



“Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’”

The Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2020

*Saint Francis of Assisi Parish
Missions of Our Lady of the Valley in Fall River Mills
and Saint Stephen's in Bieber*

Mission Statement

We, the Catholic Church of Saint Francis, are a community of faith called by Baptism to center our lives in the sacraments and the Holy Eucharist. We gather together to mutually grow in our love for God and neighbor by studying the Word of God; by believing in the Faith and Traditions from the Apostles; by accepting the teachings of the Magisterium and by receiving and giving support, hope, faith and charity.

*Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís
Misiones de Nuestra Señora del Valle en Fall River Mills
y San Esteban en Bieber*

Nuestra Misión

Nosotros la Iglesia de San Francisco, somos una comunidad de Fe llamados por el Bautismo a centrar nuestra vida en los sacramentos y la Santa Eucaristía. Nosotros nos reunimos para crecer mutuamente en nuestro amor a Dios y a nuestro semejante a través de estudiar la Palabra de Dios; a través de creer en la Fe y Tradición de los Apóstoles; a través de aceptar las enseñanzas del Magisterio y a través de recibir y dar Apoyo, Fe, Esperanza y Caridad.

Rev. Apolonio C. Catada

Parochial Administrator

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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Bulletin Editor: David Wanat (530) 250-7466

convoyb@gmail.com

MISSIONS

Our Lady of the Valley 43434 Hwy. 299E Fall River Mills	St. Stephen's 201 Hwy. 299E Bieber
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MASS SCHEDULE

See "Parish Calendar" (opposite) for changes.

Weekends

Saturday	4:30 pm	Our Lady of the Valley
Sunday	9:00 am	St. Francis
	11:00 am	Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish)
	1:00 pm	St. Stephen's
	4:30 pm	Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish)

Weekdays

Mon, Tue, Fri	9:00 am	St. Francis
Thursday	6:00 pm	St. Francis (Spanish)
Friday	6:00 pm	Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish)

ADORATION

1st Friday	9:30 am—Noon	St. Francis
1st Saturday	3:30 pm	Our Lady of the Valley
1st Sunday	11:45 am	St. Stephen's
Thursday's	3—6 pm	St. Francis
Friday's	11 am—6 pm	Our Lady of the Valley

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Confession is available one-half hour before scheduled Masses. Otherwise, call the parish for an appointment.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD BANK

Food is available on request. Call the parish at 335-2372 for food anytime you are in need or call Bob Gartner at 249-8641.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Please register at our website [@stfrancisburney.org](http://stfrancisburney.org)

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION FOR CHILDREN (CCD)

Please contact Josefa Johnston (294-5290) or Elaine Shields (336-1003) or Estella Valdovinos (524-6434) Spanish

MUSIC: WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

Please contact Joan Knapp (530) 294-1234

BECOMING CATHOLIC (RCIA)

Program of study for non-Catholic adults or Catholics seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation. Contact David Wanat at 335-2941 or email: convoyb@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact Bob Gartner 249-8641

MINISTERS

St. Francis

Lectors:

December 6

Carolyn Garfield
John Klobas

December 13

Karen Churney
Kathy Billo

Ex. Min. of Holy
Communion:

CALENDAR

Tue	12/08		Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation Mass at St. Francis Mass at Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish)
		9:00 am 6:00 pm	
Fri	12/11		Our Lady of Guadalupe Memorial Mass at Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish) Adoration
		6:00 pm 8 pm-5 am	
Sat	12/12	5:30 am	Mass at Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish)
Sat/Sun	12/12-13	All Masses	Retirement Fund for Religious Second Collection
Fri	12/25		Christmas Day
Fri	1/1		Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Financial Report

July 1 to October 31, 2020

	This Year	Last Year	Difference	%
Collections	33,994.10	39,601.16	-5,607.06	-14.2%
Total Income	39,551.15	45,258.16	-5,707.01	-12.6%
Total Expense	<u>-44,901.72</u>	<u>-47,774.84</u>	-2,873.12	-6.0%
Surplus (-Defecit)	-5,350.57	-2,516.68		

Reflection

Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of the Lord; and reparation is the essence of the preparation. Let us "make straight" the way of the Lord by making a thorough, thoughtful, prayerful examination of conscience, make a worthy Confession and ready our hearts to receive him with joy.

Hospitality at St. Stephen's

Every Sunday is hospitality Sunday at St. Stephen's. Please join us for a nice lunch with soup/casserole, salad, bread, dessert and drinks. All are welcome, bring something to share if you can.

Reflection on the Gospel. St. Augustine

Now, they were not reborn who were baptized by the baptism of John (by whom Christ Himself was baptized), but, through the ministry of that precursor, who cried 'Make ready the way for the Lord,' they were being prepared for the one Person, in whom alone they could be reborn. The baptism of Christ is not in water only, as was John's baptism, but also in the Holy Spirit, so that whoever believes in Christ might be reborn by that Spirit in generation from whom Christ needed no rebirth.

