

# St. Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church

Ordinary Time/Lent

February, 2020



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.*

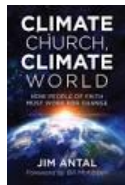
## Events

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.

## Spirituality/Book Group

We have decided to tackle one of the most pressing problems on earth to see how we might be better stewards of God's gifts to us.

We are meeting to study the book



**Climate Church, Climate World : How People of Faith Must Work for Change** by Jim Antal.

For February meeting, please have Chapters 1 and 2 read. Supper will be provided.

Won't you join us?

## Interfaith Ministry Opportunities

**Laundry love: February 19**  
4-6 or 6-8pm  
Booms Laundry  
250 Elm St.  
Biddeford

**Senior Lunch: February 26**  
10:45 – 12:00  
St. David's Episcopal Church  
Kennebunk

**Just show up to help!!**

## Outreach

### Shelter Ministries

We are currently supporting the **Safe Haven animal shelter** here in Wells. They are in constant need of Friskies poultry flavored canned cat food and litter.

In the month of January we delivered **66 lbs. of litter, 42 cans of cat food, and 1 bag of treats.** We also donated \$50 to the Feral Cat cause.



### 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 and carry a blessing bag in your car.



### 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 Assistance Fund for those who need help during our cold winters.

**So far this year we have collected**

**\$1.40**

(see p. 3 for 2019 donation)

## Calendar

### Mass:

**Every Sunday – 9:00 a.m.**

952 Post Road (Route 1)  
Colonial Square  
Wells, ME



**Sunday, Feb. 16**

Lay-led Communion Service  
Joe Coray leading and preaching

**Thursday, Feb. 20**

Parish Council 6PM



**Sunday, Feb. 23**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, Feb. 26**



Lent Begins  
Ash Wednesday

**Mass 6 PM**



**Friday, Feb. 28**

Spirituality/Book Group  
6 pm – Lenten supper followed by  
book discussion

TOCCUSA.ORG



The Old Catholic Church  
Province of the United States

Ancient Faith • Welcoming and  
Inclusive Church • Serving the  
Modern World

## This Month's Scriptures

### Take Time to Truly See

By Rev. George Smiga

In the gospel for the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Feb. 2, Joseph and Mary bring the child Jesus to the temple. A righteous man named Simeon is there. He was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see God's Messiah before he died. When Joseph and Mary enter the temple, Simeon takes the child in his arms and gives praise to God in the famous words, "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation."

Then the prophetess Anna steps forward. In a similar manner she announces to the people the significance of this child.

For all the beauty of this scene, we should not overlook an important detail. The temple of Jerusalem was a busy place. We can be sure that many people would have noticed this young Jewish couple, Mary and Joseph, bringing their child to be presented before the Lord. Hundreds of people likely looked at Jesus, but only Simeon and Anna understood his significance. These two characters remind us of the essential difference between looking and seeing, between observing and understanding. Simeon and Anna call us to move beyond the surface of life and discover the meaning and opportunities that lie deep within it.

We can live daily in our families for years and never notice the acts of care and kindness that are provided by our spouse or by our parents. We can overlook how one of our children or a sibling is constantly acting as the peacemaker or helper. We can cooperate regularly with people at work without ever really getting to know them. We can spend hours texting our friends, talking to them after work or going out with them on the weekends, without ever having any deep conversations. But although we regularly look at these family members, coworkers, and friends, we can fail to recognize a desire for help, for friendship, or for recognition. We can miss the indicators that they need to tell us something, that they seek our time and assistance.

In the gospel on February 9, Jesus calls us to be the Salt of the earth and the light of the world. He asks

us to leaven the lives of others and let our light shine to all around us. If we are to carry out this mission, we must follow the example of Simeon and Anna. They remind us to slow down, to look deeper, to recognize all the opportunities that lie around us. There are people in our lives loving us. We should not take them for granted. There are people needing us who we should not ignore. We are surrounded by opportunities to give thanks and to serve. But in order to discover them we must do more than look. We must make time and an effort to truly see.

*In Living with Christ, February, 2020*

### ANNUAL MEETING

February 23 after Mass

**This is YOUR church. Your input is NEEDED.**

Two of the BIG topics to be discussed:

- ♥ Your involvement in the process of acceptance of a candidate for ordination (Yes, we have an applicant!)
- ♥ Potential for a move from our current location

**Please do everything you can to be present!**

As usual, a fabulous breakfast will be provided.

"Love has to be put into action and that action is service. A mission of love can come only from union with God. From that union, love for the family, love for one's neighbor, and love for the poor is the natural fruit."

St Teresa of Calcutta



Spotlight!



Meditation/Prayer

## Fuel Assistance Fund Donation

We are pleased to report that we were able to supplement our CLYNK account and bring the total donation to the Town of Wells **Fuel Assistance Fund up to \$300.**

## LENT IN A NUTSHELL

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (this year Feb. 26) and ends on Holy Thursday (this year April 9). On the evening of Holy Thursday the **Sacred Triduum** begins. The 40 days of Lent correspond to the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness to fast, pray, and endure the temptations of the devil, all in preparation for his public ministry which would culminate in his death on the cross.

"Each year, Lent offers us a providential opportunity to deepen the meaning and value of our Christian lives, and it stimulates us to rediscover the mercy of God so that we, in turn, become more merciful toward our brothers and sisters. In the Lenten period, the Church makes it her duty to propose some specific tasks that accompany the faithful concretely in this process of interior renewal: these are **prayer, fasting and almsgiving.**" —Pope Benedict XVI



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...

**God of Wondrous Love**, give us childlike hearts so that we may understand everything in the right way.

Grant us work that bears fruit in spite of our faults and weaknesses, because we want to work with the understanding given by love.

Abba God, you know that we are faced day and night with many difficulties and setbacks.

But you see us, and you will help us so that your name may be honored, your kingdom may come, and your will may be done on earth as in heaven. Amen.



## PRAYER for LENT

God, giver of all gifts,  
 you have given us so much.  
 Now we want to give up something  
 so that we might experience  
 the emptiness that reminds us  
 how much we want to be filled  
 by your loving presence.  
 May our sacrifice show our willingness  
 to change our lives this Lent.  
 AMEN.

## Parish Council

President:	Maryann stacy
Vice-Moderator:	Janet O'Day
Treasurer:	Dawn Saporito
Secretary:	Carol Olmstead
Member-at-large:	Pat Emery

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

**Web Address:** [stfranciswellsme.org](http://stfranciswellsme.org)  
**Physical Address:** 952 Post Road (Route 1) Colonial Square Wells, ME  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 771 Wells, ME 04090  
**Phone:** (207) 251-9751