

He saw and believed.

Easter Sunday

April 17, 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 Eucarista. 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 "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	6:00 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—6:00 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

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact Bob Gartner (bobgartner@gmail.com)

LECTORS

April 17
Abbie Olesen
John Klobas

April 24
Sandy Ogden
Kathy Billo

CALENDAR

Sat/Sun	April 23/24	Catholic Home Missions Appeal
Sun	May 8	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Sat/Sun	May 28/29	Second Collection: Catholic Communications Campaign
Sun	May 29	Ascension of the Lord
Tue	May 31	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

For more information see our website at www.stfrancisburney.org

Offertory Collections

Fiscal Year-to-Date

	Actual	Budget	Difference	%
St. Francis	33,305	35,860	-2,555	-7.1%
OLV-English	17,787	16,101	1,686	10.5%
OLV-Spanish	15,196	14,833	364	2.5%
St. Stephen's	18,918	20,546	-1,629	-7.9%
WeShare	9,430	7,756	1,674	21.6%
Other	205	0	205	
Total Collections	94,841	95,097	-256	-0.3%

REFLECTION

Jesus Christ has risen from the dead! Alleluia! He is alive, and he has opened the way for all who believe in him to live forever. He is always present with us on our journey into eternal life. Let us open our hearts to cooperate with his gift of salvation and enter into the joy of his Resurrection.

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

- Next weekend, we will have a second collection for the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**. Over 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territories, because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support of the Catholic Home Missions Appeal funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States.
- **Family Catechesis Workshop** on April 23, 2022, 8:30-10am **Sacred Heart Parish Anderson**.
- **RCIA Class** meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at Our Lady of the Valley, 2:30-4:00.
- **Offertory Collections** are \$256 under budget.

Gospel Reflection by St. John Paul II

Among the events connected with the resurrection, the first is the discovery of the empty tomb. Needless to say, this in itself is not a direct proof of the resurrection. The absence of Christ's body from the tomb in which it had been buried could be explained differently. On seeing the empty tomb, Mary Magdalen presumed that someone had taken away the body of Jesus (cf. Jn 20:13). Indeed, the Sanhedrin tried to spread the story that, while the soldiers were asleep, the disciples had stolen the body. "This story," Matthew notes, "has been spread among the Jews to this day" (Mt 28:12-15).

Nonetheless, the empty tomb was for all, friend and foe alike, an impressive sign. For those of good will it was a first step toward recognizing the "fact" of the resurrection as a truth which could not be denied.

So it was first of all for the women who went early in the morning to the tomb to anoint Christ's body. They were the first to receive the news: "He has risen, he is not here.

Go, tell his disciples and Peter ..." (Mk 16:7-8). " 'Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.' And they remembered his words" (Lk 24:6-7).

Certainly the women were upset and frightened (cf. Mk 16:8; Lk 24:5). Not even they were inclined to accept too readily a fact which, though foretold by Jesus, effectively surpassed all power of imagination and invention. In their intuitive sensitivity and refinement they, and especially Mary Magdalen, grasped the truth and ran to the apostles to tell them the good news.

Matthew's Gospel (cf. 28:8-10) tells us that along the way Jesus himself met them. He greeted them and repeated the command to tell the news to his brethren. Thus the women were the first messengers of Christ's resurrection, even for the apostles themselves (cf. Lk 24:10)—an eloquent testimony of woman's importance even in the days of the paschal event!

Peter and John were among those who received the news from Mary Magdalen (cf. Jn 20:3-8). They went to the tomb with a certain hesitancy, all the more so since Mary had told them that Jesus' body was missing from the tomb (cf. Jn 20:2). On arriving at the tomb, they too

found it empty. They ended by believing, after quite some hesitation, because as John says, "they did not yet understand the Scriptures, that he had to rise from the dead" (Jn 20:9).

Truth to tell, the fact was dumbfounding for those men who were confronted by a situation which was far beyond them. The same difficulty which the traditions of the event show in giving a fully consistent account of it, confirms its extraordinary character and the upsetting effect it had on the minds of the fortunate witnesses. The reference "to the Scripture" is a proof of their confused perception of finding themselves in the presence of a mystery, on which only revelation could throw light.

From the Easter Vigil Homily by Pope Francis

The women thought they would find a body to anoint; instead they found an empty tomb. They went to mourn the dead; instead they heard a proclamation of life. For this reason, the Gospel tells us, the women "were seized with trembling and amazement" (Mk 16:8); they were filled with trembling, fear and amazement. Amazement. A fear mingled with joy that took their hearts by surprise when they saw the great stone before the tomb rolled away and inside a young man in a white robe. Wonder at hearing the words: "Do not be afraid! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen" (v. 6). And a message: "He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him" (v. 7). May we too accept this message, the message of Easter. Let us go to Galilee, where the Risen Lord has gone ahead of us. Yet what does it mean "to go to Galilee"?

