



Martha welcomed him. Mary has chosen the better part.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 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 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

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.

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. Classes meet the second and fourth Saturday's at Our Lady of the Valley, 2:30-4:00 PM.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact Bob Gartner (bobgartner@gmail.com)

LECTORS

July 17

Sandy Ogden
Bob Gartner

July 24

Kathy Billo
Jim Billo

CALENDAR

Fri	July 22	St. Mary Magdalene
Mon	July 25	St. James, Apostle
Sat	Aug 6	Transfiguration of The Lord
Mon	Aug 15	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Sunday Readings

First Reading: Genesis 18:1–10a
Psalm 15:2–5
Second Reading: Colossians 1:24–28
Gospel: Luke 10:38–42

Offertory Collections

Fiscal Year Ended

6/30/2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference	%
St. Francis	45,952	46,356	-404	-0.9%
OLV-English	20,875	20,814	61	0.3%
OLV-Spanish	19,824	19,174	650	3.4%
St. Stephen's	24,752	26,560	-1,808	-6.8%
WeShare	13,961	10,900	3,061	28.1%
Other	180	0	180	
Total Collections	125,543	123,804	1,739	1.4%

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

- Today is the **Peter's Pence Collection**, a worldwide collection that supports the activities of the Holy See through which Pope Francis governs the Church and exercises his charitable works. When used for charitable outreach, funds from this collection help those most in need. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a sign of mercy. Please be generous today. For more information, visit <http://www.peterspence.va/en.html>.
- **RCIA Class** will meet next Saturday afternoon, July 23, at Our Lady of the Valley, at 2:30 PM. We will sturdily the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.
- There will be a **second collection for the CCD Program for our children** on the weekend of July 30-31.
- **Offertory Collections** YTD are \$1,739 over budget. Thank you for your generosity.

Gospel Reflection

For the past few weeks we have been hearing about the requirements and expectations of discipleship. In between, Jesus also reminded us of the importance of including love of neighbor in those expectations. We were also reminded of the importance of our faith—how it must be our most precious possession.

Today, the readings seem to draw everything together. In the reading from the Book of Genesis we take a step closer to the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. The covenant has already been made and obedient to God's word, Abraham left his home and settled in the land of Canaan.

God has already promised that his descendants would be as "numerous as the stars in the sky." (cf. Gen 15:1) Abraham and his wife are both elderly. They certainly wondered how and when is this promise going to be fulfilled.

The author of the Book of Genesis told us that it was the Lord himself who appeared as one of the three persons, along with two angels. It was the Lord who promised descendants and now it is the Lord who promises that Sarah will have a son. This son and his descendants will share in and continue the covenant and promises made by God.

In telling the story of the three visitors, the author gave us a detailed account of Abraham's hospitality. He says to his guests, "... let me bring you a little food. ..." This is going to be a feast that foreshadows the abundance of God's love for us as well as the abundance that Jesus multiplies the loaves and fish to feed the multitudes. At the same time, Abraham becomes so busy, so preoccupied with serving his guests that he does not have time to share in their presence.

We see the same sort of business and preoccupation in the Gospel story of Martha and Mary. Jesus contin-

ues to speak of discipleship but here he does so in a more general way. He wants to instill in us an understanding that we are all his disciples—no matter where we find ourselves in life.

"In his preaching, Jesus teaches man not to be enslaved by work. Before all else, he must be concerned about his soul; gaining the whole world is not the purpose of his life (cf. Mk 8:36). The treasures of the earth, in fact, are consumed, while those in heaven are imperishable. It is on these latter treasures that men and women must set their hearts (cf. Mt 6:19–21). Work, then, should not be a source of anxiety (cf. Mt 6:25, 31, 34). When people are worried and upset about many things, they run the risk of neglecting the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (cf. Mt 6:33), which they truly need. Everything else, work included, will find its proper place, meaning and value only if it is oriented to this one thing that is necessary and that will never be taken away (cf. Lk 10:40–42)." (260)

Last Sunday, in the story of the "Good Samaritan," Jesus told his followers that discipleship did not only mean preaching, teaching and performing signs and wonders. It also meant that we must obey his command of loving our neighbours. In the Gospel reading today, Jesus reminded us not to get so busy in our work that we neglect reflection and prayer; that in the midst of our work—while we are teachers, we need to remember that we are also students.

At the beginning of the passage from the Letter to the Colossians, the author (St. Paul) appears to dwell on the problems (suffering) that he has had to overcome and endure in his ministry. The text quickly turns, however, into a joyful accounting of what the preaching and teaching has truly been. The key element here is the author's writing with regard to his suffering, "... I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body."

[St. Paul] has already equated the "body of Christ" with the Church. Now he draws his readers into an understanding that each of us—the ministers of the word also share in "making—up" the Church. He is also telling us to rejoice in any suffering that we might endure because of our faith and our ministry—because those afflictions, joined with the Passion of Jesus Christ, build up the Church.

