

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday OF ADVENT



## Prayer for Vocations

Almighty and eternal God,  
who in your great mercy hear our prayer, the harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few, we plead to you to send out laborers for your harvest. In your mercy, open the hearts of your servants whom you call to the priesthood to hear and respond. In your mercy, open our hearts that we may become a community that fosters greater vocations through our prayers and open support of those whom you call. Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

## *Third Sunday of Advent* **St. Francis of Assisi Parish**

### **Adoration Schedule**

**Outside:** Monday's after 12PM Mass,  
Wednesday after 6:30PM Mass.

**Window:** Friday Night's from 8:30 PM - 9:30  
PM.

Confessions are available at the end of each of these  
times of adoration or by Appointment.

Come adore from your vehicles, all are welcome.

### **Weekend Mass Schedule**

Mass Times - Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00AM, 10:30AM & 5:30 PM  
(4PM & 10:30 AM are livestreamed each week)

### **Weekday Mass Schedule**

Outdoor Mass from the rectory garage will take  
place Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at  
**Noon** and Wednesday at 6:30pm (**WEATHER  
DEPENDENT!**)



### **Parish Office Hours**

Monday—Friday: 9:00 AM - 12 Noon (The office is still closed to public but staff is working and available to answer your call.)

**Administrator** Rev. Seán Maher  
Email Address: [frmaher@saintfrancis.net](mailto:frmaher@saintfrancis.net)

**Permanent Deacon** Deacon Mike Tompkins  
[deaconmike@saintfrancis.net](mailto:deaconmike@saintfrancis.net)

**Assisting Clergy**  
Rev. William Sheehan, OMI  
Rev. John Hanley, OMI  
Rev. Leo Cormier  
Rev. Jack Farrell

**Parish Office** 115 Wheeler Road  
978-452-6611 P.O. Box 609  
**Faith Formation Office** Dracut, MA 01826  
978-453-4460  
**Office Fax** *General Questions can*  
978-452-0772 *be directed to*  
**Parish Website** [info@saintfrancis.net](mailto:info@saintfrancis.net)  
[www.saintfrancis.net](http://www.saintfrancis.net)

### **Pastoral Staff**

**Director of Faith Formation/Communications**  
Jessica Keefe.

[jkeefe@saintfrancis.net](mailto:jkeefe@saintfrancis.net)

**Coordinator of Faith Formation**  
Dawn Bastien

[dbastien@saintfrancis.net](mailto:dbastien@saintfrancis.net)

**Business Manager**

Andrea Sevigny

[Businessmanager@saintfrancis.net](mailto:Businessmanager@saintfrancis.net)

**Music Director**

David Keefe

**Morning Admin / Offertory Administrator**

Collette Piché

[cpiche@saintfrancis.net](mailto:cpiche@saintfrancis.net)

**Communications/Parish Events**

Debbie Hovanasian

[dhovanasian@saintfrancis.net](mailto:dhovanasian@saintfrancis.net)

**Facilities Department**

Paul Barr

[pbarr@saintfrancis.net](mailto:pbarr@saintfrancis.net)

**Ministry Coordinator**

Joan Vinal

[Joanvinal@comcast.net](mailto:Joanvinal@comcast.net)

**Volunteer Outreach Coordinator**

Dr. Linda Trouville

[ltrouville@saintfrancis.net](mailto:ltrouville@saintfrancis.net)



