



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“She will bear a son
and you are to name
him Jesus, because he
will save his people
from their sins.”
- Mt 1:21

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

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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

January 2 – 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

December 18, 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
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Music Director
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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, December 17
4:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis

Sunday, December 18
8:00 am Theresa Arpin
10:30 am Baby Noah Charles Andrews
Monique Blanchette
The Sullivan family & Karen Nielsen
Sue Dooley
Robert & Carmel Farley

Monday, December 19
8:30 am Michaela MacDonald & Claire Nartiff

Tuesday, December 20
8:30 am John & Edith McManmon

Wednesday, December 21
No Mass

Thursday, December 22
8:30am Arthur & Yvonne Saindon

Friday, December 23
8:30 am All parishioners experiencing illness, anyone undergoing surgery and all special intentions

Saturday, December 24-Christmas Vigil
4:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis
8:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis

Sunday, December 25-Christmas Day
8:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis
10:30 am Parishioners of St. Francis

Parish Office
978-452-6611

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

Faith Formation Office
978-453-4460

Parish Website
www.saintfrancis.net

*General Questions
can be directed to
info@saintfrancis.net*

Cookie Walk/Raffle Update and Appreciation Part 2

A note from the Steering Committee

When we decided to bring back the *Cookie Walk and Raffle*, we hoped it would at least meet 2019 in numbers. We also wanted it to be an event that brought our parishioners together, reached out to young families and invited people from the community to our beautiful church.

As you have probably heard by now, all of these goals were met and then some. We raised more than twice the number of 2019; more importantly, the community spirit in terms of giving and participating in some way — even simply attending the event — far exceeded our hopes.

Cookie Bakers — 100 bakers baked 600 dozen cookies! Our hearts were touched when so many bakers told us that after they heard we needed more cookies, they simply baked more. Such generosity. Bakers, had you not done that, we would not have reached our goal of 600 dozen. YOU raised \$3,000+ in cookies.

The Cookie Baker list will be sent out via Constant Contact. Thank you so much!

Raffle Team/Donors — from your “elf” costumes to your welcoming spirit to your creativity and generosity, you also helped raise over \$3000 per raffle (baskets and Grand)! An incredible team — we are blessed by your devotion.

Volunteers — you stepped in where needed and volunteered your time at a very busy time of year. THANK YOU! The Volunteer List will also be sent out by Constant Contact.

Sincerely, Sharon Coram, Sharon Chelton, Linda Carolan, Joyce Kulig, Danni Tompkins, Lauren Tompkins, Ann Lessieur, Donna Bigold, Laura Rivezzi, Debbie Hovanasian

A few of the Visitors to the North Pole!



Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

A Reading From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying:
Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God;
let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered,
"I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!"
Then Isaiah said:
Listen, O house of David!
Is it not enough for you to weary people,
must you also weary my God?
Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel.

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

R. (7c and 10b) **Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I wait for the Lord; My soul waits for his Word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading From the Gospel according to Matthew

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."
When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

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





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!

—If you leave Mass with your child, feel free to do so; **but please 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.

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.



Mother Teresa of Calcutta Homeless Ministry



Thank you to all who continue to support our homeless ministry...your generosity is much appreciated! We are truly blessed to have so many of you who make sandwiches each week or help us prepare food bags which we distribute to those living outside. We

also have a dedicated team who prepare our monthly meal, with others who support them with delicious baked goods which really complement our meal. We are currently serving 90 guests a month at the LTLC and another 60 friends living outside every Saturday.

As we transition to colder weather, your donations become even more crucial. We are currently in need of the following:

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

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

[Thanks and may God bless you and your families abundantly during this Advent season!](#)

Liturgical Guidelines at Mass

I would like to offer us three liturgical points to ponder as we prepare for the Coming of Christ.

1.) Arrive promptly for Mass. Plan to be seated in church 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass. Even our physicians insist on having patients arrive 15 minutes prior to an appointment! My father taught me, "You wait for God, never let God wait for you."

We cannot expect to be free of distractions during Mass if we have not recollected ourselves prior to the start of Mass. Walking in two minutes before Mass will never suffice for proper preparation. The sad truth is that many who arrive late are habitually tardy. [The priests' view from the altar is very clear.]

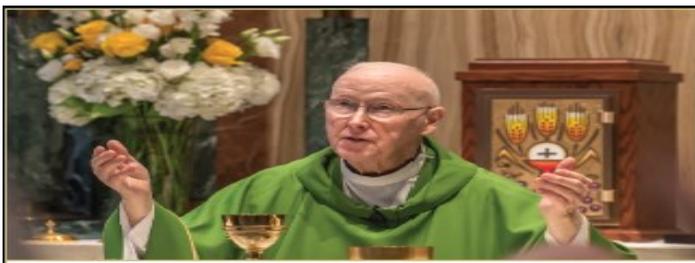
2.) The General Instruction of the Roman Missal addresses the importance of silence in church. "Even before the celebration itself, it is a praiseworthy practice for silence to be observed in the church, in the sacristy, in the vesting room, and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner." {45} Small talk and banter can take place in the hall, in the foyer or outside after Mass. It is important to be considerate to those who are attempting to open the ears of their hearts to the Lord.

3.) After communion the congregation is welcome to be seated after the Blessed Sacrament has been reposed to the tabernacle and the door is closed. This too is a period of silent thanksgiving as we acknowledge the Sacred Gift we have received.

Peace,
Father Kevin

Faith Formation Update

There will be no Faith Formation classes until January 22nd.



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SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS

Your support helps Clergy Trust care for our priests in good standing so they can continue building stronger communities for all.

Learn more and give today at clergytrust.org

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



Next week, at all our Christmas Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org

EXPOSITION · ADORATION · CONFESSION

The next date for Adoration/Confession will be **January 2nd, from 6:00-7:00**



Every Other Monday 6pm - 7pm

Liturgical decorating help needed:

2 opportunities to help...

Sunday, December 18th after the 10:30 Mass to bring decorations, trees, manger, etc. down from the loft. (15 minutes of time)

Tuesday, December 20th, 1:00pm - To set up all decorations, flowers, trees, manger, etc. Thank you in advance!



Support St. Francis Parish
Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code below



Or visit:
<https://givebutler.com/2QELGi>

POWERED BY **Givebutler**

Introducing our New QR Code!

In addition to our monthly Offertory Program, our new **QR Code powered by Givebutler** makes giving easier. To make a donation to the church, point your camera phone toward the QR Code.

A prompt "Open givebutler.com" will appear. Click on the prompt and a series of Offertory amounts will pop up. Click on the amount.

The next screen allows you to add your financial information (credit card, venmo, PayPal). And you're done!

If you have questions, give us a call in the office (978-452-6611) or email info@saintfrancis.net.

Select a payment method

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givebutler.com



WINTER WEATHER

Just a reminder: **NO SCHOOL in DRACUT = NO DAILY MASS.**

If there is no school or a delay in Dracut, **there is also no daily Mass.**

This is our policy throughout the winter. We want to make sure everyone stays safe!



Estelle Burgess
Loving Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother

The **second** collection for **December** is as follows:
December 3 & 4—Stability Fund

GRAND ANNUAL as of December 8th
\$40,570

WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of December	Fiscal Year To Date	Fiscal YTD Aver. Per week
Offertory and Stability Needed	\$10,231	\$235,313	\$10,231
Actuals Received (mass, mail, online)	\$12,434	\$240,491	\$10,456
Shortfall/Overage	+\$3,328	+5,178	+\$225