So, those words of the Father which were heard from above at Christ's baptism, 'This day have I begotten thee,' do not refer to that one day of time on which He was baptized, but to the one day of an unchangeable eternity, so as to show that this man is one in person with the Only-begotten. For a day which does not begin from the end of yesterday nor end with the beginning of tomorrow is always today. Christ wished to be baptized in water by John, not that any iniquity in Him might be washed away, but that He might show forth the depth of His humility. Baptism found in Him nothing to wash away, just as death found nothing to punish.

In strict justice, then, not through violence of power, was the Devil overwhelmed and conquered. Since he had most wickedly slain Him who was without sin, through that same Person he most justly deserved to lose mastery of those whom he held in the bondage of sin. Both of these things, then, baptism and death, He underwent as part of a fixed dispensation, not through a pitiable necessity, but rather through the mercy of His will, that One might take away the sin of the world, just as one had brought sin into the world, that is, into the whole human race. But with this difference: the first man brought one sin into the world, but this man took away not that one sin alone, but at the same time all which He found added to it. Consequently, the Apostle says: 'Nor is the gift as it was in the case of one man's sin, for the judgment was from one man unto condemnation, but grace is from many offenses unto justification.' That one sin which we bring with us from our beginning, even if it were alone, makes us subject to damnation; but grace brings justification from many offenses to man, who has committed many sins of his very own, besides that one sin which from his beginning he carries with him in common with all men.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

St. Francis

Ray Wanat, Nancy Longacre, Irma Welty, Melba Facey, Christina Mora, Glenda Pearson & Barbara, Bob Heisinger

Our Lady of the Valley

Rick Phay, Eva Rebay, Gary Freeland

St. Stephen's

Olivia Cox, Ryan Graham, Vernon Ferreira, Trish Bautista, Nancy Fenner, Liz Paul, Breen Hofmann, Carl & Mary Doyle, Carol Mitchell

Retirement Fund for Religious Second Collection Next Weekend

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

To donate online, <https://www.scd.org/retiredreligious>

Ayuden a nuestros mayores. En los buenos y en los malos tiempos, hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes católicos mayores de órdenes religiosas se han dedicado a servir y hacer obras de misericordia. Hoy ellos rezan por un mundo que sufre. Sin embargo, años sirviendo por poca o ninguna paga han dejado a sus comunidades religiosas con gran escasez en los fondos de jubilación. Su donativo al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda con las recetas médicas, cuidados de enfermería y otras necesidades. Sean generosos.

Para donar en línea, visite <https://www.scd.org/retiredreligious>

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS ROSARY RALLY

On Sunday, December 13 St. Stephen's will be holding a Rosary Rally to spread the glad tidings of our Savior's birth to the community. It will be held in front of St. Stephen's.

Time: 1:00 p.m. immediately before Mass

Come help put Christ back in Christmas and bring peace and calm of the Infant Jesus back to our country.

**From the Audience of Pope Francis
(December 2, 2020)**

Today we will reflect on an essential dimension of prayer: blessing. We are continuing the reflections on prayer. In the creation accounts (see Gn 1-2), God continually blesses life, always. He blesses the animals (1:22), He blesses the man and the woman (1:28), finally, He blesses the Sabbath, the day of rest and the enjoyment of all of creation (2:3). It is God who blesses. On the first pages of the Bible, there is a continual repetition of blessings. God blesses, but men give blessings as well, and soon they discover that the blessing possesses a special power that accompanies the person who receives it throughout his or her entire life, and disposes the person's heart to allow God to change it (see Second Vatican Council Const. Sacrosanctum Concilium, 61).

St Paul proclaims with emotion God's plan of love. And he says it this way: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved" (Eph 1:3-6). There is no sin that can completely erase the image of Christ present in each one of us. No sin can erase that image that God has given us – the image of Christ. Sin can disfigure it, but not remove it from God's mercy. A sinner can remain in error for a long time, but God is patient till the end, hoping that the sinner's heart will eventually open and change. God is like a good father, He is a Father, and like a good mother, He is a good mother as well: they never stop loving their child, no matter what he or she may have done wrong, always. What comes to my mind is the many times that I have seen people in line to go into a prison, how many mothers are there in line to see their imprisoned child. They do not cease to love their child and they know that the people passing by on the bus are thinking: "Ah, that is the mother of a prisoner...". They are not embarrassed about this. Yes, they are embarrassed but they go ahead. Just as their child is more important than their embarrassment, so we are more important to God than all of the sins that we can commit.

To the God who blesses we, too, respond by blessing – God has taught us how to bless and we must bless – through the prayer of praise, of adoration, of thanksgiving. The Catechism writes: "The prayer of blessing is man's response to God's gifts: because God blesses, the human heart can in return bless the One who is the source of every blessing" (n. 2626). Prayer is joy and thanksgiving. God did not wait for us to convert ourselves before beginning to love us, but He loved us a long time before, when we were still in sin.

We cannot but bless this God who blesses us; we must bless everyone in Him, all people, to bless God and to bless our brothers and sisters, to bless the world—and this is the root of Christian meekness, the ability of feeling blessed and the ability to bless.

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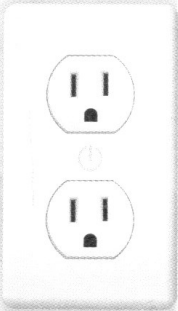
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"We provide personalized care, and have had the pleasure of improving the quality of life of people in the valley for 18 years."