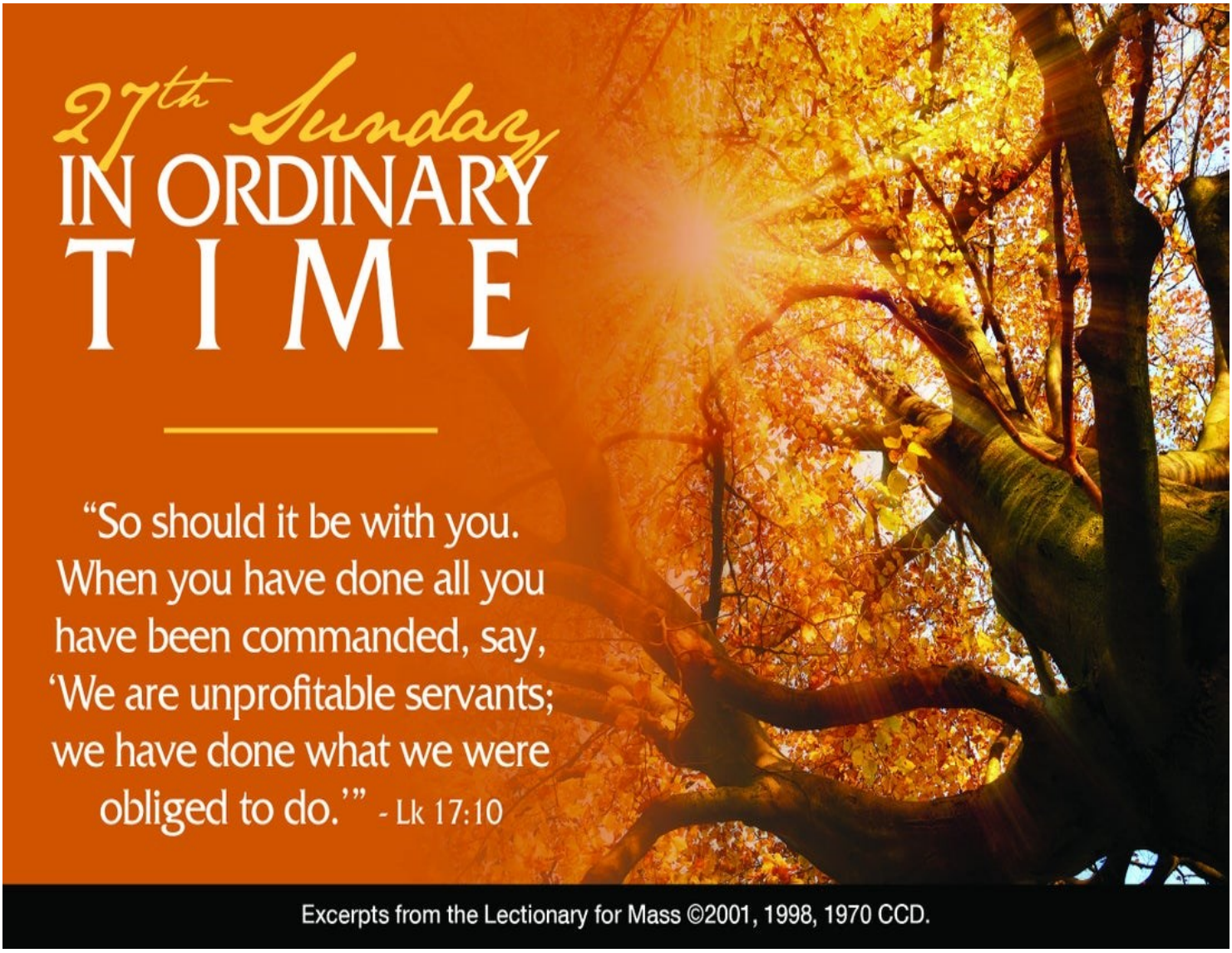


Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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

Reconciliation
Saturdays: 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

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

Adoration/Confession
October 3rd– 6:00pm-7:00pm

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.

