November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

Parish Office: 973-835-0480 / 0489
Fax: 973-835-3277
Email: stfrancis@optonline.net / frgregg@optonline.net
Website: stfrancishaskell.org
C.C.D.: 973-835-1946

We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners, all new members and guests celebrating with us today.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP
You are invited to join our parish family. We are committed to meeting the needs of all members. Please register by contacting our Parish Office. (Please notify the Parish Office of change in address or phone number and if you are moving out of the parish.)

RELIGIOUS DEVOTIONS
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena is on Monday after 8:00 am Mass
Novena Prayers in Honor of the Blessed Mother and St. Anthony: Are said every Tuesday after 8:00 am Mass
Prayer Group: Meets at 11:00 am - every Thursday
Adoration: Every Friday after Mass
Divine Mercy: Daily recitation of Chaplet after Mass

MINISTRIES
Join the various ministries and associations:
Ministry of Lector, Eucharist, Usher, Altar Server, Respect Life and Lazarus Ministry, St. Francis Ladies Guild, Emmaus Prayer Group, Youth Group, Carnival, Knights of Columbus and other volunteers associated with the Church of St. Francis of Assisi.

We are a Catholic Community, rooted in the Trinity, sustained by the Eucharist and the Word of God, called to witness, to serve and to educate.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE / 973-835-1946
Mrs. Maryann Marren, Coordinator
Mrs. Betty Norton, Secretary

YOUTH MINISTRY / 973-835-0480
Our youth ministry is open to all Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade students. Come join us.

BAPTISM: Parishioners are welcome to have their children baptized at St. Francis of Assisi. Please call the rectory for an appointment to discuss the arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: Saturday: 4:30-5:00 pm or at other times upon request.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements to be made at least 1 year in advance by calling the Parish Office.

R.C.I.A.: Anyone interested in an update of their faith or wanting to become Catholic, call the Parish Office.

MINISTRY OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY: For the confined, elderly and/or shut-in, be they at home or in the hospital, please call the Rectory. Holy Communion is offered to any person permanently or temporarily homebound. For the seriously sick and dying contact the Rectory immediately.

MASS SCHEDULE
Weekends
Saturday: 5:30 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days
See schedule in bulletin.

Rev. Greg Golba -----------------------------Pastor
Loyola Jesuit Community-----------------Weekend Associates
Msgr. Remigio G. Rocco -----------------Pastor Emeritus
Deacon Jose Rivera

OFFICE OF SECRETARY & ACCOUNTS
Mrs. Jane Wright & Mrs. Melissa Rivera

PARISH COUNCIL [TRUSTEES & FINANCES]
Mr. Ron Morano • Mrs. Claire Kressaty • Mr. Dale Ostrander
Mr. Tom Luciani • Mr. Bill Boswell

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2020

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2020
5:30 P.M.  Ralph Cortellessa
Rosemary Pannone
Alvin Shough, Jr.
Gerald D’Onofrio

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020
7:30 A.M.  Parishioners
Walter Donnelly
10:00 A.M.  Joseph & Gea Giavannone
Intentions of baby Evalina Hartnett & Parents
12 NOON  Eugeniusz Urban
Robert Watters

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020
8:00 A.M.  Alvin Shough, Jr.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020
8:00 A.M.  Rocco Florio

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020
8:00 A.M.  Special Intentions
Kenneth Lim

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020
8:00 A.M.  PARISH PURGATORIAL
Kathleen & Ruth Fearon
Martin Reddin

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020
5:30 P.M  Stephen Koslowski
Ralph Cortellessa
Andy Pyryt
Sharon Acquaire

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020
7:30 A.M.  Parishioners
Teresa Tachine
10:00 A.M.  Joseph Negrini, Sr.
Gerald D’Onofrio
12 NOON  Elaine Arendas
Florence Korkuch

Pray daily for our servicemen and women serving their country.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
Mary Carton   Jacob Hicks   Judy Moran   Gary Ragusa
Ava Rae Nebbia   Matthew Polifonte   Alice Roslund
Evelyn Means   Bob Delventhhal   Patrick Keegan
George Link   Michael Soojian   Valentina Manuele
Susan Nichols-Boggio   Ryder Sasso   Lydia Rivera
Mike Tidaback   Robert Moreno   Jessica Skorubski
Jerome Foray   Loretta LaSala   Infant Ronan Suatoni
Manuel Esguerra   Marianne Dorn   Justin Garcia
Robert Nebbia   Christopher Berry   Frank Polglaze
Alex Coronel   Geraldine Kears   Bernie Shushan
Alejandro Salcedo   Noah Lorencovitiz   Michael Gotti

Josephine Koslowski   Patricia Charlesworth
Patrick Keegan   Gil Borowski   Marie Roberto
Alexander Saraceni

DECEASED:  Robert Watters

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent and it marks the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. This is actually Year B of St. Mark. We do not begin at the beginning of St. Mark’s Gospel, however - that will come next week. The opening Gospel passage of this Sunday is taken from near the end of the Gospel - just before St. Mark begins the account of Jesus’ passion.

