



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS

Committed to living and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ within the Catholic tradition, we are blessed to have as our patron saint someone who continues to call us to reach out to others in charity and compassion.

Church of

St Francis of Assisi

1114 Third Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904
507.288.7313
<http://stfrancis-church.org>

Parish Center Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 8:00AM - 3:30PM
Friday: 9:00AM - 3:30PM

Weekday Mass:

Monday - Friday 7AM

School Mass:

Tuesday 9:15AM

Weekend Mass:

Saturday 4:30PM
Sunday 8AM, 10AM

In Spanish:

Sunday 12PM

Misa En Español:

Domingo 12PM

Pastor

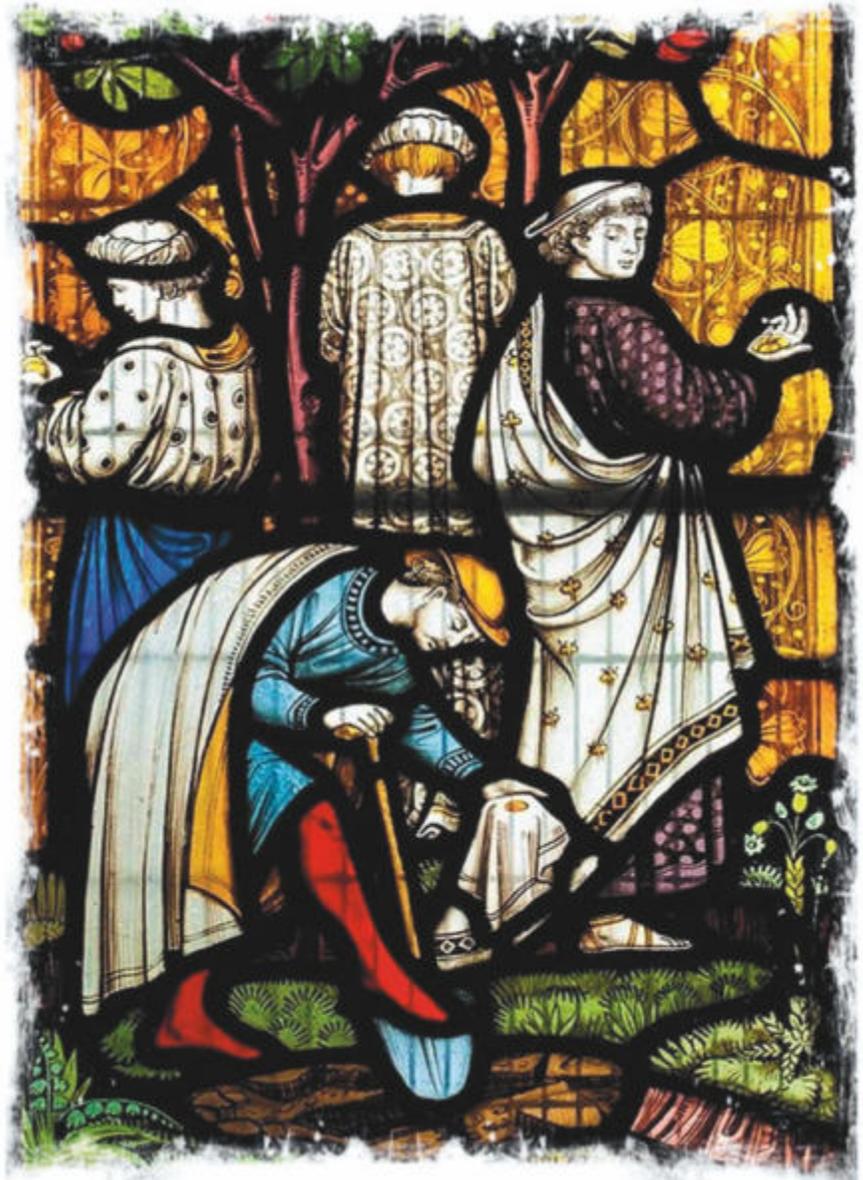
Rev. Jim Berning

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Luis Vargas

Deacon

Mr. Terry Smith



"'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.'
His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.
Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.
Come, share your master's joy.'"
- Matthew 25:20b-21



