



*Like Elijah and Elisha, Jesus was not sent only to the Jews.*

## *The Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time* *January 30, 2022*

*Saint Francis of Assisi Parish*  
*Missions of Our Lady of the Valley in Fall River Mills*  
*and Saint Stephen's in Bieber*

### *Mission Statement*

*We, the Catholic Church of Saint Francis, are a community of faith called by Baptism to center our lives in the sacraments and the Holy Eucharist. We gather together to mutually grow in our love for God and neighbor by studying the Word of God; by believing in the Faith and Traditions from the Apostles; by accepting the teachings of the Magisterium and by receiving and giving support, hope, faith and charity.*

*Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís*  
*Misiones de Nuestra Señora del Valle en Fall River Mills*  
*y San Esteban en Bieber*

### *Nuestra Misión*

*Nosotros la Iglesia de San Francisco, somos una comunidad de Fe llamados por el Bautismo a centrar nuestra vida en los sacramentos y la Santa Eucaristía. Nosotros nos reunimos para crecer mutuamente en nuestro amor a Dios y a nuestro semejante a través de estudiar la Palabra de Dios; a través de creer en la Fe y Tradición de los Apóstoles; a través de aceptar las enseñanzas del Magisterio y a través de recibir y dar Apoyo, Fe, Esperanza y Caridad.*

### St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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#### MISSIONS

Our Lady of the Valley      St. Stephen's  
43434 Hwy. 299E              201 Hwy. 299E  
Fall River Mills              Bieber

#### MASS SCHEDULE

See "Parish Calendar" (opposite) for changes.

##### Weekends

Saturday	4:30 pm	Our Lady of the Valley
Sunday	9:00 am	St. Francis
	11:00 am	Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish)
	1:00 pm	St. Stephen's

##### Weekdays

Mon, Tue, Fri	9:00 am	St. Francis
Thursday	6:30 pm	St. Francis (Spanish)
Friday	6:00 pm	Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish)

#### ADORATION

1st Friday	9:30 am—Noon	St. Francis
1st Saturday	3:30 pm	Our Lady of the Valley
1st Sunday	11:45 am	St. Stephen's
Thursdays	3—6:30 pm	St. Francis
Fridays	11 am—6 pm	Our Lady of the Valley

**First Sunday of the Month: All the Masses are said for the sick and following Mass, Anointing of the Sick will be administered.**

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Confession is available one-half hour before scheduled Masses. Otherwise, call the parish for an appointment.

#### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD BANK

Food is available on request. Call the parish at 335-2372 for food anytime you are in need or call Bob Gartner at 249-8641.

#### NEW PARISHIONERS

Please register at our website [www.stfrancisburney.org](http://www.stfrancisburney.org)

#### RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION FOR CHILDREN (CCD)

Please contact  
Elaine Shields (336-1003) or  
Estella Valdovinos (524-6434) Spanish

#### MUSIC: WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

Please contact Joan Knapp (530) 294-1234

#### BECOMING CATHOLIC (RCIA)

Program of study for non-Catholic adults or Catholics seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation. Contact Bob Gartner at (530) 249-8641 or email: [bobgartner@gmail.com](mailto:bobgartner@gmail.com)

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact Bob Gartner ([bobgartner@gmail.com](mailto:bobgartner@gmail.com))

### LECTORS

**January 30**  
Justin Olesen  
Karen Churney

**February 6**  
Kathy Billo  
Tom Weber

### CALENDAR

Sat/Sun	January 29-30	Second Collection for CCD
Wed	February 2	Presentation of the Lord
Sat/Sun	February 26-27	Annual Catholic Appeal Commitment Weekend
Wed	March 2	Ash Wednesday

**For more information see our website at [www.stfrancisburney.org](http://www.stfrancisburney.org)**

### Offertory Collections

#### Fiscal Year-to-Date

	Actual	Budget	Difference	%
St. Francis	25,009	26,239	-1,231	-4.7%
OLV-English	13,772	11,782	1,991	16.9%
OLV-Spanish	11,366	10,853	513	4.7%
St. Stephen's	13,310	15,034	-1,724	-11.5%
WeShare	7,220	5,869	1,351	23.0%
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>70,677</b>	<b>69,777</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

### REFLECTION

Jesus, Love incarnate, calls us to follow him in faith and love. Love is the sign of Christians. It is the foundation of our faith and hope. It sums up our entire life: what we believe and what we do. Let us open our hearts to a deep relationship with Jesus so that we can be formed in the way of his love and share in his mission of salvation.

