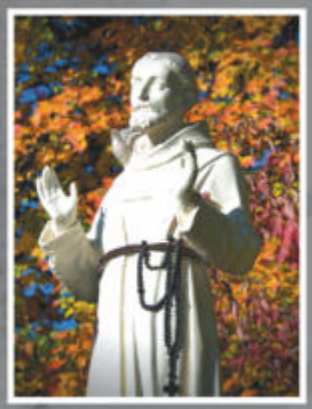
ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI PARISH

A Roman Catholic Community in
LITCHFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE



DECEMBER 13th, 2020

WEEKEND MASS TIMES
Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM | Sunday 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM

DAILY MASS TIMES
Monday, Thursday & Friday
School in Session: 8:00 AM | School Not in Session: 9:00 AM | Wednesday & Saturday 9:00 AM

RECONCILIATION
Saturday 3:00-3:30 PM and by appointment

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Monday following daily Mass until 4:00 PM | First Saturday of the Month 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
- Jn 1:6-7

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

St. Francis of Assisi Parish & School

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all who are here celebrating with us this weekend.
As you worshiped at this Mass, we sincerely hope that you found nourishment for your life & faith journey.
If you are visiting, or if you are new to our Parish or the area, please introduce yourselves.

PASTORAL STAFF

Reverend Jeffrey P. Statz, *Pastor*
Deacon Frank Ottaviano, *Permanent Deacon*

PARISH OFFICE

Phone: (603) 424-3456
Fax: (603) 424-9061
Email: parish@stfrancisofassisi.net

Kathy Courtemanche*, Bookkeeper/ Parish Secretary*.....Ext. 217

Vicki Isabelle*, Faith Formation Director/Safe Environment/ Summer Camp Coordinator*.....Ext. 209

Gabi Gilliland, *Youth Minister/Confirmation Coordinator/ Communications Director*.....Ext. 215

MINISTRY LEADERS

Marc Lacerte, *Knights of Columbus*.....marclacerte@hotmail.com

Susan Koester, *Works of Mercy*.....rusty.magic@gmail.com

Ruth Bolduc, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*.....rrb710@comcast.net

Ron Groulx, *Sacristan*.....(603) 424-4616

Ron Bolduc, *Ushers*.....rrb710@icloud.com

Laura Gandia, *Finance Committee*.....lgandia@comcast.net

Sharyn Tighe, *Evangelization/ Baptismal Prep*.....skz_pepe@yahoo.com

Michael Gallagan, *Music*.....mgallagan@gmail.com

SCHOOL OFFICE

Phone: (603) 424-3312
Fax: (603) 424-9128

PARISH WEBSITE

www.stfrancisofassisi.net

OUR MISSION

To allow Christ to bring about a total transformation in our lives, in the way we think, speak and act, in our very being. By receiving and becoming more aware of his abundant love and mercy, we are more able to be effective instruments of his love and mercy to others.

OUR VISION

To be informed or transformed by Christ through parish life and ministry...Beginning in our own families, in our parish family, and to all we know and meet, we seek to reflect Christ and see Christ in others, especially those most in need of his love and mercy. By practicing corporal and spiritual works of mercy each day, we are able to see others as Christ sees them, and we see Christ in each person whom we serve.

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome! You may fill out a New Parishioner Enrollment Form on our website. If you prefer to enroll manually, paper forms are available on the vestibule tables. Contact the Parish Office if you have any questions.

Please contact Father Jeff, or call the Parish Office if you are seeking more information about the Catholic Faith. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you!

Here are some ways that you can get involved right away:

Morning Prayers: 30 minutes before each daily Mass.

Daily Mass: See the schedule on the bulletin cover.

Daily Rosary: Following most daily Masses. We have a dedicated group, and all are welcome to join!

Ministries: Explore our Liturgical and Service Ministries on our website, www.stfrancisofassisi.net.

SEEKING A SACRAMENT?

Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office for information on Baptismal Preparation and scheduling.

Matrimony: Please contact the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance of your desired date.

Communion for the Homebound & Hospitalized: Please contact the Parish Office.

