



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

It's Time We Show Our Colors

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Remember wearing your school colors? It was always a big deal, especially when we attended a school game, dance or, ooh la la, when we went to another's school function! Right? Wearing our colors was a big deal.

So, when's the last time you wore Jesus Christ around your shoulders? "*Say what*"... you might ask? Well, we all claim to be Christians but do we wear the cloak of Jesus or just carry the brand name?

Let's look at the reality of where we are in our country today. Morality and personal responsibility, for example, are two characteristics that are hard to find. Add civility to that as well.

Step back and note that regular church attendance is virtually non-existent in the under 35 age cohort. Divorce and suicides are off the charts. And, civility? With a common mindset of, "My way or the highway" attitude, civility has been replaced with belligerence.

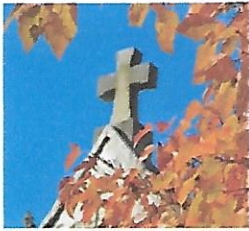
Wearing our Christianity – our Old Catholic Faith – means extending kindness as our way. For example, I was given a little sign, "10 x 1" that reads, *Just Be Nice*. It sits on the driver's side of my dash. The reflection reminds me to do so every time I get out of the car, and the message is there for all to see. Nothing extraordinary, but, oh so important.

Slipping the cashier a few bucks while cashing out with a quiet instruction to pay it forward to the next customer is another random act of kindness that shows your colors!

You get the picture. It's time to dress for these perilous times and walk the walk for God, Country and Family.

Father Bob





October falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection

The Gospel readings for the Sundays in October 2020 are taken from St. Matthew

October 4th 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time	This Gospel recounts the parable of the landowner and the vineyard.
October 11th 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time	This Gospel recounts the parable of the wedding banquet.
October 18th 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Jesus says to "Render to Caesar what is Caesar's."
October 25th 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time	In this Gospel Jesus gives us the greatest commandment.



Mass is again being held at Regency Oaks St. Francis Extension on Sundays at 9:15 am
 Mass continues to be held at 11:00 am at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Church
 Mass is now open at St. Roch for Assisted Living residents only. Mass is held on Saturdays at 4:00 pm
NOTE: Mass on October 18th at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Church will begin at 11:30 am



Invitation to Welcome Bishop-Elect, Steven M. Rosczewski

Right Reverend Steven M. Rosczewski is the Bishop-elect for the Florida Diocese of TOCCUSA- The Old Catholic Church, Province of the United States

Please plan to attend both special Masses on October 18, 2020
Bishop Steve will preside at Regency Oaks at their 9:15 am Mass and at Saint Francis at 11:30 am
Bishop Steve will be greeting everyone after each Mass where coffee and donuts will be served.

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.

Father Bob is inviting all who are able to attend Mass

Masks are requested but not mandatory + Social Distance is required
Sign of Peace-Wave or put hands in prayer position and say "Ohio" (Japanese for Hello)
No collection + Donations may be left when leaving Mass

Can't attend Mass?

Please contact Father Bob if you would like him to bring you Communion at your home.

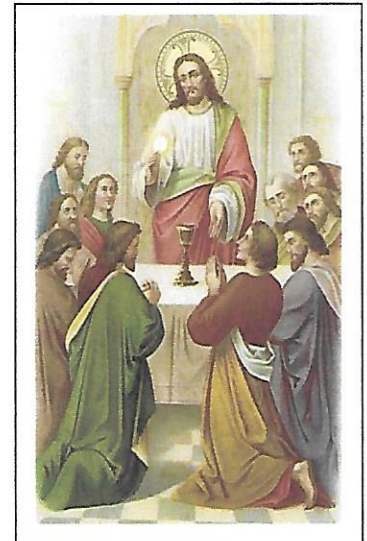


Can't attend Mass?

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



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



Please send your prayer intentions to: crenneckar@gmail.com by October 23, 2020 to be published in the November Bulletin. Let us all share in the prayers for one another.



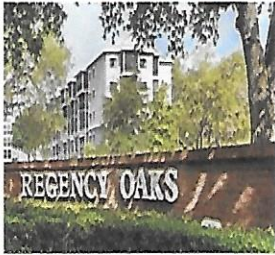
Bud and Ellen Trombley + Pina Ciullo

Joi Lenoce + Jan Nelch

Henry Danilowski (Regency Oaks) + Leticia Fernandez (St. Roch)

May the Holy Spirit inspire Bishop-Elect Steve Rosczewski in his forthcoming leadership of our Diocese.

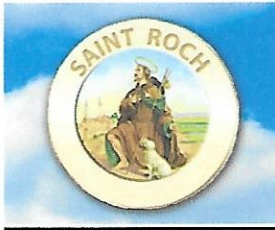
Saint Francis Extension at Regency Oaks



Mass has returned to Regency Oaks
Father Bob has resumed Mass at Regency Oaks for the residents only on Sundays at 9:15 am. All CDC guidelines are observed.