## *Mass Intentions for the Week Ahead*



### **Saturday, December 12**

4:00pm *Parishioners of St. Francis Parish*

### **Sunday, December 13**

8:00am Suzanne Dooley ~ 4th Anniversary

10:30am Bill Glynn & Jon Glynn ~ Memorial

Mary M. Deignan ~ 13th Anniversary

Libby Franck ~ Memorial

5:30pm

### **Monday, December 14**

Albert A. Daigle, Sr. ~ Memorial

### **Tuesday, December 15**

Frascarelli Family &

Mary DiTullio ~ Living Intention

### **Wednesday, December 16**

Prayers for the Names in the Book of Intentions

### **Thursday, December 17**

Rosary Prayer Group ~ Living Intention

### **Friday, December 18**

### **Saturday, December 19**

4:00pm Raymond, Doris &

Robert Maille ~ Memorial

### **Sunday, December 20**

8:00am Leo Bouley ~ 18th Anniversary

10:30am Baby Noah Charles Andrews ~ 15th Anniversary

Michael Bergin ~ 1st Anniversary

Joseph Lentini ~ 29th Anniversary

Ray Cormier ~ Birthday Memorial

Timothy Daley ~ Anniversary

5:30pm *Parishioners of St. Francis Parish*

### **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.

# Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

## **First Reading**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,  
to heal the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and release to the prisoners,  
to announce a year of favor from the LORD  
and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,  
in my God is the joy of my soul;  
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation  
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,  
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,  
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.  
As the earth brings forth its plants,  
and a garden makes its growth spring up,  
so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise  
spring up before all the nations.

***The Word of the Lord,  
- Thanks be to God***

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. (Is 61:10b) My soul rejoices in  
my God.**

## **Second Reading:**

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.  
In all circumstances give thanks,  
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.  
Do not quench the Spirit.  
Do not despise prophetic utterances.  
Test everything; retain what is good.  
Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy  
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,  
be preserved blameless for the coming of our  
Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful,  
and he will also accomplish it.

***The Word of the Lord,  
- Thanks be to God***

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has  
anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Gospel:**

A man named John was sent from God.  
He came for testimony, to testify to the light,  
so that all might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
but came to testify to the light.  
And this is the testimony of John.  
When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests  
and Levites to him  
to ask him, "Who are you?"  
He admitted and did not deny it,  
but admitted, "I am not the Christ."  
So they asked him,  
"What are you then? Are you Elijah?"  
And he said, "I am not."  
"Are you the Prophet?"  
He answered, "No."  
So they said to him,  
"Who are you, so we can give an answer to those  
who sent us?  
What do you have to say for yourself?"  
He said:  
"I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert,  
'make straight the way of the Lord,'*"  
as Isaiah the prophet said."  
Some Pharisees were also sent.  
They asked him,  
"Why then do you baptize  
if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Proph-  
et?"  
John answered them,  
"I baptize with water;  
but there is one among you whom you do not  
recognize,  
the one who is coming after me,  
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."  
This happened in Bethany across the Jordan,  
where John was baptizing.

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

# THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

©LPI



## GIVING TREE - Pandemic Addition:

Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Saint Francis Parish is very grateful for all the support that this parish has given us throughout the years,

especially at Christmas time when you supported our giving tree. There hasn't been a year that a tag was left on the tree, and for that we are grateful. However this year we have many changes in the way we are collecting and distributing our giving tree gifts.

**If you would like to donate to the giving tree, we would be asking for gift cards for families in need and Katie's closet.** We would like to recommend the following gift cards, Market Basket, Target, Walmart, CVS, and Amazon. Those were a few ideas. However, we will be glad to take gift cards from your choice. We know that many of our parishioners would like to buy a gift and wrap it. But due to this pandemic and to the safety of our volunteers and our Parishioners, we feel the gift cards would be better for all.

**These donations can be mailed to the parish hall or dropped off and put in the box outside at the hall doors, by December 18th.** If you have any questions regarding the giving tree, please feel free to call the Parish and leave a message for Saint Vincent dePaul. And we will try and get back to you as soon as possible.

Again we could not fulfill our mission if it wasn't for the parishioners of our parish. With God's blessing hopefully we will be pulling tags off the giving tree next year at this time. Once again would like to thank you and Have a safe and Blessed Christmas season.

Saint Vincent de Paul  
Society  
Saint Francis of Assisi  
Parish.



## Volunteers Needed for both our Cleaning & Welcoming Committee's

As we are now many months into our 2 teams working so hard to ensure we have a safe place to worship weekly we are finding ourselves in need of replacing and letting some of our very devoted volunteers take a well deserved break.

