



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

“You are witnesses of these things.” - Lk 24:48

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.

## *Third Sunday of Easter* **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  
Dracut, MA 01826

Faith Formation Office  
978-453-4460 *General Questions can  
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)

Morning Admin /Offertory Administrator

Christine Puopolo

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

# Welcome

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

## Mass Intentions for the Week Ahead



### **Saturday, April 17**

4:00pm Charles Interrante ~ 6th Month Anniversary

### **Sunday, April 18**

8:00am Parishioners of St. Francis Parish

10:30am Kathy Long ~ 8th Anniversary

Timothy Daley ~ Memorial

Wayne Bimitch ~ Memorial

5:30pm

### **Monday, April 19**

12:00pm Roger Frechette ~ Memorial

### **Tuesday, April 20**

12:00pm Jeanne Dumais ~ Memorial

### **Wednesday, April 21**

6:30pm Ted, Fran & Teddy Siara ~ Memorial

### **Thursday, April 22**

12:00pm Dick Frechette ~ Memorial

### **Friday, April 23**

12:00pm

### **Saturday, April 24**

4:00pm Mike & Laura Cote ~ Memorial

### **Sunday, April 25**

8:00am John T. Baxter ~ 2nd Anniversary

10:30am Thomas, Peter & Ester Kowalechuk ~ Memorial

Deceased Members of the DeFelice Family ~ Memorial

Eric Hill ~ Memorial

Katelyn Biedron ~ 1st Anniversary

5:30pm Parishioners of St. Francis Parish

### **Booking Mass Intentions**

Please feel free to **CALL** the Parish Office to book a Weekday or Weekend Mass Intention. At this time we are booking Masses 6 months in advance. We have a decent number of openings available!

### **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.



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

**ARE YOU HURTING?**

**GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME?**

**LET US CONNECT YOU TO A **STEPHEN MINISTER****



Thank you so much for celebrating our Saint Francis Stephen Ministry Commissioning with us today!

Stephen Ministers are specially-trained, lay Christians, who provide emotional and spiritual care to persons facing a crisis such as grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, terminal illness, job loss, and more.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry, visit

**[stephenministries.org](http://stephenministries.org)**

To take the first steps for yourself

or someone you care about

call the Parish Office at 978-452-6611

or email

**[dracutstephenministry@gmail.com](mailto:dracutstephenministry@gmail.com)**

You can also follow us on Facebook at

“Saint Francis Stephen Ministry”

# Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

## **First Reading**

Peter said to the people:  
“The God of Abraham,  
the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,  
the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant  
Jesus, whom you handed over and denied in  
Pilate’s presence when he had decided to release  
him.

You denied the Holy and Righteous One  
and asked that a murderer be released to you.  
The author of life you put to death,  
but God raised him from the dead; of this we are  
witnesses.

Now I know, brothers,  
that you acted out of ignorance, just as your  
leaders did;  
but God has thus brought to fulfillment  
what he had announced beforehand  
through the mouth of all the prophets,  
that his Christ would suffer.  
Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins  
may be wiped away.”

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

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. (7a) Lord, let your face shine on us.**

## **Second Reading:**

My children, I am writing this to you  
so that you may not commit sin.  
But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with  
the Father,  
Jesus Christ the righteous one.  
He is expiation for our sins,  
and not for our sins only but for those of the whole  
world.

The way we may be sure that we know him is to  
keep his commandments.  
Those who say, “I know him,” but do not keep his  
commandments are liars, and the truth is not in  
them.  
But whoever keeps his word,  
the love of God is truly perfected in him.

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

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

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;  
make our hearts burn while you speak to  
us.

