

# St. Francis of Assisi Newsletter

Lent/ Easter

April, 2017



## Mission:

We are a Christ-centered faith community where all are welcome; loving one another by embracing diversity, fostering spiritual growth, living the gospel in the world, and recognizing the God who lives in all.

## Calendar

### Events

Things are happening in our community. Our church is alive and active. Come, participate and enjoy fellowship with your church community and your greater community.



In the Lectionary Calendar, this is Year A – the year we read from Matthew’s gospel.

### Bible study will resume on Thursday, May 4.

We meet at 6:00 pm at the church and, following our scripture study, adjourn to a nearby restaurant to share a meal.

Won't you join us?



### Spirituality Discussion Group

All people in the Faith Community are invited to join this group for sharing our stories of struggle and joy in our faith journeys.

Meetings are monthly, rotate among members’ homes, and conclude with a potluck dinner.



### Outreach



### Diaper Jar

There is a continuing need for diapers for the York County Shelter. We have made a commitment to help fulfill this need so thanks for all of your donations thus far. In March we delivered

**606**

diapers to the family shelter.



### BLESSING BAGS

As part of our ongoing outreach to the greater community, we are handing out “blessing bags” (filled with several essentials for an individual on the street) to those who need them.

Please consider becoming a part of this ministry.



### Donate Bottles and Cans

Thank you to all in the community who collect returnable bottles and cans for our CLYNK campaign. The money collected goes to the Wells Fuel Fund for those who need help during our cold winters.

So far this year we have collected

**\$30.40**

### Mass:

**Every Sunday – 9:00 a.m.**  
952 Post Road (Route 1)  
Colonial Square  
Wells, ME

### Saturday, April 1

Crafting party 10 am at church

### Saturday, April 8

Disaster Training 9:30am-1:30pm  
Church on the Cape, Kennebunkport  
**Registration necessary** by April 3

### Sunday April 9



### Thursday, April 13

HOLY THURSDAY 7pm



### Friday, April 14

GOOD FRIDAY 7pm



### Saturday, April 15

EASTER VIGIL 8pm  
BAPTISM of Libby Woodbury



### Sunday, April 16

EASTER SUNDAY 9am

### Sunday, April 23

Parish Council following Mass

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## Lectionary Themes: APRIL

During April, those who surrender themselves to the call of the sacred texts will find themselves on a journey that will carry them from darkness to light, from sadness to joy and from suffering to salvation. In Jesus' company, we will remember his compassionate ministry to all, especially the poor and the forgotten. We will travel with him to the home of Martha and Mary (April 2) who were mourning the death of their brother, Lazarus. Beloved by Jesus, Lazarus was called forth from his tomb to live again as a sign of what Jesus would do for all redeemed sinners through his passion, death and resurrection to everlasting life. On Palm Sunday, we will travel with the crowds who welcomed Jesus as Son of David. How can we help but loudly rejoice at the coming of the one who would save all of humankind? On that same day, however, our rejoicing shall turn to repentance as the passion narrative of our Lord Christ is proclaimed reminding us of the very dear cost of our salvation. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul will map out, as it were, the soteriology of our celebration by tracing the parabolic journey of Jesus from his place of equality with God to the depths of his death on the cross. This journey was prompted by Jesus' obedience to God whereby he emptied himself of all glory and every dignity, assuming the role of a slave. Because of Jesus' obedience, he rose from the depths of humility and from his death on the cross and returned, risen and glorified, to his rightful place with God. Though he sank alone to the depths he returned to God with every redeemed sinner in his embrace. This journey, Jesus' journey, has set us free and accomplished our justification before God and humankind. For that reason, on Easter Sunday the sacred texts call us to great rejoicing and gratitude so that we might humbly appropriate the gifts that are ours through the risen Christ. With courage and conviction that could only come from God, Peter will preach the good news about Jesus (April 16) and challenge his listeners to believe. "... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good ... for God was with him," Peter will say. Having set the pattern for ministry, Jesus invited those who believed to do likewise. Is that same pattern authentically reflected in our lives? The grace of Easter will enable us to make it so, if only we believe and reach out to accept what God gives so freely. That this is possible is reflected in the lives of the first Christians whose commitment and service are celebrated in each of the readings from Acts during Eastertime.

