

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH DUNEDIN, FL

Welcome-Come Worship with Us

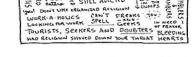
Our parish is a member of the Old Catholic Church, Province of the United States.

We are called to be a sign of God's unconditional love, and joyfully,
we open our doors and hearts to all who are seeking a spiritual home.

We are truly inclusive. A different way to be Catholic!

Mass is held on Sunday at 11:00 am

ALL are welcome!



GAY FILTHY DIRT POOR

STARVING W LATTE

SKINNY FAT

Message from Father Bob:

Already February – and still in the pandemic. But, it appears we can see a light, or at least a glimmer, at the end of this long, long tunnel.

We began this year with Historical Firsts – regarding our Old Catholic Church of the United States.

First #1: Our first virtual National Assembly, which experienced a record number of attendees.

First #2: Our Mission Diocese of Florida became the catatonically recognized Diocese of Florida.

First #3: The Southeast Diocese of the Synodal Catholic Church merged into our newly established diocese creating the Southeast Diocese of the Old Catholic Church with Bishop Steve Rosczewski as our bishop.

And, so, this issue of the St. Francis of Assisi Bulletin now reaches an ever-broadening audience!

This February is a month of contrasts. First, we acknowledge love and friendships with the celebration of Valentine's Day. Then, three days later, on the 17th, we begin our Advent journey, receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday.

In the midst of all this, we do our best to avoid the virus! Like, you know, getting vaccinated – whenever we can get on a list. (Do you feel like one of those lottery balls bouncing all over without a clue?)

So, to my way of thinking, it always helps to inject smiles into my day. Allow me to share smiles with you:

- >As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public schools.
- >If you fail and succeed, which have you done?
- >Morality is doing the right thing, regardless of what you are told; fanatic religion is doing what you are told, regardless of what is right.
- >My motto: Always try to be modest and be proud of it.

Assuming these mini-windows into this warped brain-housing have your attention, here's a rather interesting outlook on religion and life from "a good ol boy" from Lubbock, Texas who says, "Living in Lubbock has taught me two things: One is that God loves you and you're going to burn in hell. The other is that sex is the most awful, filthy thing on earth and you should save it for someone you love."

Tempting as it is to leave this column on that note, prudence demands I get back to a more theological mode of thinking. And what better way than to speak to the principal message of Mark's Gospels, which is our call to act as disciples of Jesus. As baptized Christians, discipleship is a main purpose of our time on Earth. To bring forth the Kingdom of God. How? Through our actions, especially with daily random acts of kindness. Do I hear an Amen?!







February is the month for us to express our love for others.

The first 16 days occur during Ordinary Time represented by the Liturgical color green, the symbol of hope. The remaining days signify Lent and the liturgical color purple. On Ash Wednesday, we prepare to accept the cross of blessed ashes and commit ourselves to Lent---fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and service to others. We also lay our thoughts and prayers on the heart of our Mother Mary, who offered her Son in the Temple and on the Cross.

The Gospel readings for February are taken from St. Mark

February 7 th Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	The Gospel recounts Christ's cure of St. Peter's mother-in-law
February 14 th Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	The Gospel is about Christ healing a leper
February 21 st First Sunday of Lent	Jesus is tempted by the devil in the desert
February 28 th Second Sunday of Lent	The Gospel relates the story of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mt. Tabor



Mass at St. Roch at Rocky Creek Village is open to those in Assisted Living and begins at 4:00 pm Saturday
Mass is held at Regency Oaks St. Francis Extension on Sundays at 9:15 am
Mass continues to be held on Sunday at 11:00 am at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Church

Viewing Sunday Mass if you can't attend:

You can view live via Facebook: https://www.Facebook.com/ReverendRobertSwick OR

Go to our website https://saintfrancisdunedin.org/ OR

You can access it on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/USBsDB9CB3fwHoS35VbFGKAw/
The website and YouTube will be available on Sunday afternoons.

Those attending Mass are reminded:

Temperatures are taken + Masks are provided + Social distance is required Sign of Peace-Wave or put hand in prayer position and say "Ohio" (Japanese for Hello) No collection + Donations may be left when leaving Mass



Ash Wednesday Schedule--February 17, 2021

Regency Oaks -9:00 - 10:00 am

Communion service-Reading of Scripture; Distribution of Ashes, and Communion

Saint Francis of Assisi 10:30 - 11:00 am

Distribution of Ashes and Communion

Saint Francis of Assisi 11:30-12:30

Drive Thru distribution of ashes!

Drive past Fr. Bob who will be curbside at the church to distribute blessings and ashes

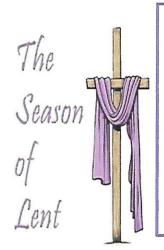
St Roch 3:30 pm

Communion service-Reading of Scripture; Distribution of Ashes, and Communion

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) and ends on Holy Thursday (April 1). 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. Lent offers us an opportunity to deepen the meaning and value of our Christian lives, to rediscover the mercy of God so that we, in turn, become more merciful toward our brothers and sisters.