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

## **Gospel:**

The two disciples recounted what had taken  
place on the way,  
and how Jesus was made known to them  
in the breaking of bread.  
While they were still speaking about this,  
he stood in their midst and said to them,  
“Peace be with you.”  
But they were startled and terrified  
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.  
Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled?  
And why do questions arise in your hearts?  
Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.  
Touch me and see, because a ghost does not  
have flesh and bones  
as you can see I have.”  
And as he said this,  
he showed them his hands and his feet.  
While they were still incredulous for joy and  
were amazed,  
he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?”  
They gave him a piece of baked fish;  
he took it and ate it in front of them.  
He said to them,  
“These are my words that I spoke to you while I  
was still with you,  
that everything written about me in the law of  
Moses  
and in the prophets and psalms must be  
fulfilled.”  
Then he opened their minds to understand the  
Scriptures.  
And he said to them,  
“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer  
and rise from the dead on the third day  
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,  
would be preached in his name  
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.  
You are witnesses of these things.”

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



## From our Administrator, Fr. Seán Maher

*Hello folks,*

*The Lord be with you!*

*Today's Gospel is one of my favorite readings in Sacred Scripture, although we only hear the second half of it (the first half is read on this Sunday in year "A" of the three year lectionary cycle; we are in year "B" currently). It echoes the account in last weekend's Gospel reading, but the first (missing!) half of this one gives us a description of the Mass, when Christ explains scripture to His disciples on the road without them recognizing Him, then blesses and breaks "bread" with them at which point they do recognize Him but He vanishes from their sight but leaves the "bread" behind. Christ likewise opens scripture for us, and gives us the Eucharist to make Himself truly present to us.*

*This weekend, we commission our new Stephen ministers. Through them, Christ will also accompany brothers and sisters in the parish during a difficult time in their lives. As we have invested in the physical infrastructure of the parish to allow for fitting worship, so we have invested in people to allow a particular kind of service and discipleship to help our brothers and sisters. The Stephen ministers will provide care, but it is always Christ who heals and cures! My thanks go to the leaders (Sharon Coram, Paula Bain and Karen DiBona) who said yes to this request and trained for ten weeks, before then commencing the 50 hours/six months of training of the other 17 ministers, who I also thank deeply! They are all anxious to commence applying their new training to caring for people now. They can be reached via a dedicated confidential email: [stephenministry@saintfrancis.net](mailto:stephenministry@saintfrancis.net) or [dracutstephenministry@gmail.com](mailto:dracutstephenministry@gmail.com). Please pray for them and for those to whom they will extend Christ's compassion.*

*God's continued blessings to you through this Easter Season,*

**Father Maher**

APRIL 18TH, 2021

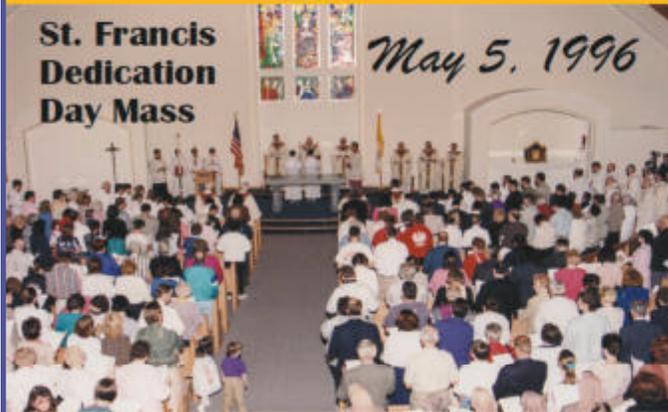
# A Gathering on the Bridge: 25th Anniversary of St. Francis Church!



Organized by the Women's Connection

St. Francis  
Dedication  
Day Mass

May 5, 1996



Since we cannot honor this special day (May 5) for our church with a 25th Anniversary Parish Picnic, we invite everyone — those with us 25 years ago, those just registered yesterday, all who have joined our parish family in between, and even those whom we've lost — to gather symbolically on our "Bridge to Our Lady" (boardwalk) in ....

