

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN WESTON,

December 1, 2019

First Sunday of ADVENT



**35 NORFIELD ROAD
WESTON, CONNECTICUT 06883**

*We extend a warm welcome to all who
worship at our church! We hope that you
will find our parish community to be a place
where your faith is nourished.*

Rectory: 203-227-1341

FAX: 203-226-1154

Website: www.stfrancisweston.org

Facebook: Saint Francis of Assisi - The
Catholic Community in Weston

Religious Education/Youth Ministry:
203-227-8353

Preschool: 203-454-8646

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday Through Friday
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil - 5:00 P.M.

Sundays 8:00, 9:30 - Family Mass, 11:00 A.M.
5:00 p.m. Scheduled Weekly -
Except for Christmas & Easter.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Friday- 7:30 A.M.
Saturday & Holidays - 9:00 A.M.

HOLY DAY MASSES

7:30 A.M. , Noon , 7:00 P.M.

NOVENA

Novena prayers in honor of Our Lady of the
Miraculous Medal every Saturday
following the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 4:00-4:45 P.M.;
Sundays 4:00 P.M.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is offered every
Sunday at 12:00 noon. Please make arrangements
for the Pre-Baptismal instructions after the birth
of the child in person at the rectory.
Pre-instruction for both parents is required.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Arrangements must be made at the rectory in
person by the couple. Where possible,
arrangements should be made one year in
advance and no later than six months.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING

Communal anointings of the sick are celebrated.
Individual anointings may be celebrated
anytime by request.

HOSPITAL AND HOME VISITATION

Please notify the parish of any family member
who may be ill at home or in the hospital.
We welcome the opportunity of visiting them
and bringing them the Eucharist

A Way to Celebrate Advent

In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent means "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. Advent has been called a "little Lent," because it traditionally has included a period of increased prayer, fasting, and good works. Although the Western Church no longer has a set requirement for fasting during Advent, the Eastern Church (both Catholic and Orthodox) continues to observe what is known as Philip's Fast, from November 15 until Christmas.

Even though how the Roman Catholic Church celebrate advent has changed over time, the church continues to stress the penitential and preparatory nature of Advent. As during Lent, priests wear purple vestments, and the Gloria ("Glory to God") is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, when priests can wear rose-colored vestments.

Many believe the decision to take away such traditional practices is one of the reasons why more Catholics are losing the true spirit of Christmas. I'm not sure how much of that is true; however, I do believe Catholics today (myself included), can do a better job appropriately celebrating Christmas. We can better celebrate and enjoy Christmas—all 12 days of it—if we embrace some of these traditional practices in Church. For example, even though abstaining from meat and giving up sweets in Advent is no longer required, it is encouraged. These practices help us embrace a form of penance and mortification which allows us to appreciate such foods more at Christmas and thus appreciate Christ more. Another practice is not to put all your decorations out until Christmas Eve in order to bring more attention to the day of Christmas. We probably have fallen away from such practices as a result of the over commercialization of the Christmas season in retail stores to maximized profits. I am not saying that we should not celebrate Christmas at all before Christmas Eve, I am just encouraging all of to maybe reduce the celebrating until Christmas Eve so that we can celebrate more fully the true meaning of Christmas- the day of our Lord's Birthday.

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Each of the candles represents an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent:

Week 1: The Candle of **Hope**-Color: Purple

Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent, we look forward to Jesus' coming with hope.

Week 2: The Candle of **Peace**-Color: Purple

During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming.

Week 3: The Candle of **Joy**-Color: Pink

This third candle is pink, symbolizing anticipation and rejoicing. During the third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day.

Week 4: The Candle of **Love**-Color: Purple



**Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Rev. Jeffrey W. Couture**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



5:00 p.m. **William Unger (D)** bu Sue Sabino
Sunday, Dec. 1st-First Sunday Of Advent
 8:00 a.m. **Diane Sarno (D)** by Elizabeth Maglione
 9:30 a.m. **Robert Lovallo (D)** by Don and Louise Strange
 11:00 a.m. **John Bell, Sr. (D)** by Sarah Napolitano
 5:00 p.m. **Lori White (L)** Bday
Monday, Dec. 2nd-Advent Weekday-
 7:30 a.m. **Parishioners (L&D)**
Tuesday, Dec. 3rd-St. Francis Xavier, Priest-
 7:30 a.m. **Parishioners (L&D)**
Wednesday, Dec. 4th-Advent Weekday-St. John Damascene, Priest
and Doctor of the Church
 7:30 a.m. **Parishioners (L&D)**
Thursday, Dec. 5th-Advent Weekday-
 7:30 a.m. **Parishioners (L&D)**
Friday, Dec. 6th-Advent Weekday-St. Nicholas, Bishop
 9:00 a.m. **Parishioners (L&D)**
Saturday, Dec. 7th-St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 9:00 a.m. **Milton Schreiner, Jr. (D)** by Patrick Guerin

Eucharistic Adoration is held every Weds. From 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in church. Adoration is also on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. *In the event either of these is canceled due to inclement weather or Holy Days of Obligation, we will send an email as soon as possible.