This Week's Masses

All are welcome and encouraged to attend our daily and weekend Masses. Below, you will find information regarding the Mass intentions for the week, as well as information on how to request Mass, Sanctuary Candle, Spiritual Bouquet, and Prayer Line intentions.

NOTE: Public Mass has resumed with special guidelines in place for safety. For the time being, and until further notice, there will be NO 11:00 AM Sunday Mass. On Wednesdays, Mass is at 9:00 AM even when school is in session.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
9:00 AM **+ Martin DeMatteo** (by The Williams Family)
4:00 PM **+ Troy Cumings** (by Pat Cumings)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH (Third Sunday of Advent)
8:00 AM **Members of the Parish**
9:30 AM **+ Sr. Linda Hutchins** (by Susan Koester)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
8:00 AM **+ Chuck Keenan** (by Allan & Terry Fernald)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
No Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
9:00 AM **Christina Garand** (by St. Francis School Families)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
8:00 AM **Mary Koes** (by St. Francis School Families)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
8:00 AM **Christina Negron** (by St. Francis School Families)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH
9:00 AM **+ Martin DeMatteo** (by The Williams Family)
4:00 PM **+ Margaret Batchelder** (by Ron & Terry Groulx)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH (Fourth Sunday of Advent)
8:00 AM **Daniel Simard** (by The Ladies Guild)
9:30 AM **+ Aurea Rondeau** (by Ron & Terry Groulx)

Catechesis To Go

Q: How does God forgive sins?

One of the most remarkable things ever written in the New Testament was a single word in the second chapter of the Letter to the Colossians. The Colossian Christians were a little confused about their new faith, and the author was working hard to explain who Christ was and what he had done. One of the most important things Christ had done, the letter said, was to forgive sins. To explain this, the writer chose his words carefully—particularly the verb describing what Christ did with our sin. He “obliterated” it, the New American Bible translation says (Col. 2:14). Other words with milder meanings could have been used—that Christ “crossed out” our sin or, simply, “forgave” it. But the very deliberately picked word conveys the idea that God erases all traces of our sin from the record.

That will happen because God is who God is. God overflows with mercy and love. Look at yourself honestly. Consider the ways you have failed in your responsibilities, let other people down, cut corners, given into pressure, disguised the truth, lashed out at others, abused yourself. Look at all that without embarrassment—and bring it to God without fear. God will obliterate it.

Adapted from Jim Manney, and reprinted with permission from PrepareTheWord.com.

INTENTION REQUESTS

Mass Intentions: Daily and weekend Mass intentions are available for a $10 donation. Call or visit the Parish Office, or send us a message via the contact page on our website. Mass cards are available at the office. Dates fill up quickly, so contact us at your earliest convenience!

Sanctuary Candle Intentions: For a $15 donation, the sanctuary candle will burn for one week for your intention, Saturday through Friday.

Spiritual Bouquet Intentions: For a $10 donation, your intention will be placed in the Spiritual Bouquet book for prayer. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is recited every Monday at 3:00 PM, and there is a Sunday Mass each month which is dedicated to the Spiritual Bouquet.

Mass Announcements: If you have an announcement that you would like to make, or be read at Mass, contact the Parish Office.

Parish Prayer Line: Our Prayer Line Ministry prays for the needs of others. If you have an intention, you can call the Parish Office, fill out a form from the back of the church, or click the Prayer Line banner on the home page of our parish website.

SANCTUARY CANDLE
+ Sr. Linda Hutchins
by Susan Koester

Activities & Announcements

GUIDELINES FOR SAFELY RETURNING TO PUBLIC MASS AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Masks:
Parishioners must wear face masks while in the building. This excludes the following: anyone under the age of 2, anyone with trouble breathing, anyone incapacitated or unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Parishioners with the following symptoms of COVID-19 should not enter the building or attend public Mass:
Fever (feeling feverish, or a documented temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher).

Respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath (other than seasonal allergy symptoms).

Whole body symptoms such as muscle aches, chills, and severe fatigue.

Changes in your sense of taste or smell.

Parishioners with the following risk factors for COVID-19 should not enter the building or attend public Mass:
Close contact with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days. (Note: Healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment can attend.)

