

# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN WESTON

December 15, 2024

## Third Sunday of ADVENT



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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 a place where your faith is nourished.*

**Rectory:** 203-227-1341  
office@stfrancisweston.org

**Website:** www.stfrancisweston.org  
**Facebook:** Saint Francis of Assisi - The Catholic Community in Weston

**Faith Formation/Youth Ministry:**  
203-227-8353

**Preschool:** 203-454-8646

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday Through Thursday  
10:00 a.m.- 4:00 pm

**SUNDAY MASSES**  
Saturday Vigil - 5:00 P.M.  
Sundays- 8:00a.m.,  
9:30 a.m. Family Mass  
11:00 a.m.  
Except for Christmas & Easter.

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
\*\*Monday - Friday-7:30 A.M.  
Saturday - 9:00 A.M.

**HOLY DAY MASSES**  
7:30 A.M. , Noon , 7:00 P.M.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
Saturdays, 4:00-4:45 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 with Deacon Steve Hodson  
dnhodson@diobpt.org  
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.

**Our Mission Statement:** *In the spirit of Saint Francis, to know Jesus and make Him known.*

Brothers and sisters in the Lord,

We are only over a week left before we celebrate the Birth of Our Savior. This weekend, we are entering into the Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete Sunday, which means to rejoice. But this message of rejoicing doesn't point us to some joy or superficial pleasure from the things of this world, but a joy that's rooted in the way in which we prepare a path for the Lord this Advent season. What does this rejoicing entail? What does it call us to do in our lives of faith?

We might get a good sense of the biblical call to rejoice from Zephaniah in our first reading, as he and the other prophets of ancient Israel often called God's people to rejoice in their darkest moments. Zephaniah called out to Israel in the midst of political turmoil and uncertainty in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, before the reforms by King Josiah and before the destruction of the Temple and the Babylonian exile. Zephaniah tells his people that God is in their midst, that God loves them, that he invites them to be renewed in this love. God encourages his people, telling them not to fear, that he will rejoice over them with gladness.

Paul quite possibly wrote the letter in today's 2<sup>nd</sup> reading while he was under arrest, certainly not the happiest circumstances for him to be telling the Philippians to "rejoice in the Lord always" and to "have no anxiety at all." But Paul goes on to say that he wants them to have "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding."

What did Zephaniah and Paul intend by telling us to have joy & to rejoice in the midst of very unfavorable circumstances? Perhaps they're calling us to holiness & wholeness. Perhaps they're referring to the true source of our joy and rejoicing, going beyond our existential human state, beyond any feelings or sufferings we can have in our hearts. Perhaps they believe that joy and rejoicing are essentially a decision we make in our lives, a decision that's grounded in our faith. Rejoicing is not ultimately found in the worldly environment we create in our attempts to ensure our happiness, but instead in the presence of God in our lives, which is the presence of love itself. That's where we find joy – that's where we are able to rejoice.

This brings us to John the Baptist, that eccentric wilderness prophet who is pointing us to Jesus throughout the season of Advent. John's message is preparing us for the birth of our Savior in our world. The crowds, the tax collectors, even the soldiers – all of them are asking John in today's Gospel: "What should we do?" If they were truly happy and content in their lives, I doubt that they'd be asking this question. It's interesting that they ask this question of John, this radical prophet, rather than the governmental authorities, or the priests of the Temple, or the elders of the community. They must have seen something very special in John the Baptist and his message. John gives them a very real, down-to-earth response, telling them that they should do good deeds and stop their unjust practices – to collect only the fair amount of taxes prescribed, to share their food & clothing with the poor, to not extort or falsely accuse their neighbor.

Some days, I bet most of us wish we had a John the Baptist in our lives, a prophet whom we could ask what it is we need to do. Yet, deep in our hearts, we probably already know what we need to do, or at least know where and how we can turn to God to point us in the right direction.

Today's readings are calling us to rejoice in the midst of the reality of our lives, whatever that reality may be. We are to rejoice and to joyfully give thanks for the presence of God in our lives. But, with rejoicing comes repentance, conversion, and a change of heart from those things that are keeping us from God. May we keep this in mind as we approach the end of our Advent journey.

Wishing you a blessed Advent,

Fr. Augustine



## The Third Sunday of Advent

### Mass Intentions

5:00 p.m. **Art and Carol Lungo (L) 50th Anniv.** by the Kopas Family

**Sunday, Dec. 15th-The Third Sunday of Advent-Gaudete Sunday**

8:00 a.m. **Vincenza Crocitto (D)** by the Crocitto Family

9:30 a.m. **Thomas Rickenback (D)** by Don Rickenback

11:00 a.m. **Peter Postiglione (D)** by Don Strange

**Monday, Dec. 16th-Advent Weekday-**

7:30 a.m. **Kristin Guerin (H)** by Patrick Guerin

**Tuesday, Dec. 17th-Late Advent Weekday-**

7:30 a.m. **Nancy Murgalo (L) Bday** by the Crocitto Family

**Wednesday, Dec. 18th-Late Advent Weekday-**

7:30 a.m. **Sarah Napoletano (H)** by Sharon Bell

**Thursday, Dec. 19th-Late Advent Weekday-**

7:30 a.m. **Robyn Shoffstall (L)**

**Friday, Dec. 20th-Late Advent Weekday-**

7:30 a.m. **Domenico Pisani (D)** by the Mancinelli Family

**Sat., Dec. 21st-Late Advent Weekday-St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

9:00 a.m. **Henryk Cielesz (D)** by Donna and Inez Perry

### Weekly Stewardship

*Weekly Collection 12/7-12/8/24	\$6,598.00
Weekly Budget Goal.....	\$10,000.00
Total Difference.....	(\$3,402.00)

