
Ministries



MUSIC MINISTRY

“They that sing, pray twice.”

Music is a large part of our worship and celebrations at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. We are always expanding our choir and seek cantors and choir members. Rehearsal is Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 and the choir sings at the 4:00 PM Mass each Saturday from October through May. For more information, call Donna Grady, 323-4036. The 8:00 and 10:30 AM Masses on Sunday morning are cantor led with piano accompaniment. For further information, please call Donna Grady, 323-4036 or Karl Hammond, 323-4003.

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers assist Father at different Eucharistic liturgies such as Sunday Mass, funerals, and weddings. Boys and girls who have received their First Communion become eligible to participate. Contact Therese Rakouskas, 323-8749 for more information.

LECTORS

Lectors proclaim the word of the Lord. If anyone would like to take advantage of the spiritual benefits offered by the acceptance of the duties of the lectors, please contact Pat Antonovitch, 323-7735.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministers are those who assist in administering the Eucharist at Mass and to those who are homebound or in the hospital. If interested, call Gayle Tyler, 967-8148.

USHERS

Ushers have the ministry of creating an atmosphere of welcoming by greeting parishioners, assisting with seating, and taking up the collections. This ministry is open to all men, women, and young adults of the parish. For more information or to become an usher, call Tom Curto, 323-4913.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

For 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to get together, get involved and have fun! Contact Christine Schmidt, 253-1954 for more information.

ALTAR SOCIETY

The Altar Society is a group of parishioners who clean and maintain the sanctuary area. Anyone interested in being part of this ministry may call the rectory, 323-6272.

VIDEOTAPING OF WEEKLY MASS

Every week one Mass is videotaped by a volunteer. Every Sunday at 4:30 P.M. this same Mass is broadcast on the local cable channel. This opportunity is offered for the benefit of all our shut-ins and others who cannot attend Mass in our church and hear the Word of God addressed to us. If you are willing to assist with the video recording or broadcasting of the Mass, please contact Louise Christ, 323-8892. A video camera is provided and extensive videotaping *experience is not required.*

Learning

FAITH FORMATION

Generations of Faith is offered to all members of our parish, young and old. Each session prepares the community for a special celebration of liturgy. Sessions are 2 hours 45 minutes long at Chestnut Hill Community School on six scheduled weekends from October to April. School age children (3 yrs old thru the 11th grade) must attend with a parent or sponsor. To register for the program or for more information, contact the rectory Faith Formation office, 323-6272, ext. 2, Judy Trickey or Deborah Robinson.

Parish Organizations

FOOD PANTRY

Our St. Francis Parish Food Pantry serves needy families in the area. The Pantry depends on food and cash donations from parishioners and always is seeking new volunteers to help with the many tasks necessary to serve our families. Referrals for assistance or anyone interested in making regular food deliveries or helping in any capacity may contact the rectory, 323-6272, ext 8.

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

The Order of Secular Franciscans is a Way of Life, approved by the Church, for men and women, married or single, who are called to take an active part in the mission of Christ to bring ‘the good news of salvation’ to the world. They commit themselves to a life in Christ calling for a positive effort to promote Gospel attitudes among their contemporaries. They are united with each other in communities, through which they develop a sense of direction according to the Gospel spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. For more information contact Lynn Carney, 323-5537.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Family Fraternal Organization of over 1.5 million men in Councils all over the world, who uphold Catholic values by service to family, Church and community. Our St. Francis of Assisi K of C Council #10698 meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month in the council home. For more information contact the Grand Knight, 323-5822 or Stan Wyman, 323-4842.

Friendship, Fun, Fellowship

St. Francis Church and its Knights of Columbus council offer many activities and events throughout the year. These, and many other events held throughout the year, are a good opportunity to meet fellow parishioners and have some fun. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information.

