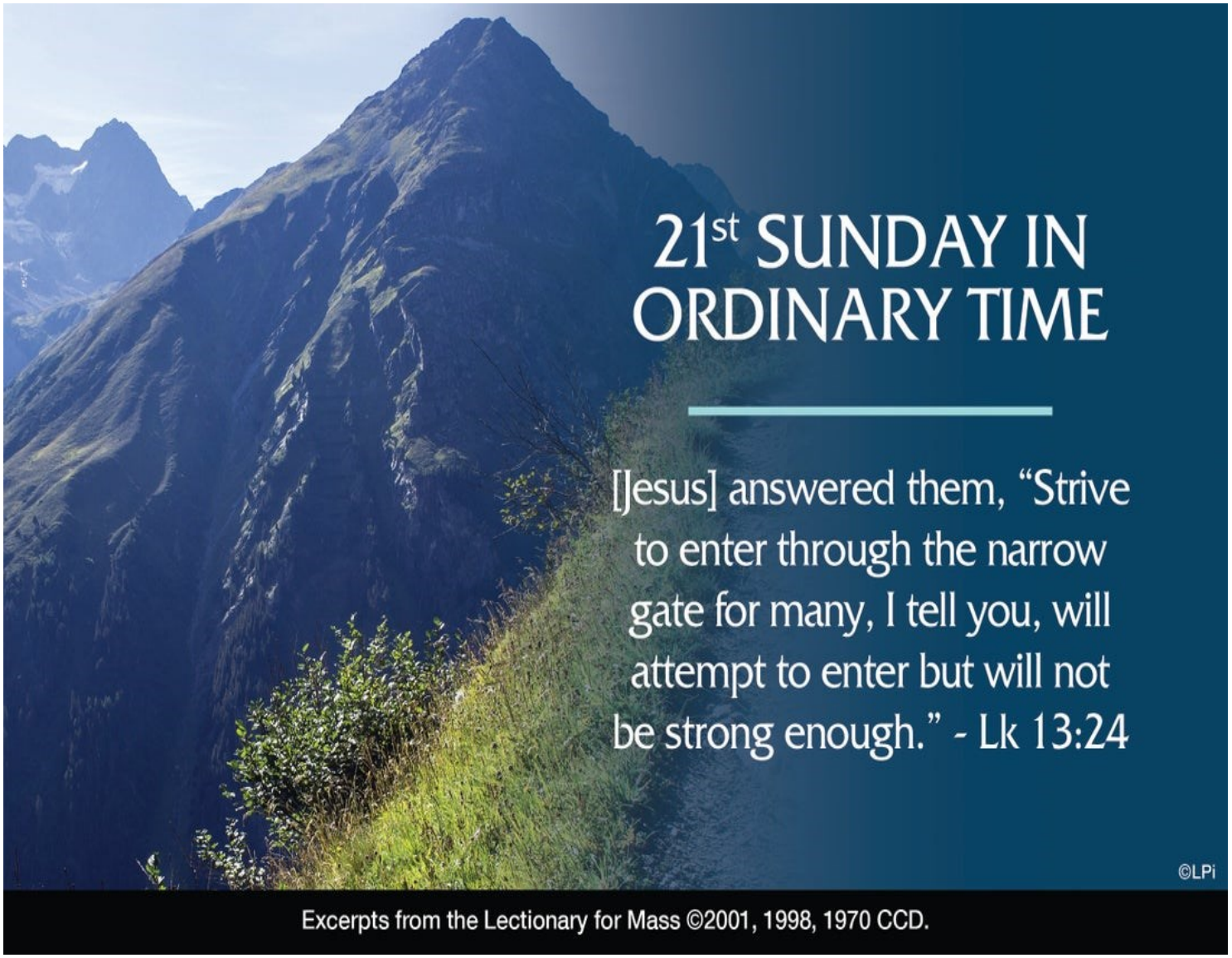


Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Baptisms
2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month @ 12:30pm

Reconciliation
Saturdays: 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM (In our newly renovated Penance Room)

Marriages
Please contact the office to set up an appointment at least 1 year in advance

Weekend Mass Schedule
Mass Times - Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00AM & 10:30AM

(8AM, 4PM & 10:30 AM are livestreamed each week from the St. Francis Website)

Weekday Mass Schedule
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at ***8:30 AM***.
There will be NO daily Mass on Wednesday.