FALL FESTIVAL. This weekend, the Finance Committee will make an appeal at all the Masses to help offset the loss of our parish Fall Festival income in 2020 as a result of the coronavirus. There are special green "Parish Festival Deficit" envelopes in this bulletin - as well as in the Gathering Space. You can also make a donation online via our website by using WeShare - just click on the Online Giving icon. Please know we are deeply grateful to all of you and we give thanks for everyone's generosity in helping with this shortfall.

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. Next Sunday, November 22, we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe. This also marks the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year. Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King in 1925 to remind Christians that their allegiance was to their spiritual ruler in heaven as opposed to earthly supremacy claimed by dictators at that time. In our day, we need this reminder that our first allegiance must be to Christ the King. This day also leads into Advent - and commemorates the arrival of the newborn King. The Liturgical Year will begin with the First Sunday of Advent on November 29.

THANKSGIVING DAY. Thursday, November 26 is Thanksgiving Day. We will have Mass at 9AM in the Church. Please join us in giving thanks to our Lord for all He has done. We are very blessed indeed! There will be NO 7AM daily Mass on Friday, November 27.

PLANNING AHEAD. The CHRISTMAS MASS TIME Sign-Up is LIVE on the website. Our capacity limit is 180 people at this time. Each Mass Time sign-up will be first come first serve. Mass times are as follows: CHRISTMAS EVE: 4:30PM (Childrens), 7PM (Spanish), 10PM (English) w/9:30PM Christmas Carols; CHRISTMAS DAY: 8AM and 10AM (English) and 12PM (Spanish). We ask that you sign up for one Mass time and include the number of people in your household and any out of town guests that may be attending Mass with you. We urge parishioners to reserve the 4:30PM Mass for families with children. If one Mass becomes full, we hope you will sign up for a different Mass time.

For those who do not have internet access to sign-up, please call the parish center office to sign up for a Mass time. We will stream Christmas Mass on our Facebook page for those who cannot attend.

Also, there will be NO communal reconciliation this Advent season. Fr Luis and I will be offering additional opportunities for confessions. More information to come!

COMMUNION. Lastly, with the recent rise in COVID-19 cases locally, we strongly encourage you to choose to receive Communion in your hands as this is the safest way to receive at this time. But if you are very uncomfortable doing so, we ask that you please wait and go to the end of the communion line of myself or Fr Luis.

FR JIM BERNING

Welcome

Welcome to the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Our church has helped to bring Jesus Christ to the city of Rochester since 1937. We seek to foster the spiritual growth of our parishioners through the celebration of the Sacraments, catechesis, community life, and personal prayer. Like our patron saint, we strive to rebuild the Church and to console the heart of Jesus by serving our neighbors in need.

Parish Contacts

Parish Center Office

(507) 288-7313

Pastor (x 202)

Rev. Jim Berning

Parochial Vicar (x 203)

Rev. Luis Vargas

Deacon (x 208)

Terry Smith

Parish Administrator (x 204)

Sarah Kinsman

Office Manager (x 201)

Michelle Ibarra

Financial Secretary (x 205)

Debbie Worden

Director of Music/Liturgy (x 301)

Zack Stachowski

Faith Formation (x 207)

Mark Nuehring

St. Francis of Assisi School

(507) 288-4816

Principal

Barb Plenge

Trustees

Bruce Anderson

Rosemary Bengal

Knights of Columbus

Dale Frank

Calvary Cemetery

Steve Flynn, Director

(507) 273-0140

Catholic Charities

(507) 287-2047



COMITÉ DE FINANZAS DE NUESTRA PARROQUIA.

El concejo de finanzas de nuestra parroquia de san Francisco de Asís, nos comparte como están las finanzas actualmente.

