



*I give you a new commandment: love one another.*

## *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*May 15, 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 43434 Hwy. 299E Fall River Mills	St. Stephen's 201 Hwy. 299E Bieber
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**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](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**

**May 15**  
Justin Olesen  
Bob Gartner

**May 22**  
Jim Billo  
Sandy Ogden

**CALENDAR**

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
Sun	June 5	Pentecost
Sun	June 12	Most Holy Trinity

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

**REFLECTION**

We are called to love as Jesus loves, and to become channels of God's love to others. This is an invitation to sacrificial love. Let us allow our hearts to be shaped by God's transforming grace into instruments of his love. By the power of his love at work in us, we can make a gift of ourselves to others, and share in Jesus' mission to bring his merciful love to all people.

**5th Sunday of Easter Readings**

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27  
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13  
Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5a  
Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

**Offertory Collections**

	Fiscal Year-to-Date			
	Actual	Budget	Difference	%
St. Francis	39,847	39,359	488	1.2%
OLV-English	18,975	17,672	1,303	7.4%
OLV-Spanish	16,680	16,280	401	2.5%
St. Stephen's	21,539	22,551	-1,012	-4.5%
WeShare	10,871	8,594	2,277	26.5%
Other	180	0	180	
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>108,093</b>	<b>104,456</b>	<b>3,637</b>	<b>3.5%</b>

**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

- Save the date, **July 31st**, for our **2022 Parish Picnic** at the Lion's Park in **Fall River Mills**. This is a pot-luck so bring your favorite dish to share.
- Youth Event for Shasta Deanery, Month of June, Sacred Heart Parish, Anderson. See Fr. Pol for information.
- **Parish Council Meeting May 21, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.** at Our Lady of the Valley.
- **RCIA Class** meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at Our Lady of the Valley, 2:30-4:00.
- **Offertory Collections** YTD are **\$3,637 over budget**. Thank you for your generosity.
- The lucky **winner** of the **St. Vincent de Paul Raffle** for the trip to Hawaii is Deacon Dave Campbell from Our Lady of Grace Parish, Sacramento. Thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets this year and also those who support SVDP throughout the year with their financial help. Next year in Hawaii!

### Gospel Reflection from the Encyclical *Ad beatissimi Apostolorum* by Benedict XV (1914)

Our Lord Jesus Christ came down from Heaven for the very purpose of restoring amongst men the Kingdom of Peace, which the envy of the devil had destroyed, and it was His will that it should rest on no other foundation than that of brotherly love. These are His own oft-repeated words: "A new commandment I give unto you: That you love one another (John 13:34); "This is my commandment that you love one another" (John 15:12); "These things I command you, that you love one another" (John 15:17); as though His one office and purpose was to bring men to mutual love. He used every kind of argument to bring about that effect. He bids us all look up to Heaven: "For one is your Father who is in Heaven" (Matt. 23:9); He teaches all men, without distinction of nationality or of language, or of ideas, to pray in the words: "Our Father, who are in Heaven" (Matt. 6:9); nay, more, He tells us that our Heavenly Father in distributing the blessings of nature makes no distinction of our deserts: "Who maketh His sun to rise upon the good and bad, and raineth upon the just and the unjust" (Matt. 5:45). He bids us be brothers one to another, and calls us His brethren: "All you are brethren" (Matt. 23:8); "that He might be the first-born amongst many brethren" (Rom. 8:29). In order the more to stimulate us to brotherly love, even towards those whom our natural pride despises, it is His will that we should recognize the dignity of His own very self in the meanest of men: "As long as you did it to one of these My least brethren, you did it to Me" (Matt. 25:40). At the close of His life did He not most earnestly beg of His Father, that as many as should believe in Him should all be one in the bond of charity? "As thou, Father, in Me, and I in Thee" (John 17:21). And finally, as He was hanging from the cross, He poured out His blood over us all, whence being as it were compacted and fitly joined together in one body, we should love one another, with a love like that which one member bears to another in the same body.

Far different from this is the behavior of men today. Never perhaps was there more talking about the brotherhood of men than there is today; in fact, men do not hesitate to proclaim that striving after brotherhood is one of the greatest gifts of modern civilization, ignoring the teaching of the Gospel, and setting aside the work of Christ and of His Church. But in reality never was there less brotherly activity amongst men than at the present moment. Race hatred has reached its climax; peoples are more divided by jealousies than by frontiers; within one and the same nation, within the same city there rages the burning envy of class against class; and amongst individuals it is self-love which is the supreme law over-ruling everything.

You see, Venerable Brethren, how necessary it is to strive in every possible way that the charity of Jesus Christ should once more rule supreme amongst men. That will ever be our own aim; that will be the keynote of Our Pontificate. And We exhort you to make that also the end of your endeavors. Let us never cease from reechoing in the ears of men and setting forth in our acts, that saying of St. John: "Let us love one another" (1 John 3:23). Noble, indeed, and praiseworthy are the manifold philanthropic institutions of our day: but it is when they contribute to stimulate true love of God and of our neighbors in the hearts of men, that they are found to confer a lasting advantage; if they do not do so, they are of no real value, for "he that loveth not, abideth in death." (1 John 3:14).

