



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Adoration/Confession Schedule

December 20th, will be the next time for Adoration/
Confession and will continue every other Monday
night from 6:00pm – 7:00 pm

Baptisms

2nd & 4th Sunday's of the Month @ 12:30pm

Reconciliation

Saturday's: 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM (NEW LOCATION -
in front of the church, by the tabernacle.)

Weekend Mass Schedule

Mass Times ~ Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00AM & 10:30AM

(4PM & 10:30 AM are livestreamed each week)

Weekday Mass Schedule

Mass will take place in the Church Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at **8:30 AM**.
There will be NO daily Mass on Wednesday.

Parish Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 9:00—4:00 Friday: 9:00—12:00

PASTORAL STAFF

Administrator

Reverend Kevin Sepe

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Mike Tompkins

deaconmike@saintfrancis.net

Assisting Clergy

Reverend Jack Farrell

Finance and Operations Manager

Andrea Seigny

Businessmanager@saintfrancis.net

Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Jessica Keefe

jkeefe@saintfrancis.net

Coordinator of Faith Formation/Admin Assistant

Dawn Bastien

dbastien@saintfrancis.net

Music Director

David Keefe

Communications/Parish Events

Debbie Hovanasian

dhovanasian@saintfrancis.net

Administrative Assistant

Christine Puopolo

Cpuopolo@saintfrancis.net

Facilities Manager/Security

Paul Barr

pbarr@saintfrancis.net



Parish Office

978-452-6611

Faith Formation Office

978-453-4460

Parish Website

www.saintfrancis.net

115 Wheeler Road

P.O. Box 609

Dracut, MA 01826

*General Questions can
be directed to*

info@saintfrancis.net

Mass Intentions for the Week Ahead



Saturday, December 18

4:00 pm Mickey & Mary Graham ~ 1st Anniversary

Sunday, December 19

8:00 am Theresa Arpin ~ 3rd Anniversary

10:30 am Thomas Bertini, Sr. ~ 23rd Anniversary

Ray Cormier ~ Birthday Memorial

David M. O'Connell ~ Memorial

Michael Bergin & William Sligg ~
Anniversary

Camille LoRusso ~ 1st Anniversary

Joseph Lentini ~ 30th Anniversary

Monday, December 20

8:30 am George Harrison ~ Memorial

Tuesday, December 21

8:30 am Barry Kiely ~ Memorial

Wednesday, December 22

8:30 am No Mass

Thursday, December 23

8:30 am Barry Kiely ~ Memorial

Friday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

2:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis

4:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis

9:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis

Saturday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

8:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis

10:30 am Parishioners of St. Francis

Sunday, December 26

8:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis

10:30 am Patricia Cahill ~ 3rd Anniversary

The Sullivan family & Karen Nielsen ~
Memorial

Mildred Saffie ~ Memorial

Timothy Daley ~ 6th Anniversary

Robert & Carmel Farley ~ Memorial

Prayer for Vocations

Almighty and eternal God, who in your great mercy hear our prayer, the harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few, we plead to you to send out laborers for your harvest. In your mercy, open the hearts of your servants whom you call to the priesthood to hear and respond. In your mercy, open our hearts that we may become a community that fosters greater vocations through our prayers and open support of those whom you call. Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Mask Mandate from the Archdiocese

Beginning next weekend, our Mask Advisory is being temporarily increased to a **Mask Mandate**, issued by Cardinal O'Malley to all of the Archdiocese of Boston. From the Pandemic Response Team: In the light of spiking numbers of new COVID cases and the likely increase in those numbers in the upcoming holiday season, Cardinal Seán is mandating that throughout the archdiocese all people attending public Masses, including weddings and funerals, wear masks. This mandate takes effect the weekend of December 18/19, 2021, and expires on January 17, 2022. Mass celebrants, deacons, readers, servers, choir members, and instrumentalists, should all wear masks except when they are speaking. Children under the age of five are not required to wear masks. Children under the age of two should not wear masks. In addition, all churches will continue to provide a designated area in which social distancing is respected for those who want to use it. Parishes will have masks available as some people attending especially on Christmas may not be expecting to need masks. This weekend at St. Francis, a Mask Advisory remains in place. Fr. Kevin strongly encourages the use of masks and social distancing. Also, it's important that if you are ill or experiencing any symptoms, please stay home and watch Mass live-stream.

Due to the spike in cases locally, Fr. Kevin is also suspending distribution of Holy Communion on the tongue (effective immediately) until further notice. Fr. Kevin, the deacons and staff are appreciative of your understanding and cooperation.

Exposition, Adoration, Confession

The next date will be on **December 20th, from 6:00—7:00** and will follow every other Monday for Eucharistic Devotion and Confession.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Looking for a couple of people to occasionally fill in to pray the rosary and bring communion to residents at the **Arbors Assisted**

Living, Broadway Rd. in Dracut on **Tuesday mornings at 10 AM**. If interested in please contact:

Sharon Coram shacoram@comcast.net



The **second** collections for **DECEMBER** are as follows:

December 18 & 19: Stability Fund

December 24 & 25: Clergy Benefit Fund

Request from the Decorating Committee.....

We are looking for a few people who are able to carry Christmas decorations down from the attic **after the 10:30 Mass on December 19th**. Decorations included trees, wreaths, manger, and manger figures. This should only take 10-15 minutes.

Later that day (2:00pm) anyone who want to help decorate our worship space are welcomed to join us!



