



*You cannot serve both God and mammon.*

*Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time  
September 18, 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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 Tel. (530) 335-2372

**Rev. Fernando Meza,  
 Parochial Administrator**

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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

All Fridays	After Mass until 10 AM	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](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). 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](mailto:bobgartner@gmail.com))

### LECTORS

#### September 18

Bob Gartner  
 Sandy Ogden

#### September 25

Jim Billo  
 Carolyn Garfield

### CALENDAR

Wed	Sept 21	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Sun	Sept 25	World Day of Migrants & Refugees
Thu	Sept 29	Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
Sat-Sun	Oct 15-16	World Mission Sunday
Sat-Sun	Oct 29-30	CCD Collection
Tue	Nov 1	All Saints Day
Wed	Nov 2	All Souls Day

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

### Sunday Readings

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7  
 Psalm: 113:1-2, 4-8  
 Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8  
 Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

### 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.

### Offertory Collections

Fiscal Year Thru  
 9/4/2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference	%
St. Francis	7,149	9,000	-1,851	-20.6%
OLV-English	4,726	4,096	630	15.4%
OLV-Spanish	4,188	3,846	342	8.9%
St. Stephen's	4,716	4,846	-130	-2.7%
WeShare	2,469	1,662	808	48.6%
Other	20	0	20	
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>23,268</b>	<b>23,450</b>	<b>-182</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mark your calendars for the **Parish-wide Picnic** to be held at the Lion's Community Park in Fall River Mills this Sunday, September 18th. The event will start with a bilingual Mass at 11am. Following Mass, come join us for an afternoon of fun in the park with a potluck lunch, games, and music. Drinks and paper goods will be provided. Please bring a potluck dish to share and lawn chairs. Mass at Our Lady of the Valley will be celebrated on Saturday, September 17th at 4:30pm but this bilingual Mass will be the only Mass celebrated on Sunday.

### Gospel Reflection from Benedict XVI

The frustrations of the present moment must not lead you to take refuge in parallel worlds like those, for example, of the various narcotics or the bleak world of pornography. As for social networks, they are interesting but they can quite easily lead to addiction and confusion between the real and the virtual. Look for relationships of genuine, uplifting friendship. Find ways to give meaning and depth to your lives; fight superficiality and mindless consumption! You face another temptation, too: that of money, the tyrannical idol which blinds to the point of stifling the person at the heart. The examples being held up all around you are not always the best. Many people have forgotten Christ's warning that one cannot serve both God and mammon (cf. Lk 16:13). Seek out good teachers, spiritual masters, who will be able to guide you along the path to maturity, leaving behind all that is illusory, garish and deceptive.

Bring the love of Christ to everyone! How? By turning unreservedly to God the Father, who is the measure of everything that is right, true and good. Meditate on God's word! Discover how relevant and real the Gospel can be. Pray! Prayer and the sacraments are the sure and effective means to be a Christian and to live "rooted and built up in Christ, and established in the faith" (Col 2:7). The Year of Faith, which is about to begin, will be a time to rediscover the treasure of the faith which you received at Baptism. You can grow in knowledge and understanding of this treasure by studying the Catechism, so that your faith can be both living and lived. You will then become witnesses to others of the love of Christ. In him, all men and women are our brothers and sisters. The universal brotherhood which he inaugurated on the cross lights up in a resplendent and challenging way the revolution of love. "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 13:35). This is the legacy of Jesus and the sign of the Christian. This is the true revolution of love.

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### Excerpts From the Apostolic Journey of Pope Francis to Kazakhstan

Dear brothers and sisters, the world expects us to be examples of souls alive and minds clear; it looks to us for an authentic religiosity. It is time to realize that the fundamentalism defiles and corrupts every creed; time for open and compassionate hearts. It is also time to consign to the history books the kind of talk that for all too long, here and elsewhere, has led to distrust and contempt for religion, as if it were a destabilizing force in modern society. These lands are all too familiar with the legacy of decades of state-imposed atheism: that oppressive and stifling mentality for which the mere mention of the word "religion" was greeted with embarrassed silence. Religion is not a problem, but part of the solution for a more harmonious life in society. The pursuit of transcendence and the sacred value of fraternity can inspire and illumine the decisions that need to be made amid the geopolitical, social, economic, ecological, but fundamentally spiritual crises that many modern institutions, including democracies, are presently experiencing, to the detriment of security and concord among peoples. We need religion, in order to respond to the thirst for world peace and the thirst for the infinite that dwells in the heart of each man and woman.