Este año, a fines de julio, enviamos un pedido de ayuda para cubrir un déficit de \$80,000 en las finanzas, que ocurrió desde el momento en que nuestra iglesia fue cerrada a fines de marzo hasta que reabrimos el 20 de junio. Queremos agradecer a todos por ayudar a abordar este déficit; sus respuestas fueron muy amables y muy apreciadas, se recibieron \$ 19,650 directamente de este llamado y petición. Otros feligreses han optado por aumentar sus donaciones mensuales. ¡Nuestros feligreses son muy amables! Agradecemos las generosas contribuciones que se han hecho.

Vivimos en una época inusual y sin precedentes dada la pandemia de COVID en curso. Nuestra parroquia tomó la decisión de no realizar nuestro Festival Anual de Otoño este año. Esta decisión se tomó para cumplir con el distanciamiento social y mantener la seguridad de todos. Nuestro Festival de Otoño es el principal evento de recaudación de fondos para nuestra parroquia y en un año normal contribuye de \$ 30,000 a 40,000 a nuestro presupuesto anual. Para compensar este déficit, solicitamos sus contribuciones, por pequeñas que sean, ya que cada donación ayudará a cerrar la brecha en nuestro presupuesto.

La familia Powers, en memoria de Bunny Powers, ya ha donado \$ 10,000 a este llamamiento.

Por favor únase y ayude a nuestra parroquia a compensar nuestro déficit presupuestario. ¡Todas las donaciones, grandes o pequeñas, son bienvenidas!

Las donaciones se pueden hacer usando el sobre especial de color verde que será para cubrir el Déficit del Festival Parroquial, que se incluye en el boletín de esta semana. Habrá Sobres adicionales disponibles en el espacio de reunión. El sobre "verde" se puede colocar en la caja del ofertorio durante la misa, o se puede traer o enviar por correo a la oficina del centro parroquial. Si lo prefiere, también puede hacer un obsequio en línea a través de nuestro sitio web parroquial, utilizando Giving Online with WeShare. Solo busque el icono de Déficit del Festival Parroquial. Todas las donaciones son deducibles de impuestos.

¡Gracias por su continuo apoyo a nuestra parroquia. Dios los bendiga a todos!

MASS INTENTIONS



For the Week of November 16, 2020

MON Nov 16	7:00 AM	John Wood †
TUE Nov 17	* 9:15 AM	Wendy Hagan †
WED Nov 18	7:00 AM	Healing for Greg Payne
THU Nov 19	7:00 AM	Paul Winkler †
	** 7:00 PM	
FRI Nov 20	7:00 AM	Jerry Goodman †
SAT Nov 21	4:30 PM	Don Wannarka †
SUN Nov 22	8:00 AM	Michael Long †
	10:00 AM	Helen & Louie Sell †
	** 12:00 PM	Pro Populo

* School Mass ** Spanish Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

If you have a desire to remember someone who has passed away or simply in need of some extra prayers, Mass Intentions are available every day for our weekday Masses and on the weekends. You are welcome to stop by the Parish Office and schedule a Mass intention during normal office hours.

Readings for the week of November 15, 2020

Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1a]/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21
 Monday: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Rev 2:17]/Lk 18:35-43
 Tuesday: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 [Rev 3:21]/Lk 19:1-10
 Wednesday: Rv 4:1-11/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [1b]/Lk 19:11-28
 Thursday: Rv 5:1-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [Rev 5:10]/Lk 19:41-44
 Friday: Rv 10:8-11/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131 [103a]/Lk 19:45-48
 Saturday: Rv 11:4-12/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 [1b]/Lk 20:27-40
 Next Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 [1]/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46