Bishop-elect Steve Rosczewski will officiate our October 18th Mass. Those attending will be able to share coffee with Bishop Steve afterward.

St. Roch Old Catholic Church at Rocky Creek Village



The Chapel at Rocky Creek is now open!

Mass is open only to those residents in Assisted Living. We are grateful to the Village management for allowing us to resume our 4:00 pm Saturday Masses once again, even with this current limitation.



Saint Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church

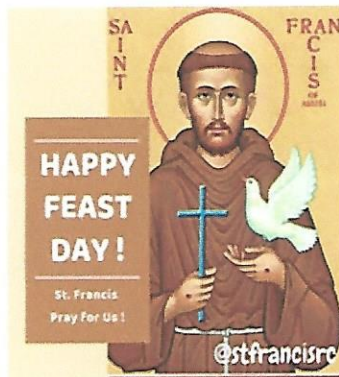
During this month when we celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi let us honor the establishment of our Parish.

The Parish name was selected by Father Robert "Bob" Swick. At that time, 2017, members celebrated Mass at the Veterans Alliance Headquarters facility at the Clearwater Air Park.

In September of 2018, the Parish began its transition to its current site in the Historic Church of Christ Building. We held our inaugural Mass on Sunday, June 30, 2019

On Sunday, February 23, 2020, the Most Reverend Bishop Robert Fuentes of the Old Catholic Church Diocese of Napa performed the service of Consecration of our Parish Home.

We look forward to many years serving the Dunedin Community, growing our church membership, and providing a welcoming worship service to all who wish to visit us in our historic home.



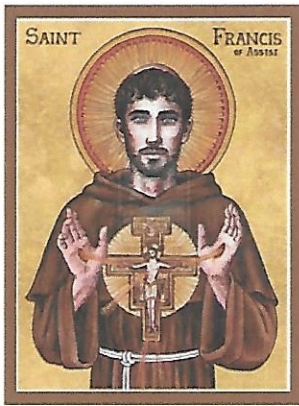
Saint Francis of Assisi

Italian Catholic friar, deacon, philosopher, mystic, and preacher.

Founder of the Third Order of Saint Francis, the Order of the Friars Minor, the women's Order of Saint Clare, and the Custody of the Holy Land, prepared the first Nativity scene.

Patron Saint of Animals, Merchants and Ecology

Feast Day - October 4, 2020



Saint Francis of Assisi--The Patron Saint of our Parish

Born in 1182 in Assisi, Italy, Francis was immediately in conflict with his father. Francis was born and baptized Giovanni after John the Baptist while his father was away on business. Upon his father's return he renamed his son Francesco. He wanted his son to be a man of business, a cloth merchant like him, and not a man of God.

During his youth, Francis enjoyed a rich and easy life due to his father's wealth. At the same time he wanted something more...he wanted to be a noble, a knight! And battle was the best place to win glory. During the Battle with Perugia, he was taken prisoner. After a year in a dungeon, he was ransomed, and returned to a life of partying.

His dream of being a knight was rekindled during the Fourth Crusade. His father provided him with a suit of armor and a horse. However, after a day's ride from Assisi, Francis had a dream where "God told him he was wrong and to return home." At home, Francis began to spend more time in prayer and wept for his sins. Shortly after, while riding through the countryside he came face to face with a leper. Although repelled by the appearance and smell of the leper, he jumped from his horse and kissed the hand of the leper. Francis was filled with joy when the kiss was returned. He viewed this as a test from God...one that he passed!

In his search for conversion, he was drawn to the ancient church at San Damiano and the cross inside. While praying before the cross, he heard Christ on the crucifix speak to him, "Francis, repair my church." Francis assumed this meant to repair the small crumbling building that he was in. Francis took fabric from his father's shop and sold it to get money to repair the church. His father saw this as an act of theft and brought him before the Bishop and the whole town and demanded he return the money and renounced all rights as his heir. The Bishop was kind to Francis and told him to return the money and that God would provide. Francis returned the money and stripped off all of his clothes—the clothes his father had given him—until he was only wearing a hair shirt. In front of the crowd, he stated that Pietro is no longer my father...from now on I can say with complete freedom, "Our Father who art in heaven."

In Assisi, he begged for stones and began to preach about living by the Gospel. By this time, companions started following Francis. His command was to give to the poor, to take nothing on their journey, and to take up the cross daily. He practiced true equality by showing honor, respect, and love to every person whether they were beggar or Pope. His brotherhood included all of God's creations including nature.

Saint Francis did not try to abolish poverty; he tried to make it holy. He and his friars were not allowed to accept money. They worked for necessities and only begged if they had to. Seeking approval for his brotherhood and to preach, he went directly to Rome to see Pope Innocent III, and received his approval.

During the Fifth Crusade, he decided to go to Syria to convert the Moslems. Going directly to the Sultan to make peace, he and his companion were captured. However, the Sultan was charmed by Francis and he freed them.

By the time he returned to Italy, his brotherhood has grown to 5,000 followers. In addition to his brotherhood, St. Clare of Assisi and her order of the Poor Clares followed Francis teachings. St. Clare cared for St. Francis during the final years of his life.