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

Senior Youth Group is OFF 12/1 for Thanksgiving weekend. Happy Advent! We will meet again on 12/8.
 - SYG is invited to join JYG on 12/5 for "Deck the Parish Halls"

Junior Youth Group is ON this Thursday 12/5 from 6-8pm for "Deck The Parish Halls". Pizza will be served!

OTHER EVENTS

- There will be an info session for teens and parents about Mission Trip on Sunday 12/8 from 3-4pm.
 - Our tree lighting is Sat. 12/14 after the 5pm mass. We need youth volunteers to help lead carols.
 - We need volunteers for our Salvation Army Kettlebell Timeslot on 12/14 from 10am-12pm. If interested, email pmahar@stfrancisweston.org

Next Week, Dec. 7th & 8th

Ushers/Greeters

5:00 p.m. Joe Kaddis
 8:00 a.m. Mike McGlone
 9:30 a.m. Bogdan Karwowski
 11:00 a.m. Carmen Sabatelli

Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 p.m. Vigil
 8:00 a.m.
 9:30 a.m.
 11:00 a.m.
 5:00 p.m.

TBD

Lectors

5:00 p.m. Vigil
 8:00 a.m.
 9:30 a.m.
 11:00 a.m.
 5:00 p.m.

TBD

Brian Lombardi

Altar Servers

5:00 p.m. Vigil
 8:00 a.m.
 9:30 a.m.
 11:00 a.m.
 5:00 p.m.

TBD

Counters
 Andy Knuth

We have an urgent need for additional Offertory Counters. Each Sunday, a 2 person team meets in the rectory for about 2 hours to count the weekend's collections. We use procedures and forms developed by the Diocese. Assignments are scheduled to accommodate your availability.

We invite you to sit in any Sunday with a counting team before deciding if you would like to help with this important service for our parish.

For more information, please contact Skip Shaeffer at 203 226 9378 or spas78@optonline.net

Although we don't like to turn away volunteers, we do need to abide by a Diocesan regulation that members of a counting team not be related.

Religious Education News

Learning...
Loving....
Living...
CHRIST!



Religious Ed. Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 10:30 am -5:30 pm

Learning...
Loving....
Living...
CHRIST!

Important Upcoming dates:

Saturday, December 7th, Morning with St. Nick – 11:00am -1:00pm

Wednesday, December 11th , No Religious Ed. Classes (we follow school schedule)

Save the Date

MORNING WITH SAINT NICHOLAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
11:00AM – 1:00PM

Breakfast - Crafts -
Christmas Sale
Gingerbread House Raffle
Photo op with Saint Nicholas
And more!

Tickets

*Adults \$10 * Children \$8* Family \$35*



Parents are always welcomed and encouraged to come and observe a class at any time. Come see what your children are learning!

Love and Peace,
Gina Fleming

SFA Preschool children's excitement grows as they prepare for this season of joy!





EAT, DRINK AND SHOP MERRY

St Francis of Assisi
35 Norfield Rd, Weston
Sat, Dec 14, 12pm-7pm
Sun, Dec 15, 10am-4pm



25 vendors



**Please join us for our Christmas Tree lighting
 by the Creche on Dec. 14 at 6:00 PM**

Coffee Social

Sundays
 after 9:30 a.m.
 Mass



Sundays after 9:30 a.m. Mass

Please join us Sundays after the 9:30 a.m. and before the 11:00 a.m. Masses in the parish hall for a Coffee Social. Coffee, tea, juice, bagels and baked goods are provided. This is a great opportunity to enjoy visiting with fellow parishioners-those you know and those you haven't met yet. It's a great family event.

Thank you to the Abreu Family for hosting this morning. Next week's host is the McCarthy Family.

For information or to volunteer to help, please contact Carol Palumbo at 203 227-3271 or candrpalumbo@gmail.com. St. Francis provides the coffee, tea, sugar, juice and paper products.

Hosts are needed for the following Sundays:

12/29, 1/5, 1/19, 2/2

Community Outreach Schedule

Nov 25th – Dec 15th Toy & Gift Card Drive

Make Christmas bright and spread joy through our drive for new, unwrapped **Toys & Gift Cards**. Gift cards are for teens, seniors & families to buy what they need most whether it is clothes, bedding or food. Last year, we were able to help over 100 households in both Weston and Bridgeport.

Jan 2nd – Feb 16th Midnight Run Clothing Drive

Our Youth group will be organizing 2 relief missions this Spring to distribute clothing to the homeless poor on the streets of New York. We will be collecting gently used **Adult Clothes/Coats & Outerwear/ Shoes/ Backpacks/ Blankets**.

March 8th - April 14th Goody Bags for Malta House

Malta House helps young mothers choose life for their unborn babies by providing housing, support services and ultimately teaching them independent life skills. **Goody Bags** are for newborn through 4yo and will have & a **Book, Toy & Clothes**. Last year we provided 74 bags for their mission.

