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 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

July 12, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule
Weekends
Saturday: 5:30 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 noon
Weekdays & Holy Days
See schedule in bulletin.

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.

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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.
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 12, 2020

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2020
5:30 P.M.  Intentions of Deborah Schaefer
          John McMurray
          Leonard Schneider, Jr.
          Megan Pinkham

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020
7:30 A.M.  Parishioners
          Frances Romeo
          Leonard Schneider, Jr.
10:00 A.M.  Jan Gesla
          Sister Annette Marie Lucchese, OSF
12 NOON  Deceased Members of the Kelly Family

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020
8:00 A.M.  Julie Sullivan

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020
8:00 A.M.  Odette Raoul
          Brenda Reichle

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020
8:00 A.M.  Dan & Charlotte Bolen

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2020
8:00 A.M.  Nunzio DiLaura

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020
5:30 P.M.  Phyllis Biancardi
          Doris McGillick

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020
7:30 A.M.  Parishioners
          Intentions of Pat Demarest
          Ray Nyhuis
10:00 A.M.  Roy & Shirley Parian
          Frank & Dorothy Orofino
          Rocco Tarulli
12 NOON  Angelina Destito
          Ron Moebius

Pray daily for our servicemen and women serving their country.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
  Mary Carton       Jacob Hicks       Estella Soto
  Ava Rae Nebbia    Matthew Polifonte  Lois Maskley
  Gary Ragusa       Herman Koenig      Evelyn Means
  George Link       Michael Soojian     Valentina Manuele
  Susan Nichols-Boggio  Kevin Kerrigan  Ryder Sasso
  Mike Tidaback     Robert Moreno     Lydia Rivera
  Jerome Foray      Loretta LaSala     Infant Ronan Suatoni
  Richard Barnett   Manuel Esguerra     Kenny Sequeira
  Robert Nebbia     Christopher Berry   Frank Polglaze
  Sharon Acquaire   Noah Lorencovitz   Florence Grim
  Josephine Venezia Richard DeFalco    Alex Coronel
  Geraldine Kearns  Alice Roslund      Alejandro Salcedo
  Bernie Shushan    Jean’na Wojik Post  Patrick Keegan
  Jason Skorubski   Jessica Skorubski

DECEASED:  Gary Hogue

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, July 5, 2020 - $4,779.00
June Online Giving - $2,675.00
Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY REFLECTION
Dear Friends in Christ,
Jesus is the Word of God. Everything that Jesus said, everything that Jesus did was God communicating to us through him.

Now, let us consider today's parable – 'The Parable of the Sower.'

Here in this parable Jesus himself is the sower of the seed. He is the Eternal Word incarnate, provides the seed and sows it into the hearts of the hearers in order to provide a harvest of thirty, sixty, or a hundred fold.

The harvest depends on the fertility of the soil/soul where it gets planted in. But the Word himself will not make the soil fertile; it just depends on how much seed falls on the soil and how receptive the soil is to the Word.

The Father provides Jesus with His Divine Word for the sowing, which in turn bears fruit unto eternal life for those who are willing to listen.

That’s why Jesus often said things like, 'Listen, anyone who has ears.'

We are the soil. And what kind of soil are we on which the seed, the Word of God, is sowed?

Are we disposed to God's word and therefore embrace it, allow it to grow in us and make us the person God wants us to become?
Or are we so indisposed to His word that we do not even allow it to sprout in us?
In the First Reading, from the Prophet Isaiah (55:10-11) we hear the prophet preaching about the word of God coming like spring rain to soften the soil so that the seeds can grow. However, the people of Isaiah's time did not listen to the word of God. They turned away from Him and ignored His word. This led directly to the Babylonian Exile — God's way of punishing His “Chosen People” for their lack of. When was the last time you picked up a Bible or catechism to better understand what God might be asking of you, or saying to you?

The Responsorial Psalm (65:10-14) picks up the same theme of preparing the soil for planting and reaping a bountiful harvest because the soil was fertile. Everything came together as God expected: each aspect of His creation fulfilled its purpose. Each of us has a part to play in God's continuing act of creation and salvation.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:18-23). In this passage, Paul is saying that we human creatures of God are much like those seedlings. We are planted here on earth, not in a random scattering, but in a divinely ordered plan with great expectations and in hope that all creation will share in the glory destined for those who fulfill their role.