### Hospitality at St. Stephen's

Every Sunday is hospitality Sunday at St. Stephen's. Please join us for a nice lunch with soup/casserole, salad, bread, dessert and drinks. All are welcome, bring something to share if you can.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 30th January 2022, 1 pm-Holy Rosary at Stephen Church.
- The **Rite of Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** for those who desire to enter the Catholic church, and for those who have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) will begin in February. Please contact Fr. Pol or Bob Gartner for information.
- This weekend we will have a **second collection for the CCD program** for our children.
- The **weekday Masses from January 31st thru 4th of February are cancelled.** Fr Pol will take his Christmas Break.
- Our Lady of the Valley Church: Feb 5th (Sat) 4:30pm **Mass is transferred** to Feb 6th (Sunday) 3:00pm.
- **Annual Catholic Appeal Weekend** is February 26-27
- There will be a **retreat for the Hispanic community** beginning February 17 through the end of the month and will be held at Ingram Hall in Fall River Mills.
- The **next Parish Council Meeting** is scheduled for March 12, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Valley.
- **Offertory Collections** are 1.3% over budget. Thank you for your generosity.

### A Gospel Reflection from St. John Paul II

The Spirit-Word relationship reaches its summit in Jesus: indeed he is the very Word made flesh “through the work of the Holy Spirit”. He begins to preach “in the power of the Spirit” (cf. Lk 4:14ff.). The very first time he preaches in Nazareth, he applies to himself the passage from Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor” (Lk 4:18). As the fourth Gospel stresses, the mission of Jesus, “he whom God has sent” and who “utters the words of God”, is the fruit of the gift of the Spirit, whom he has received and gives “not by measure” (cf. Jn 3:34). Appearing to his disciples in the Upper Room on Easter evening, Jesus performs the expressive act of “breathing” upon them, saying: “Receive the Holy Spirit” (cf. Jn 20:21-22).

The Church’s life unfolds beneath that breath. “The Holy Spirit is indeed the principal agent of the whole of the Church’s mission” (Redemptoris missio, n. 21). The Church proclaims the Gospel through his presence and saving power. Addressing the Christians of Thessalonica, St Paul says: “Our Gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction” (1 Thes 1:5). St Peter describes the Apostles as “those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven” (1 Pt 1:12).

But what does “preach the good news through the Holy Spirit” mean? Briefly one can say: it means evangelizing in the power, in the newness and in the unity of the Holy

Spirit.

Evangelizing in the power of the Spirit means being invested with that power which was supremely manifested in Jesus’ evangelizing activity. The Gospel tells us that those who listened to him were astonished at his teaching because “he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes” (Mk 1:22). Jesus’ word drives out demons, calms storms, heals the sick, forgives sinners and raises the dead.

Jesus’ authority is bestowed by the Spirit, as an Easter gift, on the Church. Thus we see the Apostles filled with parrhesia, i.e., that boldness which enables them to speak fearlessly about Jesus. Their adversaries were filled with wonder “when they ... perceived that they were uneducated, common men” (Acts 4:13).

### From the General Audience of Pope Francis (1/26/2022)

Today I would like to focus on the figure of St Joseph as a man who dreams. In the Bible, as in the cultures of ancient peoples, dreams were considered a means by which God revealed himself. The dream symbolizes the spiritual life of each of us, that inner space that each of us is called to cultivate and guard, where God manifests himself and often speaks to us. But we must also say that within each of us there is not only the voice of God: there are many other voices. For example, the voices of our fears, the voices of past experiences, the voices of hopes; and there is also the voice of the evil one who wants to deceive and confuse us. It is therefore important to be able to recognize the voice of God in the midst of other voices. Joseph demonstrates that he knows how to cultivate the necessary silence and, above all, how to make the right decisions before the Word that the Lord addresses to him inwardly. Today, it will be good for us to take up the four dreams in the Gospel which have him as their protagonist, in order to understand how to place ourselves before God’s revelation. The Gospel tells us of four dreams of Joseph.

