



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:

As we come ever closer to the Solemnity of Pentecost – the birth of the Church – we are experiencing Scripture Readings that, collectively, present God's Love for us. Indeed, this sixth week of Easter is, literally, all about love; His love for us and His Command to love one another. This is our key into eternal life: Love – of self and one another.

Since love is so often expressed in song and poetry, I thought it appropriate to share a poem entitled, "Think of Love."

Think of Love

Love is the power that makes the flowers grow,
Love is the reason the seasons come and go.
Love has the answers to all we need to know,
so think of Love each moment of the day.

Love fills our hearts with peace and joy and song,
Love gives life meaning when we feel we can't go on.
Love gives us comfort when we feel all alone,
so think of Love each moment of the day.

Love is what we're seeking; it's all we ever need,
Love comes into our hearts and sets our spirits free,
Love is always there for us, it's showing us the way,
so think of Love each moment of the day.

So think Love each moment of the day,
you will find true happiness and Love will light your way.

May is the month where we recognize our Mom and attempt to express our returning love for all she has done for us.
Happy Mother's Day!!

May is also the month where we give tribute to all who have given their lives in military service to enable us to enjoy the freedom unique to our United States of America.

Coincidence that we celebrate both in the month of May?
I think not.

Father Bob





The month of May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. The first 23 days fall during Easter Season, are represented by the color white -the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence. Pentecost Sunday is represented by the color red. The remainder of the month after Pentecost Sunday is in Ordinary Time represented by the color green-the symbol of hope.

The Gospel readings for May are taken from St. John and St. Matthew

<p>May 2nd 5th Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>In this Gospel Jesus says He is the vine and we are the branches</p>
<p>May 9th 6th Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>Christ gives the commandment to love as He loves</p>
<p>May 16th Ascension or 7th Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>In this Gospel Jesus tells his disciples to preach the Gospel to the whole world</p>
<p>May 23rd Pentecost Sunday</p>	<p>In this Gospel Jesus gives his disciples the power to forgive sin</p>
<p>May 30th Trinity Sunday</p>	<p>Jesus tells the apostles to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”</p>



Mass at St. Roch at Rocky Creek Village is 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
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.

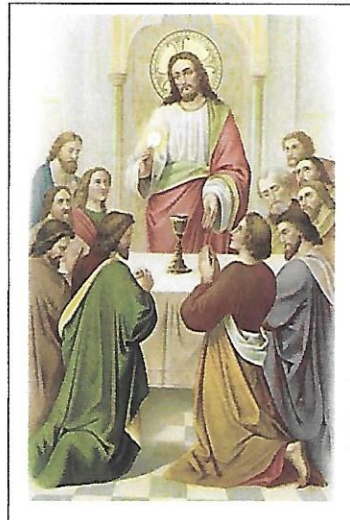


Can't attend Mass?

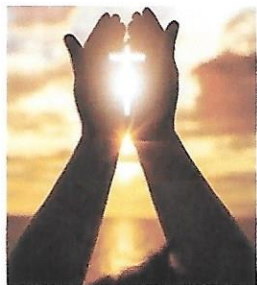
Even if we cannot be in attendance at Mass, we can still celebrate a Spiritual Communion and watch mass online. "We the people" are the church!

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!

Ellen Tishio who is recovering from hip surgery

Pina Ciullo celebrating her 87th birthday

Barrett Navolko, son of Sandra and Matthew, who will be baptized on Pentecost Sunday's Mass

All Mothers for their love and devotion to family

Our fallen comrades who died in combat serving our country!



Mother's Day, May 9, 2021

History of Mother's Day in the United States

Did you know that Mother's Day began through the efforts of three women? Ann Reeves Jarvis, Julie Ward Howe, and Anna Maria Jarvis championed efforts toward better health, welfare, peace and love. It began as a women's movement to better the lives of other Americans.

Ann Reeves Jarvis, known as "Mother Jarvis" was a young Appalachian homemaker who taught Sunday school lessons in West Virginia. She was a lifelong activist, who in the mid-1800's, organized "Mother's Day Work Clubs" to combat unsanitary living conditions and teach young mothers how to safely care for their children. During the Civil War, she organized women's brigades to care for soldiers no matter which side they fought for. After the war, she proposed a "Mother's Friendship Day" to promote peace between former Union and Confederate families. She stated: "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day commemorating all Mothers for the matchless service they render to humanity in every field of life...they are entitled to it."

Julie Ward Howe was a famous poet and reformer. During the Civil War, she volunteered for the U.S. Sanitary Commission, helping them to provide hygienic environments and sanitary conditions during the care of the sick and wounded soldiers. In 1861, she authored the famous Civil War anthem, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Around 1870 she issued a "Mother's Day Proclamation", a passionate demand for disarmament and peace. She stated: "Arise, then, women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or tears." Howe's version of Mother's Day was held in Boston and around the country for 30 years but died out preceding World War I.

