



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!

Message from Father Bob:

CHRIST
Has died.

CHRIST
Has risen.

CHRIST
Will come again!

Father Bob





The month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit. The first three days fall during Lent represented by the color purple. The remainder of the month falls during Easter season represented by the color white- the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

Please read the Easter Greetings from the House of Bishops, TOCCUSA- The Old Catholic Church, Province of the United States!

The Gospel readings for April are taken from St. John and St. Luke

April 4th Easter Sunday	The Gospel recounts Mary Magdalen and the apostles visit to the empty tomb of Christ on Easter
April 11th Divine Mercy Sunday	The Gospel relates the story of doubting Thomas
April 18th 3rd Sunday of Easter	This Gospel tells of Jesus appearance to the Apostles after the Resurrection
April 25th 4th Sunday of Easter	This Gospel is about Jesus as the Good Shepherd



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**



The Beginning of the Days of the Sacred Triduum, April 1, 2021

To the Clergy and People of The Old Catholic Church, Province of the United States

From the TOCCUSA House of Bishops

Dearly Beloved of God,

Christ is risen! Alleluia!!

We bring you Easter greetings full of the joy of God's promise that leads to everlasting life.

This has been an extremely difficult year for so many—the pandemic, the extreme weather events, the isolation, and even internal issues within our Church have drained us, exhausted us, and even hurt us. While it is important to acknowledge these truths, it is imperative that we look to our faith to help us.

The call of the Resurrection is to rise up and live! During Lent we looked at and prayed about the many deaths which are characteristic of our lives. Now it is time to re-focus on the call to new life.

The Spirit is blessing us, and we are allowing Her to reenergize and refocus our work. As evidence, we want to let you know about the latest fruits of the Church. During the past seven months we have:

- Expanded our Church by welcoming a new Diocese (Diocese of the Southeast), a new Bishop and many new faithful
- Established increased communication between the House of Bishops and the Executive Council
- Produced a new website, new Facebook page, YouTube, and Twitter accounts
- Established a Ministry of Communication team
- Established a Ministry of Finance team
- Produced and are now offering 5 lay education units.

Most importantly, we look forward to the time when the full House of Bishops again gathers to shepherd our Church.

New life, life in the Spirit, will carry us forth to enjoy the encompassing and comforting love of the Risen Christ who looks over us all, guides and directs our Church. May the grace and love of God lift your heart, fill your soul, and bless your life!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Michael J. Scalzi

Most Rev. Dr. Rosemary Ananis

Most Rev. Marty Shanahan

Most Rev. Steven Roszczewski

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.

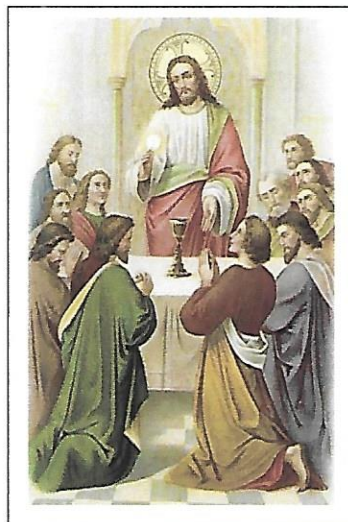


Can't attend Mass?

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 there and united myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen



PRAYER Requests



Lord, Hear Our Prayer!

For our Country: That we rise from this nadir of ignoring Christ and return to our churches.

For our Parishioners: That we become more active as Christ's Ambassadors and bring souls to our faith gatherings at St. Roch, Regency Oaks, and St. Francis of Assisi.

For those among us and those we know who have suffered from this horrific pandemic.

For those who remain hesitant to get vaccinated: That Christ's courage and love for others be the encouragement to go forward and get protected for self and others.

For all who care for the injured and sick: That God blesses you everlasting.

For the honorable First Responders: That we acknowledge them with our open thanks whenever possible.

Easter Triduum



Holy Thursday



Good Friday



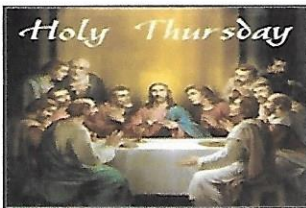
Easter Sunday

Paschal Triduum +++ Paschal Mystery

The triduum is the period that begins on Holy Thursday and ends at the conclusion of Easter Sunday. It encompasses the evening of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

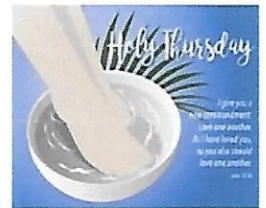
The triduum during Holy Week is known as the "Paschal Triduum."