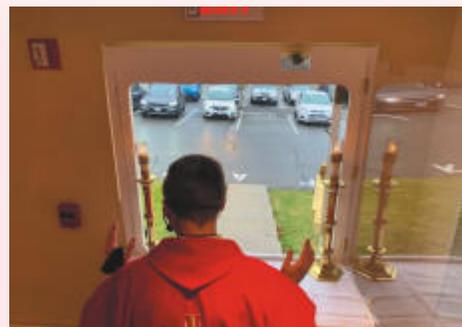
Are you available & interested in lending a hand?

Please contact Cyndie Bourassa to be added to either ministry. She can be reached via email at [cyndiebourassa@gmail.com](mailto:cyndiebourassa@gmail.com)

We will train you!



*Wondering what this photo might be and from where it's taken?*



There is a new location for outdoor Daily Mass, given the colder weather coming in. We think it's pretty inventive!

Fr. Maher is standing at the choir door, looking out toward the main parking lot. Mass attendees are in their vehicles listening to Mass on 107.7. Communion is offered during Mass.

**Daily Mass at noon Mon/Tues/Thus/Fri and at 6:30pm Weds.**



## From our Administrator, Fr. Seán Maher

Hello folks,

The Lord be with you!

Today is *Gaudete* ("Rejoice") Sunday! Advent is a more solemn (for example, we don't recite the *Gloria* during the Sunday Mass) season of hope and preparation for the coming of Christ, and between the Pandemic and last weekend's snowstorm and power outages, it is good to celebrate this Sunday more joyfully!

We always have reason to be joyful in the deep faithful knowledge of God's love for us. However, we often lack that deep faithful knowledge. To help us as a parish to grow in this, the parish has subscribed to *Formed.org*, and you as parishioners can avail of it for no charge. Thousands of e-books, audio talks, movies, documentaries and studies for all ages and which can be used individually or as members of a group. Go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and sign up using our parish name (or zip code) and your own name and email. Then help fellow parishioners to do the same and maybe start a little group study with a few of them! Thank you to a generous anonymous donor for underwriting the cost of this to the parish for this year.

Our volunteers have been doing a fantastic job to keep the church open and safe. We do need more of them however! Some are being asked not simply to do this work every week, but sometimes to cover more than one Mass on a weekend. That becomes a quick path to volunteer burnout. Please, if you are able, consider volunteering in the welcome and cleaning teams in order to spread the both the burden and the opportunity of service to God and His people.

In this season of hope, may today's joyful celebration and news help us to anticipate the greater joy around the corner at Christmas.

God Bless,  
Father Maher



## To My St. Francis Family,

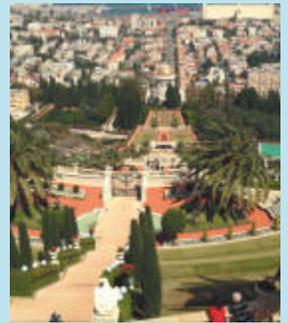
I was asked to write up something about the future pilgrimages, since hearing with great interest from many of you.

We currently have 41 people planning on going to Greece in the spring of 2021 God willing. Here is a list of future pilgrimages that people are already signing up for.

**Greece – *The way of St. Paul and Cruise of the Greek Isles. April 16-26, 2021.*** There are spaces available if interested.

**Medugorje – *September 13-21, 2021.*** 8 days in Medugorje with a side trip to Dubrovnik.

**Holy Land Deluxe with Bishop Robert Hennessey, Fr. Corey Bassett-Tirrell and I. April 3-12, 2022.** Bishop Hennessey has requested that we process into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and to get as many people as possible from the Merrimack Region to join us on this wonderful trip. This will be trip of all trips to the Holy Land with the Bishop, with many special events being planned.