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

October 2, 2022

PASTORAL STAFF

Administrator
Reverend Kevin Sepe

Assisting Clergy
Reverend Jack Farrell

Permanent Deacons
Deacon Mike Tompkins
deaconmike@saintfrancis.net

Deacon Eric Peabody
deaconeric@saintfrancis.net

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

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.

Mass Intentions for the Week Ahead

Saturday, October 1
4:00 pm Eleanor Prescod

Sunday, October 2
8:00 am Donald F. McHugh
10:30 am Normand R. Gauthier

Monday, October 3
8:30 am Stanley Szufnarowski

Tuesday, October 4
8:30 am Scott Tokanel

Wednesday, October 5
No Mass

Thursday, October 6
8:30 am Parishioners of St. Francis

Friday, October 7
8:30 am All Parishioners experiencing illness, anyone undergoing surgery and all special intentions

Saturday, October 8
4:00 pm David Kulig

Sunday, October 9
8:00 am Francis & Catherine Dolan
10:30 am Joan Vinal
Dawn Marie Pilat
Clarissa E. Samuels

Parish Office
978-452-6611

115 Wheeler Road
P.O. Box 609
Dracut, MA 01826

Faith Formation Office
978-453-4460

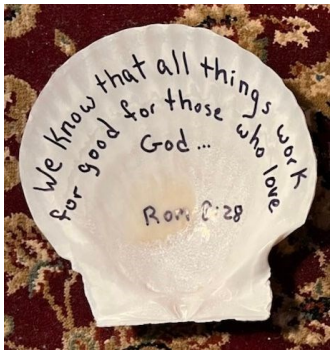
General Questions can be directed to info@saintfrancis.net

Parish Website
www.saintfrancis.net

Jesus by the Sea of Galilee

Please join us for our first **Women's Connection** meeting in the parish hall since before the pandemic. We are excited to gather once again in friendship, faith, charity, prayer and scripture!

Our featured speaker is Father Kevin. On the agenda are talks, discussion and reflection on Jesus' time on the Sea of Galilee.



Scripture Project: Sacred Shells

Leading up to our event, spend some time in reflection. Sit with your Bible, read scripture, meditate, pray and reflect.

What stands out to you? What scripture would you like to share with others ? Do you have a favorite scripture that inspires you? Jot it down and bring it with you for your Scripture Shell.

Our seashells will be blessed and we will also put together Scripture Shell Exchange Bags.

Refreshments and Friendship

We'll have Sea of Galilee Punch (hot mulled cider) and a Snack & Dessert Buffet featuring light snacks and baked goods made by members of the Women's Connection.

If you are new or visiting....

This is a perfect opportunity to meet other women of the parish. We encourage you to join us as we combine faith, friendship and service.

Welcome Table: Email Debbie at info@saintfrancis.net to sign up and let us know if you are new. We will seat you at the Welcome Table where you will easily meet members of the group!

Debbie's Treasure Chest

Donations of a a <u>new pair of men's or women's sweatpants</u> (all sizes) would be most helpful to this charity that ministers to low income families in Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley. We will have a collection site for the sweatpants in the lobby downstairs on the 13th.

AT-HOME PACKETS

AT HOME PACKS IN LOBBY TODAY!

If you registered for an At-Home Pack (seashell and instructions), please pick it up on the Parish Information Desk.

***If you have not signed up for an At-Home Pack** but <u>would still like to join us from home</u>, we provided extra packs on the Parish Info Desk. Please take a shell with instructions; email Debbie at info@saintfrancis.net so we know you are joining us!*

Still time to register for In Person

Thank you to those who have already registered! We are delighted with the sign-ups so far and can't wait to gather with everyone!

RSVP by emailing Debbie at info@saintfrancis.net or call Christine or Dawn at 978-452-6611.

Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

A Reading From the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk

How long, O LORD? I cry for help
but you do not listen!
I cry out to you, "Violence!"
but you do not intervene.
Why do you let me see ruin;
why must I look at misery?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and clamorous discord.
Then the LORD answered me and said:
Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets,
so that one can read it readily.
For the vision still has its time,
presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint;
if it delays, wait for it,
it will surely come, it will not be late.
The rash one has no integrity;
but the just one, because of his faith, shall live.

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

R. (8) **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:
I remind you, to stir into flame
the gift of God that you have through the
imposition of my hands.
For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice
but rather of power and love and self-control.
So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our
Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake;
but bear your share of hardship for the gospel
with the strength that comes from God.

Take as your norm the sound words that you
heard from me, in the faith and love that are in
Christ Jesus. Guard this rich trust with the help of
the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.

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

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your servant
who has just come in from plowing or tending
sheep in the field,
'Come here immediately and take your place at
table'? Would he not rather say to him,
'Prepare something for me to eat.
Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and
drink. You may eat and drink when I am
finished'? Is he grateful to that servant because he
did what was commanded?
So should it be with you.
When you have done all you have been
commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants;
we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

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

A note from Father Kevin:

I write the following as a reminder that we who are not immune compromised or at risk due to advanced age are obliged to attend Sunday Mass each week. Our live stream Mass is offered for those who are unable or prevented from attending Sunday Mass. Some parishioners as first responders or members of the medical profession are often required to be on duty over the weekends, preventing them from participating in person. We encourage such persons to take advantage of our live stream Mass in order to remain connected to our Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.

Cardinal Sean's Letter

June 9, 2021

Brothers and Sisters,

"Without the Lord's day, we cannot live!" His Holiness, Pope Benedict, in his homily at the Cathedral of Saint Stephen in Vienna on September 9, 2007, quoted the Abitinian Martyrs, who during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian were arrested for celebrating Sunday Mass. The martyrs responded to the magistrate: "Sine dominico non possumus!" - without the Lord's day, we cannot live! The Pope went on to say: " For these Christians, the Sunday Eucharist was not a commandment, but an inner necessity. Without him who sustains our lives, life itself is empty. To do without or to betray this focus would deprive life of its very foundation, would take away its inner dignity and beauty."

Aware that the opportunity to participate in Sunday Mass is increasingly available and increasingly safe for our Catholic people, we are joining diocese in the Boston Province (Boston, Fall River, Springfield, Manchester, and Portland) in lifting the dispensation of the Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligation, effective the weekend of June 19 and 20, 2021.

We are mindful of the Lord's statement: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Mt 18:20). While we certainly can pray alone, there is both strength and blessedness in communal prayer. We also note that attendance at Mass is our way of following the Third Commandment of the Decalogue: "Remember the sabbath day—keep it holy. For six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy." (Ex. 20:8,11)

Cardinal Sean

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

RCIA is for persons who are interested in learning more and prayerfully considering becoming Catholic:

- For those who have never been Baptized
- For those who were Baptized Christian in another denomination and now feel called to become Catholic
- For those that were Baptized and received First Holy Communion, but were never Confirmed (you need to be confirmed to be a Godparent or Confirmation sponsor)

Classes have started. Please join us in the **St. Domenic's room** from **9:00am to 10:15 on Sunday** mornings. There is no cost. For questions or more information, email info@saintfrancis.net or call 978-452-6611.

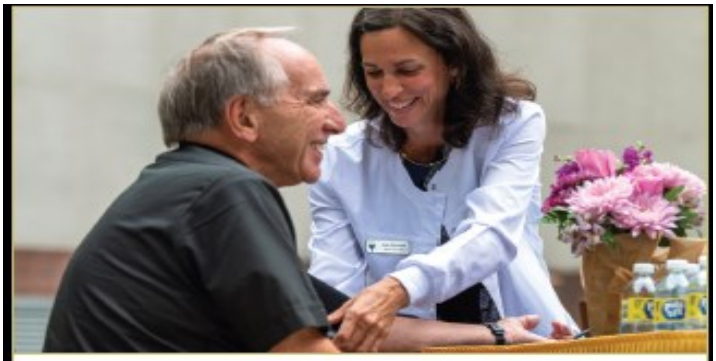
SCOUTS

Attention Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturing. If you are interested in earning your Catholic Religious Award, please contact Chris Mancuso, at

chris@petemancuso.com, for more information.