### From the General Audience of Pope Francis (5/11/2022)

Today we will talk about Judith, a biblical heroine. The conclusion of the book that bears her name – we have listened to a passage – summarizes the final part of the life of this woman, who defended Israel from its enemies. Judith is a young and virtuous Jewish widow who, thanks to her faith, beauty and cunning, saved the city of Bethulia and the people of Judah from the siege of Holofernes, general of Nebuchadnezzar king of Assyria, an overbearing and contemptuous enemy of God. And so, with her astute way of acting, she was able to behead the dictator who came against the country. She was brave, this woman, but she had faith.

After her great adventure, Judith returned to live in her town, Bethulia, where she lived beautifully her old age, until she was one hundred and five. As it arrives for many people: sometimes after an intense life of work, sometimes after an adventurous existence, or one of great dedication. Heroism does not consist only of the great events that fall under the spotlight, such as that of Judith, who killed the dictator; it is often found, this heroism, in the tenacity of love poured out in a difficult family and on behalf of a threatened community.

Judith lived more than a hundred years, a particular blessing. But it is not uncommon today to live many years after retirement. How do we interpret, how do we make the most of this time we have? I will retire today, and will have many years ahead of me, and what can I do, in these years? How can I grow – in age, that takes care of itself; but how can I grow in authority, in holiness, in wisdom?

The prospect of retirement coincides for many peo-

ple with that of a deserved and long-awaited rest from demanding and wearisome activities. But it also happens that the end of work can be a source for worry, and is accompanied with some trepidation. "What will I do, now that my life will be emptied of what filled it for so long?": this is the question. Daily work also means a set of relationships, the satisfaction of earning a living, the experience of having a role, well-deserved recognition, a full-time job that goes beyond working hours alone.

Certainly, there is the task, joyful and tiring, of looking after grandchildren, and today grandparents have a very important role in the family in helping to raise grandchildren; but we know that ever fewer children are born nowadays, and parents are often farther away, more subject to displacement, with unfavorable work and housing conditions. At times they are also more reluctant to leave space to grandparents for education, granting only what is strictly linked to the need for assistance. But someone said to me, with an ironic smile, "Nowadays, in this socio-economic situation, grandparents have become more important because they have a pension". They think in this way. There are new demands, also within the area of educational and family relations, that require us to reshape the traditional connection between the generations.

But, let us ask ourselves: are we making this effort to "reshape"? Or do we simply suffer the inertia of material and economic conditions? The co-presence of generations is, in fact, lengthening. Are we all trying together to make these conditions more human, more loving, more just, according to the new conditions of modern societies? For grandparents, an important part of their vocation is to support their sons and daughters in the upbringing of their children. The little ones learn the power of tenderness and respect for frailty: irreplaceable lessons that, are easier to impart and receive with grandparents. For their part, grandparents learn that tenderness and frailty are not solely signs of decline: for young people, they are conditions that humanize the future.

Judith was soon widowed and had no children, but, as an old woman, she was able to live a season of fullness and serenity, in the knowledge that she had lived to the fullest the mission the Lord had entrusted to her. It was time for her to leave the good legacy of wisdom, tenderness, and gifts for her family and her community: a legacy of goodness and not only of goods. When we think of a legacy, at times we think of goods, and not of the goodness that is done in old age, and that has been sown, that goodness that is the best legacy we can leave.

It was precisely in her old age that Judith "granted freedom to her favorite handmaid." This is a sign of an attentive and humane approach to those who had been close to her. This maid had accompanied her at the moment of that adventure, to win over the dictator and to cut his throat. When we are old, we lose some of our sight, but our inner gaze becomes more penetrating – one sees with the heart. We become capable of seeing things that previously escaped us. The elderly know how to look, and they know how to see... It is true: the Lord does not entrust his talents only to the young and the strong. He has talents for everyone, made to fit each person, the elderly too. The life of our communities must know how to benefit from the talents and charisms of so many elderly people who are already retired, but who are a wealth to be treasured. On the

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

### St. Francis

Ray Wanat, Irma Welty,  
Melba Facey, Christina Mora, Glenda Pearson &  
Barbara, Bob Heisinger, Laurel Wanat, David Wanat

### 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, Chris Patterson

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intention (May) For faith-filled young people

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

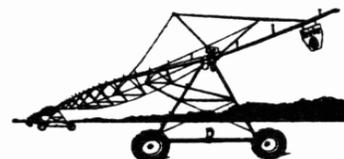
part of the elderly themselves, this requires a creative attention, a new attention, a generous availability. The previous skills of active life lose their constraint and become resources to be given away: teaching, advising, building, caring, listening...preferably in favor of the most disadvantaged who cannot afford any learning or who are abandoned in their loneliness.

Judith freed her maid and showered everyone with attention. As a young woman, she had won the esteem of the community with her courage. As an old woman, she garnered esteem because of the tenderness with which she enriched their freedom and affections. Judith is not a pensioner who lives the emptiness it brings melancholically: she is a passionate mature woman who fills the time God gives her with gifts. Remember: one of these days, take the Bible and look at the Book of Judith: it is very short, you can read it ... it is ten pages long, no more. Read this story of a courageous woman who ends up this way, with tenderness, generosity, a worthy woman. And this is how I would like all our grandmothers to be: courageous, wise, and who bequeath to us not money, but the legacy of wisdom, sown in their grandchildren.

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