Anna Maria Jarvis, of Philadelphia, wanted to memorialize her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis' life after her death in 1905. She started campaigning for a national day to honor all mothers. She sent telegrams and held in-person discussions with public figures and civic organizations. At her expense, she wrote, printed and distributed booklets about her idea. In 1907, she honored her Mother's activism with a memorial service at her mother's church in West Virginia. The following year, May 10, 1908, a Mother's Day Service was held at the same church to honor **all** mothers. The idea was born that the second Sunday in May be set aside to honor every mother, living or deceased! Her efforts caused the Mayor of Philadelphia to proclaim a local Mother's Day.

Resolution, Congress, President Wilson:

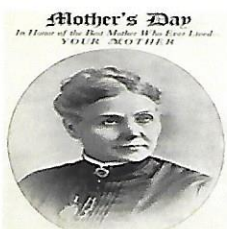
West Virginia was the first state to officially adopt the holiday, others followed. Two Senators, one from Alabama and one from Texas presented a joint resolution to Congress that Mother's Day be observed nationwide. The resolution passed both houses. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill designating the second Sunday in May as a legal holiday to be called "Mother's Day"—dedicated to the best mother in the world, your Mother." Churches began to hold Mother's Day services to honor women.

Shortly after that, Mother's Day started to become very commercialized with cards, flowers, candies and gifts. By 1920, companies started to use the words, "Mothers Day" to advertise their products and this angered Anna M. Jarvis. She spent a great deal of her money and time fighting the companies with lawsuits for using the name "Mother's Day." By the time of her death in 1948 she disowned the holiday and lobbied the government to remove it from the federal calendar.

Mother's Day today:

Just as Mother's Day was the creation of multiple women, the modern Mother's Day celebrates the varied roles of mothers today. We commemorate and celebrate the many ways mothers have fought to better the lives of their children. We also honor the way mothers have raised and nurtured their children with love and courage!

Source: The History of Mother's Day in the United States by Catherine Boeckmann and Heidi Stonehill



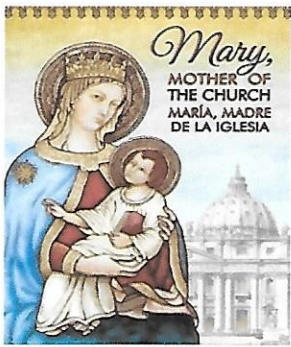
Ann Reeves Jarvis



Julia Ward Howe



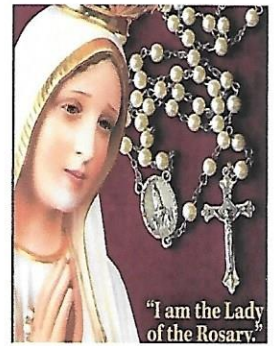
Anna Marie Jarvis



**Mother's Day reminds us of the
The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Mother of Jesus Christ**

**Jesus loved and honored his mother, and so we, too,
love and honor her.**

**The Monday after Pentecost we celebrate the "Memorial of
the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church."**



**Catholics have always celebrated Mary and what we believe leads us closer to Jesus.
What Catholics believe about Mary can be summarized in 5 key teachings:**

Theotokos: Mary is the Mother of God

If Mary is the Mother of Jesus, and Jesus is God, then Mary is the Mother of God. Saying Mary isn't the Mother of God denies the divinity of Jesus. This teaching is called "theotokos" which literally means "God-bearer."

**By affirming Mary is the Mother of God, we are affirming the most fundamental Christian truth:
Jesus is God!**

Perpetual Virginity

God became man in Mary's womb. Mary fulfilled Old Testament prophecies by miraculously conceiving and giving birth to Jesus as a virgin and she maintained her virginity throughout the rest of her time on earth.

"Mary said to the angel, 'how can this be, since I am a virgin?'"

The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'" Luke:1:34-35

Immaculate Conception: Mary was conceived without original sin

Mary was different from the moment she was conceived in her mother's womb.

While we inherited the sin and brokenness of Adam and Eve, Mary was saved from that original sin.

How appropriate that the woman who carried God in her womb would be pure and sinless?

Assumption: Mary was taken body and soul into heaven

God granted Mary yet another gift. At the end of her time on earth, Mary was taken (or assumed) body and soul into heaven. This means Jesus and Mary are the only two people in heaven who are there in body and soul.

Jesus chose to honor and give his mother this glory in heaven.

"A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." Revelation 12:1

Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix, and Advocate

Mary suffered with Jesus.

