

# St. Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church

Ordinary Time

November, 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 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 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.

## New Ministry Opportunities

As an ecumenical endeavor, we have joined St. David's Episcopal Church in Kennebunk in two outreach programs.. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month we are invited to join in outreach laundry and food assistance.

Please see the calendar for dates or ask Bishop Rosemary for more information.

## Outreach

### Shelter Ministries

There is a continuing need for diapers for the York County Homeless Shelter. We have made a commitment to help fulfill this need and continue to do so.

There is also a dire need for Friskies poultry flavored canned cat food at the Safe Haven animal shelter which is a new recipient of our outreach In October we donated:

**110 diapers for the shelter and 60 cans of cat food and 3<sup>1/2</sup> lbs. dry food to Safe Haven**



### 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**

**\$90.75**

## Calendar

### Mass:

**Every Sunday – 9:00 a.m.**

952 Post Road (Route 1)

Colonial Square

Wells, ME



**Thursday, Nov. 1**

**Feast of All Saints**

**Mass 5pm**

Bible study 6pm

**Friday, Nov. 2**

**Feast of All Souls**

**Thursday, Nov. 8**

**PC workshop 6:30 pm**

**Thursday, Nov. 15**

**Bible Study 6pm**

**Sunday, Nov. 18**

**Parish Council meeting following fellowship**

**Sunday, Nov. 25**

**Agape Mass 9 am (pot-luck breakfast)**

**Thursday, Nov. 29**

**Bible study 6pm**



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## Lectionary Reading for November

by Roger Vermalen Karban

It is challenging to begin this month with the feast of All Saints. Our role as saints in Christ's body is not only recognized, the feast reminds us of what we are expected to do to merit and maintain that saintly title. We are still expected to constantly wash our robes in the same symbolic blood in which the suffering Jesus washed his. We only become saints by dying as he died.

The author of 1 John pinpoints that specific dying; it consists in loving those around us, as the Christ does. Once we start, we have no idea where that love will lead. We can only be certain that by imitating love, the one aspect of God we can possibly imitate, we will eventually end up somehow morphing into God. Jesus assures us our imitation guarantees we will develop the same value system God developed in him — a value system that will turn our world upside down. Against “common wisdom,” among other things, we will inherit a kingdom by being poor, be comforted while we mourn, and rejoice in the midst of persecution.

On the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, both Deuteronomy's Moses and Mark's Jesus insist their disciples follow through on the command: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.” But Jesus intertwines it with the Leviticus 19:18 demand: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Amid all the changes we experience in organized religion, the command to love God and our neighbor is rock solid. Like Jesus' sacrifice of himself, they are essential parts of our faith.

On the 31st Sunday we hear the story of the “widow's mite.” After hearing her story, no Christian can ever claim poverty as a valid excuse for not giving. But notice, at no place does the Gospel Jesus praise the widow for what she has done, never tells his followers to go out and imitate her. He simply wants his disciples to take note of what she did because the scribes who classically “devour the houses of widows” expect her to support their organized religion, no matter the cost. In today's passage, Jesus not only condemns religious ministers for their heartless treatment of the poor, he backs up his condemnation with the widow's story. People are always more important than institutions, even religious institutions. We profess faith in a God who constantly demands we imitate his/her concern and care for those suffering around us, a God who has no concern or care for buildings.

The 33rd Sunday gives us an example of “apocalyptic literature.” This unique style of writing wasn't created to help readers of Scripture negotiate a mysterious future; it was developed to help make sense out of a painful present. Most scholars believe persecution is the triggering device for apocalyptic authors. To say the least, things are going badly for these specific Jewish and Christian communities. Not only are they being decimated by their enemies, even worse, neither Yahweh nor the risen Jesus seem to care about their predicament. They are on their own.

One way our apocalyptic writers assure their communities that Yahweh and Jesus actually care is bringing up the help both have provided in the past. But they demonstrate that concern in a unique way: They often “predict” events which have already taken place.

Of course, deliverance is different for Christians. Agreeing with the author of Hebrews, we believe Jesus' death and resurrection have already provided us with the fullness of life. Unlike Jewish priests, who over and over again offered sacrifices for sin, Jesus did it once and for all.

The important thing for Mark's community is just to “hang in there” no matter how bad things get. Just as spring follows winter, Jesus' deliverance will follow persecution. Our task is just to live as though that deliverance has already taken place — which it actually has.

We are simply expected to wait with the same mentality that the historical Jesus awaited his own salvation. After all, we are committed to being other Christs. Yet, for some, the feast of Christ the King throws a wrench into the saintly personality we are trying to emulate. Just what kind of a saint are we attempting to become?

It is against the backdrop of Jesus' servant/slave imagery that we must listen to our liturgical readings. His dominion can be Daniel's “everlasting dominion,” but he never expects us to kowtow to him or his representatives. His importance only comes from the importance in which he holds those he serves. Before anything, he has made us his kingdom, made us the center of his existence.

The most important message we are to take away from our Gospel pericope is Jesus' statement that he is among us not to be revered as a worldly king, but “to testify to the truth.” Only those who join in that quest for the truth can actually call themselves saints, a title that should make us recognize our obligations more than demand any special treatment.

*Adapted from [Celebration](#), Nov. 2018*



## National Assembly – Oct. 21-24, 2018



The Assembly at work



The Assembly at prayer



Janet leading prayer service



The New England Delegation

**Front row:** Rev. Diane Datz (Christ Sophia, San Antonio, TX), Carol Olmstead (St. Francis, Wells, ME), Bishop Rosemary Ananis, Rev. Terri Watts (Providence Hospital chaplain, Anchorage, AK), **Back row:** Maryann Stacey (St. Francis), Janet O'Day (St. Francis), Rev. Rosemary Burdick (Canon to the Bishop, Prospect Harbor, ME), Debbie Gaudreau (St. Francis)

The Mercy Center Retreat House, Burlingame, CA



Spotlight!



Meditation/Prayer

November is the month when the Church traditionally remembers those who have gone before us. In thoughts and with prayers we celebrate the rich heritage we have been given by our ancestors, family, friends and spiritual leaders.

Liturgically we begin the month with the Feasts of All Saints (Nov. 1) and All Souls (Nov. 2). These holy days stem from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven (the "Church triumphant"), and the living (the "Church militant"). In Catholic theology, they commemorate all those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven and who strive to live Gospel values here on earth.



### For November...

God our Creator, our center, our friend,  
we thank you for our good life,  
for those who are dear to us,  
for our dead, and all those who have helped influence us.

We thank you for the measure of freedom we have,  
and the extent to which we control our lives;  
and most of all we thank you for the faith that is in us,  
for our awareness of you and our hope in you.  
Keep us, we pray, thankful and hopeful and useful  
until our lives shall end.

AMEN.

### AGAPE MASS Nov. 25

We will again celebrate Mass around our breakfast table. This is a refreshing look at how the early disciples might have remembered Jesus and what he asked his followers to do.

Please bring a breakfast food to share.

### 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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