Las lecturas de la semana del 15 de noviembre de 2020

Domingo: Prov 31, 10-13. 19-20. 30-31/Sal 128, 1-2. 3. 4-5 [cfr. 1]/1 Tes 5, 1-6/Mt 25, 14-30 o 25, 14-15. 19-21
 Lunes: Ap 1, 1-4; 2, 1-5/Sal 1, 1-2. 3. 4 y 6 [Rev 2, 17]/Lc 18, 35-43
 Martes: Ap 3, 1-6. 14-22/Sal 15, 2-3. 3-4. 5 [Rev 3, 21]/Lc 19, 1-10
 Miércoles: Ap 4, 1-11/Sal 150, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6 [1]/Lc 19, 11-28
 Jueves: Ap 5, 1-10/Sal 149, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6 y 9 [Rev 5, 10]/Lc 19, 41-44
 Viernes: Ap 10, 8-11/Sal 119, 14. 24. 72. 103. 111. 131 [103]/Lc 19, 45-48
 Sábado: Ap 11, 4-12/Sal 144, 1. 2. 9-10 [1]/Lc 20, 27-40
 Domingo siguiente: Ez 34, 11-12. 15-17/Sal 23, 1-2. 2-3. 5-6 [1]/1 Cor 15, 20-26. 28/Mt 25, 31-46

Faith Formation

Do you ever watch Wheel of Fortune? If you do, than you know that for the last person to determine what they win, they need to solve the final puzzle. They are allowed certain letters to help them solve the puzzle, and now the show actually gives them R, S, T, L, N and E... since they have become so commonly used.

My family has been watching this show, again, lately. It has gotten me thinking about Thanksgiving. How - you may ask? Well, if I were to ask you what you are most thankful for, most of you would say your family, your health, your home, your friends and your job. I consider these the "R, S, T, L, N and E" answers to that question. Now, that the easy answers are out of the way - what are the next 5 things you are thankful for? My wife bought a wall hanging a year or two ago from Hobby Lobby that says, "Many are grateful with less than what you have." This really puts it into perspective for me especially this month.

I realize I have everything that I need - and most of the things I want - when there are others barely getting by. In this time of being thankful, and grateful, is there a way we can be extremely generous with those who have less?

When you go to the grocery store to do your own Thanksgiving shopping, would you be willing to buy a \$10 or \$20 gift card for a family in need? Saint Francis is willing to collect those cards and give them to families who ask for food assistance. The need is real - and your kindness is greatly appreciated!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

- **Mark** (youthminister@stfrancis-church.org)

FALL FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR

All classes meet from 6PM - 7:30PM

Wed, October 21	Wed, November 18
Wed, October 28	Wed, December 2
Wed, November 4	Wed, December 9
Wed, November 11	Wed, December 16

Classes for Grade 3, 4 and 5 will meet in the School with drop-off at the Marian entrance. Classes for Grade 6, 7 and 8 will meet in the basement of the Parish Center with drop-off and pick-up by the Parish Center library door.

The calendar for the second half of the 2020-21 Year will be available in December.

Music and Liturgy

MusicNotes

DIGITAL WORSHIP AIDS. I am pleased to be able to provide digital worship aids for use at weekend liturgies. These worship aids are designed to be used on mobile devices like phones or tablets. These worship aids will contain the order of service, the readings, prayers, and the songs we'll be using at liturgy. I hope that these will help to facilitate more active engagement and participation at liturgy. The links for the worship aid will be sent out through our parish email and on our parish Facebook page (@stfrancisrochmn). Additionally, placards with QR codes can be found in the gathering space. Depending on your phone (this won't work if you phone is very old), generally all you need to do is scan the QR code with your camera app, just like you were taking a picture. Once the camera recognizes the QR code, a link to the worship aid should pop up.

READERS, MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY, AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED! If you are interested in serving at our parish liturgies contact Zack Stachowski for information about training and scheduling. Our scheduling portal allows for complete control and flexibility. Even if you can only commit to serving several times throughout the year, our system can accommodate that. Liturgical ministry is a great way of deepening your engagement with the Eucharist. Contact me with any questions.

- **Zack** (litfranc@stfrancis-church.org)

School News



✦ Tour Kindergarten at St. Francis of Assisi School for the 2021-2022 school year on Monday and Thursday, November 16th and 19th. Tours run every 15 minutes and you can sign up via the RCS website (www.rcsmn.org). If these dates/times do not work for you, or if you would like a more extensive tour, please contact the school office 288-4816.

