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

Mass/Adoration/Confession
March 10– 6:00pm-8:00pm

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

March 5, 2023

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
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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, March 4
4:00 pm Pietrina Armano

Sunday, March 5
8:00 am
10:30 am Doris Larose
Shaun Carignan

Monday, March 6
8:30 am The Boutin & Verville Families

Tuesday, March 7
8:30 am Parishioners of St. Francis

Wednesday, March 8
No Mass

Thursday, March 9
8:30am Steve & Joan Kulig

Friday, March 10
8:30 am All parishioners experiencing illness, anyone undergoing surgery and all special intentions

Saturday, March 11
4:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis

Sunday, March 12
8:00 am
10:30 am Rita Bisson

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

Lenten Almsgiving Scriptural Shopping List for Blessing Bags

Week Three: *Third Sunday of Lent*

March 12 through March 18

Psalm

"Let us come into his presence with Thanksgiving."

A non-perishable food item you associate with the Thanksgiving table, like stuffing, rice, instant whipped potatoes or a canned vegetable

Gospel John

"His disciples had gone into the town to buy food."

A $5 or $10 gift card to Market Basket or Hannaford (feel free to add more, however, $5 or $10 is perfectly fine.)

Week Two: *Second Sunday of Lent*

March 5 through March 11

Psalm 33

"He loves justice and right;

of the kindness of the Lord

the earth is full."

People's Choice! *In the spirit of kindness, add a special treat (food or other) to the bag that you think would bring joy to the family receiving it.*

Gospel of Matthew

"His face shone like the sun

And his clothes became white as light"

Add to the bag: *A pack of laundry detergent pods (no bottles please)*

Week One: *First Sunday of Lent*

February 26 through March 4

Add to the Bag: A light snack like *Granola bars, cheese crackers, graham crackers, pudding or fruit cups*

Add to the Bag: *Something "good" for breakfast, like Oatmeal or Cereal*

Add to the Bag: *A box of tissue*

Questions & Answers about Building Blessing Bags

Is it too late to join?

No. If at any time during Lent you decide to build a bag, all the weeks to date will be listed in the bulletin (see left for first two weeks); plus website, Facebook and Constant Contact. This makes it easy to catch up at any time.

The more bags we are building, the more families we will bless!

Important: Please email Debbie at info@saintfrancis.net if you decide to join us. We are keeping track of how many bags are coming in; this way we know how many reservations for bags we are able to take.

I'm not able to physically shop, but want to help. Any suggestions?

We have had several people who are away for the winter or unable to shop send us a check. These donations will be used by volunteers at the end of Lent to put more bags together. Make a check out (in any amount) to St. Francis Parish, write Blessing Bags in the subject line, and send to Christine at **St. Francis Parish, PO Box 609, Dracut.**

Should you have any other questions or wish to register to build a bag, please email Debbie at info@saintfrancis.net.

Thank you for your support!

Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

A Reading From the Book of Genesis

The LORD said to Abram:
"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk
and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.
"I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who curse you.
All the communities of the earth
shall find blessing in you."

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

R. (22) **Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

A Reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:
Bear your share of hardship for the gospel
with the strength that comes from God.
He saved us and called us to a holy life,
not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord. ~ Thanks be to God

Prayer to

St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls.

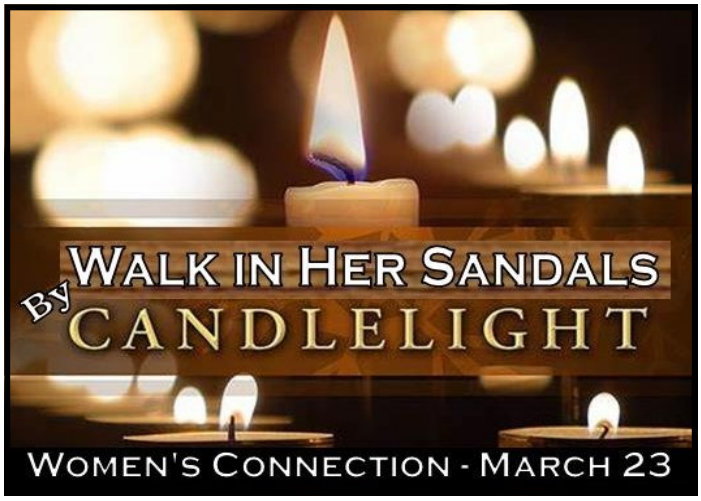
Amen.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**
Your words, O Lord, are Spirit and life. You have the words of everlasting life.
R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

A Reading From the Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother,
and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them;
his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.
Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
"Lord, it is good that we are here.
If you wish, I will make three tents here,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
While he was still speaking, behold,
a bright cloud cast a shadow over them,
then from the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."
When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid.
But Jesus came and touched them, saying,
"Rise, and do not be afraid."
And when the disciples raised their eyes,
they saw no one else but Jesus alone.
As they were coming down from the mountain,
Jesus charged them,
"Do not tell the vision to anyone
until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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



Thurs. March 23—6:30pm to 7:30pm

If possible, please arrive at 6:15pm

All women are invited and please bring a friend!