To go to Galilee means, first, to begin anew. For the disciples it meant going back to the place where the Lord first sought them out and called them to follow him. The place of their first encounter and the place of their first love. From that moment on, leaving their nets behind, they followed Jesus, listening to his preaching and witnessing the miracles he performed. Yet, though they were always with him, they did not fully understand him. Frequently they misunderstood his words and in the face of the cross they abandoned him and fled. Even so, the Risen Lord once more appears as the one who goes ahead of them to Galilee. He precedes them. He stands before them and constantly calls them to follow him. He says to them: "Let us start over from where we began. Let us begin anew. I want you to be with me again, in spite of everything". In this Galilee, we learn to be amazed by the Lord's infinite love, which opens new trails along the path of our defeats. This is how the Lord is: he creates new paths on the road of our defeats. This is how he is; and he invites us to Galilee to do this.

This is the first Easter message that I would offer you: it is always possible to begin anew, because there is always a new life that God can awaken in us in spite of all our failures. From the rubble of our hearts – and each one of us knows the rubble of our

hearts – God can create a work of art; from the ruined remnants of our humanity, God can prepare a new history. He never ceases to go ahead of us: in the cross of suffering, desolation and death, and in the glory of a life that rises again, a history that changes, a hope that is reborn. In these dark months of the pandemic, let us listen to the Risen Lord as he invites us to begin anew and never lose hope.

Going to Galilee also means setting out on new paths. It means walking away from the tomb. The women were looking for Jesus in the tomb; they went to recall what they had experienced with him, which was now gone forever. They went to indulge in their grief. There is a kind of faith that can become the memory of something once beautiful, now simply to be recalled. Many people – including us – experience such a “faith of memories”, as if Jesus were someone from the past, an old friend from their youth who is now far distant, an event that took place long ago, when they attended catechism as a child. A faith made up of habits, things from the past, lovely childhood memories, but no longer a faith that moves me, or challenges me. Going to Galilee, on the other hand, means realizing that faith, if it is to be alive, must get back on the road. It must daily renew the first steps of the journey, the amazement of the first encounter. And it must continue to trust, not thinking it already knows everything, but embracing the humility of those who let themselves be surprised by God’s ways. We are usually afraid of God’s surprises; we are always worried that God will surprise us. And today the Lord invites us to let ourselves be surprised. Let us go to Galilee, then, to discover that God cannot be filed away among our childhood memories, but is alive and filled with surprises. Risen from the dead, Jesus never ceases to amaze us.

This, then, is the second message of Easter: faith is not an album of past memories; Jesus is not outdated. He is alive here and now. He walks beside you each day, in every situation you are experiencing, in every trial you have to endure, in your deepest hopes and dreams. He opens new doors when you least expect it, he urges you not to indulge in nostalgia for the past or cynicism about the present. Even if you feel that all is lost, please, let yourself be open to amazement at the newness Jesus brings: he will surely surprise you.

Going to Galilee also means going to the peripheries. Galilee was an outpost: the people living in that diverse and disparate region were those farthest from the ritual purity of Jerusalem. Yet that is where Jesus began his mission. There he brought his message to those struggling to live from day to day, the excluded, the vulnerable and the poor. There he brought the face and presence of God, who tirelessly seeks out those who are discouraged or lost, who goes to the very peripheries of existence, since in his eyes no one is least, no one is excluded. The Risen Lord is asking his disciples to go there even now: he asks us to go to Galilee, to the real “Galilee” of daily life, the streets we travel every day, the corners of our cities. There the Lord goes ahead of us and makes himself present in the lives of those around us, those who share in our day, our home, our

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

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 (April) For health care workers

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

work, our difficulties and hopes. In Galilee we learn that we can find the Risen One in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the enthusiasm of those who dream and the resignation of those who are discouraged, in the smiles of those who rejoice and the tears of those who suffer, and above all in the poor and those on the fringes. We will be amazed how the greatness of God is revealed in littleness, how his beauty shines forth in the poor and simple.

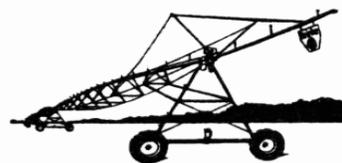
And this is the third message of Easter: Jesus, the Risen Lord, loves us without limits and is there at every moment of our lives. Having made himself present in the heart of our world, he invites us to overcome barriers, banish prejudices and draw near to those around us every day in order to rediscover the grace of everyday life. Let us recognize him here in our Galilees, in everyday life. With him, life will change. For beyond all defeats, evil and violence, beyond all suffering and death, the Risen One lives and guides history.

Dear sister, dear brother: if on this night you are experiencing an hour of darkness, a day that has not yet dawned, a light dimmed or a dream shattered, go, open your heart with amazement to the message of Easter: “Do not be afraid, he has risen! He awaits you in Galilee”. Your expectations will not remain unfulfilled, your tears will be dried, your fears will be replaced by hope. For the Lord always goes ahead of you, he always walks before you. And, with him, life always begins anew.

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