SOUP KITCHEN

Join a team to make and serve food at the Norwalk Soup Kitchen. Commitment is just 4 Sundays/Year and the teams are never scheduled for Holidays, Super Bowl Sunday or in severe weather. Minimum age to participate is 15yo. The team preps sandwiches and a hot meal for 1-2hr and then part of team stays to serve food from 3-4:30PM. If you are interested, please email Linda Nash ...Linda@Steep-hill.com

HOMEFRONT

The 1st weekend in May, an amazing team of St Francis volunteers of all ages (starting at 14yo) come together to help repair, paint, plant & restore a home with love for a local neighbor. If interested, please email

Kay Byrnes....Kaymbyrnes@optonline.net

Parish Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 1	First Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m.	Sunday Mass
9:30 a.m.	Sunday Family Mass
10:15 a.m.	Coffee Social
11:00 a.m.	Sunday Mass
5:00 p.m.	Youth Mass
Mon., Dec. 2	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
Tues., Dec. 3	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
Weds. Dec. 4	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
8:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
Thurs., Dec. 5	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
Fri., Dec. 6	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
Sat. Dec. 7	
9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass
	Immaculate Conception Novena
4:00 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:00 p.m.	Sunday Vigil Mass
Sunday, Dec. 8	Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m.	Sunday Mass
9:30 a.m.	Sunday Family Mass
10:15 a.m.	Coffee Social
11:00 a.m.	Sunday Mass
5:00 p.m.	Youth Mass
Mon., Dec. 9	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
	Parish Office Closed
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
12:00 p.m.	Mass
7:00 p.m.	Mass
Tues., Dec. 10	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
Weds. Dec. 11	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
8:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
Thurs., Dec. 12	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
Fri., Dec. 13	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
Sat. Dec. 14	
9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass
	Immaculate Conception Novena
4:00 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:00 p.m.	Sunday Vigil Mass

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Phone Numbers

Preschool: 203 454 8646

Rel. Education Office 203 227 8353

Parish Office 203 227 1341, ext. 127

Fr. Jeff 203 227 1341, ext. 128

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

The Catholic Community in Weston

35 Norfield Road • Weston, Connecticut 06883

Parish Office: (203) 227-1341

Rev. Jeffrey W. Couture, Pastor
frcouture@stfrancisweston.org

Rev. Joseph Sidera, CSC-Resident

Thomas J. McManus, Deacon
tjmcpa123@sbeglobal.net

Kimberley Del Corso, Parish Administrator
kdelcorso@stfrancisweston.org

Gina Fleming, Director of Religious Education
gfleming@stfrancisweston.org

Priscilla Mahar, Director of Youth Ministry
pmahar@stfrancisweston.org

Elizabeth Crocitto, Religious Education Administrative Assistant
ecrocitto@stfrancisweston.org

Marianne Keith, Preschool Director
mkeith@sfapreschool.com

Mary Odierna, Preschool Program Coordinator
modierna@sfapreschool.com

Don Rickenback, Music Coordinator
drickenback@stfrancisweston.org

William Smith, Maintenance Supervisor
Jose Trujillo, Maintenance Assistant

Parish Pastoral Council

Mike Byrnes, Joanne Daversa, Chris Eidt, Pam Franco, Ann Garvey,
Missy Iatesta, Keri Kelleher, Andrew Knuth, Elise Major, Leigh
Meccay, Lisa Moskal, Nancy Murgalo, Stephen Odierna

Parish Trustees

Mike Byrnes and Elise Major

Worship Ministry

Coordinator: Stephen Odierna (544-8834)

worship@stfrancisweston.org

Altar Servers: Priscilla Mahar

pmahar@stfrancisweston.org

Arts & Environment: Joan Curran,

environment@stfrancisweston.org

Eucharistic Ministers: Peggy Shaeffer

ministers@stfrancisweston.org

Lectors: Chris Eidt (762-7987)

lectors@stfrancisweston.org

Spiritual Formation

Coordinator: Pam Franco (227-5821)

Religious Education: Gina Fleming (227-8353)

Adult Education: Gloria Doino, Anita Field

adulthood@stfrancisweston.org

R.C.I.A.: Pam Franco

rcia@stfrancisweston.org

Community Outreach

Coordinators: Melissa & Robert Iatesta (227-4668)

outreach@stfrancisweston.org

Soup Kitchen: Linda Nash (226-7680)

Network of Care: Carina Silvestri (226-0884)

Pastoral Care Ministry: Anita Field (938-0874)

reddingglen2@optonline.net

Communications Ministry

Coordinator: Leigh Meccay communications@stfrancisweston.org

Webmaster: Rosa Lagana admin@stfrancisweston.org

Social Events Ministry

Coordinator: Joanne Daversa

socials@stfrancisweston.org

Finance Council

Members: Mike Byrnes, Joe Jordan,

Andrew Knuth, Chairman (226-9178), Blandine Lewine, Elise Major

finance@stfrancisweston.org

Knights of Columbus

Mike Purdy

mikepurdy62@gmail.com

Women's Guild

Kathy Failla

faillakathy@gmail.com