



5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.”
- Jn 15:1-2

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.

Fifth 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
Permanent Deacon Deacon Mike Tompkins
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
www.saintfrancis.net

Pastoral Staff

Director of Faith Formation/Communications

Jessica Keefe

jkeefe@saintfrancis.net

Coordinator of Faith Formation

Dawn Bastien

dbastien@saintfrancis.net

Business Manager

Andrea Sevigny

Businessmanager@saintfrancis.net

Music Director

David Keefe

Communications/Parish Events

Debbie Hovanasian

dhovanasian@saintfrancis.net

Morning Admin /Offertory Administrator

Christine Puopolo

Cpuopolo@saintfrancis.net

Facilities Department

Paul Barr

pbarr@saintfrancis.net

Ministry Coordinator

Joan Vinal

Joanvinal@comcast.net

Volunteer Outreach Coordinator

Dr. Linda Trouville

ltrouville@saintfrancis.net



Mass Intentions for the Week Ahead



Saturday, May 1

4:00pm Mickey & Mary Graham ~ Memorial

Sunday, May 2

8:00am

10:30am Anne O'Shan ~ Birthday Memorial
Norbert Daigle ~ 1st Anniversary

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

Monday, May 3

12:00pm Maggie Martin ~2 Month Anniversary

Tuesday, May 4

12:00pm Wayne BiMitch ~ Memorial

Wednesday, May 5

6:30pm

Thursday, May 6

12:00pm Doris Norwood ~ Birthday Memorial

Friday, May 7

12:00pm Ann Marie McCarthy ~ Memorial

Saturday, May 8

4:00pm *Parishioners of St. Francis Parish*

Sunday, May 9

8:00am Annette Michaud ~ 28th Anniversary

10:30am Edward Jezak ~ 11th Anniversary

Yvonne & Arthur Saindon ~ Memorial

Karen Blatus ~ 4th Anniversary

Members of the Deceased Stansfield Family

Theresa Beliveau ~ Birthday Memorial

5:30pm

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.



Our Boardwalk Names have grown!

Thanks to so many of you for joining us on the "trail" as we celebrate 25 years with the blessing of Saint Francis Church. We have started attaching the ornaments along the "Bridge to Mary" and will be finished in time for our May 5 anniversary!

PEACE, LOVE & REMEMBRANCE AS WE "BRIDGE" TO MARY

We love the "rustic" and natural look of the unfinished wooden ornaments and simple twine on the weathered wood of the boardwalk. As it spans the wetlands, it seems to reflect the roots of our farming community while symbolizing the many lives enriched!

It Takes a Village

Our Women's Connection volunteers are such an excellent team. Their devotion and hours of service have made this project come together beautifully.

Ornament writers: Ann Lessieur, Donna Bigold, Joyce Kulig, Collette Piche, Jackie Carr, Lisa Maib

Mary Garden decorators: Sharon Coram, Sharon Chelton and Linda Carolan

Phone Assistance: Christine Puopolo, Dawn Bastien

We'll have more to thank next week!

TWO "BOARDWALK" PRIZES

Sue & Paul Hartwell have donated a \$100 Visa Gift Card as a Grand Door Prize and an Anonymous Donor has donated a \$50 gift certificate to Boston Symphony Orchestra (grand reopening soon; certificate can be used online for BSO music & merchandise once they open).



Fr. Maher will walk the "trail" (without looking at ornament names) and randomly select the two winners.

Perhaps one will be you!



Missed the deadline? Email Debbie ASAP at info@saintfrancis.net.

If we have ornaments left, we will do our best to add your name or family name to a heart (love) or a deceased parishioner to a dove (peace and remembrance). THANK YOU to all who have joined us on the boardwalk!

Weekend Readings & Mass Prayers

First Reading

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.

Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him.

And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus.

The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace.

It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord,

and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

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

Responsorial Psalm:

R. (26a) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Second Reading:

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.

He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.

You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.

Remain in me, as I remain in you.

Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit,

because without me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.

By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



From our Administrator, Fr. Seán Maher

Hello folks,

The Lord be with you!