Jesus' passion, death and resurrection, are referred to as the Paschal Mystery.



Holy Thursday

"Jesus gives himself to us as food and, in the washing of feet, teaches us the need to serve others."



Good Friday

"In the mystery of Christ's death on the cross, we contemplate that undying divine love which embraces all mankind and summons us in turn to love one another in the power of the Spirit."

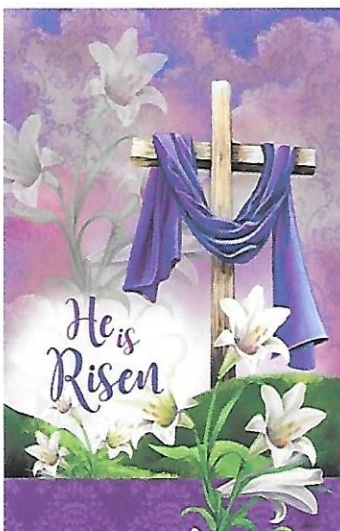


Holy Saturday

"The day of God's silence-invites us not only to solidarity with all who are abandoned and alone, but also to trust in that faithful love which turns death into life."



Source of the quotations above: Pope Francis General Audience, March 23, 2006



Easter Sunday +++ Resurrection Sunday

Early Sunday morning, several women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, and Mary, the mother of James) went to the tomb and discovered the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled away. An Angel announced:

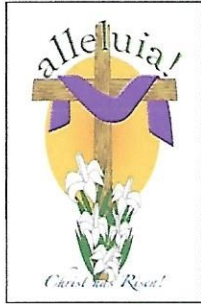
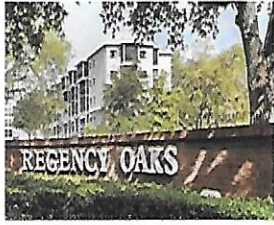
"Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen." (Matthew 28:5-6 NLT)

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus Christ made at least 5 appearances: St. Mark's Gospel says the first person to see him was Mary Magdalene. Jesus also appeared to Peter; to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later in the day to all of the disciples except Thomas.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

On Resurrection Sunday or Easter, we enter into Easter season. Eastertide is the period of 50 days spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.

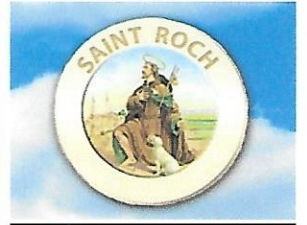
Saint Francis Extension at Regency Oaks and St. Roch Old Catholic Church at Rocky Creek Village



Easter Sunday Mass Schedule

St. Roch
Saturday, April 3 at 4:00 pm
with restricted attendance

Regency Oaks
Sunday, April 4 at 9:15 am

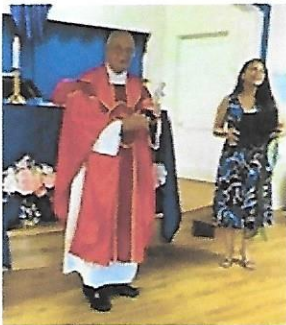


**Celebrating the 9th Anniversary of Father Bob's Ordination
Ordained a Priest + March 31, 2012**

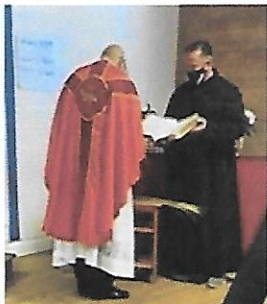
Cross and Communion



Candy Christensen-Barker presenting the cross on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021

