

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Belchertown, MA

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 A.M.

Saturday: 4:00 P.M.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 A.M..

HOLY DAY MASSES

Consult the weekly Mass schedule.

CONFESSIONS

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00 p.m.–3:45 p.m. or by appointment

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sacramental preparation is done as part of our Generations of Faith religious education program.

First Communion requires participation in grades 1 & 2.
Confirmation requires participation in grades 9, 10, & 11.

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first and third Sunday of each month at 12:00 Noon.

Preparation Class for Parents and Godparents is held on a monthly basis and class size is limited. You must register with the Business Office and you are encouraged to attend the class prior to the birth of your baby.

MARRIAGE

Please make arrangements at least one year in advance to allow for adequate preparation.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members and ask that you make an appointment to meet with the Pastor by calling the Business Office.

STAFF

Secretary:

Mrs. Louise Christ

Pastoral Council Chair:

Franco Dell'Olio

Finance Committee Chair:

Mr. David Paul

Maintenance:

Mr. Tom Curto

Director of Religious Education:

Dr. Carolyn Vogt Groves

High School Coordinator:

Mrs. Deborah Coty

Coordinator of First Penance/Communion:

Mrs. Linda Racicot

RCIA Coordinator:

Mrs. Judy Trickey

Parish Child Advocate:

Christine Hurst: 413-374-8934 (cell)

Pastor:

Rev. Vernon P. Decoteau

Deacon:

Deacon Bill Brawner

Church:

24 Jabish Street

Offices:

10 Park Street

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 612

Belchertown, MA 01007-0612

Telephone & FAX:

(413) 323-6272

E-mail:

stfrancischurch@verizon.net

Web site:

www.stfrancisbtown.org

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Roman Catholic Community of Faith centered on the active celebration of the Eucharist. We are dedicated to meeting the needs of our growing community.

We strive to educate our membership in the faith and to respond to the needs of others, particularly the hungry, both spiritually and physically. We seek to be a unified parish family, bearing witness, in all we say and do, to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

BULLETIN

Copy deadline is Monday at 10:00 A.M.
Copy must be submitted in writing.

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, February 4, 2012 VIGIL: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 A. M. † All the Souls in Purgatory req. by Mary Yando
 4:00 P.M. † Emily Cornacchia birth. rem. req. by Tony & Diane Ricchiazzi

SUNDAY, February 5, 2012 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 A.M. † Diane Wilcox 16th Anniversary req. by the Family
 10:30 A.M. † Frederick J. Skrabely, Sr. req. by the Dell'Olio Family

MONDAY, February 6, 2012
 8:00 A.M. † Doris Derby req. by Dottie Schermerhorn

TUESDAY, February 7, 2012
 8:00 A.M. † Our Local Seminarians req. by the Vocation Commission

WEDNESDAY, February 8, 2012

8:00 A.M. † Thomas O'Donnell 15th ann. req. by the family

THURSDAY, February 9, 2012

8:00 A.M. † Morning Prayer*

FRIDAY, February 10, 2012

8:00 A.M. † Morning Prayer*

SATURDAY, VIGIL: February 11, 2012 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 P.M. † Valerie Kouchalakos req. by the Fortin family

SUNDAY, February 12, 2012 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. † Ann Marie Bucca req. by Robert M. Fortunato

10:30 A.M. † Gasper F. DeSantis, Sr. req. by the Family

*In inclement weather: If school is cancelled, there will be no Morning Prayer. There *will* be Mass, if there is one scheduled.



When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to Him all who were ill or possessed by demons.

The whole town was gathered at the door.

He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and He drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew Him.

Mk 1:32-34

Scripture Readings for February 11-12

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1Cor 10:31-11:1/ Mk 1:40-45 (77)

Religious Vocation Corner – Jesus created much excitement in His day through His preaching, teaching, and healing. Today, the Church communicates that same wonder and grace by men and women who are active in priesthood, religious life, and lay ministries. If you think God is calling you to a church vocation, call Fr. Gary Dailey at 413-452-0811 or E-Mail: g.dailey@diospringfield.org. Web site: www.myvocation.com **Please take home our Vocation Cross, God will bless you.**

Please pray for all those who minister to the sick, that they be strengthened by the power of prayer.

St Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is in need of coffee, tea and juices. Thank you for your generosity and helping to feed the hungry.

The Pastor's Thoughts...

-Greetings from the Sunshine State! I pray the weather is good and not like last year at this time when roofs needed to be raked off and people could not see out of windows due to the weight and height of the snow!

