

# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN WESTON

December 29, 2024

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 p.m.

**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.

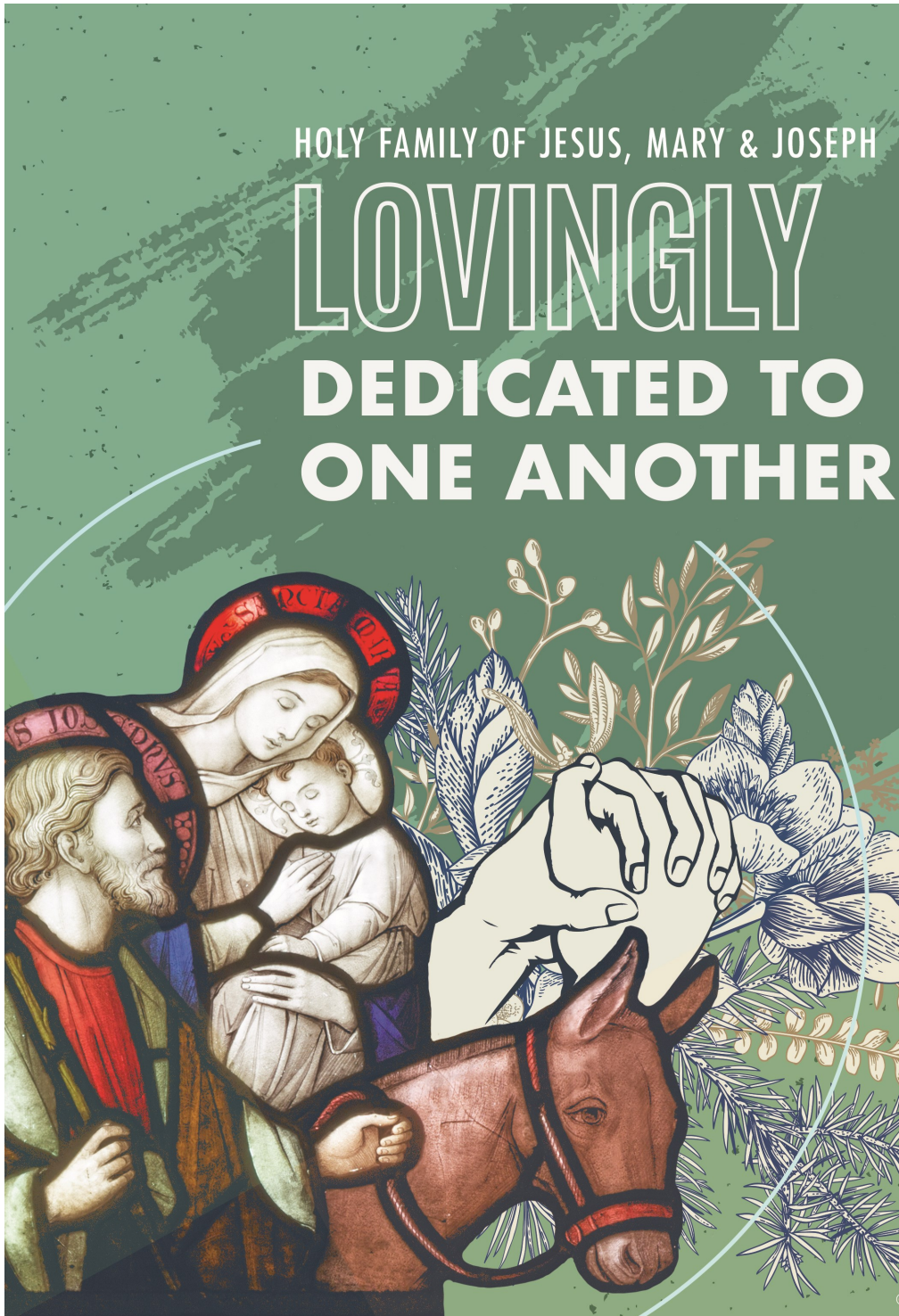
**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
Saturdays, 4:00-4:45 P.M.

**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.



HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

LOVINGLY  
DEDICATED TO  
ONE ANOTHER

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

Dear Parish Family of Saint Francis,

I share with you this reflection written by Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio:

“Every year right after Christmas, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. There is a reason for this. It’s easy to think the “incarnation” means God took on a human body.

But there is much more to it than that. In Jesus, God unites himself to an entire human nature. He fully enters into human experience, with all its peaks and valleys. And a part of that human experience, with more than its share of peaks and valleys, is family.

