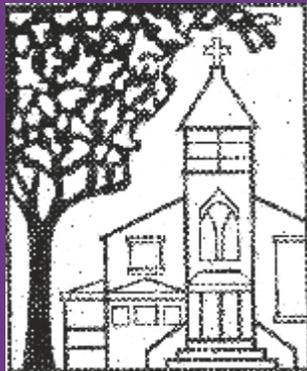


# December 13, 2020: Third Sunday of Advent

St. Frances of Rome



*St. Frances of Rome is an inclusive, welcoming Roman Catholic family challenging ourselves to seek, experience and share the loving presence of God.*

St. Leonard



*The St. Leonard family welcomes all into our Catholic community to serve, pray and worship, as we welcome Christ.*



## Welcome in the cold dark night

Much like the Babylonian god Enlil who destroyed the world in a flood because humans were just too noisy, we are led to believe that what the Grinch hates about Christmas is all the badooos banging. After all, he's put up with it for 53 years now. Is he 53 years old? Did he move there 53 years ago? Such matters do not seem to concern our scribe the great doctor. Only that he has put up with Christmas for more than half a century. And that all those presents are noisy. And so in an economical half hour of animation (ignoring the live action movie that blasphemes my childhood) the Grinch sets about getting rid of Christmas by getting rid of the stuff.

But is it really the noise interrupting his solitude that has gotten to him? Because he seems even more upset by the next step in the Whos celebration and that is when they get quiet. The feast of Who Pudding and Roast Beast. He can't stand that in the least, after all. Could it be that his small heart knows from the beginning it's not about the stuff? Could it be that he knows what it's truly about and he sees himself cut off from that.

After all the Whos sing about it every year. "Welcome Christmas while we stand, heart to heart and hand in hand."

And that's the part that hurts about this year. We know it's not about the stuff. Not about the pink candle on the wreath, or the star on the tree. Not about the chocolate coins from St Nick or the packages in shiny paper. We've been taught that by the Whos since at least 1966. And besides UPS would be happy to see that we get all the stuff that we want without leaving our Who Houses, contactless and free delivery.

It's the hand in hand part.

But I remember thinking even when I was a wee small child, what about the people who don't have hands? (I probably thought that because Cindy Lou Who doesn't appear to have feet and dangles between two relatives during the Who Christmas Sing.) And that's where what we're waiting for comes in. That God who becomes flesh to join all of us who are flesh to each other.

Both Jesus and the prophets use that image of a feast to paint a picture of that day at the end of days when God takes away all that divides us. Even death itself. It is a feast that began in the life of Jesus himself and continues whenever we join together in his name. Whether we can join hands or not. And given the way that Covid cases are soaring, we would probably best celebrate this year by not joining hands with anybody we don't live with.

But heart to heart? That joining has always been in other hands than ours. And the One who joins hearts will make it true this year as every year. So the Whos were right after all, and so was Dr Seuss.

"Christmas day will always be, just as long as we have we."

-Fr Lou



## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Throughout the season of Advent, Father Lou will be offering several opportunities for parishioners to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a way to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ. Father Lou will be available in the parish church for private Confessions on the following dates and times:



- **Sunday, December 13 at Saint Frances of Rome from 12:30 - 2:00pm**
- **Wednesday, December 16 at Saint Leonard from 6:00 - 7:30pm**

Every effort will be made to keep everyone safe: masks are required, temperatures will be checked, and social distancing will be maintained in the confessional and throughout the church. No appointment is necessary - all are welcome to come at your convenience and participate in this beautiful sacrament!

Parishioners are also always welcome to make a private appointment for Confession. Call your parish office to schedule an appointment.

## Parish Life



### Dedication and Devotion Unsurpassed!

We want to give a big THANK YOU to the talented volunteers who created more than 500 Pocket Prayer Quilts in the past month. Each unique quilt was assembled by volunteers in a four-step process and was a work of love requiring a steady commitment of time from our team. We want to recognize the following Saint Leonard and Saint Frances of Rome parishioners who made this outreach possible: Sybil Alt, Maria Beckman, Rose Coomes, Anne Dugan, Katie Garbarino, Jo-Dee Jackson, Fran Mastropaolo, Ruby Neichter, Mary Parola, Teresa Riggs, Barbara Trompeter, Sandall Tyrrell, and Kathleen Willenbrink. Thank you!

