

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 22, 2024



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Rev. Matthew J. Trailles ~ 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

Adoration

of the
Blessed Sacrament



**NO Adoration &
NO 7PM Holy Hour
on Wednesday,
December 25th and
Wednesday January 1st.**

Wednesday Adoration
and 7PM Holy Hour will
resume on Wednesday,
January 7th.



To inquire about scheduling your
Wedding Ceremony here at St.
Francis, please contact our Parish
Wedding Assistant, Joan Kane at
SFAWeddings@gmail.com



**Christmas
Office Closure**

Rectory Office will be **Closed** for the Christmas Holiday
Tuesday, December 24th through Thursday, December 26th.
(Regular Hours resume on Friday, December 27th)

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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Sunday, December 22, 2024

7:30AM Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McCallum and
Mr. & Mrs. Max Girshick

9:30AM Nancy Curtis (7th Ann.)

11:30AM Chris Corey

Monday, December 23, 2024

8:00AM Mary P. Price

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

8:00AM Giuseppe and Olga Dragonetti

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES:

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24th

4:00PM (Church)

4:00PM (Leonard Hall)

7:30PM Solemn Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM

Thursday, December 26, 2024

8:00AM Jack Peranteau

Friday, December 27, 2024

8:00AM Kate Ciavarelli

Saturday, December 28, 2024

8:00AM Frank and Eleanor Lynch

3:00PM Confessions

4:00PM For the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 29, 2024

7:30AM Joseph and Chris Corey

9:30AM Mary, Robert & Sue Kirkpatrick

11:30AM John Noone

†REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED†

Especially Eileen Ann Donovan and Laura O'Donnell

May they rest in God's peace and may their families be comforted.



MEMORIAL FOR DECEMBER

Bread and Wine

Hoagland and Debany Families

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE



This candle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. For the week of December 22nd, the candle will burn in loving memory of **Nancy and Tom Curtis** as requested by their daughter-in-law, Joan.

PRAYER REQUESTS TOGETHER WE WILL PRAY

Baby Daniel Ruszaj

Baby Margot Steindl	Emily Belfie	Evan Farrington
Baby DeSantis	Arthur LeTourneau	Michael Farley
Dominic Rosini	Lucretia Murphy	Bill Seavey
Colin Murray	Lou DeSantis	Dolores Govannicci
Monique Carpenter	Brian Marandola	Ethel LeVasseur
Anne McGlone	Carmen Salerno	Michael Costa
Maria DiGiacinto	Amy Faulls	Joanne Marks
David Clemmer	Mary Benedetti	Veronica Suppa
Catherine Lindsey	Shealyn Mencil	Caroline Donovan
Danny Hynes	Kathy Fritz	Fran Donnelly
Robert W. Bollinger	Jeannie Brattini	Emily Meakim
Leslie Dougherty	Joanne DeSantis	Paula Bazela
Margaret Binetsky	Ron Fraatz	Patti Frost Cinko
Jack Braconnier, Sr.	Denise DeAngelis	Joe Calabrese
Maryann McCauley	Marie Martin	Beverly Scarani
Bob Buchanan	Greg Schmidt	Madelyn O'Keefe
Alicia Bona	Susan Lower	Hank McElwee
Ray Kenney, Sr.	Mary Jean Grandizio	Inger Sexton
Natalie Berry	Gerald Berry	Eileen Bowdren
Carolina Longmore	Ann Farren	Brian Griffin
Maryann Murphy	Dan Bruno	Marsha Four
Cathy Baj	Malcolm Wills	Patricia Lafferty
Jenine Amato	Joe Mastalski	Jack Schultz
Deacon Joe Gousie	Michelle Rodger	Ambrose Hummel
Sandy Keller	Sadie Keller	Patricia Lindsey
Chris Touchton	Mark McKinsey	Ian Regino
Tim Corlies	Paul Ansaldo	Peggy Burke
Susan Aljets	Scott Aljets	Franny Devlin
Fox Family	Merkle Family	Dobbs Family
Amy Travers	Frank Riehl	Kevin Fries

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 sbulletin@hotmail.com or call the Rectory at 610-543-0848. Thank you for your prayers.