### **From the Finance Committee**

Offertory is our main source of revenue. If you are already a regular offertory donor, THANK YOU! If you are not a regular donor, please consider joining your fellow parishioners who are.

Please scan our QR code to access **Online Giving.**



### Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration will be in the Main Church, with the Divine Mercy Chaplet sung at 2:35 p.m. Questions?

**Adoration-Martin Tubridy** mtubridy@optonline.net  
**Divine Mercy-Anita Field** reddingglen2@optonline.net

### Eucharistic Miracle-Ivorra, Spain-1010

A parish priest in Ivorra doubted the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. While celebrating Mass, the miracle occurred; the wine in the chalice was converted entirely to live blood. It poured onto the altar cloth flowing until it hit the ground. The relics are still preserved today in Ivorra.

To read the full story, go to :  
[miracolieucaaristici.org](http://miracolieucaaristici.org)



**Amazed and Afraid: The Revelation of God become Man**

**Saturday Dec 21 Bishop Barron video**  
after the 9:00 am Mass

Bishop Barron addresses some of the most controversial questions about the life and identity of Jesus and travels through the mysterious and sacred places of the Holy Land of Israel and the eternal city of Rome

At St Francis of Assisi, 35 Norfield Rd, Weston  
In the Parish Hall, breakfast is included

### **Introduction to the Bible**

(like you've never seen it before!)

Through videos, discussion and instruction, the Bible will come to new life and understanding

Led by Fr. Joe

**Wednesdays: Dec 4, 11, 18, at 10-11:30am**  
in the classroom area

### **Christmas Masses and Solemnity of Mary (holy day)**

**Christmas Eve**  
Tuesday Dec 24<sup>th</sup>



4pm, 6pm, 10pm

**Christmas Day**  
Wednesday Dec 25<sup>th</sup>



8am, 9:30am, 11am

**Solemnity of Mary**  
Holy Day of Obligation



New Years Eve 5pm  
New Years Day 8am, 10am



**Knights of Columbus**

*The Knights are collecting soap bars, winter hats/gloves/scarves/socks, canned beans and gift cards to support Blessed Sacrament Parish's homeless outreach in Bridgeport. Please drop off items in the marked bin in the back of the Church.*



## Faith Formation



### Important Upcoming dates

- Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Faith Formation classes resume
  - Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday January 20<sup>th</sup> No Classes – MLK Weekend
- Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – Confirmation Reflection with Fr. Dunn– Students and Parents are to attend

In the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) ...

"Are we ready to receive Him?

Before the birth of Jesus, His parents asked for a simple dwelling place, but there was none. If Mary and Joseph were looking for a home for Jesus, would they choose ... your heart, and all it holds? Let us pray that we shall be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas..."



Wishing you all a very blessed and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God's blessings and peace,

*Gina Fleming and Teresa Karwowski*



## *Preschool News/Youth Ministry News*

If you would like a tour and to learn more about our programs, please contact our Director, Marianne Keith, at [mkeith@sfapreschool.com](mailto:mkeith@sfapreschool.com) or 203 454 8646



Puddle jumping is a favorite!      Exploring our world together!      Tea parties with friends!

We've been spending as much time outdoors as we can and rehearsing our Christmas Pageant-Pictures to follow!

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you back in school on Jan. 2nd.



## **ST. FRANCIS YOUTH BAKE SALE**

**WHEN: BEFORE AND AFTER ALL MASSES DECEMBER 14-15.**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED FOR YOUTH ROOM  
IMPROVEMENTS AND OUR OUTREACH!**

**NO SWEET TOOTH? NO PROBLEM! DONATIONS ARE  
GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.**





# ADVENT

## December 2024



4, 11  
18

### Introduction to the Bible

Three Wednesdays: Dec 4, 11, 18 at 10-11:30am, Classroom area  
Led by Fr Joe

Until  
15

### Toy Drive

11/25-12/15 drop off new, unwrapped toys (infant to teen) or new/gently used and clean stuffed animals  
Or donate online, by check or cash and Missy will shop for you... see separate announcement or newsletter for details

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### Amazed & Aflaid: The Revelation of God become Man

Saturday Dec 21 after the 9am Mass  
Bishop Barron video addresses some of the most controversial questions about the life and identify of Jesus and travels through Israel and Rome



**THANK YOU!** Father Augustine extends a big thank you to all our volunteers who helped decorate the church for Christmas! The following volunteers helped make our church look beautiful: Kevin Canel, Elizabeth Crocitto, Grazi D'Aquilante, Robert Eick, Mary McGee, Kathleen O'Sullivan, Chris Pohlmann, April Richter.

