St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Adoration/Confession Schedule

March 18th, **FRIDAY** will be the next time for Adoration/Confession from 6:00pm –8:00 pm

Baptisms

2nd & 4th Sundays 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

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

March 13, 2022

PASTORAL STAFF

Administrator
Reverend Kevin Sepe

Permanent Deacons
Deacon Mike Tompkins
deaconmike@saintfrancis.net

Deacon Eric Peabody
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Assisting Clergy
Reverend Jack Farrell

Finance and Operations Manager
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Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry
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Music Director
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<u>Parish Office</u>
978-452-6611

<u>Faith Formation Office</u>
978-453-4460

<u>Parish Website</u>
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, March 12
4:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis Parish

Sunday, March 13
8:00 am
10:30 am Glen Parker ~ Month's Mind
Emile Pearson ~ 11th Anniversary

Monday, March 14
8:30 am Marianne Lafford ~ Memorial

Tuesday, March 15
8:30 am Maria P. Medeiros ~ 12th Anniversary

Wednesday, March 16
No Mass

Thursday, March 17
8:30 am Patricia Witts ~ Memorial

Friday, March 18
8:30 am All parishioners experiencing illness, anyone undergoing surgery and all special intentions

Saturday, March 19
4:00 pm William Sheehan, Sr., Dorothy Sheehan, Richard Duffy ~ Memorial

Sunday, March 20
8:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis Parish
10:30 am

BOOKING MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to set up a Mass Intention for a deceased loved one, please call Christine in the office at (978) 452-6611.

Mission Statement

Our mission at St. Francis of Assisi is to faithfully fulfill the teachings of Jesus Christ. Centered in the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist and the sacramental life of the Catholic Church, we strive to create an atmosphere of spiritual development. By reaching out and welcoming others, our faith community continues to provide dignity and improve the quality of life for all those we serve.

Walk in Her Sandals: Optional Reading for Week 2

On Friday, we reflected upon the Gift of Generosity with a focus on Holy Thursday. If you'd like to dig deeper, here are more inspiring words from the authors of *Walk in Her Sandals*.

Holy Thursday, Unwrap the Gift of Generosity

As he spoke the words of institution at that last Passover feast with his disciples, Jesus anticipated the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan and the ultimate sacrifice he would make in just a few short hours, a gesture that would change the course of human history. This act of love, this supreme generosity, reveals something about God himself; God loves, and so he gives. God is a generous giver; Jesus is the greatest gift the world has ever known! How can we respond adequately to such an amazing gift? (Kelly Wahlquist)

The gift of a woman's generosity is linked to her receptive nature. As we receive God's love, we too are called to give generously. Generosity and the gift of self, or self-donation, are linked. Within the documents of Vatican II, the Church teaches that we who are designed by so generous and loving a God cannot fully find ourselves except through making a sincere gift of ourselves.

To better cultivate the gift of generosity, and learn to make a gift of ourselves to others, we take lessons from Jesus. At the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, Jesus teaches about the gift of self as he washes the feet of his friends. Jesus shocks them with this humble gesture. Yet what he did next was even more incredible.

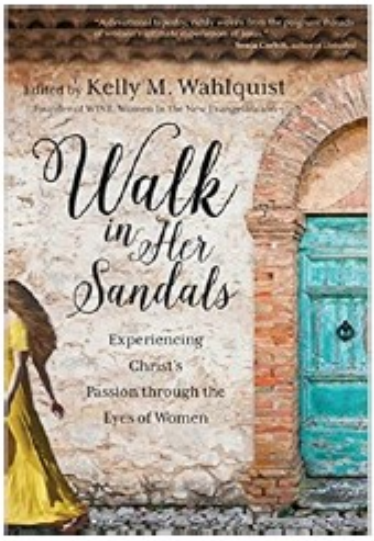
At the meal, Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist, offering his very Body and Blood to his friends under the signs of bread and wine. His words, "This is my body which is given for you," would ring in the minds and hearts of his apostles whenever they reflected on the fullness of his sacrifice completed on a Cross. He made a gift of himself in a most extraordinary way. (Pat Gohn)

Contemplate Your Own Gifts (Kelly Wahlquist)

Jesus says, "I will not leave you desolate: I will come to you". Though the apostles hear him, they cannot fully grasp what he is saying. The fear and grief that comes with not wanting to lose the one they loved most has them struggling to understand.

Oftentimes, we worry about future events because we fear loss, pain, or the unknown. It is in times such as this that we must remember what Jesus said: he is with us now, and he will be there in the future, in our pain, problems and struggles.

What events in your future are you worrying about? What do you need from Jesus to face them with him? Ask him for that gift and then say, "Jesus, I trust in you"...and let it go.



Walk in THEIR Sandals

Speaking of GENEROSITY, thank you to all who took a shopping bag for Catie's Closet. By 8am Mass last weekend, every single extra bag was taken! That means a total of 150+ bags will be filled with six items — resulting in at least **900** new items for Catie's Closet as spring begins. Wow!

Fill a Catie's Closet Shopping Bag Only

We've received a few requests from parishioners (women, men, families) who wish to take part in the almsgiving (Shopping Bags for Catie's Closet) portion of the program. We are happy to sign you on as part of the team! If you are interested in adding one item for each week of Lent (six items) to a shopping bag, please email Debbie at info@saintfrancis.net and we will send instructions!

Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God took Abram outside and said,
"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."
Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it
to him as an act of righteousness. He then said to
him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of
the Chaldeans to give you this land as a
possession." "O Lord GOD," he asked,
"how am I to know that I shall possess it?"
He answered him, "Bring me a three-year-old
heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old
ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."
Abram brought him all these, split them in two,
and placed each half opposite the other; but the
birds he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped
down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with
them. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell
upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness
enveloped him. When the sun had set and it was
dark, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a
flaming torch, which passed between those pieces.
It was on that occasion that the LORD made a
covenant with Abram, saying: "To your
descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of
Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. (1a) **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers
and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct
themselves according to the model you have in us.
For many, as I have often told you and now tell you
even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the
cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God
is their stomach; their glory is in their "shame."
Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But
our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also
await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will
change our lowly body to conform with his
glorified body by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.
Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love
and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand
firm in the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Glory to you, word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

A Reading From the Gospel According to Luke

Jesus took Peter, John, and James
and went up the mountain to pray. While he was
praying his face changed in appearance
and his clothing became dazzling white.
And behold, two men were conversing with him,
Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and
spoke of his exodus that he was going to
accomplish in Jerusalem.
Peter and his companions had been overcome by
sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his
glory and the two men standing with him. As they
were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus,
"Master, it is good that we are here;
let us make three tents, one for you, one for
Moses, and one for Elijah."
But he did not know what he was saying.
While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast
a shadow over them, and they became frightened
when they entered the cloud.
Then from the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my chosen Son; listen to him."
After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.
They fell silent and did not at that time
tell anyone what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.
~ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

The St. Francis Stephen Ministry Team
is now accepting applications for new Stephen Ministers.
Training will begin this spring.

Is God calling you?

To receive an application and to have all your questions answered, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Sharon Coram (shacoram@comcast.net), Paula Bain (paula_bain5@yahoo.com) or Karen DiBona (karendibona@gmail.com). They look forward to hearing from you!

"Bear one another's burdens,
and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"
Galatians 6:2

St. Francis Men's Group will meet again on Saturday, **March 26, from 8:00am—9:00am** in the downstairs hall. All men 18 and older are invited to join us. A full breakfast will be served as we hear from Father Hanley. We will discuss "Can you drink from the cup?". This is a great opportunity for some fellowship among the men of St. Francis. If you have any questions or comments, please email Deacon Mike at deaconmike@saintfrancis.net. Hope to see you there!

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE 2022

First Communion is right around the corner. At this point, we have sent out our sign up's for this years First Communion dates to all families who have children receiving this year.

If you did not receive our email please contact Jessica at jkeefe@saintfrancis.net asap.

Thank you!

Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, is a nationally known author and speaker. He also leads pilgrimages to some of the holiest sites in the world. He spends much of his time helping others come to know God's love for them through preaching, writing, CDs, and other spiritual outreaches.

Young Adult Ministry

Our **St. John Paul II Young Adult Ministry** will be meeting virtually on Tuesdays at 7:30pm starting on March 1.

This is a 14-week series found on Formed, called The Wild Goose with **Fr. Dave Pivonka**, president of Franciscan University, Steubenville.

We invite all young adults ages 18-39 (post high school) to join us and invite a friend!!

To sign up, or for more information please send an email to formed@saintfrancis.net

Begins Tues. March 1 virtually for ages 18-39

The Wild Goose with Fr. Dave Pivonka on FORMED.org

The Wild Goose series is truly a work of the Holy Spirit from 4PM Media and The Ministry of The Wild Goose. "Wild Goose" was a term that the ancient Celts had for the Holy Spirit. It is a 14 part series featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka and various interviews. Shot in various locations from Niagara Falls to the California desert, The Wild Goose invites viewers to an encounter, or a renewed encounter, with the Holy Spirit. Find out more at 4pmmedia.com and thewildgooseisloose.com

Light is On for You

Confession Resources from the Archdiocese of Boston

Why do I have to confess my sins to a priest?

That's the way Jesus set it up on Easter Sunday evening. He told his apostles that just as God the Father had sent him — and God the Father sent him to save us from our sins — so he was sending them. He breathed on them the power of the Holy Spirit, giving them God's power to forgive sins, since no one can forgive sins but God alone. He told them that whatever sins they forgive are forgiven and whatever sins they retain are retained (Jn 20:21-23; Mk 2:7). Since the apostles were unable to read minds, the only way that they would know which to forgive and which to retain is if people told them their sins. Jesus thus established the essential structure of the sacrament of confession. Just as he uses priests to give us his Body and Blood at Mass so he uses them to give us His mercy in Penance.

What do I need to make a good Confession?

The sacrament consists of three actions on the part of the penitent: contrition, which sorrow for one's sins; confession, that is examining one's conscience and telling one's sins to the priest; and penance, namely a desire to make up for one's sins and amend one's life. Together the three are called the "acts of the penitent."

How do I grow in contrition?

There are two types of contrition: sorrow over hurting one we love (called perfect contrition) and sorrow over getting caught or over the punishment that comes because of sin (imperfect contrition). We should ask God to help us achieve that perfect contrition in which we are sorry for having wounded the God who loves us and whom we should love in return. Meditation on the consequence of ours sins — Christ's brutal death on the Cross — often helps us to grow toward perfect contrition.

saintfrancis.net for more info

Catholic Appeal

This weekend you will find the Catholic Appeal envelopes in your pews. Please complete and turn into the ushers or put in the baskets on your way out. In addition to supporting the programs and operations of our parish, the Appeal also puts faith into action in our schools and in our broader communities. We invite you to prayerfully consider making a generous gift to this year's appeal. When our parish reaches its goal of **$45,100.65** in paid pledges, a portion of the additional funds received will be returned to us for use in our parish. To make a gift online scan the QR code or visit **www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now**. Thank you for your support!

Pietrina Armano

Loving Mother and Grand-mother

Rest in Peace

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

- March 2, Catholic Charities
- March 12 & 13, Stability Fund