**All Italian Shrines with Fr. Bob Blaney and I. September 17 -30, 2023.** I will be celebrating 25 years of Ordination as a Deacon. **Book this trip before December 6, 2020 and receive \$200 off if you have traveled with me before.** 14 days traveling to many shrines all around Italy. Papal Audience, San Giovanni Rotondo, (Padre Pio, Assisi, Siena, Florence, Venice, Padua (St. Anthony) and much much more. And some special surprises by being planned by 206 tours that I'm not aware of.

**Egypt and Nile River Cruise: April 19-27, 2024.**

Feel free to email me with any questions at [deaconjohn@ChelmsfordCatholic.org](mailto:deaconjohn@ChelmsfordCatholic.org) or speak with Jessica Keefe at [jkeefe@saintfrancis.net](mailto:jkeefe@saintfrancis.net).

You can view all the trips that are scheduled along with their itinerary at [www.pilgrimages.com/dcnhunt](http://www.pilgrimages.com/dcnhunt)

I hope you are all doing well and know that you are missed and in my prayers.

God Bless and Stay Safe,

Deacon John

### PLAN & PRAY NOW, TRAVEL LATER

During this time of social distancing and staying at home it is nice to still think about the future and begin to plan your next trip. God willing we will be able to safely travel together again soon!



## PRAYER REQUESTS



### St. Francis Prayer Line

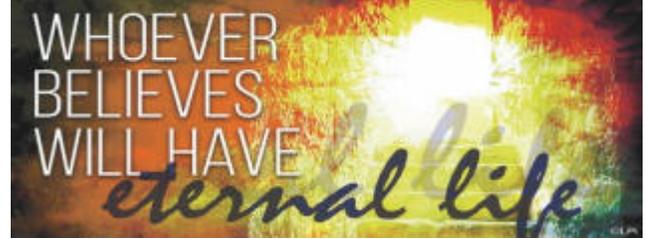
Prayers are always welcome. Please feel free to reach out to any our amazing volunteers to add your prayer request.

Fleurette @ 978-710-6612

Barbara @ 978-937-0239

Email Pat at @

[patagallant@gmail.com](mailto:patagallant@gmail.com)



### Helping Souls to Eternal Life

When Fr. Maher gets called to anoint those who are dying, he calls on a group of people to pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet for their soul.

If you would like to join this ministry, or want more information, please contact Andrea Nicholson at 978-204-9220

*When I entered the chapel for a moment, the Lord said to me, My daughter, help Me to save a certain dying sinner. Say the chaplet that I have taught you for him. ....I understood how very important the chaplet was for the dying.  
(St. Faustina's Diary entry #1565)*



## ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

©LPI

*Rest in  
Peace*

*Marcel Noel*

*Loving sister of  
Lucille White*

*Robert Farley*

*Loving Father, Grandfather, Uncle  
& Friend*



The Sacrament of the Eucharist



**Following Live Stream Masses**

If you join us for Mass online or on the radio on 107.7 FM, you are welcome to come after Mass to the lobby of the church to receive Holy Communion.

  
**MCKENNA-OUELLETTE  
D'AMATO**  
*A Life Celebration • Funeral Home*  
 327 Hildreth Street, Lowell, Massachusetts  
 (978) 458-6183 • www.mckennaouellette.com  
 Ron D'Amato • Jay McKenna • Jonathan Reeny

  
**Sartell**  
 PLUMBING & HEATING, LLC  
 Michael Sartell - Owner  
**781-389-1961**  
 sartellph@hotmail.com  
 DRACUT, MA

  
 Only 1/4 mile away  
 Open Daily starting May 1st  
 437 Parker Rd  
 www.farmerdaves.net  
**\$7.50 OFF OUR OWN 12" HANGING BASKETS**  
 May 7th - 31st: Cannot combine with other offers or discounts.