In the first dream (cf. Mt 1:18-25), the angel helps Joseph to resolve the drama that assails him when he learns of Mary’s pregnancy: “Do not fear to take Mary for your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (vv. 20-21). And his response was immediate: “When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (v. 24). Life often puts us in situations that we do not understand and that seem to have no solution. Praying in these moments — this means letting the Lord show us the right thing to do. In fact, very often it is prayer that gives us the intuition of the way out. Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord never allows a problem to arise without also giving us the help we need to deal with it. He does not cast us alone into the fire. He does not cast us among the beasts. No. When the Lord

shows us a problem, or reveals a problem, he always gives us the intuition, the help, his presence, to get out of it, to resolve it.

And the second revealing dream of Joseph comes when the life of the child Jesus is in danger. The message is clear: "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him" (Mt 2:13). Joseph obeyed without hesitation: "He rose and took the child and his mother by night," the Gospel says, "and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod" (vv. 14-15). In life we all experience dangers that threaten our existence or the existence of those we love. In these situations, praying means listening to the voice that can give us the same courage as Joseph, to face difficulties without succumbing.

In Egypt, Joseph waited for a sign from God that he could return home, and this is the content of the third dream. The angel reveals to him that those who wanted to kill the Child are dead and orders him to leave with Mary and Jesus and return to his homeland (cf. Mt 2:19-20). Joseph "rose" the Gospel says, "and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel" (v. 21). But on the return journey, "when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there" (v. 22). Here then is the fourth revelation: "Being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth" (vv. 22-23). Fear is also part of life and it too needs our prayer. God does not promise us that we will never have fear, but that, with His help, it will not be the criterion for our decisions. Joseph experiences fear, but God also guides him through it. The power of prayer brings light into situations of darkness.

I am thinking at this moment of so many people who are crushed by the weight of life and can no longer hope or pray. May St Joseph help them to open themselves to dialogue with God in order to find light, strength, and peace.

And I am thinking, too, of parents in the face of their children's problems: Children with many illnesses, children who are sick, even with permanent maladies. — how much pain is there! — parents who see different sexual orientations in their children; how to deal with this and accompany their children and not hide in an attitude of condemnation. Parents who see their children leaving because of an illness, and also — even sadder, we read about it every day in the newspapers — children who get into mischief and end up in a car accident. Parents who see their children not progressing in school and don't know how... So many parental problems. Let's think about it: how to help them. And to these parents I say: don't be scared. Yes, there is pain. A lot. But think of the Lord, think about how Joseph solved the problems and ask Joseph to help you. Never condemn a child.

It fills me with compassion — it did in Buenos Aires — when I got on the bus and it passed in front of the prison. There was a queue of people who had to go in to visit the prisoners. And there were mothers there. And I was so touched by this mother who, faced with the

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

### St. Francis

Pete Giachetti, Ray Wanat, Irma Welty,  
Melba Facey,  
Christina Mora, Glenda Pearson & Barbara,  
Bob Heisinger

### Our Lady of the Valley

Diane & Rick Phay, Eva Rebay, Gary Freeland

### St. Stephen's

Olivia Cox, Ryan Graham, Vernon Ferreira,  
Trish Bautista, Nancy Fenner, Liz Paul,  
Breen Hofmann, Carl & Mary Doyle, Carol Mitchell,  
Joan Knapp

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intention (February) For religious sisters and consecrated women

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

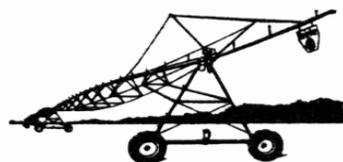
problem of a son who has made a mistake and is in prison, doesn't leave him alone, puts her face forward and accompanies him. This courage; the courage of a father and mother who always, always accompany their children. Let us ask the Lord to give this courage to all fathers and mothers, as he gave it to Joseph. And to pray, no? Pray that the Lord will help us in these moments.

Prayer, however, is never an abstract or purely internal gesture, like these spiritualist movements that are more gnostic than Christian. No, it's not that. Prayer is always inextricably linked to charity. It is only when we combine prayer with love, the love for children in the cases I just mentioned, or the love for our neighbor, that we are able to understand the Lord's messages. Joseph prayed, worked, and loved — three beautiful things for parents: to pray, to work, and to love — and because of this he always received what he needed to face life's trials. Let us entrust ourselves to him and to his intercession.

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