

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

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

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## 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 Epiphany of the Lord* **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. 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, 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

Kathleen Barker ~ Memorial

5:30pm

### **Monday, January 4**

### **Tuesday, January 5**

For those Remembered by donors  
of Christmas Flowers ~ Memorial

### **Wednesday, January 6**

### **Thursday, January 7**

Margaret Maher ~ Living Intention

### **Friday, January 8**

### **Saturday, January 9**

4:00pm Ronald Carignan ~ 2nd Anniversary

### **Sunday, January 10**

8:00am Doris White ~ 2nd Anniversary

10:30am Denis Ducharme ~ 10th 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.

# THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

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I'm sure we all agree, our Christmas Masses were beautiful, whether from church, the parking lot or at home!

We are deeply appreciative of Fr. Maher, Fr. Sheehan and Deacon Mike, all of our devoted volunteers at Mass and behind the scenes, our camera crew, Dave Keefe and the choir members, decorators, and everyone else who played a part in bringing the HOPE of Christ's Nativity so beautifully into our lives -- especially this year when we need that HOPE!



# Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

## **First Reading**

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth,  
and thick clouds cover the peoples;  
but upon you the LORD shines,  
and over you appears his glory.  
Nations shall walk by your light,  
and kings by your shining radiance.  
Raise your eyes and look about;  
they all gather and come to you:  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.  
Then you shall be radiant at what you see,  
your heart shall throb and overflow,  
for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out  
before you,  
the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.  
Caravans of camels shall fill you,  
dromedaries from Midian and Ephah;  
all from Sheba shall come  
bearing gold and frankincense,  
and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

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

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

**R.(cf. 11) Lord, every nation on  
earth will adore you.**

## **Second Reading:**

Brothers and sisters:  
You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace  
that was given to me for your benefit,  
namely, that the mystery was made known to me  
by revelation.  
It was not made known to people in other  
generations  
as it has now been revealed  
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:  
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the  
same body,  
and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus  
through the gospel.

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

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to do him homage.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Gospel:**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,  
in the days of King Herod,  
behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,  
saying,  
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?  
We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to do him homage."  
When King Herod heard this,  
he was greatly troubled,  
and all Jerusalem with him.  
Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of  
the people,  
He inquired of them where the Christ was to be  
born.  
They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea,  
for thus it has been written through the prophet:  
*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
since from you shall come a ruler,  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.*"  
Then Herod called the magi secretly  
and ascertained from them the time of the star's  
appearance.  
He sent them to Bethlehem and said,  
"Go and search diligently for the child.  
When you have found him, bring me word,  
that I too may go and do him homage."  
After their audience with the king they set out.  
And behold, the star that they had seen at its  
rising preceded them,  
until it came and stopped over the place where the  
child was.  
They were overjoyed at seeing the star,  
and on entering the house  
they saw the child with Mary his mother.  
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.  
Then they opened their treasures  
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and  
myrrh.  
And having been warned in a dream not to return  
to Herod,  
they departed for their country by another way.  
***The Gospel of the Lord.***



## From our Administrator, Fr. Seán Maher

*Hello folks,*

The Lord be with you throughout this New Year of 2021, and beyond!

I want to thank all the people who helped us celebrate so beautifully the Lord's Nativity last week: the decorators, the musicians, the schedulers, the sacristans, the greeters, the lectors, the videographers, the cleaners and disinfectors; all the staff and volunteers, and all who have donated to keep allowing us to worship, and do so many things here in the parish community.

I also want to thank all the people who have sent in personal gifts to me for Christmas. Thank you all very much!

In the last week, I have been consulting with the volunteers about our current Mass schedule. In light of COVID, it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain. We have made numerous appeals for more volunteers, and have had some success with people stepping forward. We are also looking at how we can schedule volunteers in a more "bare-bones" way, without backup or help, in order to keep the schedule. Even though we have gained some new volunteers, we are constantly losing some on a temporary or longer basis as they get exposed to COVID somewhere, or perhaps pick it up themselves, or have to stay away on doctor's advice, or are heading away for some time maybe as snowbirds. We are also now anticipating a post-Christmas surge on the current surge, so we expect things to get worse.