The bread and wine donation this weekend was given by ***Joyce Kulig*** in loving memory of her husband ***David Kulig.***

EXPOSITION · ADORATION · CONFESSION



clergytrust

SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS SEPTEMBER

Clergy Trust helps us give back to the active and senior priests in good standing who serve our parishes, schools, families, and communities.

Learn more and give today at **clergytrust.org/september**

SCAN HERE to give via Venmo, Google/Apple Pay, or PayPal

WORD OF LIFE

"The witness of our Blessed Mother invites us to become more aware of the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in our own parishes and communities… Following Mary's example, we can ask ourselves how to better know these mothers, listen to them, seek understanding, and help them obtain the necessities of life for themselves and their children. How can we, like the Blessed Mother, lovingly support mothers in welcoming and caring for God's gift of life?"

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Respect Life Reflection: "Called to Serve Moms in Need"

CLERGY TRUST

Healthier priests mean stronger communities for all.

Clergy Trust has made a promise to care for the priests who selflessly give to others without asking anything in return. We are proactive and vigilant in following through on that promise every day.

Our programs benefit all active and senior diocesan priests in good standing so that they can focus on serving others and not worry about their wellness, healthcare, or retirement.

It is our honor to help care for these men who have done so much, and continue to do so much, for so many in the 144 communities that comprise the Archdiocese of Boston.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of Sept. 10th/11th	Fiscal Year To Date	Fiscal YTD Aver. Per week
Offertory and Stability Needed	$ 10,231	$112,541	$ 10,231
Actuals Received (mass, mail, online)	$15,932	$116,035	$10,549
Shortfall/ Overage	+$5,701	+$3,494	+$318

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

October 1 & 2 — Missionary Efforts

October 15 & 16— Stability Fund

October 22 & 23—World Mission Sunday

The Cookie Walk is back!

By popular demand, we are organizing an "Advent Cookie Walk & Raffle" as follows:

Friday, Dec. 2, 3pm to 7pm

Saturday, Dec. 3, 9am to 2pm

The Cookie Walk will be modified so the cookies are protected in cellophane packs, however, you'll still be able to "walk" for your favorites!

Cookie Baker Sign-ups in November!

Here's what else we'll need:

Lots of Raffle Theme Baskets

Other Raffle Items like handmade wooden items, quilts and blankets, handmade doll clothes, etc.

Gift Cards and Gift Certificates

Anything that will make great Christmas gifts!

Sign-ups OPEN now for any of the above! Email Debbie at info@saintfrancis.net.

Do you (or someone you know) own a business...will you be able to donate a gift card?

COOKIE WALK SPONSORS

We welcome sponsorships from businesses or families at $100 each to help offset the costs. Sponsors will be highlighted on our Sponsorship Board and mentioned in all our social media. Sign up at info@saintfrancis.net. Thank you!

Volunteers & Ideas Welcome

We are still addressing questions like, should we make and sell Apple Crisp? What about selling hot dogs from the kitchen? If you'd like to share ideas or volunteer at the event, email Debbie at info@saintfrancis.net. Your input is welcome!

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.**

TEACHERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in becoming a teacher and sharing your faith, please contact Dawn. All teachers receive half off on the cost of tuition if your child is in the program. We are looking for teachers on Monday evenings, grades 1 & 4 and on Tuesday evenings, grades 1, 3, 5 & 6, from 5:30—6:45. Please contact Dawn at 978-453-4460 if you are interested.

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.

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!

This will now be livestreamed each week!!