Jesus spent over 90% of his years in the obscure nitty-gritty of family life. Though only a few chapters (of the New Testament) are devoted to this lengthy period, what they reveal is significant. First of all, despite the cuddly image of our nativity scenes, the original Christmas was anything but cozy. A woman nine months pregnant rides 75 miles on the back of a donkey over bumpy, dusty roads so she can have her baby in a stable full of dirty, smelly animals. Quickly after the birth they have to pick up and flee for their lives, seeking asylum in a foreign land. A few years later, the now adolescent son goes missing for several days, and there ensues a conversation characterized by no little emotion. Joseph is a saint, Mary is without sin, Jesus is God incarnate, yet there are still challenges, difficulties, tense moments, and opportunities for misunderstanding. Welcome to real family life.

All things created by God are good, with human beings and human life very good according to Genesis chapter 1. Yet in assuming a human body, the Divine Word elevated its dignity, sanctifying it, and ennobling it. In accepting baptism from his cousin John, Jesus sanctifies water, and, in baptism, makes it an instrument of his sanctifying power. In entering into family life, Jesus does the same. The family, up till now naturally good, becomes an instrument of sanctification and growth in holiness.

As a teen, I thought a serious pursuit of holiness required opting out of marriage to enter a monastery. Holiness was about lots of quiet prayer and apostolic work. Noisy family life was a distraction to all this. The role of married folks was limited to getting to Mass and the sacraments, obeying the 10 commandments, and getting into heaven after a stay in Purgatory.

The feast of the Holy Family shows how far off-base I was. It reminds us, as Vatican II teaches, that all human beings are called to the heights of holiness. That all states in life, including student, teenager, and parent, offer abundant opportunities to grow in faith, hope, and love. That the nitty gritty of family life, if approached right, can be a road to profound personal transformation and communion with God.

Think about it. The creator of the universe spent most of his human life as a craftsman, working with dad in the family business and ultimately taking it over. Mary, the holiest of all creatures, spent most of her time changing diapers, cooking, and cleaning. The secret to holiness is not to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love and gratitude (Colossians 3:15-17).

The word seminary means “seedbed.” It is a greenhouse where, in a sheltered environment, vocations can develop till they cannot just survive in the real world, but bear fruit there. The family is the original seminary. In its soil is sown the call to share in Christ’s holiness and mission. Ironically, tending to seedlings causes the parent/gardeners to grow as well. So family, in God’s plan, is a community where everyone has growing to do. Maybe that’s why Colossians 3 talks so much about forgiveness and forbearance!

The bottom line is this—we don’t become holy despite the hustle-bustle of family life, but in and through it.”

—**Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio**  
**“Crossroads Initiative”**  
**[www.crossroadsinitiative.com](http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com)**



# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

## Mass Intentions

5:00 p.m. **Barbara Manion (L) Bday** by Dave and Gina Fleming

**Sunday, Dec. 29th-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

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

9:30 a.m. **Nicole Falkowski (D)** by Eileen Cahill

11:00 a.m. **Jeanette Costello (D)** by Sharon Bell

**Monday, Dec. 30th- Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

7:30 a.m. **Cortese Rocchino (D)** by Dave and Gina Fleming

**Tuesday, Dec. 31st-Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

7:30 a.m. **Domenico Pisani (D)** by Dave and Gina Fleming

5:00 p.m. **Theo Van de Klundert (D)** by the Boers Family

**Wednesday, Jan. 1st-The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

8:00 a.m. **Kristin Guerin (H)** by Patrick Guerin

10:00 a.m. **Aleksander Jankowski (D)** by the Karwowski Family

**Thursday, Jan. 2nd-St. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

7:30 a.m. **George Petrucci (D)** by the Wrynn Family

**Friday, Jan. 3rd-Christmas Weekday-Holy Name of Jesus**

7:30 a.m. **Richard Prackup (D)** by George Prackup

**Sat., Jan. 4th-First Saturday; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

9:00 a.m. **Gloria Doino (D)** by Dave and Gina Fleming

## Weekly Stewardship

*Weekly Collection 12/21-12/22	\$37,340.00
Weekly Budget Goal.....	\$10,000.00
Total Difference.....	\$27,340.00

## **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 Adoration Chapel, with the Divine Mercy Chaplet sung at 2:35 p.m. Questions?

**Adoration-Martin Tubridy** [mtubridy@optonline.net](mailto:mtubridy@optonline.net)  
**Divine Mercy-Anita Field** [redding-glen2@optonline.net](mailto:redding-glen2@optonline.net)

## Eucharistic Miracle-Onil, Spain-1824

A consecrated host in a pyx (a host container) was stolen from a parish in this small town. It was found in a nearby town-Tibi. It is still perfectly preserved and can be viewed in St. James the Apostle Church in the town of Onil.

