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 1 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 1:00 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.

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Evening - 5:30 PM
Sunday - 7:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 12:00 and 5:30 PM
Mass in Spanish—2nd Sunday of Month at 4:00 PM
Mon. through Sat. (except Wed.) - 8:30 AM
Eve of Holydays - 5:30 PM
Holydays of Obligation –8:30 AM, 12:00 and 7:00 PM
(except Christmas and Easter)

CONFESSIO N SCHEDULE
Saturday: After 8:30 AM Mass & 4:00 PM—5:00 PM
(others times by appointment)

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday hours until 4:00 PM
(closed between 12:00 and 1:00 PM)
Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Sunday — Closed

New Parishioners—Welcome to SFA! Please call the Rectory to arrange a time to register in our parish.

CLERGY AND STAFF
Rev. James E. Goerner, M.Div., Pastor
Rev. Augustine Esposito, OSA., Weekend Mass Help
Deacon James Mahar, Permanent Deacon
Rev. Gerald Canavan, M.Div., Weekend Mass Help
Mr. Peter DiNofia, Business Manager
Mr. Sean Crosby, Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Elizabeth Nacarelli, Parish Secretary
Mrs. Dolores Landis, Office Manager
Miss Bridget Tigue, School Principal
Mrs. Courtney Jackson, Early Learning Center Director

BULLETIN DEADLINE – Monday 12 Noon

CONTACT INFORMATION
Rectory: Phone 610-272-0402, Fax 610-272-1794
Email: sfarectory@yahoo.com Website: stfrancisnorristown.com

School: Phone 610-272-0501, Fax 610-272-8011
Email: btigue@sfacatholic.org Website: sfa.cephila.org

Early Learning Center: Phone 610-757-1523, Fax 484-231-8646
Email: elcdir.courtneyjackson@gmail.com Website: www.stfranciselc.com

Prayer Request Line: 610-757-4070
PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
EVERY MONDAY FROM 9AM TO 1PM

Monday
1:00 Benediction
6:30 Craft Group (CR)

Friday
1:00 Seniors (MH1,K)
7:00 RCIA (MH1)

Saturday
10:30 REP (S)
1:00 REP Teen (MH2)

2019 ANNOUNCED MASS BOOK
The 2019 Announced Mass Book is now open. Mass intentions are taken during regular rectory business hours: Monday thru Thursday 8am to 12pm and 1 to 8pm; Friday 8am to 12pm and 1 to 4pm; and Saturday 10am to 2pm. There is a limit of six Mass intentions per family (two Sunday and four weekday).

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

ALTAR SERVERS—OCTOBER 20/21
5:30 PM Henry and Dayanna Hernandez
7:00 AM ****
9:30 AM John and Katie Griffin
12:00 PM Kyla Hume, Gabriel Lopez
5:30 PM Alana Aguilera

LECTORS—OCTOBER 20/21
5:30 PM Florence Bruno
7:00 AM David DiLucia
9:30 AM Joseph Lynch
12:00 PM SFA Children
5:30 PM Lisa Hallahan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS—OCTOBER 20/21
5:30 PM Mary Anders, Lee McNamara
7:00 AM Anita DiLucia, BJ Mumford
9:30 AM Trish Lynch, Diane Martens
12:00 PM Kathleen McTamney, Lillian O’Donnell
5:30 PM Edward Scott, Dana Garcia

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS (PRE JORDAN)
The next class will be on Monday, November 19, 2018 at 7pm. Pre Jordan classes are held in the Parish Meeting House. Please contact the rectory to register.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS—OCTOBER 7, 2018
Sunday Collection ........................................... $8,402
Sunday Collection One Year Ago ...................... $9,280
Change from Last Year .................................. $ 878
Change Year to Date .............................. $8,853

THANK YOU for supporting your parish!

ON LINE GIVING: St. Francis of Assisi Parish is pleased to introduce “Enhancing Stewardship through Electronic Funds Transfer.” We have partnered with Parish Giving to offer this program to all of our parishioners. Parish Giving is Payment Card Industry compliant and uses the strongest TLS (Transport Layer Security) encryption technology available. No more searching for the checkbook or ATM stops on the way to Mass. To get started log on to http://stfrancisnorristown.com and click on the Parish Giving Logo and follow the easy registration steps.
Devotional candle racks & candles are placed throughout our Church as a personal way for us to offer special intentions & remembrances. The candles we use will burn for 3 days & the cost per candle is $3. The fee boxes are located in the vicinity of the candle racks. Please be sure to place $3 for each candle you light in these boxes so that we may continue to offer this form of devotion. Thank you!