Also of note are the second readings for this holy season. Therein, Paul and the authors of Colossians and 1 Peter exhort the praying assembly to do whatever is needed in order to unite ourselves with the dying and rising of Jesus, to live in simplicity and truth, and to bear, with faith and hope, whatever trials may come our way. We do all this while remembering our salvation through the precious blood of Christ.

In this month's Easter Gospels, we are blessed with narratives of the risen Jesus' appearances to his own. These appearances, as chronicled by John and Luke, have been shared by eye witnesses to Jesus whose testimony is true and is

intended to resonate within our hearts so as to move us to faith. Each appearance attests to the continuity between the earthly Jesus and the risen Lord. Although transformed, Jesus still bore the wounds of his passion and death. Yet, as Thomas (April 23) was to learn, seeing and touching those wounds would not lead to faith. Nor would an empty tomb (April 16) be accepted as indisputable witness to Jesus' resurrection. Indeed, even Mary of Magdala (April 16) thought someone had taken Jesus' body from the tomb. Not to



be proven by empirical proof or by seeing and touching, the resurrection of Jesus is grasped by faith and embraced through grace. We who believe accept the testimony of those first eye-witnesses to the risen Lord. This truth that we share bonds together believers of every place and time. Until we see the risen Lord for ourselves, Luke offers us

uniquely valuable encouragement (April 30). Jesus comes to us and stays with us in the breaking of the bread of the Eucharist. Jesus comes to us and stays with us as we pore over the sacred texts. There we hear the voices of the prophets who have revealed God's plan of salvation for humankind. There we can see and touch the living Lord through whom we are forgiven and redeemed. This is our hope; this is our faith. Amen! Alleluia! .

*Patricia Datchuck Sánchez and Rafael Sánchez Alonso  
In Celebration, April, 2017*



Having completed her studies and according to the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults, Libby Woodbury will be fully initiated into the Old Catholic Faith at the Easter Vigil, Saturday May 15, starting at 8 pm. That night she will be baptized, confirmed and

welcomed to the Table of the Lord. All are encouraged to attend this happy and joy-filled occasion.

A reception will follow Mass.



Spotlight!



Meditation/Prayer

The project following our Lenten retreat this year was for each in the community to make a sign pointing where we wanted our Lenten journey to take us. The result was a beautiful sign post decorating our sanctuary during this season and reminding us of our Lenten intentions.



**THE RESURRECTION**

We hold so close to our hearts  
 The cross where Jesus died,  
 But so much more than the blood-stained cross  
 Is that Jesus came back to life

The stone's been rolled away;  
 The tomb lay open and bare —  
 They looked for Him, and then the angel said  
 That He is no longer here

Oh what joy they must have felt  
 To see Him just once more,  
 To eat with Him, to drink with Him,  
 To receive Him back as Lord

So much did He accomplish  
 Through His death upon the cross  
 And in His rising from the dead,  
 He reconciled us back to God

Nothing else could bridge the gap  
 That sin had wrenched apart —  
 Now we can freely go to God  
 And receive Christ in our hearts.

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**The Most Reverend Dr. Rosemary Ananis, Pastor**

**Parish Council**

- President: Mike Conlon
- Vice-Moderator: Debbie Gaudreau
- Treasurer: Dawn Saporito
- Secretary: Carol Olmstead
- Members-at-large: Janet O'Day  
 Pat Emery  
 Maryann Stacy

**Monthly Financial Report:**

<b>Income</b>	\$1504.95
<b>Expenses</b>	\$1983.70
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$-478.75</b>

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