-Due to my absence, the Pastoral Council will not meet this Tuesday evening; this is their winter month off. Over the next few months, the Council hopes to “get the word out” regarding the various commissions which form the Council. In many ways, these commissions represent the pulse of the parish in that they are the ones who oversee and initiate much of what happens. For instance the Spiritual Life Commission attends to all that happens in church: i.e. altar servers, lectors & Eucharistic ministers, the books that are given out during Advent & Lent, the Parish Mission, the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis, special devotions. The Communications Commission oversees the monthly calendar that appears on the front of the bulletin the last Sunday of each month and our parish web site. They prepare the “Welcome Packet” that is given to each new family or member; they publicize, in various papers, what is happening in our parish; and maintain the bulletin board in the gathering space. The Hospitality Commission oversees and coordinates the various receptions and pot luck suppers that happen throughout the year, such as the Feast of Francis, Holy Thursday and much more. The Family Life Commission coordinates and provides bereavement counseling, cancer support, “Helping Hands” and family activities such as “Movie Night.” It is the umbrella to which our Food Pantry and CYO Basketball report and thereby inform the Council of their activities. The Vocation Commission coordinates our Vocation Cross ministry and our outreach to our Diocesan Seminarians. The Marriage Enrichment Commission represents our “TOOL” Ministry and provides support and education to married couples.

Here at St. Francis, all these commissions are open to anyone who wishes to join and we strongly encourage many of our members to do so. The minutes of their meetings are published on our web site along with the minutes of the Pastoral Council, which is really a “report” from these commissions. Each Commission is asked to select a chair and co-chair who serve as the representatives of their Commission on the Pastoral Council. Hence, our Council membership is comprised of these representatives and ex-officio members, such as the Director of Religious Education and our Deacon. When there is a decision to be made that will affect the whole parish, or when someone wants to start something new in the parish, this is accomplished at and through the Pastoral Council. I do encourage you to visit our parish web site, read what is happening in the Council and its Commissions, consider joining one of them and contribute to the great vitality and life of your parish.

-Next week Deacon Yerick will host the 4th video episode in our Catholicism Series. This session will concentrate on our understanding of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. All are invited.

God Bless and see you next weekend!

Fr. Vern



In Gratitude to God for His many gifts, the members of this parish have returned the following resources in support of the parish and its ministries...

The Sunday Collection for January 28-29 was \$5,453.70
 The Weekly Average since July 3, 2011 is..... 6,527.00
 The Weekly Budgeted Expenses Are 7,300.00
 Mortgage & Expansion Collection for January 1-29..... 6204.50
 Monthly Mortgage Payment Is 6,000.00
 January Mortgage Overage 204.50



Brick Corner – We would like to thank the parishioners who have “purchased a brick” for the building of our new parish complex, either in their name or in the name of a loved one. Thank you for your support and please remind your friends that they, also, can “buy a brick”. They are \$10.00 each.



Eucharistic Adoration and Visitation:

The Chapel is open for Adoration Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M., and Thursday evening, from 6 until 10 P.M. Praise God that we can do this. If you are still thinking about coming before Jesus to spend some time with Him, please don't hesitate to answer His call. Any hour that is good for you will be fine with Him! There are many blessings, healings and much peace awaiting all of us in the chapel before Him. At this time we are in need of regular scheduled adorers for Wednesday from 10 to 11 A.M. But, whether you are scheduled or not, come in anytime to say “hello,” or to thank God for your many blessings or seek His comfort in difficult times. If you have any questions, please call Pam at 323-7416. As always, before coming for your hour, call the Adoration line at 323-6272 x6 to be sure the chapel is open—especially in inclement weather.

“The Parish is Discussing”: Join Father Vern and fellow parishioners for a lively group discussion on Wednesday, February 22nd, at 7:15 P.M., in the Tovet Room, following the Ash Wednesday Mass. *The Parish Is Discussing* is an adult enrichment program. Each participant is encouraged to listen to the same Lighthouse CD (\$3/CD) prior to the meeting. If you have not done any spiritual reading lately or have been away from the church, try this program? The CD to be discussed this month is: *Why Is There Hell: What You Should Know About it*, by Dr. Scott Hahn. All are welcome.

LCM Kiosk: Two new books have been added to the kiosk (\$4 donation). *Confessions of a Mega-Church Pastor* by Allen Hunt. Allen Hunt unveils the treasures of Catholicism that many Catholics are simply unaware of. At the same time he demonstrates the genius of Catholicism. The second book is *The One Thing* by Matthew Kelly. He writes about his own faith; why religion has played such a powerful role throughout history; why so many people are leaving the Catholic Church today; and the hopes that he has for his new son when it comes to the spiritual life. Kelly writes that religion is the primary humanizing force in a person, in a society, and in history. “In my own experience this is particularly true of the Catholic form of Christianity. Catholicism makes me a better version of myself.”