St. Francis of Assisi Seniors
All seniors age 55 and over are invited to join, this includes men and women. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month Sept. to June at 1pm in the Meetinghouse. Our next meeting is October 16. Erin from P.T. will speak on preventing falls and maintaining balance. You don’t have to be a member of SFA parish to join SFA Seniors. All are welcome.

November 15 - Careme's Restaurant - 3 course luncheon buffet prepared by the students of Academy of Culinary Arts in Atlantic Cape Comm.College. There is a small area in restaurant where you can purchase homemade items baked by the students. In addition, we will be traveling to Smithville Village. Many shops and venues here. This village was featured on FYI and is a popular tourist attraction. This trip combines two enjoyable destinations. Cost is $64.00 which includes gratuity for buffet, (given back to students) trans., tax and driver gratuity. Seating on bus limited. Call ASAP if interested. Call 610-539-1681 Trips benefit St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

December 11—Christmas Day Trip “The First Noel” at American Music Theatre in Lancaster. Show starts 10:30am. After show we’ll go to Bird-in-Hand for Smorgasbord Luncheon. There is a lot to do here; many small shops with Amish influence. Trip is first come first serve. Tickets have been purchased for show & luncheon. Bus leaves rectory at 8am. Cot $95/PP includes trans, show, luncheon, tax & driver gratuity. For best seating contact Jane Caruso 610-539-1681.

FAMILY REGISTER
We mourn those who have gone before us in death And commend them to the Lord and the Communion of Saints:
John K. Buckwalter
Theodore Zabrowsky

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK
On Saturday, October 27th, the 8:30 am Mass will include the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Those whose health has been seriously impaired due to illness or age may receive the Sacrament. If you wish to receive the Anointing of the Sick on Saturday, October 27th at 8:30 am, please contact the rectory in advance.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This Week’s Memorial Intentions

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<td>Sanctuary Lamp (St. Joseph side)</td>
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<td>Memorial Society</td>
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The Saint Francis of Assisi School
Canticle Where Service, Faith, & Academics Come Together

WE VALUE...
CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Pre-Kindergarten News
Pre-Kindergarten is off to a fantastic start! We have learned that we are Jesus’ special friends, Jesus welcomes the little children, we are part of a special group, and that Jesus loves us very much. We have talked about how each of us is special and how families are special too! We painted life size pictures of ourselves and drew pictures of our families. We have met with our 8th Grade Prayer Partners and made masks for the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. During the month of October, we will learn about God’s Creation and how He always loves us. We will learn our letters, numbers, colors, and shapes through various themes including Fall Changes, Pumpkins, and Halloween!

Here’s a look at the week ahead:

**Sunday, October 14**
- Spanish Family Mass @ 4:00 P.M. in Church

**Monday, October 15**
- Book Fair Preview Day
  - Band Lessons for 3rd– 8th Grades w/Mr. Miller/Gym
  - Classes can browse the Book Fair 1:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.
  - Mount St. Joseph Academy visits 7th & 8th Grade girls in Melissa’s classroom @ 1:45 P.M.

**Tuesday, October 16**
- Book Fair Preview Day
  - Donuts with Dad Set-up in the Gym
  - Classes can browse the Book Fair 8:15AM or 1PM

**Wednesday, October 17**
- No Breakfast served due to Donuts with Dad
  - No Library Classes due to Book Fair
  - Donuts with Dad Set-up in the Gym
  - Classes can browse the Book Fair 8:15AM or 1PM
  - Cub Scout Committee Meeting 7PM/Meetinghouse

**Thursday, October 18**
- No Library Classes due to Book Fair
  - Book Fair in the Gym
  - Cub Scout Meeting beginning @ 6:45 P.M. in the Library, 1st Grade, & 2nd Grade

**Friday, October 19**
- CYO Registration Forms due
  - No Library Classes due to Book Fair

Trunk or Treat RSVPs due
- Book Fair in the Gym
- Book Fair Clean-up in the Gym

**Sunday, October 21st, 2018**
- Family Mass 12P.M/Church – All are welcome!

Become a LECTOR
Become an EM*

Have you thought about becoming involved in SFA Parish? If you are age 16 or older and you are interested in becoming a Lector or an EM* please let me know by way of email (sfapastor1@gmail.com) or write down your name, address, best phone number and email and place it in an envelope in the collection basket. We need Lectors and Ems for all Masses but especially on Sundays at the 7:00 AM Mass and 5:30 PM Mass.

