



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

Epiphany January 3, 2021

*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 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|

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 |

First Sunday of the Month: All the Masses are said for the sick and, following Mass, Anointing of the Sick will be administered.

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:

January 3Karen Churney
Sandy Ogden**January 10**Kathy Billo
Carolyn GarfieldEx. Min. of Holy
Communion:**CALENDAR**

| | | |
|----------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun | 1/3 | Epiphany |
| Sun | 1/10 | Baptism of The Lord |
| Weeklong | 1/18-1/25 | Prayer for Christian Unity |
| Fri | 1/22 | National Day of Penance |
| Tue | 2/2 | Presentation of The Lord World Day for Consecrated Life |
| Wed | 2/17 | Ash Wednesday |
| Sun | 3/14 | Daylight Savings Time begins |

**For more information see our website at
www.stfrancisburney.org**

Financial Report**July 1 to November 30, 2020**

| | This Year | Last Year | Difference | % |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------|
| Collections | 39,401.78 | 49,775.86 | -10,374.08 | -20.8% |
| Total Income | 46,026.83 | 56,098.86 | -10,072.03 | -18.0% |
| Total Expense | -55,103.85 | -60,769.80 | -5,665.95 | -9.3% |
| Surplus (-Defecit) | -9,077.02 | -4,670.94 | | |

Reflection

Jesus, born of Mary, is the Light to the nations and God's presence among us. On our pilgrimage of faith, we find Jesus when we turn to Mary. Let us fully welcome the Lord into our hearts, allow him to guide us with his light, and share his light with others.

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.

A Homily on Epiphany By St. Augustine

Magi come from the East to adore the Virgin's Child. Today we celebrate this event; we pay our respects and deliver a sermon in keeping with the feast. This day first shone resplendently for the Magi; its anniversary is renewed by us with festal rejoicing. They were the first-fruits of the Gentiles; we are a nation of Gentiles. The words of Apostles announced His birth to us; a star was, as it were, the language of heaven for them; like the heavens, therefore, the Apostles announced the glory of God to us. Why should we not recognize as heavens those who have become the abode of God, as it is written: 'The soul of the just is the seat of wisdom'? For, through these heavens [the Apostles], the One who made and who dwells in the heavens has sounded forth. The earth trembled at the sound and now, behold, it believes. O mighty mystery! The Lord lay in a manger, yet He drew the Magi from the East. He was hidden in a stable, yet He was acknowledged in the heavens, so that, thus recognized in the heavens, He might be manifested in the stable and that this day might be called the Epiphany or, in the Latin derivative, the Manifestation. Thus, at one and the same time, He set His seal of approval on His high and His lowly estate, so that He to whom the heavens bore witness by a starry sign might, when sought, be found in an insignificant dwelling where, helpless in His tiny frame and wrapped in swaddling clothes, He might be adored by the Magi and feared by the wicked.

Now, then, my dearly beloved sons and heirs of grace, look to your vocation and, since Christ has been revealed to both Jews and Gentiles as the cornerstone, cling together with most constant affection. For He was manifested in the very cradle of His infancy to those who were near and to those who were afar—to the Jews whose shepherds were nearby; to the Gentiles whose Magi were at a great distance. The former came to Him on the very day of His birth; the latter are believed to have come on this day. He was not revealed, therefore, to the shepherds because they were learned, nor to the Magi because they were righteous, for ignorance abounds in the rusticity of shepherds and impiety amid the sacrilegious of the Magi. He, the cornerstone, joined both groups to Himself since He came to choose the foolish things of the world in order to put to shame the wise and 'to call sinners, not the just,' so that the mighty would not be lifted up nor the lowly be in despair.

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

Excerpts from "Catholic Moral Teaching and Tradition on COVID-19 Vaccines" by Bishop Jaime Soto

As the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines against COVID-19 become available, it is critically important that Catholics and others have an accurate understanding of how these vaccines may be viewed from the perspective of Catholic moral teaching and tradition. The Vatican's doctrinal office, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), has determined that it is "morally acceptable" for Catholics to take these vaccines against the COVID-19 Virus. Their determination is deeply rooted in the Catholic moral tradition. A brief review of their discernment in reaching this determination will assist people as they consider use of these vaccine and other vaccines.