- ★ K of C Sweetheart Dinner Dance (Feb)
- ★ K of C Basketball Free-Throw Tournament
- ★ K of C St. Patrick's Day Dinner (March)
- ★ Living Rosary on the common (May, October)
- ★ National Day of Prayer (May)
- ★ Parish Family Picnic (June)
- ★ Transitus Service to honor St. Francis of Assisi (Oct)
- ★ Rosary Vigil (Oct)
- ★ Oktoberfest (Oct)
- ★ Children's Craft Day (Nov)
- ★ Christmas Fair (Nov)
- ★ K of C & Parish Christmas Caroling (Dec)
- ★ Lighting of the Crèche (Dec)
- ★ Annual Cookie Swap (Dec)
- ★ Children's Christmas Eve Pageant/Liturgy
- ★ K of C Pasta Dinners (announced)
- ★ K of C Casino Trips (announced)
- ★ Fund Raising events (announced)

SPIRITUAL LIBRARY

A “Spiritual Library” located in the Reconciliation Chapel is available for parishioners to take out books and tapes on a variety of spiritual topics. Everyone is encouraged to check out this resource.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS &EVENTS

BEREAVEMENT GROUP: This is a support and discussion group to help comfort those in need of emotional support after experiencing the loss of a loved one. The group meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Tovet Room of the Church. For assistance or to offer your help contact Pat Crosby, 323-4602.

ANGEL TREE: This program provides clothing, toys and gift items at Christmas to all children and adults being served by the Food Pantry. For more information, call the rectory, 323-6272, Angel Tree extension.

FOOD BASKETS for Thanksgiving and Christmas: Holiday food baskets are prepared for each holiday for families being serviced by the Pantry. For more information, please call the rectory 323-6272, Food Pantry extension.

ANNUAL TAG SALE: One of our parish's major fundraisers, this is held every August. Money raised helps reduce our mortgage debt. To volunteer or for more information, contact David Adams, 323-6747.

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION (CYO)

Basketball: CYO basketball is organized in the fall and played in the winter. Boys and girls from 2nd grade through 8th grade are eligible and invited to join. For more information, contact the coordinator, Todd Bergstrom, 323-8530.

1st Saturday Breakfast: After the 8:00 A.M. Mass held on the first Saturday of the month. Parishioners are invited to enjoy a breakfast together in the Pine Room after the Mass.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ONLINE:

Visit our web site: www.stfrancisbtown.org



St. Francis Parish has been on-line since 1999. We hope you will visit our Web site for the latest news and up-to-date information about our Parish. If you have any questions, please call Jeanne Brzycki, 253-2901 or send an email to: webminister@stfrancisbtown.org

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH
2008-2009



Church: 24 Jabish Street

Rectory: 10 Park Street

Mail: P.O. Box 612
Belchertown, MA
01007-0612

Telephone & Fax: 323-6272

Website:
www.stfranciscbtown.org
Email:
stfrancischurch@verizon.net

Pastor: Rev. Vernon P. Decoteau

Schedule of Masses:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Holy Day Masses

On the Day: 7:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 6:30 p.m.

Confessions ~ Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or by appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Rectory: Mon-Fri; 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Faith Formation : Mon-Fri: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Parish Staff

PastorRev. Vernon P. Decoteau
Parish SecretaryMrs. Patricia Akins
Finance Committee Chairperson..... Mr. David Paul
Finance Manager.....Mr. Stanley Wyman
Deanery Council Rep.....Mr. Everett Hulme
Director of Faith FormationMrs. Judith Trickey
High School CoordinatorMrs. Deborah Robinson
Faith Formation Secretary.....Mrs. Pat Antonovitch
First Communion Coordinator..... Mrs. Linda Racicot
Child Advocate.....Mrs. Christine Hurst
Maintenance Superintendent..... Mr. Alfred Desilets

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is our organized body of appointed, elected and volunteer parishioners who meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. to address Parish needs, plan programs, and support Parish activities. For more information about the Council or one of the Commissions, contact the person(s) listed below.