During Lent, we are taking the *"Walk in Her Sandals"* Book by Catholic author Kelly Wahlquist (our at-home Lenten reflection last year) and adding candlelight, readings, music and prayer.

We'll take a trip back in time and imagine ourselves as the women who walked beside Jesus — yes, in their sandals.

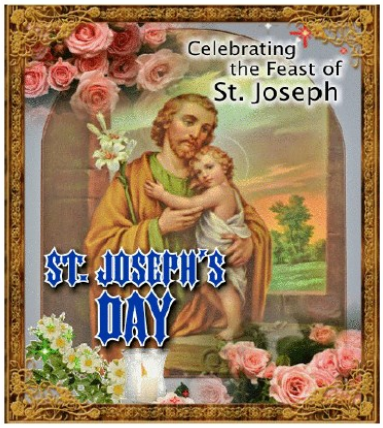
As we travel through Holy Week and focus on the feminine gifts featured in the book, we'll light candles, extinguish candles, relight candles. And together, we'll raise our voices to God in song and prayer.

Feeling a little stressed by everyday life? You're a busy mother who has little time for yourself? If you are able, please take this time to sit and relax in our dimly lit church. Our goal is for you to leave refreshed and renewed through prayer, song, inspiring stories and the "sisterhood" of other faith-filled St. Francis women and friends.

Led by Women's Connection Committee

Music by David Keefe, Joyce Kulig, Sharon Smart and Jill Hovanasian

Readings by Jackie Carr, Suzanne Conroy, Pat Penrose, Linda Bendzewicz, Marcia Dumaresq and Committee Members



St. Francis Brunch celebrating Saints Patrick and Joseph!

Sunday, March 19 after 10:30 Mass

March 19 is referred to as "St. Joseph Day." It's especially celebrated with great devotion by the Italian community (started in Sicily).

One of the pastries made famous for St. Joseph Day is the rich "Zeppole". Tripoli Bakery is making zeppole for us, and Father Kevin is sponsoring them. *Thank you Fr. Kevin!*

Yet, the Irish in us....

....cannot leave out St. Patrick, just two days before! Our St. Martha Bakers will be baking Irish Breads, scones, pistachio salad, plus kid-friendly and other Irish-themed goodies.

Some of our tables will be decorated Italian — some Irish. Lauren Tompkins is working on a fun children's craft featuring both saints.

Father Kevin will deliver a children's homily at the 10:30am Mass. Did you know he's half Italian and half Irish? Perfect!

Hope to see you all there!

Donations needed!

Please help our Fury Feline Friends!!

The TNR clinic (Trap, Neuter & Return) is in need of **TOWELS** and **SHEETS** for their cat clinic. The donations should be clean. If they are faded or stained we can still use them. The clinic helps feral cats, but many cats that come in are strays also. There is a bin located downstairs in the church by the elevators for donations.

Items that **CANNOT** be used: blankets, comforters or anything knitted or crocheted.

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.

Alice Brunelle

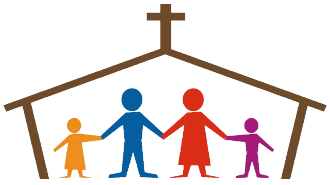
Loving Mother, Grand-mother & Great Grand-mother & Aunt

Dennis Penrose

Loving Father and Grand-father

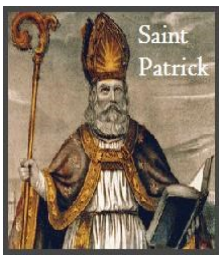
Faith Formation Update

Faith Formation will be meeting again on March 5th, 6th and 7th.



Message from the Cardinal:

This year, the Feast of St. Patrick, the patron saint of our Archdiocese, falls on a Friday during Lent. Given the importance of this feast in the life of the Archdiocese and in the lives of many Catholics, Cardinal Seán is granting a dispensation from the Friday Lenten abstinence on March 17, 2023, to those who wish to take advantage of this opportunity. This is a one day only dispensation.



Just a reminder: NO SCHOOL in DRACUT = NO DAILY MASS or FAITH FORMATION.

If there is no school or a delay in Dracut, **daily Mass and Faith Formation is canceled**.

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

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.

The **second** collections **March** are as follows:

March 11 & 12—Stability Fund

WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of Feb. 18/19	Fiscal Year To Date	Fiscal YTD Aver. Per week
Offertory and Stability Needed	$10,231	$347,854	$10,231
Actuals Received (mass, mail, online)	$3,776	$354,299	$10,421
Shortfall/ Overage	-$6,455	+$6,445	+$190