- ✦ The weekly school Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 17th at 9:15 a.m.
- ✦ Please continue to bring nonperishable food donations for Operation One More.

God gives us the gift of His very self and asks us to invest it. Investing God's greatest gift of Himself wisely, allows God's kingdom to grow and flourish. God trusts us with this pearl of great price in hopes that it will produce abundant fruit. While God's gift of self is realized in the gifts of faith, hope, and love, they are not meant to be solely for personal benefit. They are intended to be shared and are at the heart of Jesus' blueprint for happiness, the Beatitudes.

We often go the extra mile when it comes to those concerns closest to us: our families, friends, careers, home and securities. But when it comes to things that are not as close to us, we can become lax and less conscientious. Tending to God's treasure requires a great deal of focus and persistent hard work. It demands that I see the bigger picture, God's picture, in which self-sacrifice is a given as we labor for the establishment of God's kingdom, God's vision. Fear and a lack of trust can loom large, however. We are afraid of letting go of what is "mine" and apprehensive of jeopardizing what we have in order to venture into something bigger and more promising.

Fear and a lack of trust serve no purpose in God's kingdom. They benefit neither the person nor God. What is required is a courageous resolve that produces the fortitude necessary to stay the course and do what God is asking. Doing all in our power to cultivate the seeds of faith, hope, and love in our world, working diligently to put all of our relationships in proper order, becoming attentive to systems and ideologies that hurt and oppress people, being mindful of injustice, and laboring on behalf of the poor are at the core of what each of us is asked to do. It is how we invest God's most precious gift wisely. If persistent, alert and attentive, then life will gradually improve around us, there will be greater peace and we will experience joy.

Este domingo escucharemos en la Liturgia sobre la parábola de los talentos y de cómo el Señor reparte estos de acuerdo a las habilidades de las personas. Dios ha invertido en nosotros y espera que esa inversión dé frutos de acuerdo a la capacidad personal. Hablando en términos actuales, algunas personas ahorran en bancos, y hasta ponen su dinero en la bolsa de valores, otras en cambio prefieren tener su dinero en casa, aunque no gane ningún interés.

De acuerdo al Evangelio, dos de los servidores hicieron muy bien. Sin embargo, el tercero no se preocupó en lo absoluto de poner a trabajar lo recibido. "Es importante no encerrarse en sí mismos, enterando el propio talento, las propias riquezas espirituales, intelectuales, materiales, todo lo que el Señor nos ha dado, sino abrirse, ser solidarios, tener cuidado de los demás". ¿Han pensado en los talentos que Dios les ha dado? ¿Han pensado en cómo se pueden poner al servicio de los demás? ¡No entierren los talentos! Apuesten por grandes ideales, los ideales que agrandan el corazón, aquellos ideales de servicio que harán fructíferos sus talentos". La vida no se nos ha dado para que la conservemos celosamente para nosotros mismos, sino que se nos ha dado, para que la donemos. ¡Queridos jóvenes, tengan un corazón grande! ¡No tengan miedo de soñar cosas grandes!" Y añadió el Papa. "Nos dice que la espera del retorno del Señor es el tiempo de la acción. Nosotros somos el tiempo de la acción, tiempo para sacar provecho de los dones de Dios. (Papa Francisco a los jóvenes).



DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY INFORMATION.

The Diocese of Winona-Rochester will provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of

sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (employees, volunteers, vendors, religious or clergy). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 507-454-2270, Extension 255. A caller will be asked to provide his or her name and telephone number. Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. The Diocese of Winona-Rochester is committed to protecting children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. The diocesan policy is available on the diocesan web site at www.dowr.org under the Safe Environment Program. If you have any questions about the Diocese of Winona's implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, please contact Mary Hamann, at 507-858-1244, or mhamann@dowr.org.