As Co-redemptrix, we acknowledge her intimate cooperation with Jesus in the redemption of humanity, in his amazing sacrifice for us on the cross. She bore him, raised him, supported him in his ministry and walked with him every step of the way to his passion and death.

"Woman, here is your son...Here is your mother." John 19:26

Now in heaven, our mother loves us as mediatrix and advocate!

This means Mary tirelessly brings our needs to her son, and give us his graces.

Whatever we are struggling with or whatever our loved ones are struggling with, we can bring to Mary.

Source of the above: Dynamic Catholic

And so, we pray:

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.

Amen



Ascension of our Lord, Jesus Christ

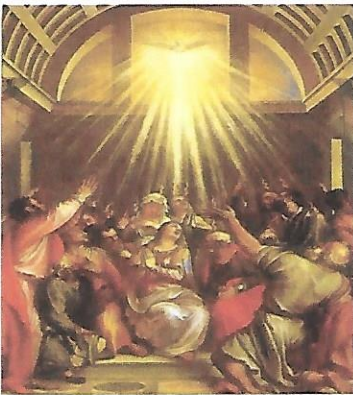
May 13, 2021

The Ascension is the completion of the Easter mysteries of Jesus' life, passion, death and resurrection, and it is the final step before the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

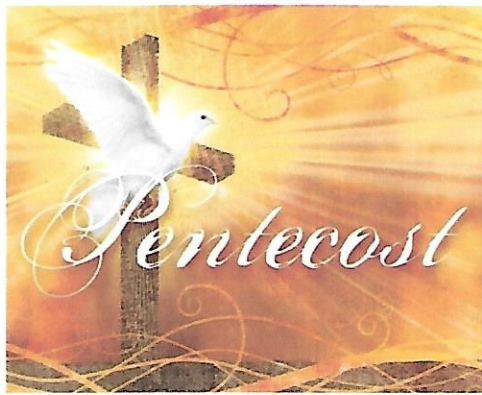
John's Gospel 20:17 tells us that the risen Christ encounters Mary Magdalene and says, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brother and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

PENTECOST SUNDAY

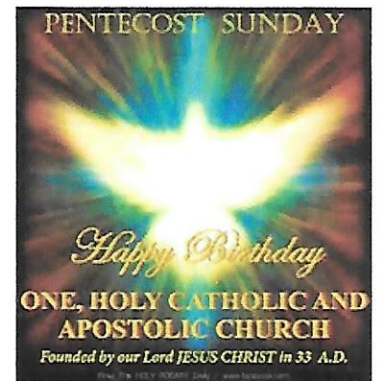
MAY 23, 2021



When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Acts 2:1



Fifty days after Easter Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles



This day is viewed as the birth of the Catholic Church with Peter as Pope

Catholics celebrate Pentecost as the birth of our Church.

Pentecost comes from Greek and means "50th day" Pentecost occurs 50 days after Easter

Pentecost is also a Jewish holiday, which the Jews use to celebrate the end of Passover and the gift of law to Moses at Mt. Sinai on this day.

Fifty days after Easter, at Pentecost, the Apostles and their followers were gathered in a room. Jews from all over the world were gathered with Peter, the leader of the Apostles and the Eleven.

At this time, a great wind blew and a flame appeared as a tongue of fire, which split itself into many individual flames above their heads. The Holy Spirit came upon these people and each began to speak in tongues. Despite the fact that many had no common language, there were able to understand one another.

Bewildered, people thought those speaking were drunk. But Peter arose and indicated that this was the work of the Holy Spirit, prophesized in the scripture.

Peter called for all those present to be baptized and three thousand were baptized that day. These people were among the first Catholics, and Peter is the first Pope of the Catholic Church.

The symbols of Pentecost are the flame, wind and dove which represent the Holy Spirit.
The color of Pentecost is red.



**Holy Trinity Sunday
May 30, 2021**

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost!
It was instituted to honor the Most Holy Trinity.

There is one God and in this one God there are three Divine Persons: the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. There are not three Gods but one eternal God.

The Father is the first Divine Person; the Son is the second Divine Person, begotten from the nature of the Father from eternity; the Holy Spirit is the third Divine Person, proceeding from the Father and the Son.

Celebration
of the
Sacrament of Baptism



Barret Navolko
Son of Sandra and Matthew
will be baptized
by Father Bob
on Pentecost Sunday
May 23, 2021

Please join us to celebrate
our church's first Baptism
of this beautiful child!

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



**Thirty-two Regency Oaks residents
celebrated Easter Mass with Father Bob.
Mass is held Sundays at 9:15 am**

Thank you Annette Pierce for the pictures!