Liturgical Roles

Weekend of February 11-12, 2012

Lectors

4:00 P.M.. Phaneuf
 8:00 A.M. Viglione
 10:30 A.M. W. Schmidt & Judy

Ministers of the Eucharist

4:00 P.M. Pat A., Carney, Leckie, Lemire, Symanczyk, Yvon
 8:00 A.M. C. & G. DaCosta, Barrett, Crosby
 10:30 A.M. J. & D. Coty, G. & L. Racicot, Rose, Tyler

Altar Servers

4:00 P.M. R. Lewis, T. & J. Mazza
 8:00 A.M. B. Patel, D. Nauman
 10:30 A.M. S. & L. LeBlanc, A. Bozoglos

The brothers and sisters of the Saint Pio Secular Franciscan Order (S.F.O.) wish to invite all to their gathering on Wednesday evening, February 8th, at 6:30 P.M., in the Tovet Room. If you have any questions, call Lynn Carney at 323-5537, or Kathy Ricardi at 323-9023.

(Note date change:) A Diocesan Training Series for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is being offered from 6-8 P.M., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, in Granby, on March 14, 21 & 28. The first two sessions are required in order to be commissioned as an Eucharistic Minister for service at Mass. All three sessions are required for those who are not yet commissioned as EM's and who want to become EM's to the sick and homebound. If you are interested, please talk to Fr. Vern or Deacon Bill so you can be registered in the series.



Pro Life Corner "...is it surprising that today we have become so morally blind that we save the baby whales at great cost, and murder millions of unborn children?" Alice von Hildebrand, *The Privilege of Being a Woman*, p.24

Please pray for the safety and protection of the unborn and for the sanctity of life at all stages.



From the Secretary

The 2011 tax statements have been mailed. The IRS requires a statement from the church in order to have a qualifying tax deduction. Our contribution records are kept through the envelope system. Please call the office if you use your envelopes regularly and have not yet received a contribution statement; if you do not currently receive envelopes and would like to; or if you have not yet received the February/March envelopes. Louise Christ, Parish Secretary, 323-6272 x1

FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Michael Sweeney Prayer Line

From January 16th through January 23rd, the following intentions were added to our already long list of requests for prayers. Won't you please join us in praying for them.

A safe and enjoyable trip for a couple 1/23-1/28.

For W.G. healing of his ankle and relief of pain.

Prayers are asked for a young girl who is going through a hard time.

For a family who has had a great deal of trouble, for guidance and help with their problems.

Successful open heart surgery for Arthur.

Thanksgiving for healing of a woman's eye problem.

Prayers are asked for Jason Wiles; for continuing recovery after surgery for esophageal cancer and for support for his wife, Meg.

Prayers for Paula who is dying of a lung disease. That she may make peace with God.

Prayers asked for Javier, struggling with an addiction.

Successful lung cancer surgery for Maureen 2/1 and an uneventful recovery.

Emergency prayers are asked for John, who is the victim of a surgical accident.

Good test results are asked for Bella.

Prayers are asked for Darren for good results from a kidney biopsy.

Thanksgiving for the lives of Irene Jamilkowski and Robert Mailloux. Please pray for the repose of their souls and for their families and friends in their bereavement.

Thanksgiving for all God's graces and His answers to the requests of the prayer line. If you would like to have the prayer line members pray for you or a loved one, please call Chris McGinnis, 323-6622, Louise Groux, 323-4046, Marion Masse, 323-7169, or Gloria Cartelli, 323-7400 or email cmcginnis6622@verizon.net

Marriage Help - Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program, offered three times a year locally, can help you too. For confidential information about the program please call 1-800-470-2230, email: held5@charter.net or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com All are welcome.

Ash Wednesday Day & Evening Retreat—February 22nd, Day Retreat: 10 A.M.-2 P.M.; Evening Retreat: 6-9 P.M. "*Our Lenten Journey: Consumed by God*" Presenter: Fr. David Cinquegrani, C.P. Both the day and the evening will include the presentation, a meal, conclude with Mass and the distribution of ashes. Offering: \$35. Register online at www.holyfamilyretreat.org or send name, address and offering to: Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Road West Hartford, CT 06107. Telephone: 860-521-0440.

A Valentines Dinner will be sponsored by Knights of Columbus, Fairview Council 4004, in Chicopee, on Saturday February 11th, at the Castle of the Knights. Special guest singer from Montreal Canada, Vicki Rose, will perform. Cocktails will be served at 6 P.M. and dinner at 7 P.M. Music is by D.J. Louie. Menu choices are Pan Seared Statler Chicken Breast, Surf & Turf (petit filet mignon, filet of sole with stuffed seafood & topped in Hollandaise sauce). Meal includes lobster bisque, an iceberg wedge with blue cheese (or choice of two other dressings), potato, mixed vegetables, and cheese and crackers. Price is \$27.50 per person. Tickets can be obtained by calling Dottie Turgeon at 413-536-4302, Jane Golob at 413-539-6848 or Ann Graczyk at 413-532-6298. Treat your Valentine to an enjoyable evening of food and entertainment.



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