Procedimientos diocesanos para hacer frente al abuso sexual de menores
La Diócesis de Winona-Rochester se ha comprometido a proteger a los niños, los jóvenes y otras personas vulnerables en nuestras escuelas, parroquias y actividades apostólicas. Tenemos un cuidado especial y la intención permanente de atender eventuales víctimas de abuso sexual y sus familias. Para informarnos sobre alegaciones actuales de abuso sexual por parte de miembros del clero o empleados laicos o voluntarios en la Diócesis de Winona-Rochester contacte: 507-454-2270, Extensión 255 Víctimas de abuso sexual, además de contactar a las autoridades civiles, se les pide de dirigirse a la diócesis para recibir asistencia pastoral. El Coordinado de Asistencia a la Victim le proveerá tal asistencia. <http://www.dowr.org/offices/safe-environment/report-a-complaint.html>

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

During November, as we pray for those in purgatory, we should also ask the saints in heaven to intercede for us. We may be challenged by our protestant brothers and sisters who believe that the saints cannot intercede for us because as St. Paul teaches in 1 Timothy 2:5, "there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ." They may believe asking the saints' intercession takes away from the unique mediation of Christ. They may also protest that if we pray to the saints, we are not being faithful to God's word.

In 1 Timothy 2:1, St. Paul urges "supplication, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving to be made for all men." In verse 3, he says that such prayer is "good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior." In Romans 15:30, Paul asks for prayers on his behalf. In Colossians 1:3, Paul prays for the Church. In verses 9-10, he tells the people in the church that he has not ceased to pray for them.

The objection is based on a verse that is taken out of context from the rest of scripture: 1 Timothy 2:5 is isolated from verse 1. If a single verse is taken out of context, then it can be used in a way the author didn't intend. Second, other passages in scripture show that prayer for others is a good thing. If we can pray for others who are alive, why can't those in heaven pray for us? The Church does indeed teach that "we can and should ask them {the saints} to intercede for us and for the whole world" in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), paragraph 2683.

Consider these arguments that refute the idea that the saints cannot intercede for us. First, the logic of the objection to asking the saints to intercede for us requires us to deny all forms of Christian intercession. Who among us would not pray for a friend or family member if they asked us to? St. Paul teaches just that! Second, if Jesus wanted to share his intercessory role with his saints, he could. Finally, the saints participate in Christ's unique mediation because, as St. Paul teaches, we were all baptized into one body, and since we were, we are united to Christ who is the head of the body. The saints in heaven are part of Christ's mystical body as well as us who are alive. So hold fast to your belief that praying to the saints to ask their intercession is a holy and wholesome thought.



PRAYER AFTER AN ELECTION

God of all nations,
Father of the human family,
we give you thanks for the
freedom we exercise
and the many blessings of
democracy we enjoy in these
United States of America.
We ask for your protection
and guidance for all who devote
themselves to the common good,
working for justice and peace at home
and around the world.
We lift up all our duly elected leaders
and public servants,
those who will serve us as president,
as legislators and judges,
those in the military and
law enforcement.
Heal us from our differences
and unite us, O Lord,
with a common purpose, dedication,
and commitment to achieve liberty
and justice in the years ahead for all
people, and especially those who are
most vulnerable in our midst. Amen.

ORACIÓN DESPUÉS DE UN DÍA DE ELECCIONES

Dios de todas las naciones,
Padre de la familia humana,
te damos gracias por la libertad que
ejercemos y las muchas bendiciones de
la democracia que gozamos
en estos Estados Unidos de América.
Pedimos tu protección y orientación
para todos los que se dedican al bien
común, trabajando por la justicia y la
paz aquí y en todo el mundo.
Elevamos a todos nuestros líderes y servi-
dores públicos debidamente elegidos,
a aquellos que nos servirán como presi-
dente, como legisladores y jueces,
a los miembros de las fuerzas armadas y
las fuerzas del orden.
Cúranos de nuestras diferencias y úne-
nos, oh Señor, con un propósito, dedi-
cación y compromiso comunes
de lograr la libertad y la justicia
en los años venideros para todas las per-
sonas, y especialmente los más vulnera-
bles entre nosotros. Amén.