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew (13:1-23). Jesus message is quite clear. The word of God is like seed sown with the expectation of reaping a good harvest that is guiding mankind to live according to the teachings of God and the Church. Our heart and mind, soul and body, in other words, our entire being is like the soil. Are we really listening, absorbing and following through with what God is telling us?

On Sunday, July 26, during every Mass, we will pray for all drivers, and blessing of vehicles after every Mass.
Saint Junípero Serra, O.F.M.
Founder of the Spanish missions in California
(November 24, 1713 – August 28, 1784)
Feast Day July 1

Born on Spain’s island of Mallorca, Serra entered the Franciscan Order taking the name of Saint Francis’ childlike companion, Brother Juniper. Until he was 35, he spent most of his time in the classroom—first as a student of theology and then as a professor. He also became famous for his preaching. Suddenly he gave it all up and followed the yearning that had begun years before when he heard about the missionary work of Saint Francis Solano in South America. Junipero’s desire was to convert native peoples in the New World. He left everything behind and boarded a ship bound for Vera Cruz, Mexico. On his way to Mexico City, an insect bite infected his leg so badly that walking pained him for the rest of his life. Among his many great accomplishments as a missionary are listed, two particularly: It was he whose insistence and dedication brought about the "Regulation" protecting the Native Americans and the missions. He is also known for founding the great mission of San Juan Capistrano, in California. He founded 21 missions and taught the Native Americans many trades, from farming to crafting.

In 1776, when the American Revolution was beginning in the east, another part of the future United States was being born in California. That year the gray-robed Franciscan founded Mission San Juan Capistrano, now famous for its annually returning swallows. San Juan was the seventh of nine missions established under the direction of this indomitable Spaniard.

Junipero’s missionary life was a long battle with cold and hunger, with unsympathetic military commanders and even with danger of death from non-Christian native peoples. He baptized over 6,000 people and confirmed 5,000. He brought the Native Americans not only the gift of faith but also a decent standard of living. He won their love, as witnessed especially by their grief at his death. He is buried at Mission San Carlo Borromeo, Carmel, and was beatified in 1988. Pope Francis canonized him in Washington, D.C., on September 23, 2015.

The word that best describes Junipero is zeal. It was a spirit that came from his deep prayer and dauntless will. “Always forward, never back” was his motto.

CANCELLATION OF ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL CARNIVAL
St Francis of Assisi Church has been closely monitoring the state’s reopening guidelines for Covid 19. Given the continued uncertainty for commencing large events, social distancing obstacles and concerns for everyone’s safety, we regret to announce that this year’s Carnival scheduled for July has been canceled. We look forward to seeing you all again at next year’s carnival.

LECTORS
SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020
5:30 P.M. Pat Demarest
SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020
7:30 A.M. Barbara Garruto
10:00 A.M. Chris Marren
12 NOON Mary Avella
St. Francis Council #2617

The Knights of Columbus is a worldwide Catholic family fraternal service and benefit society that promotes family, religious, and patriotic values within the parish, community, and nationally. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, their communities, families and young people. Founded in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney, Servant of God, the Knights offer support for sick, disabled and needy members and their families. The organization also promotes social and intellectual fellowship among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare and other programs. Father McGivney’s cause for canonization was opened in 1997.

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St. Francis Council was chartered on June 27, 1926 with Andrew J. Dondero as the Grand Knight. The council has 100 members and engages in charitable activities and sponsors community, church, council, family, and youth programs. Annual events include a Youth Free Throw, 8th Grade spelling bee, campaign for people with intellectual disabilities, participation in the parish carnival, community Memorial Day parade and our annual Officers installation.

The council meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the hall of St. Francis Church at 8 PM. The council publishes a monthly newsletter to keep brother Knights, families and friends aware of council activities.

Membership is open to Catholic men who are 18 years of age and live up to the Commandments of God and the Precepts of the Church. Anyone interested can visit the website at www.kofc.org/joinus or see any member of the St. Francis Council.