love has been suffering from the emotional and spiritual pains of an abortion, a Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekend can help - no matter how much time has passed. Rachel's Vineyard retreats bring healing and God's forgiveness to the trauma and darkness of abortion for those who are suffering from shame, guilt, or anger. Join us from April 4 through 6, for a safe, loving, and confidential weekend, and experience the healing power of God's infinite mercy. To register, or for more information, please call Evelyn (215) 317-5752.

IHM Conference Center

401 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 Conference Day: "What is Our Role in the Healing of the

World?" Tuesday, April 8, 9:30am-12N.

Presenter: Sister Christine Koellhoffer, IHM

Stipend: \$40 (includes breakfast lunch and Mass)

What is our role in the healing of the world? The prophet Isaiah tells us we are called to repair and restore what is broken (Isaiah 58:12). We begin with our own inner soul work and expand our reach to our neighbors in the global community in whom Jesus continues to suffer today. Through prayer, presentation,

handouts for reflection, and times of stillness and conversation, we will bless what is in need of healing in ourselves and in our beautiful yet wounded world. Please join us for this Lenten day of reflection.

Movie With Meaning: "Breakthrough." Wednesday, April 9, 12:00 lunch; 1:00 movie. Stipend: \$20 (lunch). Tragedy strikes when Joyce Smith's adopted son, John, falls through the ice on a frozen lake in Missouri. Trapped underwater for more than 15 minutes, rescuers bring John back to the surface and rush him to the nearest hospital. While doctors fear the worst, the 14-year-old boy continues to fight for his life as Joyce, her husband and their pastor stay by his bedside and pray for a miracle.

Please register for these events by calling 610-581-0120 or emailing S. Marie at ihmconferencecenter@gmail.com

THE CALIX SOCIETY "A.A. restores your health and keeps you from an early grave. Calix saves your soul and puts you on the road to heaven." - William J. Montroy, a founder of the Calix Society. Are you in a 12-step recovery program? Do you have family or friends in recovery? Tell them about The Calix Society! We meet the last Saturday of every month at St. Francis of Assisi after the 4:00pm Mass in the Church Library/basement. For more information about the Calix Society please visit

www.calixsociety.org. You can also contact Ken Johnston at 215-327-3236 or ken@notsaintsyet.org. For more info about our meeting at SFA: please contact Luke LeTourneau at 610-986-6660.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

We salute the advertisers in our bulletin. This week we thank **MALLORY'S** ARMY ® Foundation **BE KINDNESS ~ STOP BULLYING!**

www.MallorysArmy.com 973-440-8657 Please consider using our advertisers' services and tell them you saw their ad in our bulletin.

PRAYER

Lord, Let everything I do this day and in this season of Lent come from You, be inspired by You. I long to be closer to You. Help me to remember that nothing is important in my life unless it glorifies You in some way. It's so easy to get caught up in the day to day of my life and keep saying,

"Tomorrow, I will spend more time in prayer," but now my longing meets Your love, and I want to do it now. Help me to rely on You for help. The prayer asks You that I reach perfection. Please, Lord, remind me that "perfection" isn't the crazy, "successful" way I try to live my life, but a perfection of my most authentic, real self. My "perfection" might be holding my many flaws in my open hands, asking You to help me accept them. Heal me, Lord, and help me to find You in the darkness of my life. Let me reach out in this darkness and feel Your hand and love there to guide me. Amen.



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