In 1224, he experienced a vision, received the stigmata, the marks of the nails and the lance wound that Christ suffered.

Saint Francis died on October 3, 1226. He was canonized as a saint on July 16, 1228 by Pope Gregory IX.

He left a legacy of compassion for the poor, the outcast and the oppressed that inspires a journey toward peace, nonviolence, and reconciliation. His message is a guiding light for the present and the future. Saint Francis teaches us to renew ourselves by striving to live our life as Jesus did.

Sources: www.catholic.org/encyclopedia and the *Third Order of the Hospital Sisters of Saint Francis, Springfield, IL*



The Tau Cross and the Franciscans

A sermon by Pope Innocent II in 1215 inspired Saint Francis to use the Tau as a sign of his mission to preach penance and as an outward symbol of the religious order he founded.

He blessed people with it; he signed his letters with it; marked the walls of his cell when imprisoned.

It has become the symbol of the Franciscan movement.

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

Mass on the 27th Day of Ordinary Time

Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi October 4, 2020



Note: on the bottom left, “Toy San” is assisting Fr. Bob with Mass while waiting for the Blessing of the Pets event to begin.

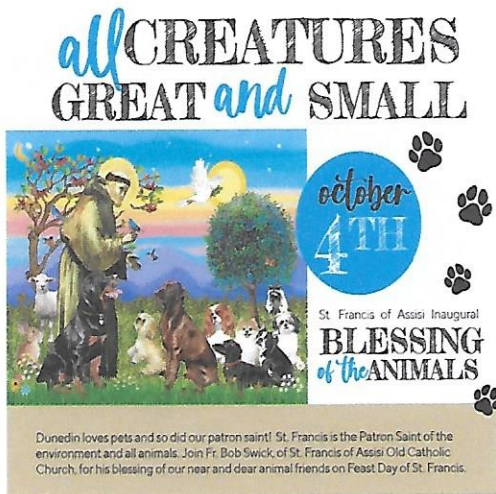


National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service October 4, 2020

All flags are lowered to half-staff on this day to recognize the brave men and women who died protecting their communities from natural and manmade emergencies and disasters and for those who carry on the proud tradition.

Father Bob requested that we remember those who have given their lives and also to pray for the firefighters fighting the fires in the West.

Community Outreach and Involvement



The First Annual Blessing of the Pets

Approximately 40 members of the Dunedin Community braved rain showers to attend the Saint Francis of Assisi Old Catholic Church "Blessing of the Pets" event.

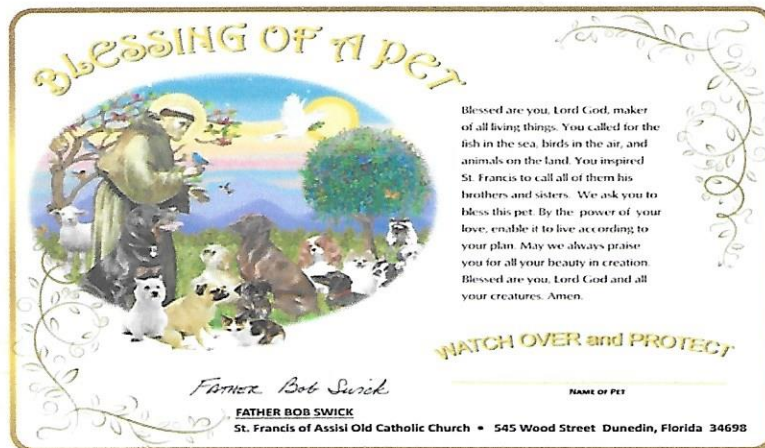
Father Robert "Bob" Swick blessed all of the dogs and one turtle on the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Participants received a "doggy bag" with treats, coupons from Dunedin Merchants and a Blessing of their Pet certificate.

Dunedin residents, visitors and their pets participating in the Blessing of their pet!



Certificate of Blessing given to each pet owner!



Thank you!

THANK YOU to Mary Kreuziger for designing and producing the beautiful certificate!
THANK YOU to ALL the wonderful volunteers and supporters-parishioners and community members alike-for making this a most memorable occasion!

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**

St. Francis Church Council

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

Joi Lenoce-Parish Lay Leader
floridajo24@gmail.com

Candy Christensen-Treasurer
gator80girl@yahoo.com

Ann Norlander-Wright
twogood4u0@yahoo.com

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Marc Norton-Acolyte
m.norton@tampabayveteransalliance.org

Peter Kreuziger
pkreuziger@bonappetitgroup.com

The Lord bless you and keep you!

The Lord let his face shine upon
you, and be gracious to you!

The Lord look upon you kindly
and give you peace!

NUMBERS 6:24-26

Donations and Contributions to our Parish are needed and appreciated

Safe and secure ways to assist:

- * Send a personal check, payable to St. Francis of Assisi to the address below.
- * 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 a set-up 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

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

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