

4th 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.

Fourth 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.) **We will be closed Christmas Day.**



Administrator Rev. Seán Maher
Email Address: frmaher@saintfrancis.net

Permanent Deacon Deacon Mike Tompkins
deaconmike@saintfrancis.net

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

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Parish Website
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*General Questions can
be directed to
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Pastoral Staff

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Volunteer Outreach Coordinator
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Mass Intentions for the Week Ahead



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*

Monday, December 21

In Thanksgiving for Fr. Jack & Fr. Maher ~ Living Intention

Tuesday, December 22

Michael & James MacDonald

Wednesday, December 23

Arthur & Yvonne Saindon ~ Memorial

Thursday, December 24

Parishioners of St. Francis Parish

Friday, December 25

Parishioners of St. Francis Parish

Saturday, December 26

4:00pm Tom O'Connor

Sunday, December 27

8:00am Patricia Cahill ~ 2nd Anniversary
10:30am Thomas Bertini Sr. ~ 22nd Anniversary
Eugene Beliveau ~ Birthday Memorial
The Sullivan Family ~ Memorial
Karen Nielsen ~ Memorial

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.

A Message From Collette

A New Year.....a New Path!

For many people, seeing the end of the year 2020 is something to celebrate. We anticipate a welcome change to a more normal life in 2021. I hope for this along with you.

The year 2021 will bring an additional change for me as I am leaving my position at St. Francis Parish. The past 6 years as the “morning” administrator has led me to so many opportunities. I’ve met so many wonderful people, worked alongside a fun and caring staff and worked for priests who guide all of us with the love of God.

One of my new paths in life will lead me to a warmer climate during the winter months. But I will always follow the path back home to St. Francis Parish.

Many blessings to you,

Collette



Dear Collette,

In six short years, you have become a beloved member of staff who has been helpful, cheerful and kind. Your presence on the telephone and at the front desk for visitors and parishioners has been a true gift to the parish. Your efficiency in handling the offertory, funeral ministry and more has helped St. Francis Parish to be a place of comfort for many.

We will miss you more than these words can convey, however, we are happy for you and Don to enjoy the benefits of a southern winter! It is well deserved.

It's also a comfort that you will continue to volunteer and share your many gifts with our parish family. We look forward to more hours (and laughs) volunteering alongside you!

Congratulations and may the Lord bless you abundantly in your retirement.

Love,

Your St. Francis Parish Family



Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

First Reading

When King David was settled in his palace,
and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies
on every side,
he said to Nathan the prophet,
“Here I am living in a house of cedar,
while the ark of God dwells in a tent!”
Nathan answered the king,
“Go, do whatever you have in mind,
for the LORD is with you.”
But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said:
“Go, tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD:
Should you build me a house to dwell in?’”
“It was I who took you from the pasture
and from the care of the flock
to be commander of my people Israel.
I have been with you wherever you went,
and I have destroyed all your enemies before you.
And I will make you famous like the great ones of
the earth.
I will fix a place for my people Israel;
I will plant them so that they may dwell in their
place
without further disturbance.
Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as
they did of old,
since the time I first appointed judges over my peo-
ple Israel.
I will give you rest from all your enemies.
The LORD also reveals to you
that he will establish a house for you.
And when your time comes and you rest with your
ancestors,
I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your
loins,
and I will make his kingdom firm.
I will be a father to him,
and he shall be a son to me.
Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever
before me;
your throne shall stand firm forever.’”

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

Responsorial Psalm:

**R. (2a) For ever I will sing the
goodness of the Lord.**

Second Reading:

Brothers and sisters:
To him who can strengthen you, according to my
gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according
to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long
ages but now manifested through the prophetic
writings and, according to the command of the eternal
God, made known to all nations to bring about the
obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus
Christ be glory forever and ever.

Amen.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel:

The angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin be-
trothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David, and the virgin's name was
Mary.

And coming to her, he said,

“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”

But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a
son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most
High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of
David his father, and he will rule over the house of
Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no
end.”

But Mary said to the angel,

“How can this be, since I have no relations with a
man?”

And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit
will come upon you, and the power of the Most High
will overshadow you.

Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the
Son of God.

And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also con-
ceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth
month for her who was called barren; for nothing
will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I
am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.”

Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.



From our Administrator, Fr. Seán Maher

Hello folks,

The Lord be with you!

In a few short days we will be celebrating that He did choose to *be with us* by being born in a stable in Bethlehem. We celebrated the first announcement of this nine months ago, the feast of the Annunciation on March 25, with the same Gospel we read today. And what a different nine months this has been. We have all been waiting in hope.

As I write this, I am kind of relieved to see that so far only two of the five Christmas Masses have signups full, given the numbers of people who normally come to our Christmas Masses. We do urge you to make use of the other options that are available: listening to Mass in the parking lot or watching online, and visiting the outdoor Nativity Scene and possibly receiving Holy Communion after Mass. People continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation like Christmas.

The Christmas and Easter Collections usually go to the health and retirement needs of priests of the Archdiocese. This year, whatever little collection parishes had for Easter was allowed to be retained by the parish (unless specified for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust) resulting in a big loss of income to the Trust. The Christmas collection will go there. For more info (or to donate online directly), see www.clergytrust.org

Finally, I want to take a moment for me personally, and for us all as a parish, to thank Collette Piché, who has worked faithfully in the front office for the last six years. She has been a wonderful presence: joyful, considerate, and prayerful. Unfortunately, she is joining the ranks of the snowbirds, and will be heading to Florida for several months with her husband, Don. As a result, she is resigning her position at Saint Francis. (The position has been advertised both on the Archdiocesan website and on indeed.com, and we have already interviewed several candidates.) Though she will be in Florida, with the help of all the technology that we have become adept at using in this past year, she will be keeping an eye on things here too, and perhaps even helping us out from a distance. Collette, thank you for all your gracious help and support, and keep us in your prayers particularly when sometime we are facing a twenty inch blizzard, and we will say a prayer for you when the temperature there drops into the mere high fifties!

*God Bless,
Father Maher*

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

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Christmas at St. Francis Church

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00pm—6:00pm—10:00pm

Christmas Day Masses

8:00am and 10:30am

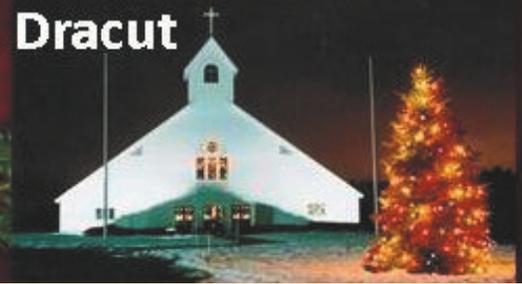
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Please note you cannot attend Mass in person without signing up first. Please read the followings before signing up to attend Christmas Mass in person: Sign up link can be found on our website or by calling the Parish Office.

We want to see you, but we have very limited interior seating available, so we are encouraging people to consider watching the live stream from home on YouTube or Facebook, or even listening to Mass in the Church parking lot on 107.7fm and visiting the outdoor Nativity and receiving Holy Communion after Mass. At home or in your own car, you can sing the Christmas hymns, but not in the church!

Keep in mind that only members of the same household (not the extended family) can be seated together, so please do not sign up people who are not in your regular household. Please sign up with your full name and number of people in your party. If there are multiple people in your household attending, please also include their names.

PLEASE NOTE: Doors will open only on the Plaza in front of the church 20 minutes before Mass, but YOUR SEAT WILL BE RESERVED FOR YOU UP UNTIL 5 MINUTES BEFORE MASS AT WHICH TIME WE WILL START TO LET THE "WAITING LIST" PEOPLE TAKE A SEAT. Masks that cover the nose and the mouth must be worn at all times.

All these plans are subject to change due to the circumstances of the pandemic, and we remind you that if you are feeling sick, or are exhibiting any of the following- fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell- or have potentially been exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, you should not attend services in person.

Live-Stream Christmas Masses

12/24 4pm & 10pm

12/25 10:30am

Radio Christmas Masses from Parking Lot FM 107.7

12/24 4pm, 6pm, 10pm & 12/25 8am & 10:30am

Holy Communion distributed at the back of church after Mass

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



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

Francis "Mickey" Graham

*Loving Husband, Father,
Uncle & Friend*

*Rest in
Peace*



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.


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