Chairperson: Dr. Paul Pierce 256-8892

Assistant Chairperson: Debbie Fish 323-6831

Secretary: Francesca Forrest 323-5297

Family Life Commission Chairpersons:

Beth Buczko 323-5910 & Pat Crosby 323-4602

Communications Commission Chairpersons:

Bill Bowen 323-7080 & Dave Adams 323-6747

Faith Development Commission Chairpersons:

Marianne Abuselmi 323-4731 &

Paula Moran 323-4240

Spiritual Life Commission Chairpersons:

Pat Antonovitch, 323-7735 & Judy Dudek, 323-4339

Hospitality Commission Chairpersons:

Pam Letendre, 323-7416 & Tom Curto 323-4913

Vocations Commission Chairpersons:

Rita Gallagher, 323-4755 &

Franco and Carla Dell'Olio 323-0239

Sacraments

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first and third Sunday of each month at 12 noon. The parents and godparents are required to have an interview with the pastor and attend a Preparation Class. Registration can be arranged by calling the rectory. Expectant parents are encouraged to attend the class prior to the birth of their baby.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is the process by which interested adults and children become full members of the Catholic Church. This includes anyone from other faith traditions and baptized Catholics who need preparation for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Call the Faith Formation office at the rectory, 323-6272 ext 2, for more information.

RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 P.M. to 3:45 P.M. or by contacting the rectory for an appointment. First Reconciliation is celebrated during Advent of the 2nd grade year. Contact the Faith Formation office if preparation is needed.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Children celebrate First Communion in May after a two-year preparation in 1st & 2nd grade religious education classes. Special arrangements can be made for older children or children with special needs by calling the Faith Formation office at the rectory.

CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated by 11th grade students and adults in the spring. High School students must participate in 9th, 10th & 11th grade Generations of Faith classes or go to a Parochial school to attend the Confirmation Preparatory Program. Adults should contact the Faith Formation office at the rectory for special arrangements.

MATRIMONY

St. Francis Parish asks couples intent to marry to contact the rectory before any other marriage arrangements are made in order to allow for adequate preparation.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

The Second Vatican Council emphasized that this sacrament is meant not only for those who are close to death, but for anyone who is seriously ill. Please contact our Pastor to request a visit.

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

If a member of your family has died, and you seek a Christian burial, arrangements can be made through your funeral director or by contacting the rectory.

Worship

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION PROGRAM

Since 1984, St. Francis Church has had a Eucharistic Adoration Program. Presently, there are two assigned adorers in prayer before the Lord from 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the chapel. Parishioners may visit during these times. The Adoration number is 323-6272, ext. 6. To join this special program and spend an hour in quiet meditation, contact coordinator, Pam Letendre, 323-7416.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

There is an Offertory Procession during each of the weekend Masses. Anyone wishing to present the gifts in the procession should notify the usher at least ten minutes before the Mass is scheduled to begin.

PRAYER MEETING

A charismatic prayer meeting is held on each Monday at 7:00 P.M. in the Work Sacristy of the church. Everyone is welcomed to attend. For more information contact Gayle Tyler, 967-8148 or Rita Gallagher, 323-4755.

TRAVELING STATUE OF THE VIRGIN MARY

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima is approximately 2-foot tall and is available for devotion in your home. A list, by weeks, is available in the Tovet Room of the Church. Parishioners can avail themselves of a particular week that they would like for their devotion and sign up on that list. For further information, please call the rectory 323-6272.



FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH MASS

On the Saturday following the first Friday of each month, parishioners who gather to attend the 8:00 A.M. Mass at St. Francis Church give special homage to Our Lady of Fatima. The first Saturday Mass is followed by breakfast in the Pine Room.

THE MICHAEL SWEENEY PRAYER LINE

The prayer line was formed after parishioner Michael Sweeney was severely injured in a fiery accident. He asked that we pray with him, and after his passing his request took on new meaning. Our prayer line then came into existence and was named in his memory. To request prayers for yourself or a loved one, or to take an active part in this ministry of intercession and thanksgiving, contact Chris McGinnis, 323-6622 or Louise Groux, 323-4046.

VOCATIONS CROSS

Each week Father Vern presents our special Vocations Cross to a parish family so they pray together for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and for those devoted to a religious life. A sign-up book is located in the Gathering Space of the church.

SHAWL MINISTRY

This parish Outreach Program incorporates prayer, visits to the sick or those who are grieving together with a presentation of a handmade shawl or lap robe. For more information, call Pat Antonovitch, 323-7735.