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



## The Serra Vocations Ministry Wishes You a Blessed Feast of the Holy Family

On this Blessed Feast of the Holy Family, we are all called to reflect upon the sanctity of marriage and the importance of family as the foundational elements of our faith. Let us earnestly pray for the abundance of good and holy sacramental marriages, recognizing that these unions serve as the bedrock for Catholic vocations. It is from the nurturing environment of Holy Families that all other vocations emerge, fostering a community steeped in love, faith and devotion.

## Children's Liturgy once a month



"Let the children come to me"  
 Mark 19:14

## Next Mass Jan 5 at 9:30

Future dates announced at Mass,  
 in the bulletin and newsletter

## Children are fully engaged...

Child-friendly homily at the altar along with  
 youth readers, greeters, and the children's choir



### 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*



In House registration for 2025/26 school year begins, Mon., Jan. 6th. Secure your child's spot before we open it to the public on Jan. 15th.

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



Our St. Francis Youth Group would like to say **THANK YOU** to our generous parishioners for supporting our fundraising Bake Sale. Thanks to you, we raised \$2,200 and can move forward with much needed renovations to the Youth Room, a space that can be used and enjoyed by the entire parish community.

We are also grateful to the SFA Women's Guild for the donation of beautifully made, homemade Christmas cookies! If you would like your 6th-12th grader to participate in fun, service and faith-building, please contact our Youth Minister, Michele Harding at [youthminister@stfrancisweston.org](mailto:youthminister@stfrancisweston.org).



**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  
Savitsky family for hosting last Sunday, December 22  
No Coffee Social this Sunday, December 29

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

For information or to volunteer, please contact  
Carol Palumbo, 203-227-3271 or [candrapalumbo@gmail.com](mailto:candrapalumbo@gmail.com)

**Community  
OUTREACH**



Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

**You rock, St. Francis!**

The Community Outreach Drives have been amazing this year, with so many families in need being touched by your kindness and generosity!

Outreach launches right after the Carnival with a clothing drive and moves at a quick pace due to the holiday season. It is a lot to ask in the space of a few months, but I am always blown away by your dedication to help others. There are hundreds of families whose 2024 is ending on a brighter note because of you-with warm clothing, food on the table and Christmas joy for their little ones.

When we come together as a community, we can move mountains!

Thank you again for choosing to walk in love and make a difference!

Wishing you blessings and peace in 2025!

Missy

**Sunday Jan 12**  
Join us to honor and celebrate...

**TEACHERS**

**At the 11:00 Mass**  
Reserved seating in the first 3 pews  
And join us after for an extended Coffee Social

**ALL WOMEN OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED**



**Game Night**

**Monday Jan 13**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Parish Hall**

Play scrabble, rummikub, sequence or mahjong  
Enjoy a night of snacks, refreshments and fun!

**No charge**

If you have questions, please contact  
Jane LaCorte, [janestravel@hotmail.com](mailto:janestravel@hotmail.com)



Sponsored by the St Francis of Assisi Women's Guild

**EVERYONE IS INVITED**  
**Pasta Dinner**



**Saturday January 25**  
**6:00pm – 9:00pm, Parish Hall**

Proceeds fund the Women's Guild Scholarship  
given to a deserving high school senior in our parish

Dinner includes regular or gluten free pasta, choice of sauces,  
green salad, garlic bread, desserts, water, BYOB

Adults \$15, Children 12 and under \$10  
Families (2 adults + 3 or more children) \$50

RSVP by January 17 to:

[Annefederici@optonline.net](mailto:Annefederici@optonline.net) or 203.644.4071

AND: \$10 raffle tickets for high value gift basket

**All tickets sold after all Masses**



Sponsored by the St Francis of Assisi Women's Guild

## Parish Calendar

<b>Sunday, Dec. 29</b>	<b>Feast of the Holy Family</b>
8:00 a.m.	Sunday Mass
9:30 a.m.	Sunday Family Mass
11:00 a.m.	Sunday Mass
<b>Mon., Dec. 30</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
<b>Tues., Dec. 31</b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b>
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
5:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve Vigil Mass



<b>Weds. Jan. 1</b>	<b>The Solemnity of Mary</b>
8:00 a.m.	Mass
10:00 a.m.	Mass
<b>Thurs. Jan 2</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
<b>Fri., Jan. 3</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
<b>Sat. Jan. 4</b>	
9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass
4:00 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:00 p.m.	Sunday Vigil Mass
<b>Sun. Jan 5</b>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</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>Mon., Jan. 6</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
<b>Tues., Jan. 7</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
<b>Weds. Jan. 8</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
12:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
7:00 p.m.	Christian Meditation
<b>Thurs., Jan. 9</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
<b>Fri., Jan. 10</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Daily Mass
<b>Sat. Jan. 11</b>	
9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass
4:00 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:00 p.m.	Sunday Vigil Mass

## **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