### TEACHING MASS

Sunday Dec 15  
at the 9:30 and 11:00 Masses

#### Why do we do what do?

In one hour, while you attend Mass, we will walk through a step-by-step explanation of each part of the Mass

### Introduction to the Bible

(like you've never seen it before!)

Through videos, discussion and instruction, the Bible will come to new life and understanding

Led by Fr. Joe

Wednesdays: Dec 4, 11, 18, at 10-11:30am  
in the classroom area



## Parish Calendar

<b>Sunday, Dec. 15</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
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
<b>Monday, Dec. 16</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
<b>Tues., Dec. 17</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
<b>Weds. Dec. 18</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
12:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
<b>Thurs., Dec. 19</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
<b>Fri., Dec. 20</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
<b>Sat. Dec. 21</b>	
9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass
4:00 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:00 p.m.	Sunday Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday, Dec. 22</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
8:00 a.m.	Sunday Mass
9:30 a.m.	Sunday Family Mass
11:00 a.m.	Sunday Mass

### JOIN US FOR THE SUNDAY COFFEE SOCIAL



**In the Parish Hall**  
**After 9:30 Mass/before 11:00 Mass**  
 This is a great family event  
 Enjoy visiting with fellow parishioners

Thanks to the  
 Atienza, Thomas and Wong-Ferreira families for hosting last Sunday,  
 December 8  
 Boto Family for hosting this Sunday, December 15  
 Savitsky family for hosting next Sunday, December 22

Hosts needed for December 29 and January 5, 12, 19, and 26

For information or to volunteer, please contact:  
 Carol Palumbo, 203-227-3271 or candrpalumbo@gmail.com



### CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE Nov 25 – Dec 15

**Drop off toys**  
 New, unwrapped toys, infant to teen and  
 New/gently used stuffed animals  
 in the back of Church

**OR**  
**Donate and Missy will shop for you**  
**Cash:** Write Toy Drive on envelope  
**Check:** Payable to SFA, Toy Drive in memo  
**Place In:** collection basket or parish office  
**Online:** Click here: 

Christmas gifts are a  
 luxury for many.  
 Let's make a child  
 smile this Christmas.



## **St. Francis of Assisi Parish**

*The Catholic Community in Weston*

**35 Norfield Road • Weston, Connecticut 06883**

**Parish Office: (203) 227-1341**

**Rev. Augustine Nguyen, Pastor**  
 frnguyen@stfrancisweston.org

**Rev. Joseph Sidera, CSC-Resident**  
 Stephen Hodson, Deacon

dnhodson@diobpt.org

**Kimberley Del Corso, Business Manager/Bulletin Editor/  
 Preschool Program Coordinator**  
 kdelcorso@stfrancisweston.org; kdelcorso@sfapreschool.com

**Patricia Wrynn, Parish Administrator/Newsletter**  
 office@stfrancisweston.org

**Gina Fleming, Director of Faith Formation**  
 gfleming@stfrancisweston.org

**Teresa Karwowski, Faith Formation Admin. Asst.**  
 faithformation@stfrancisweston.org

**Marianne Keith, Preschool Director**  
 mkeith@sfapreschool.com

**Michele Harding, Youth Minister**  
 youthminister@stfrancisweston.org

**Don Rickenback, Music Coordinator**  
 drickenback@stfrancisweston.org

**William Smith, Maintenance Supervisor**

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

Mike Byrnes, Chris Eidt (Chair), Pam Franco, Missy Iatesta,  
 Frank Infurchia, Jeanine Lombardi, Elise Major,  
 Leigh Meccay, Lisa Moskal, Nancy Murgalo, Danielle Porcello

### **Parish Trustees**

Mike Byrnes and Elise Major

### **Worship Ministries**

**Coordinator: Nancy Murgalo (475-257-7766)**  
 quiddity@optonline.net

Eucharistic Ministers: Nancy Murgalo

Readers: Chris Eidt (762-7987)

Ushers: Laurie Eidt and Mike Purdy (eidtl@optonline.net)

### **Spiritual Formation**

**Coordinator: Pam Franco (227-5821)**

Religious Education: Gina Fleming (227-8353)

R.C.I.A.: Pam Franco

### **Community Outreach**

**Coordinators: Melissa & Robert Iatesta (227-4668)**

Soup Kitchen: Linda Nash (226-7680)

Network of Care: Carina Silvestri (226-0884)

### **Pastoral Care Ministry**

**Coordinator: Rev. Augustine Nguyen, Pastor**  
 frnguyen@stfrancisweston.org

Anita Field

reddingglen2@optonline.net

### **Communications Ministry**

**Coordinator: Leigh Meccay**  
 communications@stfrancisweston.org

### **Finance Council**

Members: Mike Byrnes, Deacon Steve Hodson, Frank Infurchia,  
 Blandine Lewine (Chair), Elise Major, Bob O'Brien, Linda Nash  
 finance@stfrancisweston.org

### **Knights of Columbus**

Dennis Jung- dennisjungesq@gmail.com

### **Women's Guild**

Chris Purdy- purdymc@optonline.net