During his public ministry, Jesus warned his disciples that it would be necessary for them to "take up the cross" in order to follow him. In the accounts of the work of the Apostles during the time of the early church, it is easy to see how they responded to that warning. In the Letter to the Colossians, we also see the rewards that have been promised. All

we need to do is to keep our attention focused on doing the work of building up the Church as we listen to the word of God and share our life with Christ.

Writings of the Saints

(Pope Francis is on vacation this month. His weekly audiences will resume in August)

From: Saint Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr

Ignatius, also called Theophorus, to the church at Magnesia on the Meander, a church blessed with the grace of God the Father in Christ Jesus, our Savior, in whom I salute you. I send you every good wish in God the Father and in Jesus Christ.

I was delighted to hear of your love of God, so well-ordered and devout, and so I decided to address you in the faith of Jesus Christ. Honored as I am with a name of the greatest splendor, though I am still in chains I sing the praises of the churches, and pray that they be united with the flesh and the spirit of Jesus Christ, who is our eternal life; a union in faith and love, to which nothing must be preferred; and above all a union with Jesus and the Father, for if in him we endure all the power of the prince of this world, and escape unharmed, we shall make our way to God.

I have had the honor of seeing you in the person of Damas your bishop, a man of God, and in the persons of your worthy presbyters, Bassus and Apollonius, and my fellow-servant, the deacon Zotion; may I continue to take delight in him for he is obedient to the bishop as to the grace of God, and to the presbyters as to the law of Jesus Christ.

Now it hardly becomes you to presume on your bishop's youth, but rather, having regard to the power of God the Father, to show him every mark of respect. This, I understand, is what your holy presbyters do, not taking advantage of his youthful condition but deferring to him with the prudence which comes from God, or rather not to him but to the Father of Jesus Christ, to the bishop of all. So then, for the honor of him who loves us, it is proper to obey without hypocrisy; for a man does not so much deceive the bishop he can see as try to deceive the bishop he cannot see. In such a case he has to reckon not with a man, but with God who knows the secrets of the heart.

We should then really live as Christians and not merely have the name; for many invoke the bishop's name but do everything apart from him. Such men, I think, do not have a good conscience, for they do not assemble lawfully as commanded.

All things have an end, and two things, life and death, are side by side set before us, and each man will go to his own place. Just as there are two coinages, one of God and the other of the world, each with its own image, so unbelievers bear the image of this world, and those who have faith with love bear the

PLEASE PRAY FOR

St. Francis

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

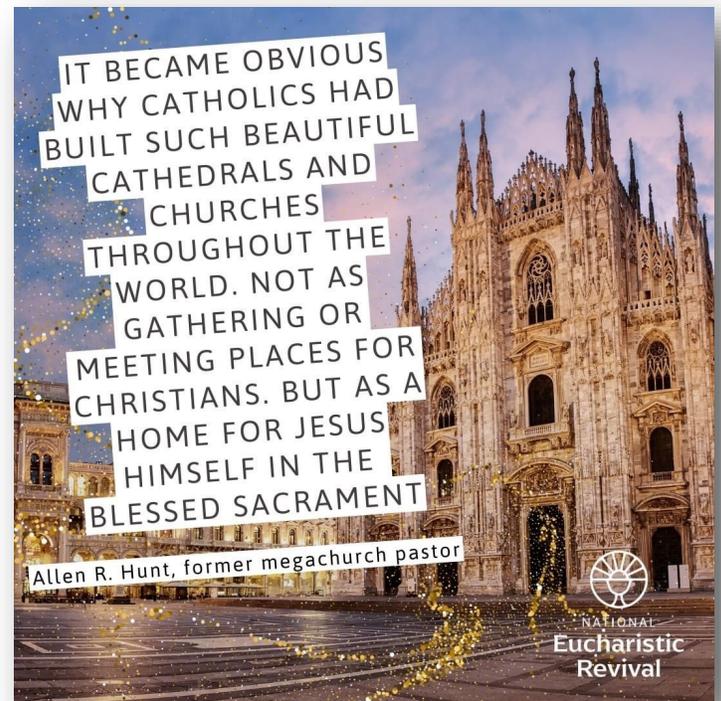
Olivia Cox, Ryan Graham, Vernon Ferreira, Trish Bautista, Nancy Fenner, Liz Paul, Breen Hofmann, Carl & Mary Doyle, Carol Mitchell, Joan Knapp, Chris Patterson

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention (July)

For the elderly

We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

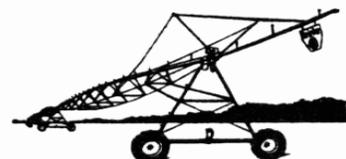
image of God the Father through Jesus Christ. Unless we are ready through his power to die in the likeness of his passion, his life is not in us.



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