Thank you,
Fr. Goerner

*Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

OCTOBER 2018
SFA CYO registration

Students in 5th–8th Grades are encouraged to join the SFA CYO. Winter Sports that are available are:
- Cheerleading (Kindergarten – 8th Grade)
- JV Boys’ Basketball (5th & 6th Grades)
- JV Girls’ Basketball (5th & 6th Grades)
- Varsity Boys’ Basketball (7th & 8th Grades)
- Varsity Girls’ Basketball (7th & 8th Grades)

Registration Forms can be downloaded from the school’s website - http://sfa.cephila.org/student-life/cyo-sports/. Registrations are due by Friday, October 19th, 2018 to the Main Office at school or Rectory.

“Abortion is inherently different from other medical procedures because no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life.” Potter Stewart
Do you remember Walter Mitty? He is that fictional character in James Thurber’s short story “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty,” first published in The New Yorker on March 18, 1939. The story was made into a movie in 1947 starring Danny Kaye, with a remake starring Ben Stiller in 2013. Mitty is a daydreamer. He can in turn imagine himself as a wartime pilot, an ER surgeon, and a devil-may-care killer. There is something of Mitty in each of us, especially when we watch the TV game show winner snatch the jackpot prize. Or watch those news reports of the latest lottery winner. “If only it were me! What I could do with that money!”

That last is the key word: “money.” A wag once opined that “Money isn’t everything but it’s way ahead of whatever is in second place!” In a materialistic culture like ours, it’s so easy to forget and sideline the ideal set forth by Jesus. We’re in good company, you might think, as you consider that even St. Peter, our first pope, wanted to know from Jesus exactly what he and the other Apostles would “get out of” their having given up “everything and followed you.” Jesus then promises a hundredfold of good things that Peter lists. Note too that Jesus also promises “persecution.” Some of that will inevitably follow someone who contradicts the prevailing earthbound philosophy of wealth.

In this matter, we have to remember that St. Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy that “the love of money is the root of all evil,” not money itself. (I Timothy 6:10) Money is really just a medium of exchange, and is necessary for us to acquire and maintain our needs for food, clothing, and shelter. It’s when money turns into a status symbol; or as the source of power selfishly wielded; or as influence that erects a high wall between “us” and “them” that sin enters the picture. Certainly there is great good that generous philanthropy practiced by wealthy people does. Funds and foundations set up by individuals and/or families support all sorts of good causes that make life better— dare I say “richer”? —for all of us.

As a counterbalance to the rich young man of the gospel, we learn of King Solomon, who “deemed riches nothing in comparison with her (Wisdom).” There will always be good examples of wise people who never daydream selfishly but take their good fortune in life as a gift to be shared.

“Although Walter Mitty’s story has its humorous elements, there is a darker and more significant message underlying the text, leading to a more tragic interpretation of the character. Even in his heroic daydreams, Mitty does not triumph, several fantasies being interrupted before the final one sees Mitty dying bravely in front of a firing squad. In the brief snatches of reality that punctuate Mitty’s fantasies the reader meets well-meaning but insensitive strangers who inadvertently rob Mitty of his remaining dignity.” (Wikipedia)

None of this means that daydreams are always and everywhere bad things. St. Ignatius daydreamed of himself being like saints Francis of Assisi and Anthony of Padua. He went on to found the Jesuits!

There are hundreds of quips about riches. I like the following one because you have to think after you laugh. “Once there was the guy who loved a girl so much that he worshiped the very ground her father discovered oil on!”

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**October 14—Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson**

**PRO LIFE NEWS**

On the weekend of October 13/14 Pro-Life Roses will be sold at the 5:30pm Saturday and the 7:00 and 9:30am Sunday Masses. We will also try to cover the 12:00 and 5:30pm Sunday Masses if possible.

Since sexual promiscuity is the root cause of abortion (approximately 90% of abortions are committed on unmarried women), monies from the sale of roses will now be sent to the **Pro-Life Educational Foundation.** This organization will provide information to teach young people to save sex for marriage. The Foundation also supports the following Pro-Life organizations with the same goals: Generation Life, the Bucks County Women's Center and the Women's Center of Philadelphia. The Foundation provides the same type of help and education in the Montgomery County area. The motto of the organization is "Chastity is for Lovers. Save Sex for Marriage."