Lent 2021



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 Lenten season.

AMEN

Receive the Holy Eucharist from Father Bob for use in your home during live streamed Mass!



Pyx containing the Consecrated hosts

Those who have been participating in Mass via live streaming miss out on the true Source and Summit: the Holy Eucharist. These radical times of pandemic living demand radical adjustments to our way of worship. Since you can't come to the Holy Eucharist, Jesus Christ, in the form of the Consecrated Host is prepared to come to you in one of three ways:

- 1. Father Bob will personally deliver the Holy Eucharist to those living in the Dunedin area. Personal care protocols will be adhered to.
- 2. You may come to the church right after Mass (12:00-12:15pm) to receive a Pyx containing Consecrated Hosts.
- 3. For those living at a distance, Consecrated Hosts will be secured in Pyxis and mailed to you! Contact Father Bob to provide your address.

Consecrated Hosts will be provided for each Baptized family member to virtually participate during Mass. Participate FULLY in Mass while live streaming! NOTE: Fr. Bob will provide proper catechesis to assure full worship, handling and placement of The Body of Christ is maintained at all times.



Can't attend Mass?

Even if we cannot be in attendance at Mass, we can still celebrate a Spiritual Communion and watch mass online. "We the people" are the church!

Prayer for Spiritual Communion during COVID 19 Crisis

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Most
Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things and I desire to
receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You
sacramentally, come at least spiritually
into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already

I embrace You as if You were already there and united myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen







For Fran and Bill Cona and Joi and Terry Lenoce

who are confined and suffering
For Candy's mother, **Pina**, with severe shoulder problems
Fr. Bob's sister's good friend, **Elizabeth**, who has breast cancer
Fr. Bob's neighbor **Patt**, at home suffering with COVID-19
Regent Oaks Residents **Flo**, **Marge and Ruth**, who are not in good health

For our neighbors working in Hospice and Funeral Homes who serve families at their time of loss and give so much of themselves

Saint Francis Extension at Regency Oaks and St. Roch Old Catholic Church at Rocky Creek Village



Ash Wednesday Services

Communion service-Reading of Scripture Distribution of Ashes and Communion

Regency Oaks -9:00 - 10:00 am St Roch 3:30 pm





TOCCUSA Extraordinary Virtual National Assembly January 16, 2021

Historical Event in Saint Francis of Assisi Parish of Dunedin History!

Seventy individuals representing five member dioceses of The Old Catholic Church, Province of the United States (TOCCUSA) gathered to celebrate an Extraordinary Virtual National Assembly on Saturday, January 16, 2021. It was an amazing in-gathering of sisters and brothers celebrating faith, ministry and relationship together. The agenda, interspersed with prayer, included the formal reception and welcome of the merged Old Catholic Diocese of the Southeast as a member Diocese, unveiling a new website for the national Church, keynote address by Bishop Martin Shanahan, Old Catholic Diocese of the Midwest, focused workshops and round-table discussions. (Source: TOCCUSA website)

**Blessings to our church parish which is a member of the newly designated and recognized Old Catholic Church Diocese of the Southeast!

Congratulations to Candy Christensen-Barker, member of our Parish who presented the new TOCCUSA website at this assembly. Candy, who serves as the Chairperson of the Communications Committee, devoted many hours to the creation of this new and improved website. www.toccusa.org
Saint Francis of Assisi Parish members who attended the virtual National Assembly included:
Fr. Robert Swick, Marc Norton, Marilyn Burton, Candy Christensen-Barker, Janet Nelch, Cheryl Renneckar.

Dioceses of the The Old Catholic Church, Province of the United States



Diocese of California++Most Reverend Bishop Robert Fuentes

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming



Diocese of Mid-Atlantic++Most Reverend Bishop Michael Scalzi

Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania. D.C.. Virginia. and West Virginia



Diocese of Minnesota++Most Reverend Bishop Marty Shanahan

Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin



Diocese of New England++Most Reverend Rosemary Ananis

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont



Diocese of the Southeast++Most Reverend Bishop Steve Rosczewski

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee

Historical First Synod of the Old Catholic Diocese of the Southeast

The first Synod of the newly formed Diocese of the Southeast was held on January 23, 2021 with Bishop Steve Rosczewski presiding over the zoom meeting.

Members gathered to pray and come together as a merged Diocese...sisters and brothers to one another! Leaders of the House of Clergy and the House of Laity were elected. Bishop Steve was formally installed along with newly elected House leaders who will serve on the Diocesan Council.

Our Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, member of the Diocese of Florida, was merged into the newly formed Old Catholic Diocese of the Southeast. It is an exciting time as the Old Catholic Church continues to grow!

The focus moving forward includes stability, growth, and our presence in the community.

Check out the new Diocese at: www.oldcatholicse.org



Who are our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Diocese of the Southeast?