Since it is impossible to influence an act that occurred in the past, a recipient of the COVID-19 vaccines developed from cell lines in question cannot influence or contribute to anything regarding the original abortions. Again, the mere fact that a vaccine may have been tested using these cell lines does not establish a connection between the vaccine recipient and the abortion. Furthermore, simply knowing the origin of the cell lines does not mean that one intends abortion. Thus, a recipient of the vaccine does not approve of or intend the original abortions, or materially contribute to them. Clearly, all that the recipient intends is the good preventing disease and saving lives. This includes protecting countless pregnant women from contracting COVID-19, who will be able to carry their unborn babies safely to term.

The act of receiving the COVID-19 vaccines developed from the cell lines in question does not lead others to procure abortion. The action of the recipient is not the reason why someone has an abortion, nor is it an endorsement of abortion. Furthermore, vaccine researchers and others who develop cell lines from abortion-derived cells or use such cell lines in research do not lead persons to procure abortions. Researchers who develop or use these types of cell lines do so because they either see no connection of their work to abortion and/or because of the success of the cell line for research to develop effective and safe vaccines.

If some of the faithful choose not to take the vaccine for reasons of conscience, the Vatican says those persons "must do their utmost to avoid ... becoming vehicles for the transmission of the infectious agent."

(The Full Statement can be read in English or Spanish at: <https://www.scd.org/news/catholic-moral-teaching-and-tradition-covid-19-vaccine>)

**From the Audience of Pope Francis
(December 30, 2020)**

Today, I would like to focus on the prayer of thanksgiving. And I take my cue from an episode recounted by the Evangelist Luke. While Jesus was on the way, ten lepers approached Him who begged him: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" (17:13). We know that those who had leprosy suffered not only physically, but also from social marginalization and religious marginalization.

They were marginalized. Jesus did not back off from meeting them. Sometimes, He surpassed the limitations imposed by the law and touched, embraced and healed the sick person – which was not supposed to be done. In this case, there was no contact. From a distance, Jesus invited them to present themselves to the priests (v. 14), who were designated by law to certify healings that had occurred. Jesus said nothing else. He heard their prayer, He heard their cry for mercy, and He sent them immediately to the priests.

Those ten lepers trusted, they did not remain there until they were cured, no: they trusted and they went immediately, and while they were on their way, they were cured, all ten were cured. The priests would have therefore been able to verify their healing and readmit them to normal life. But this is where the important point enters in: only one in the group, before going to the priests, returned to thank Jesus and to praise God for the grace received. Only one, the other nine continued on their way. And Jesus points out that that man was a Samaritan, a sort of "heretic" for the Jews of that time. Jesus comments: "Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" (17:18). This narrative is touching.

This narrative, so to speak, divides the world in two: those who do not give thanks and those who do; those who take everything as if it is owed them, and those who welcome everything as a gift, as grace.

The Catechism says: "every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving" (n. 2638). The prayer of thanksgiving always begins here: to recognize that grace precedes us. We were thought of before we learned how to think; we were loved before we learned how to love; we were desired before our hearts conceived a desire. If we view life like this, then "thank you" becomes the driving force of our day. And how often we even forget to say "thank you".

Above all, let us not forget to thank: if we are bearers of gratitude, the world itself will become better, even if only a little bit, but that is enough to transmit a bit of hope. The world needs hope. And with gratitude, with this habit of saying thank you, we transmit a bit of hope. Everything is united and everything is connected, and everyone needs to do his or her part wherever we are. The path to happiness is the one Saint Paul described at the end of one of his letters: "Pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit" (1 Thes 5:17-19). Do not quench the Spirit, what a beautiful project of life! Do not quench the Spirit that we have within leads us to gratitude.

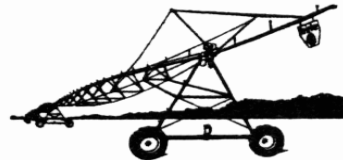
**MASS SCHEDULE CHANGES
WEEKEND OF JANUARY 8-9-10**

The Friday, January 8th, 6:30 Spanish Mass at Our Lady of the Valley is cancelled.

The Saturday, January 9th, 4:30 Mass at Our Lady of the Valley is cancelled and transferred to Sunday, January 10th, at 4:30.

The Sunday, January 10th, 4:30 Spanish Mass is cancelled.

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