**Blanchette, Jean & Company**  
*Certified Public Accountants*  
 Individual Tax Preparation & Small Business Accounting Services  
 1440 Bridge Street  
 Dracut, MA 01826  
**(978) 453-9888**  
 e-mail  
 Terry@BlanchetteJean.com

  
**BENCHMARK SENIOR LIVING**  
 at CHELMSFORD CROSSINGS  
 199 Chelmsford Street  
 Chelmsford, MA  
**978-250-8855**  
 www.benchmarkseniorliving.com

  
 Dracut Resident  
**Kelsey Laganas**  
 REALTOR  
 Licensed in MA & NH  
**978-935-3230**  
 KLaganas@LAERrealty.com

**COURTESY OF**  
*Anthony Indelicato*  
**"God Bless"**

**catholicmatch<sup>®</sup>**  
 Massachusetts  
  
 CatholicMatch.com/MA

**SARO CHIROPRACTIC HEALTH CENTER**  
  
**DR. STEVEN C. SARO**  
 CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN  
 (978) 970-2222  
 Dracut Village Square  
 Broadway Road  
 Rte. 113, Dracut, MA 01826

  
**AJ'S HOME SERVICES INC**  
 INTEGRITY, QUALITY AND RELIABILITY  
 Roofing • Snow Removal  
 Plowing • Gutters • Siding  
 Windows • Decks  
 p. 978-735-4308 c. 978-807-4336  
 www.ajshomeservices.com  
 FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED  
 AARON BEAUDOIN LIC#122360

  
**SABRINA CARBERRY, OWNER**  
 Licensed childcare provider  
**978-804-6459**  
 scarberry828@comcast.net  
 600 Wheeler Rd., Dracut, MA

**St. Patrick Cemetery,**  
 Lowell, MA  
**St. Mary Cemetery,**  
 Tewksbury, MA  
 New Burial Space Available in Both Cemeteries  
 For further information, call 978-458-8464 or visit  
 StPatrickCemetery.com  
 StMaryCemetery.com

**MUSIC LESSONS WITH CONNIE**  
 Mass Music Ed Certified #424106  
 Private Lessons for children, PIANO, FLUTE, OBOE  
 CURRENTLY TEACHING VIRTUALLY  
 FROM MY HOME STUDIO  
 Get a head start on lessons for the Fall, before school starts!  
**781-864-3999**

  
**Enterprise Bank**  
 1168 Lakeview Ave.  
 Member FDIC **459-9000**

**BROX INDUSTRIES, INC.**  
 1471 Methuen Street  
 Dracut, MA 01826  
 Hot Mix Asphalt & Construction Materials  
 For Quotations call:  
**978-454-9105**

**ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY**  
 96 Riverneck Rd.  
 E. Chelmsford, MA 01824-2942  
**(978) 458-4851**

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE  
*Your Community is Looking!*  


**Circle Health Dracut**  
 This facility offers key services including an Urgent Care, Patient Service Center, Diabetes and Endocrinology, Primary Care and OB/GYN.  
 www.circle-health.org/dracut  
 Proudly wellforce 

  
**LANDSCAPING ACE & IRRIGATION**  
 Irrigation Maintenance and Installation  
**978-967-4000**  
 www.ancelandscaping.com

**Too Sick for Mass?**  
 SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!  
 Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!  
 www.parishesonline.com  


**DR. JAMES PELLETIER**  
 Orthodontics  
  
 Dracut, MA • (978) 957-7170  
 Windham, NH • (603) 952-4848  
 www.pelletiersmiles.com

  
**THE Arbors**  
 Assisted Living Residential Communities  
 At Dracut  
*Trusted by families for 3 generations.*  
 21 Broadway Road  
 Dracut, MA 01826  
 978-455-9182  
 arborsassistedliving.com

  
**RE/MAX PARTNERS**  
**Fred Carberry**  
 MA & NH Realtor  
**978-479-4799**  
 fcarberry70@gmail.com  
*Serving the parish of St. Francis*

  
**MAHONEY OIL COMPANY, INC.**  
 120 Plain St., Lowell, MA  
 978.453.1581  
 www.mahoneyoilco.com  
 Home Heating Oil • Automatic Delivery • Cash Discounts  
 24 Hour Service • Free Estimates • Installations  
 Tank Removals • Annual Cleanings • Flexible Budget Payments