Community of the Divine Mercy

Companions of St. Dominic Riverview, FL

Franciscans of the Holy Spirit

Port St. Lucie Community
Tampa Bay Community

Good Shepherd Old Catholic Church

Gulfport, FL

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Chapel

Austin, TX

Holy Redeemer Old Catholic Community

Fort Wayne, IN

Holy Spirit Old Catholic Church

Safety Harbor, FL

Sacred Heart Franciscan Community Outreach

Port St. Lucie, FL

Saint Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church

Dunedin, FL St. Roch, Tampa, FL

Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

Brooksville, FL

Saint Bernadette Catholic Mission

Brooksville, FL

Solanus Casey House

Newberry, MI





Trea\$urer Report for February 2021 From Candy Christensen-Barker, Treasurer

Considering the pandemic that quarantined us to our homes, closed down many businesses including churches, the support and generosity of you, our members, was amazing! Total donations to St. Francis during 2020, including Regency Oaks, totaled \$17,167.14. St. Roch donations totaled \$261.00 for the year though Masses were prohibited for most of the year.

And even more wonderful were the continued contributions to our outreach project, the RIP Medical Debt Organization. We started the year with two anonymous donations of \$2,500.00 and during 2020, we collected another \$4,781.00. With more contributions coming in, we have approximately \$10,500.00 now. Our original hope was to reach our \$15,000.00 goal by Easter 2020. The coronavirus snuffed that out.

So, our new deadline date is **Wednesday, March 31, 2021.** This is a VERY special day as it is the 9th Anniversary of Fr. Bob's ordination! Won't you please help us commemorate this special celebration with a donation, if you haven't already done so, to RIP! And if that is not special enough, maybe a donation to RIP in memory of or for someone you love, instead of flowers or a gift on Valentine's Day. Any reason will do! And remember, with \$15,000.00, we will be able to pay off \$1,500,000.00 in medical debt for our very own neighbors in Pinellas County.

As a reminder, we make it easy to donate in a safe and secure manner. You may:

- Send a personal check, payable to St. Francis of Assisi to the address on the last page.
- If you bank online, create a recurring account for St. Francis of Assisi to have a check mailed on a certain day.
- Visit the St. Francis of Assisi website at: www.saintfrancisdunedin.org and make a one-time donation for the month or establish a monthly recurring donation using PayPal or a credit card.

Treasurer, Candy Christensen can walk you through setting up an account. Please contact her at: 727-638-4393 or gator80girl@yahoo.com

And if none of the above options work for you, I will, as Treasurer, personally pick up any donation for St. Francis of Assisi.

Blessings,

Candy Christensen-Barker, Treasurer, St. Francis of Assisi



Medical Debt Relief Project

Deadline Goal: March 31, 2021

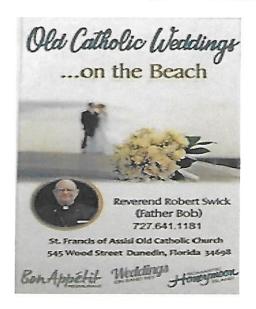
We request your assistance, and that of your friends and family, so that we may raise the remaining amount of approximately

\$4,500.00

to reach our goal of \$15,000.00 which will erase \$1,500,000.00 of medical debt of Pinellas County residents.

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers you do unto me" Matthew 25:31-46

Community Outreach and Involvement



Love is in the air!!

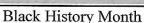
Do you know someone planning a wedding?

Consider a beautiful wedding on an amazing local beach performed by Fr. Bob



Celebrate Special Events this Month







February 14, 2021



February 21, 2021

Community Membership The Interfaith Ministry Group

Father Bob participates in this group which meets on the third Wednesday of the month at a local restaurant in Dunedin. Standing invitations are held by ministers of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, First United Methodist Church, St. Mark Lutheran Church and, our very own, St. Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church.

Our parish is also a member of local faith and community organizations:



St. Francis Old Catholic Church Dunedin, FL



Dunedin Council of Organizations



Downtown Dunedin Merchants Association

Saint Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church is a member of Province of the United States-TOCCUSA and The Old Catholic Church Diocese of the Southeast



Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love
For it is in giving that we receive
And it is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life
Amen

Saint Francis Church Council

Rev. Father Robert Swick-Clergy fr_bob@priest.com

Marilyn Burton-Parish Lay Leader Mfburton1@yahoo.com

Candy Christensen-Barker-Treasurer Gator80girl@yahoo.com

Johanna Guzik-Regency Oaks Johannag.9@gmail.com

Marc Norton-Acolyte m.norton@tampabayveteransalliance.org

<u>Janiece Sistrunk</u> Jansis5678@gmail.com

Peter Kreuziger pkreuziger@bonappetitgroup.com

LOVE

Love one another.

Just as I have loved you, so also must you love one another.

By this, all shall recognize that you are my disciples: if you will have love for one another.

John 13:34-35 CPDV

Stay in Touch with your Parish Receive Homilies and Intercessory Prayers:

Homilies and Intercessory Prayers are emailed, after Sunday Mass, to a confidential list of those requesting. If you or a friend would like to receive this information, please contact: rbsemperfi@gmail.com

St. Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church Parish 545 Wood Street Dunedin, FL 34698

Phone: 727-641-1181 Website: www.saintfrancisdunedin.org