December 20, 2020
Fourth 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.

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.

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.

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

Weekdays & Holy Days
See schedule in bulletin.

PARISH 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

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.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020
5:30 P.M. Ralph Cortellessa
Intentions of Jason Skorubski
Gerald D’Onofrio
John Renick
Thomas Norton

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020
7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Cosimo Pelle
George Way
10:00 A.M. Roy & Shirley Parian
Frank & Dorothy Orofino
Rocco Tarulli
12 NOON Kathy Weckler
Gerald D’Onofrio
Peter Herina

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020
8:00 A.M. Carmela & Michele Garruto
Intentions of Marge Allard

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020
8:00 A.M. Richard Bodenhausen
John Bisaccio

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020
4:00 P.M. Parishioners
4:10 P.M. Parishioners
6:00 P.M. Parishioners
10:00 P.M. Parishioners

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020
7:30 A.M. Parishioners
10:00 A.M. Parishioners
12 Noon Parishioners

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020
5:30 P.M. Gerald D’Onofrio
Ralph Cortellessa
Michael Mazzucca
Sharon Acquaire

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020
7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Rocco Florio
Cosimo Pelle
Peter Herina
10:00 A.M. Oliva Glorioso
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Negrini, Sr.
12 NOON Eugeniusz Urban
Gerald D’Onofrio
Leonardi Family

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 Delventhal 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 Kearns Bernie Shushan
Alejandro Salcedo Noah Lorencovitz Michael Gotti
Josephine Koslowski Patricia Charlesworth
Patrick Keegan Gil Borowski Marie Roberto
Alexander Saraceni Katarzyna Brzenia

DECEASED: Our Deceased Loved Ones

CHURCH MEMORIALS
Church Altar Candle in memory of Mary & Joseph Purcella requested by Family
Church Tabernacle Candle in memory of Richard & Antoinette Assidio requested by Kathy Assidio
Chapel Altar Candle in memory of Flora & Albert Assidio requested by Kathy Assidio

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, December 13, 2020 - $4,389.00
Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY REFLECTION
Dear Friends in Christ,
Today St. Luke, narrates the greatest story of all times. He presents to us, not a yarn out of his imagination, but an actual reality woven by the very hand of God himself with human collaboration. The climax is reached when the Angel says: «You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus» (Lk 1:31).

This message tells us that Christmas time is near. Mary will open the door for us through her collaboration with the Work of God. This humble girl from Nazareth is astonished at the Angel’s announcement. She was precisely praying God to send the Anointed One, to save the world. In her modest dreams, little did she think that God would just choose her to carry out His plans.

In her Heart, Mary experiences some tense and dramatic moments: she was, and wanted to remain as, a virgin; God, now, proposes her to divine maternity. Mary cannot understand it: «How can this be?» (Lk 1:34), asks she. The Angel explains that virginity and maternity do not contradict each other; on the contrary, thanks to the Holy Spirit,
they integrate perfectly together. Not that she understands it better now, but that is enough for her, for the prodigy will be God's will: «With God nothing is impossible» (Lk 1:37). Hence, her answer: «Let it be done to me as you have said» (Lk 1:38). Let it be done! Fiat! Yes. Total acceptance of God's Will, half groping, but unconditionally. In that very instant, «the Word became flesh and dwelt among us!» (Jn 1:14). That popular tale becomes, at the same time, the most divine and human reality.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Promises, promises! How often have we heard that remark when we learn of a promise being made? In the Readings for Today, we learn about God making promises, first to King David in the Old Testament and then to Mary in the beginning of the New.

**The First Reading is from the Second Book of Samuel** (7:1-16). In this passage, Samuel, is a prophet at the time of King David who has desires and expectations of building a great temple. However, God had different plans for David and He made a promise to David in the form of a covenant which assured David that a descendent of David's would remain on the throne of Judah (Jerusalem) forever. Thus, David's descendants became known as "the house of David."

**The Responsorial Hymn** (89:2-29) is meditation on the promises God made to David and the blessings bestowed upon him for following God's will not his own. David, in spite of some weaknesses, led a good life in the service of God, and his reign as king became known as the “golden age of Judaism.”

**The Second Reading is the very ending of Paul's Letter to the Romans** (16:25-27). In this beautiful passage we have a doxology, a brief exclamation or blessing of God in recognition of some truth. Here, Paul is praising Almighty God for keeping His promise to David in the person of Jesus who is not only King of Jerusalem, but "King of kings and "Lord of lords."

**The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of Luke** (1:26-38). This passage is the re-telling of the story of the Angel of the Lord promising Mary that if she agreed, she would become the Mother of the Savior of the World. We should be eternally grateful that Mary agreed. Who knows what would have happened if she had said "No!" Mary was the greatest “witness” and the first disciple of Jesus the Savior. From her earliest age, she was devoted to God and longed to be His servant. The promise made to Mary was the fulfillment of those made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the other great persons of the Old Testament and to all mankind in the New.

Christmas is the fulfillment of the great promises of God, the beginning of our salvation. It is good to enjoy the traditional celebrations of the Christmas season; but take some time to be alone with Christ in Prayer, thanking Him for the many blessings He has bestowed on each of us through our families, our Church and our very spirit. So the question now becomes: What promises have YOU made that are yet to be fulfilled?

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE**

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<tr>
<th>Sacrament of Holy Eucharist</th>
<th>Christmas Vigil: Thursday, December 24th</th>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>-  Children’s Mass – Main Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:10 PM</td>
<td>-  Children’s Mass – Church Hall</td>
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<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>-  Christmas Eve Mass</td>
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<td>10:00 PM</td>
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<th>Christmas Day: Friday, December 25, 2020</th>
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<th>New Year’s Eve: Thursday, December 31, 2020</th>
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<th>New Year’s Day: Friday, January 1, 2021</th>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
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On behalf of Deacon Jose, and the entire Parish Staff, I extend to you and your families a blessed and joyous Christmas

Fr. Greg

“Hope In Our Darkness”
Christmas Classics

Recorded here at St. Francis of Assisi parish in 2020!

Thanks to Fr. Greg, one of our Diocesan priests, Fr. David McDonnell, has recorded a new Christmas CD here at St. Francis! Fr. Greg contributed his own special gifts of hospitality and artistic vision to help make it happen. This is Fr. David’s third CD, and each has raised a substantial amount of money for those of our Diocese in need at Christmas (his parish does not benefit from the proceeds- it all goes to charity). He is the lead vocalist and is accompanied by a variety of soloists and vocal ensembles musicians. The songs are some of your favorite Christmas classics, and the arrangements are beautifully done.

The price is $15 per CD. The CD’s will be available for purchase after all Masses on December 19/20. They make a wonderful Christmas gift – not only for those who receive them, but also for those in need who will benefit from your purchase at this special time of year.

LECTORS

DECEMBER 24, 2020
4:00 P.M. Erika Reid (main church)
4:10 P.M. Lynn Magnini (church hall)
6:00 P.M. Martha Bisaccio
10:00 P.M. Chris Marren

DECEMBER 25, 2020
7:30 A.M. Margaret O’Neill
10:00 A.M. Judy Moran
12 NOON Linda O’Connell

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020
5:30 P.M. Hatima Omolon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020
7:30 A.M. Barbara Garruto
10:00 A.M. Sue Kummer
12 NOON Henry Mendoza

***
A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.

***
While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.

***
Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these, they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve.

Francis of Assisi

Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.
Francis of Assisi
Reading for Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!” Nathan answered the king, “Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you.” But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: “Go, tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?’”

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies.

The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.”

Responsorial Psalm

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord

ROM 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel LK 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.”

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.