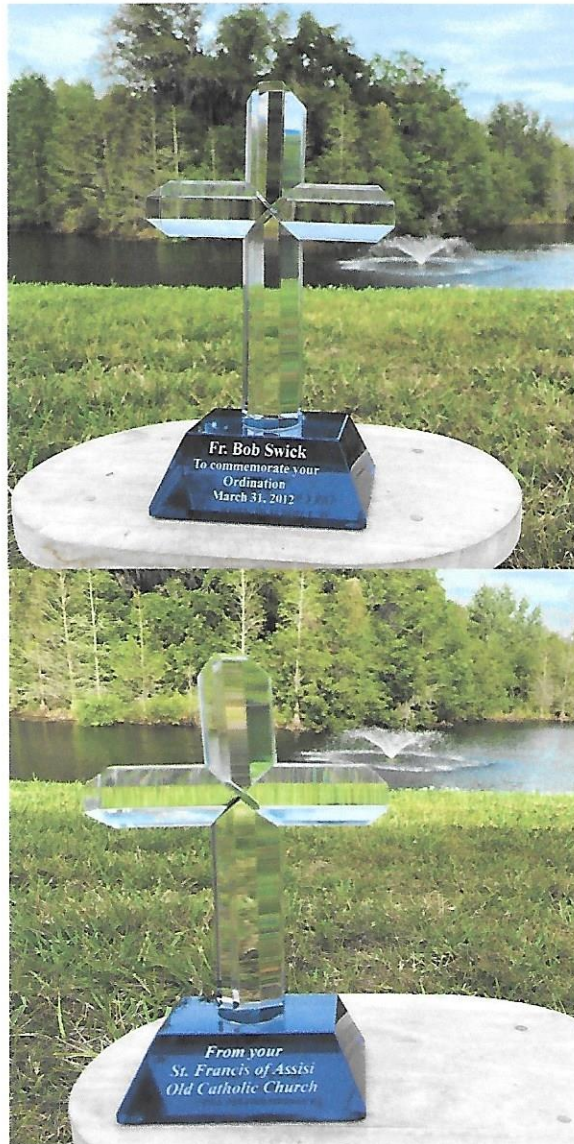


Fr. Bob holding the cross with total surprise



Blessing of the Palms
Fr. Bob and Acolyte, Marc

**Special thanks to the Parishioners,
Candy Christensen-Barker, Marc Norton,
and Peter Kreuziger**



Thank you Mika Christina Swick for the cross pictures!

Reception at Bon Appetit



Grandson Justin, Daughter Mika, Wife Masuko, Friend Mary Kreuziger, Fr. Bob



Peter Kreuziger, "gracious host", Fr. Bob, Mary Kreuziger, Mika, Justin, Mausko-partial picture



Saint Francis of Assisi guests and parishioners



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

In last month's report, I stated that our community outreach project to raise \$15,000 to payoff \$15,000 in medical debt for our neighbors in Pinellas County, had a deadline date of March 31st, in honor of Fr. Bob's 9th Anniversary of his Ordination. As of this writing, we have a balance of \$14,113.75 in our RIP Medical Debt account. I feel certain that we will achieve our \$15,000 goal because **we only have \$886.25 more to go!** We may even surpass it, as Fr. Bob thinks that our bank, Achieva, may also donate to this worthy cause.

I received an email from RIP Medical Debt organization on their 2020 End of Year Report. While I shared this information at Mass on March 28th, I want to include it herein so you understand the impact of this organization even during a pandemic.

"In 2020 we (RIP Medical Debt Program):

- *Abolished over 1.7 billion in debt for 838,634 people*
- *Raised \$1.1 million to target debt abolishment for frontline healthcare and essential workers providing care and critical services during the COVID pandemic.*
- *Received approval from federal regulators to buy debt directly from hospitals*
- *Were highlighted in nearly 1,000 media stories across the country*
- *Invested in our internal systems to increase our capacity to provide debt relief*
- *Expanded our board of directors to include two prominent former public health professionals*
- *Were provided with a \$50 million unrestricted grant by MacKenzie Scott after passing a vigorous vetting process*

And those are just the highlights!

Looking ahead we have big plans for 2021, which include the abolishment of at least \$2.5 billion of debt for over 1.6 million people. We'll also be making some strategic moves to ensure our ability to abolish greater amounts of debt in the years ahead by ramping up our ability to acquire debt directly from hospitals and adding our voice to the public discourse around the causes and implications of medical debt."

