

St. Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church

Ordinary Time

August, 2018



We are a Christ-centered faith community formed to worship God where all are invited. We are welcoming, loving one another by embracing diversity, fostering spiritual growth and hope, living the gospel in the world, and recognizing the God who lives in all.

A different way to be Catholic.

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.



We have completed the study of the Gospel according to Mark.

Bible study will resume in September when we will begin studying the Book of Acts.

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?



Women's Spirituality Group

The entire Faith Community is invited to join this group for sharing our stories of struggle and joy in our faith journeys.

Meetings rotate among members' homes and conclude with a potluck dinner.



Outreach

Shelter Ministries

We continue to provide for the York County Homeless Shelter (YCHS) and the Safe Haven Animal Shelter (SHAS).

In June and July we sent:

80 diapers to the YCHS
and
81 cans of cat food, 9.45 lbs. of dry cat food and 22.5 lbs. of cat litter to SHAS



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
\$45.85

Calendar

Mass:

Every Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

952 Post Road (Route 1)

Colonial Square

Wells, ME



Saturday, August 4th

Pledge Drive Workshop

& Craft Workshop (Shapleigh)

Thursday, Aug. 9 6 PM

PC workshop

Wednesday, August 15th

Feast Day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Wednesday, Aug. 15 6:30 PM

Liturgy Committee

Sunday, Aug. 19

Parish Council following fellowship



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Ancient Faith • Welcoming and
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Modern World

Let God Be God

By Richard Rohr

It takes a long time for us to allow God to be who God really is. Our natural egocentricity wants to make God into who we want God to be. The role of prophets and good theology is to keep people free for God and to keep God free for people. While there are some “pure of heart” people (Matthew 5:8) who come to “see God” naturally and easily, most of us need lots of help.

If God is always Mystery, then God is always in some way the unfamiliar, beyond what we’re used to, beyond our comfort zone, beyond what we can explain or understand. In the fourth century, St. Augustine said, “If you comprehend it, it is not God.” [1] Would you respect a God you could comprehend? And yet, very often we want a God who reflects and even confirms our culture, our biases, our economic, political, and security systems.

The First Commandment (Exodus 20:2-5) says that we’re not supposed to make any graven images of God or worship them. At first glance, we may think this means only handmade likenesses of God. But it mostly refers to rigid images of God that we hold in our heads. God created human beings in God’s own image, and we’ve returned the compliment, so to speak, by creating God in our image. In the end, we produced what was typically a small, clannish God. In America, God looks like Uncle Sam or Santa Claus, an exacting judge, or a win/lose business man—in each case, a white male, even though “God created humankind in God’s own image; male and female God created them” (Genesis 1:27). Clearly God cannot be exclusively masculine. The Trinitarian God is anything but a ruling monarch or a solitary figurehead. [2]

Normally we find it very difficult to let God be greater than our culture, our immediate needs, and our projections. The human ego wants to keep things firmly in its grasp; so, we’ve created a God who fits into our small systems and our understanding of God. Thus, we’ve produced a God who requires expensive churches and robes, a God who likes to go to war just as much as we do, and a domineering God because we like to dominate. We’ve almost completely forgotten and ignored what Jesus revealed about the nature of the God he knew. If Jesus is the “image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15) then God is nothing like we expected. Jesus is in no sense a potentate or a patriarch, but the very opposite, one whom John the Baptist calls “a lamb of a God” (John 1:29). We seem to prefer a lion.

[1] Augustine of Hippo, Sermon 117:5 (on John 1:1). Original text: “Si enim comprehendis, non est Deus.”

[2] See Richard Rohr, [The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation](#) (Whitaker House, 2016).

Adapted from Richard Rohr, [A Spring Within Us: A Book of Daily Meditations](#) (Center for Action and Contemplation Publishing: 2016), 214-215.



Prayer/Meditation

The purpose of daily meditation/prayer is the cultivation of a sense of the sacred. Sacred energy renews us. Prayer enables us to transform the world, because it transforms us! Let’s commit ourselves to daily meditation/prayer...

**Hail Mary, full of grace.
Our Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.**

The Hail Mary is based on these passages from the Bible:

Luke 1:28-35

²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:42-48

⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

The fruit of silence is prayer; the fruit of prayer is faith; the fruit of faith is love; the fruit of love is service; the fruit of service is peace.

St. Teresa of Calcutta



Spotlight!

Celebrating 15 Years!

At Mass in the Morning...



Upta Camp Later in the Day...



Lots of food, fun, and a great boat ride!



Bishop Rosemary and "trainee"

It hurts to lose someone. Find help at GriefShare.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.

There is currently a GriefShare group at the Wells Congregational Church run by Eric and Sydney Sprague. They are on summer break; however the **next session will begin on September 12, 2018.**

For more information go to www.griefshare.org

Parish Council

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

The Most Reverend Dr. Rosemary Ananis, Pastor

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