**Peace, Love & Remembrance!**

You are invited



We know St. Francis Church has provided you comfort, faith, hope and love. Here's your chance to SHOUT it from the rooftops — or more like, from the bridge/boardwalk!

**JOIN THE PARTY!** Send us your name or your family's name (see samples above). We'll personalize a wooden dove (peace) or heart (love) ornament and attach your ornament along the boardwalk before May 5.

A "walkable trail" of all the lives touched by our church!

**REMEMBRANCE:** Many of our deceased parishioners loved St. Francis Church. Send us the name of a beloved deceased parishioner; we'll add the name to a cross. This brings these precious souls into our celebration. ❤️

## Take a Stroll to the Mary Garden in May

The 25th Anniversary Ornament Project will remain on the boardwalk during the entire month of May. Come find your ornament and bring the kids! We will post a *25th Anniversary Prayer at the Garden* for you to pray during your visit. Members of the Women's Connection will also be praying a Rosary for all names written on the ornaments. Don't miss out!



Please email your name(s) to [info@saintfrancis.net](mailto:info@saintfrancis.net) by April 25

## 25th Anniversary



**To honor the May 5th 25th Anniversary of Dedication of St. Francis Church, will we have something spiritual?**

—Yes, details are being finalized.

**Will we also have something social?**

—No, due to COVID. But see the “Ornament Project” page in this bulletin about “gathering” symbolically on the boardwalk!

**Is there a fee to join the Ornament project?**

—No fee at all. We simply want as many names represented as possible to celebrate this special day!

**Is this the same as the parish’s anniversary?**

—No, that is celebrated in February. On Feb. 2, 1963, St. Francis Parish was established and the old mission church on Methuen Street became the first St. Francis Church. On May 5, 1996, the “new” St. Francis Church was dedicated — and this is the anniversary we are celebrating.

**Will we be able to take our ornaments?**

—We will keep the ornaments attached to the boardwalk during the entire month of May, the Month of Mary. We hope all who are able will walk across the bridge sometime in May to look for their ornament and say a special 25th Anniversary prayer that will be posted at the Mary Garden.

**How do I order an ornament for myself/my family?**

Email [info@saintfrancis.net](mailto:info@saintfrancis.net) with your family name (i.e., Tim/Jess Smith Family — John Smith — Elizabeth Smith Family). If you know a beloved deceased member of the parish, we will add his/her name to a cross so that they are included among us in the celebration.

If you do not have email, call Christine at 978-452-6611.

**What is the goal of the Ornament Project?**

In lieu of a social parish celebration, we wanted a “walkable visual” of how many lives have been touched by our church. Crossing the boardwalk as a family to search for the ornament and then praying together at the Mary Garden is also a goal we hope families will undertake in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Dedication!

## 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



## 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 April 18th is given in memory of Timothy Daley

Given by Carol Daley

  
**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

**Farmer Dave's**  
  
 www.farmerdaves.net  
**April Farm Stand Hours**  
 WE ARE NOW OPEN WEEKLY  
 Tuesday: 10am - 7pm  
 Saturday: 10am - 7pm  
 Sunday: 10am - 7pm  
 - 437 Parker Road -

**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

---

 LET US PLACE  
 YOUR AD HERE.  


---

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

**UPGRADE TO A  
VIBRANT**  
 Contact us for details   
**800-477-4574**

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

---

 LET US PLACE  
 YOUR AD HERE.  


---

**THIS SPACE IS  
AVAILABLE**

**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**

This Space  
 is Available

**AVAILABLE  
FOR A LIMITED TIME**  
**ADVERTISE YOUR  
BUSINESS HERE**  
 Contact **Ramya Thompson** to place an ad today!  
 rthompson@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x 7905

---

 LET US PLACE  
 YOUR AD HERE.  


---

  
**LANDSCAPING  
ACE  
& IRRIGATION**  
**Irrigation Maintenance and Installation**  
 Specializing in Irrigation Installations and Repair  
**978-967-4000 | www.acelandscaping.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