

St. Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church

Ordinary Time

September, 2019



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.

Interfaith Ministry Opportunities

Laundry love: January 15
4-6 or 6-8pm

Booms Laundry
250 Elm St.
Biddeford

Senior Lunch: January 22
10:45 – 12:00

St. David's Episcopal Church
Kennebunk

Outreach

Shelter Ministries

For several months, the York County Homeless Shelter has not expressed a need for diaper, so we have shifted our focus to the **Safe Haven animal shelter** here in Wells. They are in constant need of Friskies poultry flavored canned cat food and litter.

During the months of June, July and August we delivered **439 lbs of litter, 76 cans of food, and 4 bags of kitty treats.**



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 Fund for those who need help during our cold winters.

So far this year we have collected

\$115.65

Calendar

Mass:

Every Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

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



Saturday Sept. 8

N.E. Diocesan Synod 10 am
(See page 2 for more info.)

Thursday, Sept. 12

Parish Council meeting 6 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 18

Liturgy Committee 6 pm

Sunday, Sept. 22

Community Meeting following Mass



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The Old Catholic Church
Province of the United States

Ancient Faith • Welcoming and
Inclusive Church • Serving the
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This Month's Scriptures



Losing Sheep

We all know the parable of the lost sheep—or do we? There are two versions of the parable, one in Matthew (18:10-14) and the other in Luke. In Matthew's version, a shepherd has one hundred sheep and one goes astray. In Luke's version, which we hear this month on Sept. 15, the sheep does not go astray. The shepherd loses it. Luke says, "Which one of you having one hundred sheep and losing one of them..."

In this case, the shepherd who loses a sheep cannot be seen to represent God. God loses nothing. The shepherd in Luke must represent us. We are the ones who sometimes lose what is important to us.

Luke's parable asks what person or thing of value could be missing from our lives and we have not yet noticed that it is gone? Could it be a son, a daughter, a parent whose circumstances have changed and he or she now needs us in a new way—and we are still living life as usual? Could it be a friend who has lost respect for us because of a mistake or insensitivity, and he or she has now left our life—and we have not yet noticed the absence? Could it be a joy that once was part of our work or our marriage but now is lost? Our lives are full, as full as a field of one hundred sheep, and that is why someone or something important can slip away without us realizing that it is missing.

The value of relationships is stressed on Sept. 8, when Paul sends the slave Onesimus back to his friend Philemon. Both Philemon and Onesimus are dear to Paul. Paul's language shows he is attentive to his friends. He will not let any of them be lost to from his sight.

But if we are not attentive to the people in our lives and thereby lose them, the shepherd in Luke's parable shows us how to act. He goes out immediately to find what is missing. He is

determined to make his life whole again. This parable encourages us to expend all our energy to find what we have lost.

Now, there is no guarantee that we will be successful. Some people leave our lives, and we can never find a way to bring them back. Some blessings slip away, and we can never claim them again. But it is important to make the effort, even if we have to leave ninety-nine other valuable things behind.

This parable asserts that when we find the one person or thing that has slipped away, there is a particular kind of joy. Then we will be able to say to our neighbors and friends, "Rejoice with me because my daughter, my friend, my joy that I lost is found again."

Fr. George Smiga
In *Living with Christ*, September, 2019

ANNUAL SYNOD SEPTEMBER 7, 2019 FALL RIVER, MA 11am - 3pm

The annual synod of the Diocese of New England will take place at the Upper Room Faith Community in Fall River, MA.

This is the time when the entire diocese comes together to steer the Church. We strongly encourage ALL people of our church to join us in reviewing the past year and looking ahead to our future.

There will be a morning educational and enrichment presentation followed by lunch and a business meeting. The offices up for election are vice-president and secretary. We also need to elect a delegate for next years' National Assembly which will be held in Ohio.

Lunch will be provided by the Upper Room community.

Cars will be leaving St. Francis' parking lot at 8:30 am and return by approximately 5:00 pm.



Spotlight!

To celebrate St. Francis' 16th anniversary this year we had a raffle offering several opportunities to be a winner. And we got winners!! The following were happy to receive their prizes.

- Hannaford gift card (\$50) – **Suzanne Greenlee**
- 6 Lobsters – **Bishop Rosemary**
- Joshua's Restaurant gift card (\$100) – **Julie Allen**
- Amore Restaurant gift card (\$25) – **Jean Hill**
- Perkins Cove Candies gift card (\$50) – **Maryann Stacy**
- Weekend in Paradise (priceless) – **Margaret Gifford**

Anniversary party

Good weather, good food, GREAT people!



Meditation/Prayer

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 Abundant Love, Creator of what is good, beautiful, and full of joy so that all may work in harmony with you, we thank you for all the good that comes to us.

May we be your children, joined together to serve you. May our life bring joy to others, and may we do good without ceasing through your great, strong love, which moves us, strengthens us, and helps us every day, however hard life may be.

May your name be praised throughout the world.

May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as in heaven. Amen.

“Since you speak of peace, all the more must you have peace in your hearts. Let no one be provoked to anger or scandal by you, but may they be drawn to peace and good will, to kindness and concord though your gentleness. We have been called to heal wounds, to bring together what has fallen apart, to bring home those who have lost their way.”

St. Francis of Assisi

Parish Council

- President: Sarah Rapone
- Vice-Moderator: Janet O'Day
- 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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