In the literal sense, the word ‘advent’ means ‘coming of someone,’ and we wait for the coming of someone we love, but in the Christian liturgical sense it specifically implies to ‘the coming of Christ.’ and we eagerly and watchfully wait for the coming of Christ.

Today’s Gospel is speaking on the level of the future and present comings of Jesus. The key words placed before us are - “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” When Jesus warns us to not be asleep when he returns in his glory, this does not mean that we can never sleep... What is being referred to here is a sleep of the soul: we must avoid falling asleep spiritually. First, we must be careful not to fall into one grave sin or another, which would cause us to die spiritually, and thus to sleep with the sleep of spiritual death. Then, we must take care not to doze off: we must keep our soul in spiritual joy and chase away the deathly sadness of desolation. Focusing on readiness, living in the presence of the Lord at every moment of our lives, is the legacy of Jesus Christ to his followers.
LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Sunday in Advent.

Today, we begin the season of Advent and the theme of the Readings comes from the last sentence of the Gospel: “What I say to you, I say to all, watch.” What Jesus is saying here in Mark's gospel is "Be on guard for the Lord is coming and you know not the day or hour.”

In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (63:16-19; 64:2-7), we hear the prophet lamenting a prayer of frustration directed to God. The time of this writing is the early 5th Century BC. The prophet, who had been sent by God to bolster the spirits of the people of Israel and Judah, has not had much success. The people were disorganized and without leadership. Instead of turning to God for help, they quarreled among themselves and sinned greatly. In spite of all this, the prophet lays his life on the line and pleads for God's mercy and help for himself and his people.

The Responsorial Psalm (80:2-19) is a beautiful prayer that continues the same theme of calling upon God to come and lead us to salvation. This prayer is, of course, fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ at the first Christmas. However, He didn't come as a “knight in shining armor” but rather, as a tiny babe born in a stable. He died the same way. The poorest of the poor” so that we could identify with His humble life style to see the degree of love that this God-Man has for you and me.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (1:3-9). Here, Paul is giving thanks for the blessings that God has given His people through Jesus Christ. This is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prayer. Christ did come to save His people. Not as they had expected, but in His own time and on His own terms. We should be thankful for these and all of God's blessings. This is why we celebrate at least one Day of Thanksgiving. It should be every day!

The Gospel Reading is from Mark (13:33-37). In these few words, we have a powerful statement from Jesus Christ Himself. It is directed to everyone, but not everyone need be worried. Those who are walking in the footsteps of Christ will be ready and alert when He comes for them; but those who have lagged behind, this meeting could be a time of great despair. As we begin a new Liturgical Year and the beautiful season of Advent in preparation for Christmas, we have a timely opportunity to take inventory of our spiritual assets and review how we are using our time, talents and treasures. Or, we just might need to spend more time in prayer asking God to help us reevaluate our relationship with Him. Whatever the decision, it is better than being frustrated by doing nothing. So, have you taken a spiritual inventory lately? Just something to think about during your prayer time this week.
REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM ACT
S3030/A4848
There is legislation before the New Jersey Senate and Assembly that will make legal now and forever the following mandates, if they are passed:

1. Allows late term abortion right up to the birth of the child.
2. "A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus shall not have independent rights under the laws of the state."
3. Permits non physicians to perform abortions.
4. Nullifies the conscience clause for medical personnel who are against abortion,
5. Mandates annual allocations of taxpayer funding to Planned Parenthood under Title X in the state budget.
6. Requires all insurance carriers to provide coverage for abortions and expands the coverage for contraceptives.
7. Exempts prosecution for individuals who terminate or attempt to terminate their own pregnancy.
8. Young, under age, pregnant women can get an abortion without their parent’s consent or permission, risking their health.
9. The bill states "it shall be the policy of the state to invalidate and prohibit the future adoption of all laws, rules, regulations, policies, standards , or parts thereof, that conflict with the expressed or implied purposes of this bill."

Please read, sign and then print your name and address (One letter per person) on the letters enclosed in the Bulletin and mail them to your State Senator and Assemblypersons. (Their names and addresses are at the top of the letters).

There will be extra copies in the Narthex for you to take and distribute among family and neighbors.
If you live outside of this voting district, please delete the names on this letter and insert the names of the Senator or Assemblyperson in your district (Their names and addresses can be found on the internet) Thank you!

KILL THE BILL NOT THE BABY! Say NO to the REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM ACT!
Reading for First Sunday of Advent

1 Reading: Is 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7
You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!
Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading II 1 Cor 1:3-9
Brothers and sisters:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel  Mk 13:33-37
Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”
IRREPRESSIBLE

K.J. Alexander

To her, she's just another foster kid.
To them, she's the queen
who will save them all.

AVAILABLE NOW!
Scan Here or Visit
https://amzn.to/322DlqT