St. Roch Old Catholic Church at Rocky Creek Village

Fr. Bob celebrates Mass in the Chapel at
St. Roch Old Catholic Church on Saturdays at 4:00 pm



Treasurer Report for May 2021
From Candy Christensen-Barker, Treasurer

In my March report, I stated that we were close to meeting our \$15,000 goal for the Medical Debt Relief Program and that we might surpass it based upon Fr. Bob’s requesting a donation from our bank, Achieva. Well, the President of our local Achieva Credit Union made a personal donation of \$2,500 and with additional parishioner donations; we raised a total of \$17,000!!!!

Give yourselves a pat on the back, stand up and cheer, or clap until your hands hurt! The “Little Church that can” has raised \$17,000 for the benefit of our neighbors in Pinellas County. We should all be very proud of ourselves that we accomplished a lofty goal during a pandemic year.

I have contacted the R.I.P. Medical Debt Relief organization and told them that we have \$17,000 to pay off debt. I was informed that there is \$10,000,000 in debt in Pinellas County alone so our fundraiser will pay off nearly 17% of outstanding debt. That is a huge accomplishment! The next step for them is to buy the debt, then I will send them the check to pay off the individual debts. I am including the first two paragraphs of the letter that those receiving assistance will receive:

We are sending this letter to share the good news that you no longer owe the referenced debt(s) to the provider listed in this letter because our national 501(c)(3) nonprofit, RIP Medical Debt, bought and abolished the debt. The funds provided for this act of debt abolishment were generously provided by a donation from the St. Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church in Dunedin. You can learn more about St. Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church at saintfrancisdunedin.org

Our forgiveness of this debt is a no-strings-attached gift. You no longer have any obligation to pay this debt to anyone, at any future time. Because it has been cancelled as a gift by our 501(c) (3) charity, you do not earn any income or owe any taxes on this cancellation of debt.

With grateful hearts, we thank you for your kindness and generosity!

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 545 Wood St. Dunedin, FL 34698
 - *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 PayPal or a credit card.
- If you need assistance, please call me at 727-638-4393.

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



Medical Debt Relief Project

**YOU DID IT*WE DID IT*
“THE LITTLE CHURCH THAT CAN DID IT”...**

We surpassed our goal of \$15,000 by the deadline...
We raised \$17,000 to eliminate medical debt of our Pinellas County neighbors!!

**“Whatever you do to the least of my brothers you do unto me”
Matthew 25:31-46**

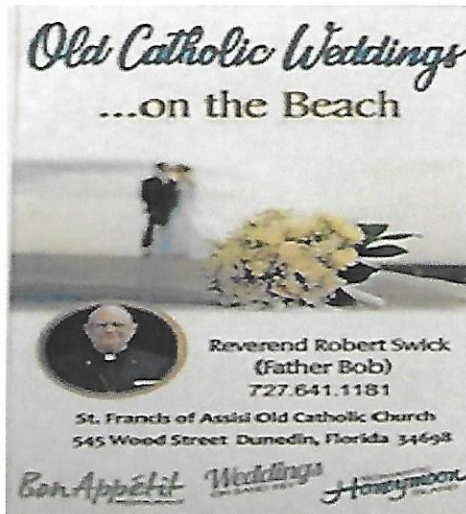
Community Outreach and Involvement



Memorial Day Program
May 31st 6:30 pm at Crest Lake Park, Clearwater
Speakers: Jan Stephenson, LPGA Hall of Fame Golfer
Frank Hibbard, Mayor of Clearwater
Bag pipers, Taps, and more!
Remember and Honor...all gave some, some gave all!



Planning a Wedding?



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**

**Saint Francis of Assisi Prayer Praising
Mary, Mother of Jesus**

Hail, holy Lady, most holy Queen,
Mary, Mother of God, ever Virgin.
You were chosen by the Most High Father in
heaven,
consecrated by Him, with His most Holy
Beloved Son
and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

On you descended and still remains all the
fullness of grace and every good.

Hail, His Palace.

Hail His Tabernacle.

Hail His Robe.

Hail His Handmaid.

Hail, His Mother.

and Hail, all holy Virtues, who, by grace and
inspiration of the Holy Spirit, are poured into
the hearts of the faithful so that from their
faithless state, they may be made faithful
servants of God through you.



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

Serving God by serving others!

Saint Francis Parish

Music-Piano: Kathy Roberts

Music Vocalist: Roseanne DeMarco

Bulletin: Cheryl Rennekar, Janet Nelch

**Old Catholic Church
Diocese of the Southeast**

Synod Delegates House of Laity:
Marilyn Burton, Marc Norton

Synod Delegates to House of Clergy:
Rev. Fr. Robert "Bob" Swick

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

Chairperson, Ministry of Communications
Candy Christensen-Barker

Member at Large-Executive Council
Cheryl Rennekar

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