This coming Wednesday, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the dedication of our current church at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish! What great graces have been shared by our Lord with His people here over these last 25 years! Our thanks go to all those who helped to build and pay for this house of God, those who have worked and volunteered at this special place, where people have come to know God's love and His plan for them, and love Him in return. As we continue to look after the place, God continues to speak to His people here. Thanks for all your ongoing support in a myriad of ways!

We have started the celebration of First Holy Communions this week, with seven children receiving their First Eucharist this Saturday afternoon. This has been a challenging year for every student and teacher everywhere with classes being done online, and limited in person connections. We also have fewer children than in a normal year receiving their First Eucharist: less than thirty. My thanks go to the faith formation team: Jessica Keefe and Dawn Bastien, the teachers, parents, and the children themselves for persevering. Of course, hidden from view is the work of the Holy Spirit Who binds us as branches on the vine to Christ, and Who brings us to all truth. We thank the Lord Himself has been preparing these children. Let us pray that they truly come to know and to love Him who gives Himself to them (and to us) in the Holy Eucharist.

Finally, we will make another push on the *Inspiring Hope* parish capital campaign before I leave. I also intend to give you a general update on the parish finances before leaving. While offertory has been dropping recently, we are in a good cash position right now because of the reduced expenses and the capital campaign fundraising. A lot of that cash, however, is restricted, and we will have the single biggest item of the campaign coming up shortly: the new HVAC system to replace the original from 25 years ago. I will also most likely be sending out a letter to promote the annual Catholic Appeal. The pandemic changed how we did things this year, and the take up has not been as good as normal. Unfortunately, that includes myself. 🙏 Hopefully, by the time you read this, I will have sent in my pledge! I'll let you know!

God Bless,

Father Maher



A Prayer for Father Maher

Adapted from "A
Prayer for Priests"
St. John Vianney

We ask that all parishioners pray this at least once during this challenging time as Father Maher prepares to bid farewell to St. Francis and prepares for his ministry in Groton, Pepperell, Dunstable, Ashby and Townsend (early June).

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of Fr. Seán Maher as our administrator for the past five years.

Through him and all our devoted priests, we experience Your presence in the sacraments.

As Fr. Seán leaves St. Francis, grant him the wisdom, understanding, and strength he needs to follow in the footsteps of Jesus in his new place of ministry.

Inspire him with the vision of your Kingdom and love for Your people and from Your people.

Give him the words he needs to spread the Gospel and bring the people of his new collaborative closer to Christ.

Allow him to experience joy in his ministry, in his new assignment, in his new home.

Allow the people of Fr. Seán's new collaborative to experience the joy of having this devoted priest as their shepherd.

In the expansive region in which he will serve, help him to be an instrument of your Divine Grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.

Amen.

Thank you for your prayers.



Rosaries All Around St. Francis

During this time of transition, we turn most especially to prayer!

During Mary's Month of May.....

.....as Father prepares to leave his "home" in Dracut and his new collaborative prepares for his arrival, we ask that everyone join our prayer initiative from home or onsite :

Rosaries All Around Saint Francis

Please pray the Rosary at least once during May with the following special intentions:

- for Fr. Maher and his new assignment
- for whomever is assigned to St. Francis
- for the people of Father's new collaborative.

Pray from home, at the new Rosary Monument, at the Blessed Mother Prayer Garden, as you cross the boardwalk, wherever and whenever you are able.

If you haven't prayed the Rosary in awhile, there are hundreds of "how to pray the Rosary" sites online, including Ascension Press. Thank you so much for joining us in this Prayer Initiative.

MAY 2ND, 2021

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



Volunteers Needed for both our Cleaning & Welcoming Committee's

As we begin to think about summer approaching and our 2 teams working so hard to ensure we have a safe place to worship weekly we are finding ourselves in need of replacing and letting some of our very devoted volunteers take a well deserved break.

Are you available & interested in lending a hand?

Please contact Cyndie Bourassa to be added to either ministry. She can be reached via email at cyndiebourassa@gmail.com

We will train you!



Life Teen ~ Youth Ministry

Save the Dates!

We have 3 Life Nights left before the summer break.

Those dates are May 2nd, May 16th and May 23rd.

May 23rd will be our season finale so current 8th graders are welcome to join us. More details to follow in the next few weeks.

**Save
the
Date**



 St. Francis Life Teen Youth Ministry

 St. Francis Life Teen

 deaconmike@saintfrancis.net



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