



Merry Christmas!

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 25, 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

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Facilities Manager/Security
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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 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

Monday, December 26

8:30 am

Tuesday, December 27

8:30 am Maurice Daigle

Wednesday, December 28

No Mass

Thursday, December 29

8:30am Patricia Cahill

Friday, December 30

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

Saturday, December 31

4:00 pm Raymond, Dori & Robert Maille

Sunday, January 1

8:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis
10:30 am Marlena Guerriero
Robert Iannaco

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*

Rejoice, Christ is born!

Father Kevin Sepe, Deacon Michael Tompkins, Deacon Eric Peabody and the St. Francis staff extend a warm Christmas welcome to our parish family and to our many visitors from near and far.

We are delighted to have you here with us today. If you're visiting, please come back again for Mass or our events.

As we come together to celebrate the birth of our Savior, may your time at St. Francis be filled with Hope, Peace and Joy.

We also wish you abundant blessings for the New Year. May 2023 be filled with the Love and Light of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

A Reading From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

R. (Lk 2:11) **Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus

Beloved:
The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

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

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

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





For it is in giving that we receive.

St. Francis of Assisi

We're often called the *church on the hill*, yet we are more widely known for our commitment toward serving God through serving others — bringing “church” beyond our borders.

- **Garden of Hope**, feeding families of the Merrimack Valley Food Bank by donating fresh vegetables from our garden
- **Homeless Ministry**, serving those who live outside (food bags, soup, sandwiches and clothing are distributed); this group also cooks meals-for-100 for the Transitional Living Center in Lowell monthly
- **The Women's Connection**, serving multiple charities by organizing prayer-friendship-service gatherings throughout the year
- **9/11 Feed the Hungry**, an annual program helping food pantries and more, honoring the memory of Capt. John Ogonowski
- **Charity Collection Center** in our lower church for multiple charities like End 68 Hours of Hunger, Catie's Closet, Homeless Ministry and more.

Please join us. You'll be warmly welcomed! For info on all our Parish Groups, visit Parish Group/Ministries at www.saintfrancis.net



Let's gather again in winter fun!

Parishioners of ALL ages and visitors:

We had “**snow much fun**” at our Cookie Walk & Raffle in December. Time to gather again! All are welcome to...

Snow Much Fun!

10:30am Mass & Brunch

Sunday, Jan. 29

Faith — Family — Friendship — Fun

Children's Homily

Mass followed by brunch in the St. Francis Parish Hall — No admission fee

Featuring home-baked goods, fruit, cheese and crackers, sausages, potatoes

The children will learn about the patron saint of winter, St. Dimitar

Snowman Craft Rooms — one for young children, another for grades 2 and up

“Snow Much Fun” Photo Spot

**When the weather outside
is frightful...**

...Oh what FUN it is ...

...to gather inside with friends, parishioners and family in faith and fellowship.

Come experience the “welcome”!



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

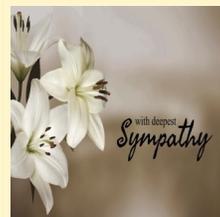
Thank you for welcoming our children — their presence is a gift to the church.

—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.

Faith Formation Update

Faith Formation classes will resume on
January 22nd.



David Lyko

*Loving Son, Father,
Brother and Uncle*

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Homeless Ministry

Merry Christmas !!



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 50-60 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, sweat-shirts (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 a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

clergytrust healthier priests. stronger communities.

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

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org.

The office will be closed on **December 26th** and **January 2nd** in observance of Christmas Day and New Year's. On behalf of the St. Francis staff we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year!!

Merry Christmas!
Wishing you a blessed holiday as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

EXPOSITION - ADORATION - CONFESSION

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

Every Other Monday 6pm - 7pm

Support St. Francis Parish

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code below

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

POWERED BY Givebutter

Introducing our New QR Code!

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

A prompt "Open givebutter.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

Pay with card

venmo **PayPal**

Finish (\$31.06)