HOLIDAY RECTORY HOURS

The Rectory will be closed on the following days:

Tuesday, December 24th

Wednesday, December 25th

Thursday, December 26th



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. (Except for Christmas Day & New Year's Day)

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.

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**

Breaking Open the Word

December 29, 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28

Hannah wanted badly to be a mother but couldn't conceive. Finally, she prayed for a miracle and got one. In return, Hannah dedicated her weaned son to God's service. Can you hear her mother's heart breaking as she handed tiny Samuel to the priest at the shrine? The good news for Hannah is that she'll go on to bear three more sons and two daughters. Her fidelity to her promise to God is rewarded. But Hannah has the consolation of watching her son become a great priest, prophet, and judge. Samuel also anoints David king—of whose house Jesus will come. Hannah gave up her baby. Mary surrendered her reputation. What are you willing to risk for the arrival of God's purposes?

1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24

"Beloved, we are God's children now..." Some people may think why create a world and jump-start history if all God is ever going to get out of it is children and more children? Because that's what love does. Love has to have its object, the beloved, that "other" out there at which to direct its fulfillment. Loving us is not God's hobby. It's a full-time, eternal job with no pay—and it costs plenty. Where do you see your place in God's household?

Luke 2: 41-52

The Church usually celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family on the Sunday after the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Besides venerating Jesus' earthly family, the feast lifts up and offers spiritual encouragement to all families. Can you reach out to someone you know who is struggling in their parenting? Offer a listening ear, a homemade dinner, a helpful resource, or other tangible support.

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 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.

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.



CARING FOR FRIENDS (CFF)

Until further notice, please drop off meals at St. Kevin's parish in the foyer in the Parish Life Center. Meal tins are located in the SFA rectory (during regular business hours) and the vestibule of the church. The meals will go to the elderly, homebound, and veterans.

The CFF program is also looking for volunteers to deliver meals to people in Clifton Heights, Drexel Hill, Media, and Broomall. If you are interested in this ministry or have any questions, please contact Cheryl Monkman (610)574-5541 or Jill Hoffner (610)733-1593.

MARY MOTHER OF CAPTIVES

A Support Group for those coping with a loved one in prison. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at St. Charles Borromeo Church Hall, 3422 Dennison Avenue, Drexel Hill, Pa 19026. **Attendees remain confidential.** For more information, please call John or Sue at 610-259-3178 or email: marymotherofcaptives@augustinian.org.

Visit the Imprisoned. Become a Pen Pal... In prison, sometimes the only contact with the outside world is in the form of letters. Pen Pal writers are needed to write to the poorest of the poor. For more info, call John or Sue at 610-259-3178 or email: marymotherofcaptives@augustinian.org.

SAINT FRANCIS OVER 50 CLUB



There is **NO MEETING** on December 26th. The next meeting is January 9th. We will be entertained by "Massimo Brutto." **Merry Christmas, to ALL!!!**

"IRISH CELEBRATION" Join St. Francis Over 50 Club at the Shore Club in Springton Lake, NJ on **March 6th**. For more information, **contact Cathy Randazzo at 610-389-5225.**

Casino Trips: 1/8, 2/12, & 3/12. Cost is \$30 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.**

Membership 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.



PRO-LIFE DIAPERS

Every baby is a miracle from God who deserves to be loved, protected and supported. This is the mission of **Every Life** diapers through the sale of their diapers. Popular brands, Pampers, Huggies and others, have voiced and given their support to the abortion agenda. **Every Life** brand does not support this agenda and supports pro-life resources. You can order diapers and wipes for your baby or "buy for a cause" to be donated to a pregnancy resource center. Go to EveryLife.com. A bundle is a perfect baby shower gift!

"PRO-LIFE" LINES"

Crisis Pregnancy Resource hotline: 610-626-4006.

Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion healing: 877-HOPE-4-ME
www.rachelsvineyard.org.

A Baby's Breath 24-hour hotline: 484-571-5540.

www.ababysbreath.org.

Delaware County Pregnancy Center: 610-872-2229, www.dcpchester.org

Mother's Home: 610-583-HOME, www.mothershome.org.

Pro-Life Union of Delaware County: 610-789-LIFE.



To Host the Pilgrim Queen Statue in your home for one week, (Sunday to Sunday), visit the Parish website at sfaparish.org 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 Squitieri at 610-328-0635.