## Christmas at Saint Leonard

Despite these difficult times, we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth together at Saint Leonard Parish this year. We hope you will join us for Mass to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord! Saint Leonard will be offering Mass at 5 pm on Christmas Eve (located in the gym) and at 10 am on Christmas Day (located in the church). To help us ensure that we can accommodate as many people as possible despite our limited COVID-19 capacity, reservations will be required to attend our Christmas Masses. Please RSVP for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Mass by calling the parish office (502-897-2595) by Monday, December 21.

## Advent & Christmas Schedule at St. Frances of Rome

\*Please note that all Masses will take place in the church. Reservations are required. Please call the parish office at 896-8401 to reserve your spot. Masses will be livestreamed on our church Facebook page, as well as the church Youtube channel.

- **Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.**
- **Christmas Day, Friday, December 25th at 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.**
- **New Year's Eve, December 31st at 6:00 p.m.**
- **New Year's Day, January 1st at 10:00 a.m.**

## Discernment for Possible Leadership at Saint Leonard

*Do you love your parish community? Are you seeking ways to advocate for your fellow parishioners? Do you seek to be the "change you want to see" in your church community and in your hometown?*

The **Saint Leonard Parish Council** currently has three open positions available for new Council Members, and we would love to invite you to prayerfully consider serving in this way. This role requires active participation in monthly Parish Council meetings and someone willing to go the extra mile for the Saint Leonard community.

If you are interested (or if you know someone you think would be a great fit), please contact the Saint Leonard parish office ([stlparish@stleonardlouisville.org](mailto:stlparish@stleonardlouisville.org); 502-897-2595) with questions or to submit your name for consideration. Thank you!



### St Frances of Rome Giving Tree

During Advent and Christmas, St. Frances of Rome has historically embraced the spirit of giving each year for United Crescent Hill Ministries' (UCHM) **“Christmas Connection”** program through the Advent Giving Tree. This program is dedicated to ensuring that the children in our community are provided a cheerful and fulfilling holiday. However, with this unprecedented giving season, UCHM would like to keep everyone as safe as possible. So the **“Christmas Connection”** program will look a little different this year. Rather than fulfilling children’s wish lists by parishioners purchasing gifts themselves, they are asking St. Frances of Rome for preferable donations in the form of cash, check or gift cards. If you are interested in donating or sponsoring a family, please use one of the following methods:

- Visit the UCHM “Christmas Connection Program” web page to donate directly: <https://www.uchmlouky.org/christmas-connection-sponsorship-sign-up/> and select "Donate" to make

your contribution.

- Donate cash, or a check (made out to UCHM)
- Or purchase a gift card from Target, Amazon, Visa, Walmart or Kroger with the amount noted on the card. [Please enclose the cash, check or gift card in an envelope marked “UCHM Christmas Connection” and place it in the collection basket on Sundays or drop it off at the parish office during business hours.]

**For each SFR gift received, a ribbon will be hung on the parish’s Advent “Christmas Connection” Giving Tree.** If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 896-8401 Thank you in advance for your kindness and ongoing support of this Advent/Christmas parish outreach effort.

\*\*Another opportunity to add ribbons to the SFR Advent Giving Tree: Everyone is invited to add ribbons for acts of kindness shown or received throughout the Advent season. Together let us appreciate the kindness in our lives! If you are unable to do so in person, call or email the office and the staff will hang them for you.\*\*

### Stewardship of Treasure



Collection 11/29/2020	\$1,705
Amount Needed Weekly	\$6,942
YTD Overage	\$8,835
Collection 12/6/2020	\$7,260
Amount Needed Weekly	\$6,942
YTD Overage	\$9,153



Collection 12/6/2020	\$8,124
Amount Needed Weekly	\$6,975
YTD Under	\$(24,673)

### Mass Intentions



Sunday, Dec 13, 8:30am: **Howard & Hatti Brown & Sons**  
 Sunday, Dec 13, 11:30am: **People of the Parish**  
 Monday, Dec 14, 8:30am: **Jayne BacVar**  
 Wednesday, Dec 16, 8:30am: **Doug Brown**  
 Wednesday, Dec 16, 12Noon:  
 Friday, Dec 18, 8:30 am:



Saturday, Dec 12, 5pm:  
 Sunday, Dec 13, 10:00am: **People of the Parish**  
 Tuesday, Dec 15, 12pm:  
 Thursday, Dec 17, 12pm:  
 Wednesday, Dec 16, 12Noon:  
 Saturday, Dec 19, 5pm:

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