The Greater Catholic Community

RCS DAY OF GIVING. We are counting on YOU! Please join us for the 5th Annual RCS Day of Giving on Tuesday, November 17. This year's event will be a little different due to the current restrictions, but we know we can depend on you to be part of this special day! Learn how you can show your continued support for our students, teachers, and staff at: rcsmn.org/dayofgiving

RCS TOUR NIGHTS. We are incredibly proud of our students, teachers, and staff at Rochester Catholic Schools and encourage you to tell others what makes an RCS education so exceptional! Invite your friends and neighbors to sign-up for one of our upcoming tour nights for preschool, kindergarten, or high school. Read more at <https://www.rcsmn.org/tournights>

OPERATION ONE MORE | HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS.

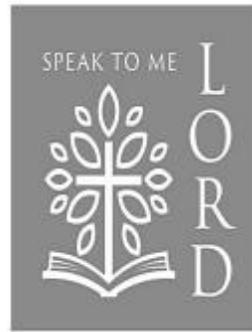
The holiday season is one filled with joy and wonder but can also bring financial stress. Many families with children in our community are food insecure. Our mission is to provide extra food as a gesture of compassion during the holiday season. Last year nearly 60 families, 260 individuals, were blessed with a holiday food basket. With COVID-19 effecting so many, we anticipate a greater need for our assistance. Items needed are jars of peanut butter, mashed potatoes, plain oatmeal oats, and canned tuna. Please consider donating...collection bins located in the Gathering Space. We will be collecting food through December 13th. For more Information, contact Stephanie at: stephanie.collura@gmail.com



ST. PIUS X ADULT EDUCATION
VIRTUAL PRESENTATION
**ADVENT IN TODAY'S WORLD:
INSIGHTS FROM ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH 7:00-8:00 PM

LIVE VIRTUAL PRESENTATION WITH Q AND A VIA ZOOM.

Register in advance for this meeting by November 29 at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkfu6pqDliGNxqxuLB5hi_s08A46YkORaM. Upon registering, you will automatically receive the zoom link to join the presentation. Sister Ramona Miller is the Congregational Minister/President of the Sisters of St. Francis in Rochester, MN. For over 25 years, she was a staff member of the Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs leading pilgrims to Assisi, Italy. She has given numerous presentations on St. Francis of Assisi.



SETTLING ACCOUNTS: SCOTT HAHN REFLECTS ON THE THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The day of the Lord is coming, Paul warns in today's Epistle. What matters isn't the time or the season, but what the Lord finds us doing with the new life, the graces He has given to us.

This is at the heart of Jesus' parable in today's Gospel. Jesus is the Master. Having died, risen, and ascended into heaven, He appears to have gone away for a long time.

By our Baptism, He has entrusted to each of us a portion of His "possessions," a share in His divine life (see 2 Peter 1:4). He has given us talents and responsibilities, according to the measure of our faith (see Romans 12:3, 8). We are to be like the worthy wife in today's First Reading and the faithful man we sing of in today's Psalm. Like them, we should walk in the "fear of the Lord" - in reverence, awe, and thanksgiving for His marvelous gifts. This is the beginning of wisdom (see Acts 9:31; Proverbs 1:7).

This is not the "fear" of the useless servant in today's parable. His is the fear of a slave cowering before a cruel master, the fear of one who refuses the relationship that God calls us to. God has called us to be trusted servants, fellow workers (see 1 Corinthians 3:9), using our talents to serve one another and His kingdom as good stewards of His grace (see 1 Peter 4:10). In this, we each have a different part to play.

Though the good servants in today's parable were given different numbers of talents, each "doubled" what he was given. And each earned the same reward for his faithfulness - greater responsibilities and a share of the master's joy. So let us resolve again in this Eucharist to make much of what we've been given, to do all for the glory of God (see 1 Corinthians 10:31). That we, too, may approach our Master with confidence and love when He comes to settle accounts.

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Hola! Bienvenue!
welcome!

A warm **WELCOME** is extended to all who come to the Church of St. Francis of Assisi! We are grateful to our faithful parishioners & welcome our neighbors & guests who are visiting us. We want you to know that you are always welcome here!

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