For this reason, an essential condition for genuinely human and integral development is religious freedom. Brothers and sisters, we are free. Our Creator "stepped aside for us"; in a manner of speaking, he "limited" his absolute freedom in order to enable us, his creatures, to be free. How can we then presume to coerce our brothers and sisters in his name? "As believers and worshipers", Abai once again tells us, "we must not claim that we can force others to believe and worship" (Word 45). Religious freedom is a basic, primary and inalienable right needing to be promoted everywhere, one that may not be restricted merely to freedom of worship. Each person has the right to render public testimony to his or her own creed, proposing it without ever imposing it. This is the correct method of preaching, as opposed to proselytism and indoctrination, from which all are

called to step back. To relegate to the private sphere our most important beliefs in life would be to deprive society of an immense treasure. On the other hand, to work for a society marked by the respectful coexistence of religious, ethnic and cultural differences is the best way to enhance the distinctive features of each, to bring people together while respecting their diversity, and to promote their loftiest aspirations without compromising their vitality.

Specifically, it is up to us, who believe in the Divine, to help our brothers and sisters at the present time not to forget our vulnerability. Not to fall into illusions of omnipotence fostered by a technological and economic progress that is of itself insufficient. Not to let ourselves be entangled in the web of profits and earnings, as if they were the solution to every evil. Not to back an unsustainable development that fails to respect the limits imposed by creation. Not to let ourselves be taken in by the superficial allure of consumerism, since material goods are for man and not man for material goods. In a word, the sense of shared vulnerability that emerged during the pandemic should motivate us to move forward, not as we did before, but now with greater humility and foresight.

In addition to reminding us of our vulnerability and our responsibility, believers in a post-pandemic world are called to care: to care for humanity in all its aspects by becoming artisans of communion, witnesses of a cooperation that transcends the confines of our community, ethnic, national and religious affiliations. How do we embark upon so demanding a mission? Where do we begin? We begin by listening to the poor, by giving a voice to the voiceless, by bearing witness to a global solidarity concerned above all for them, the poor and the needy, who suffered most from the pandemic, which so forcefully brought out the injustice of global inequalities and imbalances. How many people, even today, lack ready access to vaccines! Let us be on their side, not on the side of those who have more and give less. Let us become prophetic and courageous voices of conscience. Let us show ourselves neighbours to all, but especially to those most neglected in our time: the disinherited, the poor and the helpless, and those who suffer in silence and general disregard. What I propose is not only a path to greater attentiveness and solidarity, but also a path to healing for our societies. For poverty is precisely what enables the spread of epidemics and other great evils that flourish on the terrain of poverty and inequality. Poverty continues to be the major factor of risk in our day. With great sagacity, [...]

God is peace. He guides us always in the way of peace, never that of war. Let us commit ourselves, then, even more to insisting on the need for resolving conflicts not by the inconclusive means of power, with arms and threats, but by the only means blessed by heaven and worthy of man: encounter, dialogue and patient negotiations, which make progress especially when they take into consideration the young and future generations. For the young embody the hope that peace will come about, not as the fragile outcome of painstaking negotiations, but as the fruit of persevering commitment to an education that can support their aspirations for development and a serene future. Abai, in that sense, encourages the expansion of learning beyond the limits of one's own culture, in order to embrace the knowledge, history and literature of others. Let us invest, I beg you, in this: not in more weapons, but in educa-

### 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, Gary Freeland

#### St. Stephen's

Rose Lessa, 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 (September)

For the abolition of the death penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

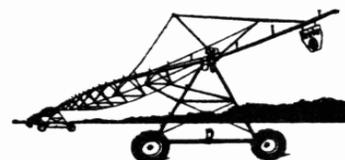
tion! [...]

Today we find it hard to accept the human being. Each day children, born and unborn, migrants and elderly persons, are cast aside, discarded. There exists a throwaway culture. Many of our brothers and sisters die sacrificed on the altar of profit, amid clouds of the sacrilegious incense of indifference. Yet every human being is sacred. "Homo sacra res homini", the ancients said (cf. SENECA, Epistulae Morales ad Lucilium, 95, 33). It is above all our task, the task of the religions, to remind the world of this. Now, as never before, we are witnessing massive displacements of peoples due to war, poverty, climate change and the pursuit of a prosperity that our globalized world advertises, yet is often difficult to attain. A great exodus is taking place, as people from the most poverty-stricken areas of our world struggle to reach those that are more prosperous. We see this every day, in different migration movements in our world. This is not just another item on the daily news; it is an historic event demanding concordant and farsighted solutions. To be sure, we instinctively defend our own hard-won securities and close our doors out of fear; it is easier to suspect strangers, to accuse them and condemn them, than it is to get to know and understand them. Yet it is our duty to be mindful that the Creator, who watches over each of his creatures, exhorts us to regard others as he does, and in them to see the face of a brother or a sister. Our migrant brothers and sisters need to be accepted, accompanied, promoted and integrated.

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