RaiseRight

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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 sfascriptsales@gmail.com or call 484-432-1472

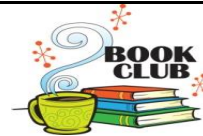
Or visit: <https://www.sfschool.com/scrip/>



"Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous deeds." (Psalm 98) Come sing to the lord and join the Saint Francis of Assisi Choir!

We are looking for men and women of all ages and levels of experience. If the Lord is calling you to minister in song, expand your musical skills, and feel like part of a family, then the choir is just the right group for you. We practice once a week and typically sing at the 9:30am Sunday Mass. We also sing on some Holy Days and for special Masses. There's much to look forward to! So, if you're looking for a ministry that accepts you for who you are, and shares your desire to glorify God, then look no further than the choir. Contact our music director, Eric Longo at ericjlongo@gmail.com for inquires.

THE THREE PARISH BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will hold its December and January meeting in the Family Life Center at Holy Cross on **Wednesday, January 22nd at 7PM**. If you would like to join the meeting or if you would like more information, please contact Terry Price at 610.506.6449 or via email at termpri@verizon.net.

December book – Waiting for Christ – St. John Henry Newman

January book – Walking with God in the Unimpressive Seasons of Life – Fr. Mike Schmitz

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.



Malvern Retreat House

HOLY SPIRIT GROUP MEN'S RETREAT

January 24-26th.

To register, visit: <http://www.malvernretreat.com>

It is a Traditional Men's retreat, including daily Mass, conferences, all meals and overnight accommodations, at a cost of \$275.00. Our weekend begins 5:00PM on Friday, January 24 through Sunday 26th. I'd like you to consider coming out for this retreat. During this time, you will experience prayer, meditation, reconciliation, group discussions, Eucharistic liturgies and special speakers.

* This years' Retreat Director is Father William Cocco of St Edmonds Parish Rehoboth Beach DE.

* Our speakers are Deacon Tom McGovern of St Joseph Paris High bridge N.J.

* Mary Bea with the Carlo Acutis Shrine at Malvern retreat House.

* Finally, our special event is Mr. Eustace Wolfington, Executive Producer, of Angel Studio's presenting a private viewing of the acclaimed movie "Cabrini."

Email me with any questions. Carlo Borgia – cqb58@verizon.net

The Corner

Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

We welcome the Son of God as our Savior. Most of us use many words to say nothing, but God speaks One Word and says everything. Merry CHRISTmas!

THE GREAT GAELIC GETAWAY



With Fr. Matt Tralies & Fr. Jim DeGrassa
May 4-13, 2025 ~ 10 Days!

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Visit: www.cloverdaletravel.org or call 215-469-1505
(Trip flyer is available at the Church entrances).

ST. FRANCIS PARISH MEN'S GROUP



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.



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.

LIVE VERTICAL



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



Babysitting on Sundays, during the 9:30AM Masses...

For ages 12 months to 5 years old. The babysitting will take place in the SFA Upper School Building. Enter through the door to the LEFT of the Gym and go in the first classroom on the right. Doors will open starting at 9:15AM. To register your child(ren), or to volunteer to sit, contact: Rebecca Donovan at 607-351-8381 or Katie Birkhead at 484-995-9941. **CLEARANCES NECESSARY FOR BABYSITTERS.**



Calling all Knitters & Crocheters

Are you looking for a way to serve the Lord using your God given talent? "PROJECT LINUS" is a nationwide project where knitters or crocheters donate their handmade blankets for hospitalized children from Premies to Teens. For more info, call 610-328-0741.

GOD BLESS ALL WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY



Michael Armellini	Cale Amador	John Michael Bartivic
Christopher Baxter	Colin Butler	Jonathan Butterfield
Davidson Cox	Thomas Cresta	Anthony DelVecchio
Timothy Drabyak	Mike Froeter	Owen Galligan
Kevin Geiger	Jon Hylton	Jacob Johnson
Aidan Jones	Matthew Jones	Matthew Kauffman
Connor Lyons	Dan Marchini	Timothy McCanns
Shawn McConaghy	Bill McDermott	Emma McDonald
James McDonald	Nicholas McDonald	Michael McGarvey
Francis McGrail	Daniel McLee	Nicholas Peranteau
Stephen Peranteau	Ronan Plummer	Peter Quinn
Katherine Reider	Patrick J. Ryan, Jr.	Joseph Spence
Chase Stewart	Jesse Stewart	Sean Sweeney
	Skip Turner	

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.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

We salute the advertisers in our bulletin. This week we thank



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ST. FRANCIS PLAYERS WIZARD OF OZ AUDITIONS!