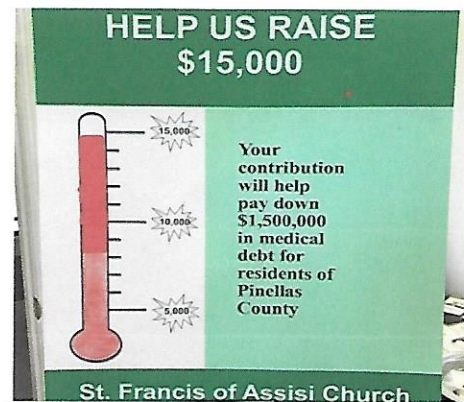
So, you, our dear parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Old Catholic church are a part of their "big plans for 2021 "...to abolish at least \$2.5 billion of debt." Every donation, large or small, was appreciated. Some of you have donated many times over the last months, to ensure that this community outreach fundraiser was a success. I cannot thank each and every one of you enough, for your generosity. I hope your "random act of kindness" makes you feel good inside because YOU will make a positive impact on someone's life this year, who will never know who you are!

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

- *Send a personal check, payable to St. Francis of Assisi to the address on the last page of this bulletin.
- *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: saintfrancisdunedin.org and make a one-time donation for the month or set up a monthly recurring donation using Pay Pal or credit card.
- * I can walk you through setting up an account by contacting me at: 727-638-4393 or gator80girl@yahoo.com

Blessings,

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



Medical Debt Relief Project
Deadline Goal: March 31, 2021

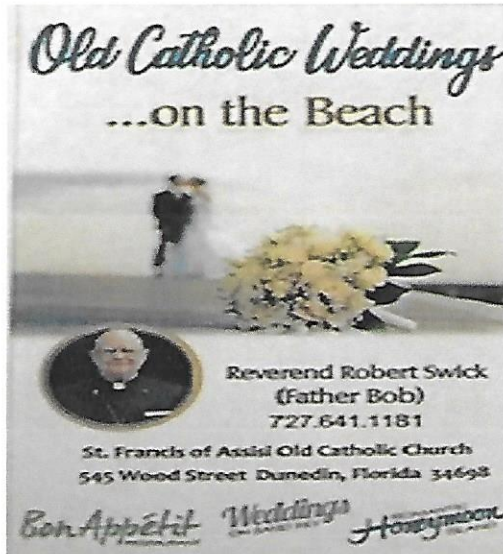
We request your assistance, and that of your friends and family, so that we may raise the remaining amount of

\$886.25

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



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:

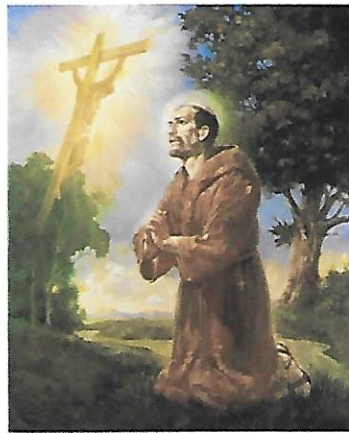


**The Old Catholic Church
Diocese of the Southeast**



**TOCCUSA
The Old Catholic Church
Province of the United States**

**“It is in dying
that we are born
to eternal life.”
St. Francis of Assisi**



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 Parish Council

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

Marilyn Burton-Parish Lay Leader
Mfburton1@yahoo.com

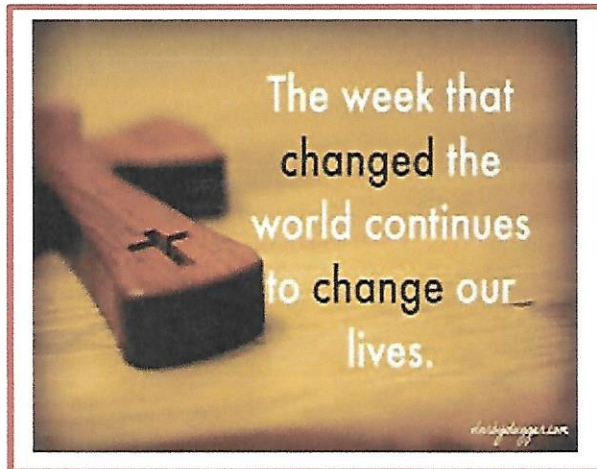
Candy Christensen-Barker-Treasurer
Gator80girl@yahoo.com

Ellen Hale
ehale@bonappetitrestaurant.com

Marc Norton-Acolyte
m.norton@tampabayveteransalliance.org

Janiece Sistrunk
Jansis5678@gmail.com

Peter Kreuziger
pkreuziger@bonappetitgroup.com



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
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