



## *The Holy Family*

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

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

### 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.

## *The Holy Family* **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 on New Years Day.**

**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. 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

**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 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  
Kathleen Barker ~ Memorial

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

### **Monday, December 28**

Ruth & Charles Sullivan ~ Memorial

### **Tuesday, December 29**

Nellie & Tom Sullivan ~ Memorial

### **Wednesday, December 30**

Michaela MacDonald ~ 10th Anniversary

### **Thursday, December 31—New Year's Eve**

*Parishioners of St. Francis Parish*

### **Friday, January 1—New Year's Day**

*Parishioners of St. Francis Parish*

### **Saturday, January 2**

4:00pm Philip Haggerty ~ 17th Anniversary

### **Sunday, January 3**

8:00am *Parishioners of St. Francis Parish*  
10:30am Doris Skusevich ~ 1st Anniversary  
Paul & Arline Jussaume ~ Anniversary  
Judith St. Germaine ~ Anniversary

5:30pm

### **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.



## **From our Administrator, Fr. Seán Maher**

*Hello folks,*

*The newborn Lord Jesus be with you!*

*I hope you have had a holy and happy Christmas. Even when many of us have not been in physical contact with loved ones and friends who we would normally spend time with, we still have reason for rejoicing because God, the Lord of all, wants to spend time with us, and we can spend time with Him wherever we are!*

*This Sunday is Holy Family Sunday. It's true that Christmas is usually a time for happy celebrations in family. However, there are many for whom the wounds within families make this a sad and difficult time. For some, having to stay away from family this Christmas because of the pandemic has been a difficult trial, but for others the pandemic has been a useful excuse! Yet, we all long for support, communion and love, because we are made in the image of a God Who is a communion of persons. That is one of the reasons why family is such a privileged building block of society. For those who lack the friendship ideally found in family, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "No one is without a family in this world: the Church is a home and family for everyone, especially those who 'labor and are heavy laden.'" (CCC 1658) Let's work on being happy to receive people into our church community, even when they turn out to be a bit of a mixed bag like we often have in our families, and as we often are ourselves! We have done a lot in this past year as a parish to reach out locally and to help one another. Charity begins at home! Of course, it doesn't end there, though! Let's ask the good Lord afresh what He wants us to do in this coming year to grown His family in our parish.*

*Happy New Year to everyone!*

*God Bless,  
Father Maher*

# Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

## **First Reading**

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them.

When he prays, he is heard;

he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives.

Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life;

kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins —a house raised in justice to you.

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

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. (7a , 8a) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

## **Second Reading:**

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.

Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

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

## **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

## **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Gospel:**

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of *a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons*, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon.

This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.

He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him;

and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted —and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.

She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage,

and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.

She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.

And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee,

to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

# THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

OLPI



**Rev. Leo  
Cormier**

*Loving Uncle,  
Brother, Cousin,  
Friend and beloved  
Priest*

**Richard Clark**

*Loving Husband of Lillian Clark*

**Jeannine Guilbeault**

*Loving Sister, Aunt & Friend*

**Catherine Lake “Kay”**

*Loving Mother of Catherine Hart*

**Camille LoRusso**

*Loving Wife of John LoRusso*

*Rest in  
Peace*



## ***Rest in Peace Fr. Leo Cormier***

As we say farewell to our dear friend Fr. Cormier, we share this poem written by Fr. Cormier's good friend, William Lefrancois. It captures the spirit of this very kind priest and friend to so many.

### **Saying Good-Bye to Father Cormier**

Ninety years a priest, nine decades of service to the Lord; Solemn vows taken over six decades ago, still lived everyday. How to remember this holy man, one who to Heaven looked toward; How to thank such a man, a priest whom the Lord's words did say. Father Leo Cormier graced us, Father Leo blessed us; He taught by instruction and example, he valued word and deed. As age crept up on Father Leo, he served without a fuss; No complaints nor special care, Father Cormier was without need. Father Leo had faith in God, he walked through the valley with trust; He feared no evil, he said no to every temptation. Father Leo was not perfect, he knew prayer for guidance was a must; He prayed often and sincerely, his homilies a great compilation. He served many parishes, St. Theresa, St. Michael, and St. Francis; All were blessed with his presence, a gift from above. His words taught many in faith, his target flock never to miss; Preaching values to live by and motivate, sermons made with love. A family man was Father Leo, caring for sisters like Ruth; In old age still helping, on Flower Lane maintaining a place to live. He quipped the Lord kept him alive for a purpose, this the truth; To care for his family and his flock, to continue to give. Thank-you Father Cormier, for all the years of caring; Grateful thanks for guiding in faith, appreciation for leading the way; Although battling deadly disease, you showed courage and daring; A priest among priests, blessed with faith that would not sway!

Humbly written by  
William A. Lefrancois  
Lector to Father Cormier  
December 20, 2020

## 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

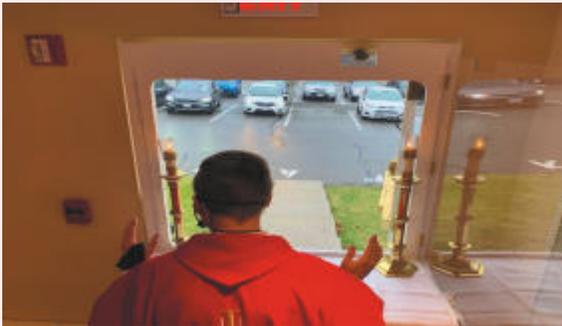
Barbara @ 978-937-0239

Email Pat at @

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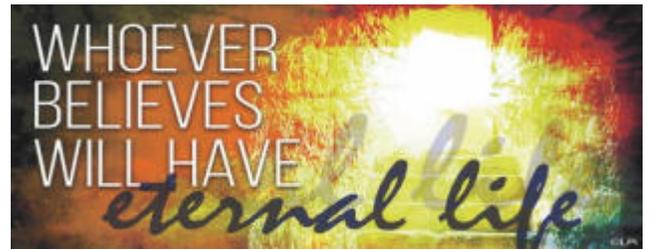
*Wondering what this photo might be and from where it's taken?*



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.**



### **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)*

### **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.

DECEMBER 27TH, 2020



## To My St. Francis Family,

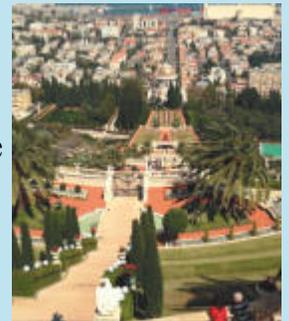
I was asked to write up something about the future pilgrimages, since hearing with great interest from many of you.

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 Rotundo, (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!



  
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