The St. Francis Players are pleased to announce our 2025 production will be “The Wizard of Oz”! Performances to be held: April 25, 26, and 27 as well as May 2, 3, and 4.

Sign-ups and auditions for adults (9th grade and older) will be on Sunday, January 5 at 8:15 PM-Leonard Hall, 136 Saxer Avenue, Springfield PA 19064.

(Callbacks to be held Wednesday, January 8)

Children’s chorus (Grade 1-8) or anyone interested in other volunteer opportunities need only to register on our website. Should lead roles for children be deemed necessary, auditions for children will be scheduled for a later date.

For more information regarding auditions and other special events regarding the St. Francis Players please visit our website www.stfrancisplayers.org.

MOVIE WITH MEANING: “THE BUTLER”

Wednesday, January 8, 12:00 lunch; 1:00 movie

Stipend: \$20 (lunch). *The Butler* tells the story of a White House butler who served eight American presidents over three decades. The film traces the dramatic changes that swept American society during this time, from the civil rights movement to Vietnam and beyond, and how those changes affected this man’s life and family. Forest Whitaker stars as the butler with Robin Williams as Dwight Eisenhower, John Cusack as Richard Nixon, Alan Rickman as Ronald Reagan, James Marsden as John F. Kennedy, Liev Schreiber as Lyndon B. Johnson, and many more.

CONFERENCE DAY: SACRED HEART

January 14, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

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

Presenter: Sister Rose Adams, IHM. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a sacred way for us to encounter the fullness of the Gospel, the good news of God’s saving love poured out for us in Jesus Christ. In our time together we will trace this devotion through the years and discover through scripture and art new ways to deepen our love and appreciation that God became one of us.

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

WOMEN OF HOPE (formerly known as Dominican Women) Retreat: **March 14-16, 2025**. Come to Malvern Retreat House to renew and strengthen your relationship with our Lord. Take time to deepen your faith, in the company of other women who seek more from their faith lives. The theme is “The Eucharist- Food for the Journey.” Speakers include Jeannine Peters, Sr. Shiela Galligan, IHM, and Nicky Verna. Visit and learn about the first Archdiocesan Shrine dedicated to Blessed, soon to be Saint, Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint of the youth. Mary Bea Damico will speak about him in the shrine and a first-class relic can be venerated. Please consider the gift of this weekend retreat for yourself and other women in your lives. The cost is \$275 and a \$75 deposit minimum is requested to secure your spot. To register, call 610 644-0400 or visit www.malvernretreat.com

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

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 info about our meeting at SFA: please contact Luke LeTourneau at 610-986-6660.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

Dear God, You already know the pain we’ve carried, the deep wounds, the feelings of loss and heartache. You know how we’ve so often lost hope. Wondering if we’ll ever be truly free from this burden. It feels too great some days. We desperately need your healing and grace. We need your peace, and our hope restored. We need to be reminded that you work on behalf of those you love, constantly, powerfully, and completely. Forgive us for trying to fix our situations all on our own. Forgive us for running in different directions and spinning our wheels to find help, when true help and healing must be found first in You. Forgive us for forgetting how much we need you, above everyone and everything else.

We come to you and bring you the places we are hurting. You see where no one else can fully see or understand. You know all the places where we need to be set free, even those we’re not aware of. We ask for your healing and grace to cover every broken place. Every wound. Every heartache. Thank you for being able to do far more than we could ever imagine. Thank you for your mighty power that acts on behalf of your children. We reach out to you, and know that you are restoring and redeeming every place of difficulty, every battle, for your greater glory. Thank you that you will never waste our pain and suffering. We love you. We need you today. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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Message and data rates may apply.

WINTER OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday
January 29, 2025
9:00 - 11:00 am



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To register, please call us at 610-525-1670 or
admissions@staloyusiacademy.org
www.staloyusiacademy.org

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