ADVENT *through* EPIPHANY at St. Francis Parish

Sunday, December 12

Through Jan. 8

Tuesday, December 14

Through Dec. 19

Sunday, December 19

Monday, December 20

“Finding St. Francis of Assisi” Scavenger Hunt

Part of Dracut Cultural Council's Finding Frosty Scavenger Hunt

Honor St. Zita by donating one household cleaning item to Dracut Food Pantry (bins at our trailer thru Sun. Dec. 19)

Part of Women's Connection Advent Calendar — all invited to help

After 10:30am Mass, Church Christmas Decorating

Advent Exposition, Adoration and Confession 6pm-7pm



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

2pm—4pm—9pm

St. Michael, Lowell

543 Bridge Street

4pm & 10pm

Christmas Day

8am and 10:30am

St. Michael — 9am

Holy Family

12/25 No 4pm Mass

12/26 Sunday

8am & 10:30am

Solemnity of Mary

Fri. Dec. 31

6pm & Sat.

Jan 1 — 10am

Epiphany

Sat. Jan. 1 — 4pm

Sun. Jan 2

8am & 10:30am

For more information call
978-452-6611 or email
info@saintfrancis.net.

**We have a Mask Advisory
in place inside church.**

www.saintfrancis.net



Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

A Reading from the book of the prophet Micah

Thus says the LORD:

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel;
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient times.

Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the
time when she who is to give birth has borne,
and the rest of his kindred shall return
to the children of Israel.

He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock
by the strength of the LORD,
in the majestic name of the LORD, his God;
and they shall remain, for now his greatness
shall reach to the ends of the earth;
he shall be peace.

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. (4) **Lord, make us turn to you; let us see
your face and we shall be saved.**

A Reading from the first Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

When Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
in holocausts and sin offerings you took no
delight. Then I said, ‘As is written of me in the
scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.’
“First he says, “Sacrifices and offerings,
holocausts and sin offerings, you neither
desired nor delighted in.”

These are offered according to the law.

Then he says, “Behold, I come to do your will.”

He takes away the first to establish the second.

By this “will,” we have been consecrated
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ
once for all.

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading From the Gospel According to Luke

Mary set out
and traveled to the hill country in haste
to a town of Judah,
where she entered the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting,
the infant leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,
“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For at the moment the sound of your greeting
reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

~ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Homeless Ministry

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !!



Our thanks go out to all of you who so generously and consistently support our ministry! We couldn't minister to Our Lord's children in most need without all your help! Please know that you DO make a difference in the lives of these people who have

so little and that you and your families are remembered every day in our prayers. As you probably already know, our ministry feeds 90 guests at the Lowell Transitional Living Center each month as well as distributes food and snack bags, outdoor gear and clothing to another 40-50 folks living outside each Saturday.

As the weather continues to get colder (especially at night) your donations become even more crucial. We are currently in need of the following:

Snack items (individually wrapped): granola bars, peanut butter crackers, variety box of chips or popcorn, raisin boxes or cases of water. Just about any individually wrapped snack will do!

Clothing items: warm blankets, sweatshirts (preferably with a hood), sweatpants, men's and women's winter boots, warm socks, insulated underwear, tents, tarps, toilet paper, and sleeping bags. With the exception of underwear, lightly used clothing is acceptable.

Of course, cash donations are always appreciated as these funds are used to purchase the food that we prepare for our monthly meal at the LTLC.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist us with our ministry and we can really use your help! If you are interested or have any questions about our ministry, please contact Jack Durocher at j_durocher@comcast.net.

We wish all of you Merry Christmas as well as a Happy & Holy New Year!

Women's ACTS Retreat

Give the Gift of a 3 Day ACTS Retreat

When: February 24-27, 2022

Cost: Priceless

Contact Jessica Keefe at jkeefe@saintfrancis.net or

["womensactsretreat2022@gmail.com"](mailto:womensactsretreat2022@gmail.com) with questions or a registration form.

Registration forms can also be found in church lobby or Parish Office.

The ACTS Retreat is a three-day Catholic retreat that runs from Thursday evening and ends with Sunday morning Mass.

It is based on the Gospels and teachings of the Church, and provides retreatants with the opportunity to deepen their faith, strengthen their relationship with God, and develop a better understanding of how God is calling them to live their life.

The Retreat Teams, which organize and facilitate the retreat weekend, are made up of lay people from our Parish and local nearby parishes.

Whether you purchase this gift for a family member, friend or even yourself, know that this Christmas gift will change your life and leave you or a loved one talking about this for years to come.



Let the Children Come to Me

To the parents of young children

—Relax! God put the wiggle in your children. Don't feel you have to suppress it in God's House

—Sit towards the front where it is easier for the children to see

—Quietly explain parts of the Mass

—Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn their faith and behavior by imitating you!

—Please feel welcome to bring your child to the lobby during Mass; however, if you leave Mass, do come back!

To all our parishioners and guests

Thank you for welcoming our children — their presence is a gift to the church.

—The way we welcome children in Church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God and one another

- * Thank you for letting our young families know they are “at home” at St. Francis Church and for giving a smile of encouragement to the parents for bringing their family to church.

Did you find St. Francis of Assisi yet?



The “Finding St. Francis of Assisi Scavenger Hunt” continues through Jan. 8. If you haven't taken the challenge yet, Christmas vacation is a great time to fit in some local family fun. Remember, all ages

are welcome to send us photos, which also makes you eligible for \$100 Visa Gift Card! Send photos to info@saintfrancis.net. We can't wait to see them!



If you need help promoting your ministry, group, meeting or event, please be sure to send your information to two staff members, as follows:

Christine Puopolo, Bulletin Editor:

cpuopolo@saintfrancis.net

Debbie Hovanasian, Communications

dhovanasian@saintfrancis.net

This ensures your promotion is featured in the bulletin as well as Constant Contact, Facebook, Bulletin Boards, etc.



**Let the little children
come to me.**