I am worried about burnout among the volunteers, who instead of being asked to volunteer once a month, are often being asked to volunteer every week and sometimes multiples times in a week, and even multiple times and in various rôles on a single weekend. This is a recipe for resentment if people feel they are carrying an unfair burden; it can also make one more susceptible to illness and to quitting, thus leaving us in a tighter position than before. However, they truly have been very supportive, with one or two expressing that they don't mind being on-duty for multiples roles or even more than once in a single weekend. They want Mass to continue, and we owe them all a debt of gratitude!

Nonetheless, the more common response is to cancel the least attended Mass (which was added when we were approaching capacity at the other Masses and before we added the radio broadcast to the parking lot), and there is a favoring of celebrating at least one of the Masses like we do on weekdays, i.e. from the choir side door out to the side parking lot, with people receiving Holy Communion in the lobby after Mass. This would allow us to consolidate volunteers at two indoor Masses on the weekend, and at the same time, people would not be deprived of the Eucharist. As I write this, no decision has yet been made. We will be closely monitoring the situation of COVID locally. It is worth noting, however, that even on the day before Christmas there was already a 13% spike in cases in Dracut, and we are not expecting things to improve anytime soon. Do please pray for our guidance on this and many other matters.

All that said, Happy New Year!

*God Bless,*

*Father Maher*

Ps. Congratulations to our director of Faith Formation, Jessica Keefe, and parish volunteer, Jimmy Reynolds, who on Christmas Day got engaged to be married!

## 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)



Bread and wine for the weekend of January 3rd is given in memory of Philip Haggerty.

Given by Steven & Mary Joe Sudol

*Thank you to those who so generously supported our retired priests through the Christmas collection.*

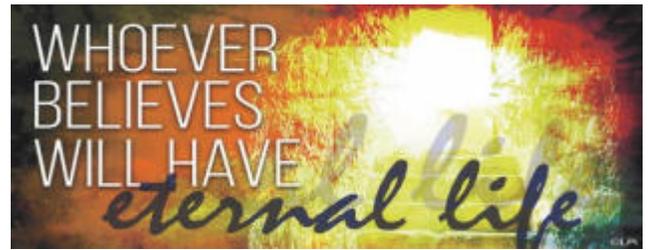
It's not too late if you haven't had a chance to make a Christmas donation. Please check out the video, which is posted on our website:

[Support our Priests](#)

Checks may be mailed to St. Francis Parish, PO Box 609, Dracut (indicate Christmas collection) or paid online here:

[Pay Offertory Online](#)

If you have any questions, email [info@saintfrancis.net](mailto:info@saintfrancis.net) or call the parish office.



### Helping Souls to Eternal Life

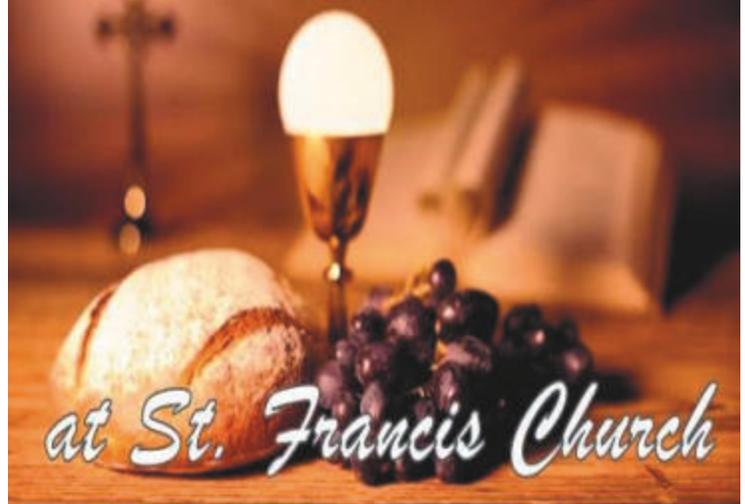
When Fr. Maher gets called to anoint those who are dying, he calls on a group of people to pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet for their soul.

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.



## To My St. Francis Family,

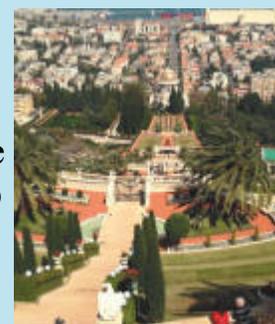
I was asked to write up something about the future pilgrimages, since hearing with great interest from many of you.

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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