



# THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8

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 Baptism 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 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*

### **Monday, January 11**

### **Tuesday, January 12**

Sheila Mahoney ~ Living Intention

### **Wednesday, January 13**

### **Thursday, January 14**

Margaret Maher ~ Living Intention

### **Friday, January 15**

Mary Graham ~ Month's Mind

### **Saturday, January 16**

4:00pm

### **Sunday, January 17**

8:00am For the Bouley Family ~ Memorial

10:30am Dorothea DeGrandis

Soudol ~1st Anniversary

Rev. Robert DeGrandis SSJ ~

Birthday Memorial

Duarte Gomes ~ 1st Anniversary

Jose Gomes ~ 6th Anniversary

*Parishioners of St. Francis Parish*

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 Lord be with you!

Today is the feast of baptism of the Lord and the conclusion of the Christmas Season. Today we hear God the Father's voice saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." By the grace of our baptism, we are united with Christ so that God the Father can see and love in us what He sees and loves in Him! The next line after that Gospel reading says, "At once the Spirit drove Him out into the desert, and He remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan." As we recognize the grace of baptism that unites us to Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us, the baptism that makes of our bodies temples of the Spirit, can we also recognize that the Spirit can lead us to places where we will be tempted and tested, and find that we do need a savior: the same Christ, our Lord? The long Lent of 2020 stretches in to 2021, but He is near, and will lead and liberate all who seek Him wholeheartedly. And maybe this long Lent is precisely the grace we need to turn our hearts and minds wholly toward Him.

Starting this weekend, we are going to try using the daily Mass format (Mass out to the parking lot from the side door of the church) at the 8am and 5:30pm Masses for at least a few weeks and see how it goes. While I had been thinking about this and other options for a while in light of volunteer shortages and the rising COVID numbers, the decision was made quickly in the end to try this option. I would encourage people who have not attended Mass this way to also give it a try! Additionally, we are making a slight change in the positioning of the tables in the lobby to alleviate the bottleneck that can occur there sometimes when people are receiving Holy Communion after Mass. While attending Mass outside of the church building is familiar for many now, it will be a difficult change for some, but let us all give thanks that we can still be sustained by the Eucharist, while in so many places around the world, that is not possible now.

Let's keep each other in prayer, and I especially commend to your prayers those men all around the world, including several from our parish, who started the 90 day spiritual exercise, Exodus 90, this past Monday.

*God Bless,*

*Father Maher*

# Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

## **First Reading**

Thus says the LORD:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,  
upon whom I have put my spirit;  
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,  
not crying out, not shouting,  
not making his voice heard in the street.  
a bruised reed he shall not break,  
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,  
until he establishes justice on the earth;  
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.  
I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of  
justice,  
I have grasped you by the hand;  
I formed you, and set you  
as a covenant of the people,  
a light for the nations,  
to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring out prisoners from confinement,  
and from the dungeon, those who live in  
darkness.

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

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. (11b) The Lord will bless his  
people with peace.**

## **Second Reading:**

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered  
in the house of Cornelius, saying:  
“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.  
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and  
acts uprightly is acceptable to him.  
You know the word that he sent to the Israelites  
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who  
is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea,  
beginning in Galilee after the baptism  
that John preached,  
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth  
with the Holy Spirit and power.  
He went about doing good  
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,  
for God was with him.”

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

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:  
Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of  
the world.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Gospel:**

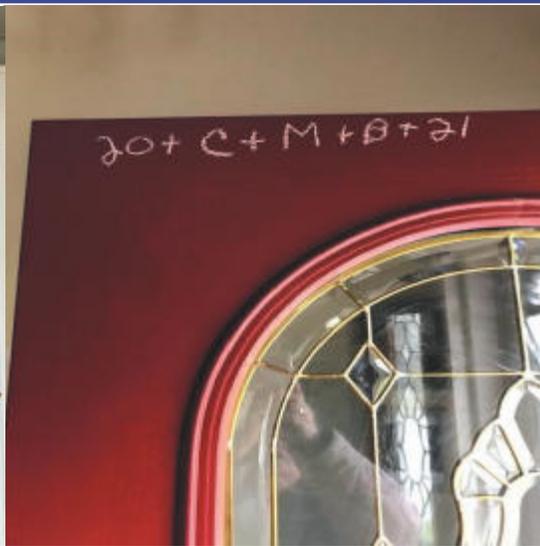
This is what John the Baptist proclaimed:  
“One mightier than I is coming after me.  
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs  
of his sandals.  
I have baptized you with water;  
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”  
It happened in those days that Jesus came from  
Nazareth of Galilee  
and was baptized in the Jordan by John.  
On coming up out of the water he saw the  
heavens being torn open  
and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon  
him.  
And a voice came from the heavens,  
“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well  
pleased.”

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



# Epiphany Photo Gallery

Thank you all for sharing your at home Epiphany fun with us!



# In Our Thoughts

## 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 @

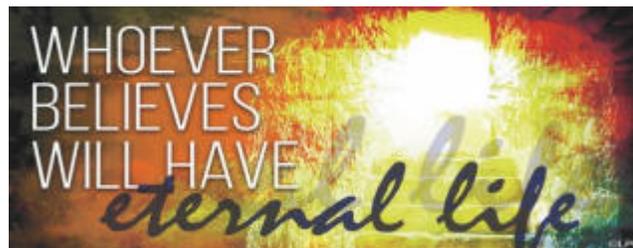
[patagallant@gmail.com](mailto:patagallant@gmail.com)



Rest in  
Peace

**Mary  
Graham**

*Loving Mother,  
Grandmother,  
Aunt & Friend*



### 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,

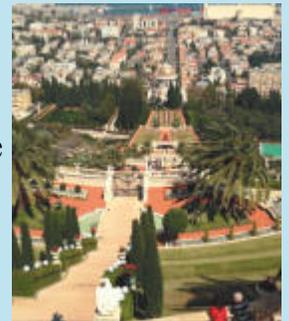
I was asked to write up something about the future pilgrimages, since hearing with great interest from many of you.

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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