Travel in the past 14 days:
Internationally (outside the United States).
Domestically (within the United States) outside of New England (New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island).

NH Knights of Columbus
Respect Life Student Essay Contest

The NH Knights of Columbus is once again sponsoring a Student Respect Life Essay Contest for all Junior High (grades 6-8) and Senior High School (grades 9-12) students in NH.

The Knights will make up to six awards of $100 each. St. Francis has had a winner in the past. Entries are due December 15th, 2020, so plan now to enter. Maybe you too could win!

For entry instructions and other questions, please contact John at (603) 434-4098 or matu19@comcast.net, or see the bulletin board for the “Attention Students” flyer.

Vocation Blurb for December 13th:

“The One who calls you is faithful."
Will you be faithful to His call? Is God inviting you to be a priest or consecrated religious?

Call Fr. Matt Mason at (603) 663-0196, or write to mmason@rcbm.org.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

NOVEMBER 28TH & 29TH WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Offertory Box	$2,384.00
Building & Maintenance	$96.00
Immaculate Conception	$260.00
Campaign for Human Development	$15.00
School Partnership	$11.00
Online Giving	$2,213.50

Public Mass has resumed, but there is currently no collection during Mass. Please place offertory donations in the box in the gathering space.

Online Giving: Help grow and sustain our church! Online Giving allows you to make donations, payments, and pledges to your parish via your computer or smart device.

To sign up, or access your account, visit
www.osvonlinegiving.com/430
or call 1 (800) 348-2886

Slice of the Pie 2021
The Slice of the Pie Annual Fundraising Committee for 2021 is preparing for raffle sales. Federal law prohibits tickets and forms from being mailed. Therefore, we ask that you fill out a registration form, available in the gathering space, and put it in a clearly marked envelope with your payment. Envelopes can be placed in the Offertory Box. Please note: If you are paying through Online Giving, you must also fill out a registration form and place it in the Offertory Box! Make checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi, and write "Slice of the Pie" on the memo line. Registration forms are due by December 31st, and tickets will be available for pickup beginning the week of December 7th in the parish office.

1st Prize: $1,000 2nd Prize: $500 3rd Prize: $250

The Nativity of the Lord
Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24th
4:00 PM, 6:00 PM & 10:00 PM

Friday December 25th
10:00 AM

The next available bulletin is DECEMBER 27TH.
Please submit announcements by DECEMBER 16TH!
Email Gabi at gabi.gilliland@stfrancisofassisi.net.

Ministry & Community News

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Council No. 13026

Helping Hand During COVID-19

The Knights of Columbus would like to offer a helping hand to any of our parishioners who might need it during this period of disruptions with COVID-19.

This is especially for parishioners who are elderly, suffering from lung problems, or have other risk factors, and are avoiding going out in public to do routine things, like buy groceries.

If you need a helping hand, please contact Jason Gilliland (jdagilliland@gmail.com), Emile Proulx (eproulxgk@gmail.com), Laurence Sevigny (laurence.timelysuccess@gmail.com), or any of the Knights in our parish.

We are willing to help in any way we can.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Coping with COVID: Online Support Group

Catholic Charities NH is hosting another online support group, "Coping with COVID," which will provide key information and coping strategies to help you navigate the current COVID-19 crisis. The (free) five-session program will be held on Tuesdays (11:00 AM-12:00 PM), starting November 17th. Featured speakers will help you feel less alone and gain valuable relaxation techniques. To register, visit www.cc-nh.org/coping. You may also call (603) 752-1325 or email efrenette@nh-cc.org.

WORKS OF MERCY

Good Works for the Month of December

Give drink to the thirsty.
Pay for the coffee of the person behind you in line.

LADIES GUILD

CONGRATULATIONS

SLICE OF THE PIE GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

$100 Winners
Robert & Marion Baril
Albert Boutin
Frank Adams
Ronald Moody
Emile & JoAnn Proulx

$250 Winner
Danielle Gagnon

$500 Winner
Michael Szulc

$1000 Winner
John & Janet Scott

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