Summer Parish Office Hours
Monday—Thursday: 9:00—2:00 Friday: Closed

August 21, 2022

PASTORAL STAFF

Administrator
Reverend Kevin Sepe

Permanent Deacons
Deacon Mike Tompkins
deaconmike@saintfrancis.net

Deacon Eric Peabody
deaconeric@saintfrancis.net

Assisting Clergy
Reverend Jack Farrell

Finance and Operations Manager
Andrea Sevigny
Businessmanager@saintfrancis.net

Faith Formation Coordinator/Baptisms
Dawn Bastien
dbastien@saintfrancis.net

Music Director
David Keefe
dkeefe@saintfrancis.net

Communications/Parish Events
Debbie Hovanasian
dhovanasian@saintfrancis.net

Administrative Assistant/Bulletin Editor
Christine Puopolo
Cpuopolo@saintfrancis.net

Facilities Manager/Security
Paul Barr
pbarr@saintfrancis.net

<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, August 20
4:00 pm Mike & Laura Cote ~ 4th Anniversary

Sunday, August 21
8:00 am Robert O'Connor ~ 11th Anniversary
10:30 am Eugene & Theresa Beliveau ~ Memorial
Michael Conley ~ Memorial

Monday, August 22
8:30 am Paul & Arline Jussaume, Ignatius & Jane Tabor ~ Memorial

Tuesday, August 23
8:30 am Parishioners of St. Francis

Wednesday, August 24
No Mass

Thursday, August 25
8:30 am Charles Mistretta, Jr. ~ 1st Anniversary

Friday, August 26
8:30 am All Parishioners experiencing illness, anyone undergoing surgery and all special intentions

Saturday, August 27
4:00 pm Eileen Condon Medina ~ Birthday Memorial

Sunday, August 28
8:00 am
10:30 am Jerry Andrews ~ Memorial
David & Cristina O'Connell ~ Memorial
Paul & Arline Jussaume, Ignatius & Jane Tabor ~ Memorial
Stephen Bertomeini ~ BD Memorial

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.

A Note from Father Kevin:

Earlier this week, I received a letter from Fr. Robert Blaney Director of Ministerial Personnel, stating that St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Dracut would become a standalone collaborative as part of the final stage of Disciples in Mission in June of 2023.

This means that our parish will operate as a standalone collaborative parish.

Beginning on June 1, 2023, a pastor will be assigned to each standalone collaborative for a period of six years.

I was asked to express my intentions to the Cardinal regarding whether I would like to be considered for this position.

I have promptly submitted a letter asking that I be considered for the position of pastor of St. Francis.

Over this past year I have thoroughly enjoyed our vibrant, active parish. Together we have accomplished projects and grown together spiritually. I'm very comfortable and feel very much at home here.

For the continuity of the parish as well as for my own stability I feel that remaining here and taking on the role as pastor would be beneficial for us all.

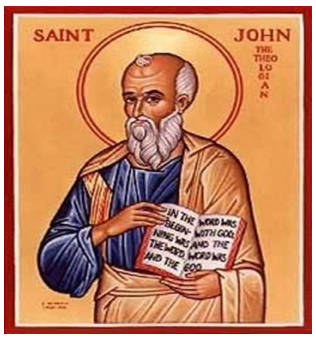
Our parishioners are sustaining St. Francis through personal ownership of their parish. Being here among such vibrancy has been a boost to my spiritual, psychological and physical well-being.

I'm grateful to the Cardinal for assigning two committed deacons who are great homilists, and share a dynamic, pastoral zeal. We have a great staff and very committed parishioners who take on leadership roles in a selfless way I have rarely witnessed before.

Should my request to be named Pastor be granted by the Cardinal, I will look forward to continuing our pastoral outreach, addressing future projects, and further building upon the foundation that was started by Fr. Brian Kiely, and later sustained and enhanced by so many good priests.

Please join me in prayer, as we move forward, on our journey together, into the Mystery of the Church.

Fr. Kevin



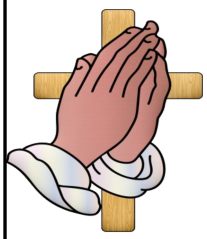
Please join Deacon Eric and Renee Peabody to study and pray with the Gospel of St. John. An eight-week journey with the RSV Ignatius Catholic Study Bible.

The Gospel of John plays a unique and influential role in the Bible. In this account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we learn that Jesus is the Son of God, sent by God the Father to give eternal life to all who believe in Him. John's Gospel also sounds a constant theme of mission. Just as the Father sent Jesus to earth, Jesus sends His followers to continue His mission by testifying that Jesus is the Son of God so that "whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Please register by sending an email to deaconeric@saintfrancis.net or by calling 978-452-6611. Our study group will gather at the parish hall on Wednesday evening's beginning on September 14th from 6PM to 7:30PM. $12.95 covers the paperback study bible handout. Free copies are available. Please join us!

St. Francis Prayer Line

May we pray for you or a loved one?



If you have someone who has a troubled heart, mind, body or soul and is in need of prayer, or you have some intention that you need prayed over, please send your prayer request to: Barbara Marvel at (978)937-0239 or email Pat Gallant@ patagallant@gmail.com or Fleurette Boutin at memere45@hotmail.com. FIRST NAMES only please, in order to maintain confidentiality.

Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

A Reading From the Book of the Prophet of Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:
I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory. I will set a sign among them; from them I will send fugitives to the nations: to Tarshish, Put and Lud, Mosoch, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have never heard of my fame, or seen my glory; and they shall proclaim my glory among the nations. They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots, in carts, upon mules and dromedaries, to Jerusalem, my holy mountain, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their offering to the house of the LORD in clean vessels. Some of these I will take as priests and Levites, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

R.(Mk 16:15) **Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters, You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children:
"My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him;
for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines;
he scourges every son he acknowledges."
Endure your trials as "discipline";
God treats you as sons.
For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline? At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.
So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet,
that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**
Your words, O Lord, give joy to my heart, your teaching is light to my eyes.
R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

A Reading From the Gospel according to Luke

Jesus passed through towns and villages,
teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him,
"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"
He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.
After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.'
He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from. And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.'
Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!'
And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
and all the prophets in the kingdom of God
and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

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

Come honor our Patron Saint, St. Francis of Assisi!

All families with children (babies to teens) are welcome to join us for

Family Pizza Night

Tuesday, August 23

6pm to 7:30pm

Meet us in our "St. Francis of Assisi Italian Café" as we wrap up our "Let the SON Shine Summer Series for Families" with this fun event.

Together we'll say good-bye to summer and get ready for Faith Formation 2022-23!

You do not have to be enrolled in the Faith Formation Program to join us. All families welcome.

This event is FREE to all families courtesy of parish staff, Faith Formation and our sponsors:

Knights of Columbus Dracut #4225

Thank you for sponsoring the pizza!

St. Martha Bakers

Thank you for the homemade desserts!

Come have some fun with friends while parents relax and have a chance to reconnect as well. We look forward to seeing everyone!

What to expect

—A fun Italian vibe in our Café!

— Pizza (let us know if you need a gluten free option)

— Lemonade and Water

— Homemade Desserts

— St. Francis Animal Bingo (St. Francis is the patron saint of animals!)

—Make a St. Francis Poster

—Decorate an Animal Mask

Still need to register for Faith Formation? You can do so on Pizza Night!

Register for Pizza Night no later than Monday by emailing Dawn Bastien, Faith Formation Coordinator, at dbastien@saintfrancis.net or 978-453-4460

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Homeless Ministry

Thank you to all who continue to support our homeless 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 many other folks living outside each Saturday.

Now that the warmer weather is here, we are looking for Summer items…things such as tee shirts, shorts, sneakers and sandals, underwear for both men and women. Hooded sweatshirts and sweatpants are always welcomed. In addition to clothing, we could also use individually wrapped snack items…granola bars, peanut butter crackers, variety box of chips or popcorn, raisin boxes, sweet and salty snacks or cases of water. Just about any individually wrapped snack will do!

Tents, tarps, sleeping bags and toilet paper are needed year round. 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.

All donations can be dropped off in the bin at the lower level parking lot outside the double doors or the homeless ministry bin in the hall by the restrooms.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification about our ministry, please contact Jack Durocher at *j_durocher@comcast.net.*

Thank you, and may God continue to bless you and your families.

BREAD AND WINE DONATION

We invite parishioners to give an offering for the Bread & Wine donation in memory of a loved one at all Masses on any weekend. The offering for this memorial is $50.00 and an announcement will also be placed in the bulletin. Please contact Christine in the office at (978) 452-4611 .

AT HOME VISITS

If you or a loved one would like a pastoral visit at your home, to receive Holy Communion from Deacons Mike or Eric, please contact the parish office at 978-452-6611.
We are here to serve you, please reach out anytime.

You're Invited !!

To join the St. Francis Rosary Group as we pray the Rosary after the 8:30AM weekday Mass (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) as well as the Divine Mercy Chaplet (Friday).
Please come and make Our Lady smile!

Help with Boardwalk!

We are looking for a few adult volunteers in early September to assist with some maintenance and minor repair (sanding and waterproof staining) of our boardwalk to Our Blessed Mother Garden.

If you're able to help, please call the office at 978-452-6611 or email info@saintfrancis.net.

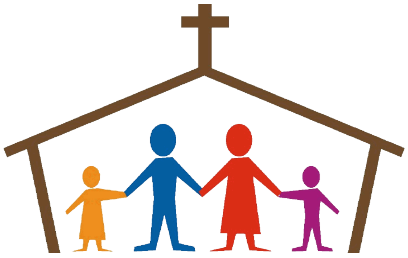
St. Francis SUMMER office hours

Monday—Thursday 9:00—2:00

Fridays—Closed

Faith Formation 2022/2023

If you haven't received a registration form for Faith Formation, please stop by the office to pick one up. You can also find the forms online at ***www.saintfrancis.net*** under the Faith Formation tab. If you have any questions, please call Dawn at 978-453-4460.



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

August 13 & 14 — Stability Fund

August 15—Assumption of Mary

WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of 8/5-8/6	Fiscal Year To Date	Fiscal YTD Aver. Per week
Offertory and Stability Needed	$ 10,231	$61,386	$ 10,231
Actuals Received (mass, mail, online)	$14,137	$64,431	$10,738
Shortfall/ Overage	+$3,906	+$3,045	+507