CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS

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

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths."
- Mark 1:2b-3

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER BERNING

ADVENT. I hope this Advent is a blessed and meaningful time for all of you. Next week, we will put up our new outdoor Nativity or crèche in front of the church. On December 11 at 11am, the Third Graders from St Francis School will join us for a special Manger Blessing. We look forward to having this displayed in one of the busiest areas of Rochester here on 11th Avenue SE and 4th Street SE. I hope you take the time to look at it as you drive by our parish and school complex.

ADVENT GIVING. Our parish will continue the tradition of collecting gifts for our neighbors in need this Christmas. Please take a tag off our Advent Angel Tree in the Gathering Space and return the gift, wrapped and tagged with the angel by Sunday, December 13. Also, please continue to bring nonperishable food items for Operation One More. We will be collecting food through December 13. Collection bins are located in the Gathering Space. Thank you very much for your continued generosity in helping those less fortunate during Advent Season!

CONFESSIONS. Our Advent Communal Penance service will not be held this year. During the Season of Advent, Father Luis and I will be hearing confessions on Saturdays - beginning December 5 - from 3:30 - 4:15PM to help facilitate confessions during this time of a pandemic. We will be in the Cry Room and the old Baptistery area.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Tuesday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. We will have Masses on December 7 at 5:15pm (English), 7pm (Spanish) and on December 8 at 7am (English), 9:15am (School: Children, Administration, Teachers only), 5:15pm (English) and 7pm (Spanish). We are so very blessed and grateful to have our stained glass window in the balcony depicting the Immaculate Conception now illuminated in the evening and night hours. We thank the anonymous donor for this awesome gift to all of us. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States of America, pray for us.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE. Saturday, December 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will have three Masses (in Spanish) to help accommodate everyone. Tickets to attend are being handed out. Please stop by the office for a ticket if you plan on attending. Masses are at 7am, 12pm and 7pm. Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, pray for us.

GAUDETE SUNDAY. Next Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, is Guadete ("rejoice" in Latin) Sunday - so the rose-colored candle will be illuminated for us. We "rejoice" that the coming again of the Savior, the Christ Child, is very near us.

THANK YOU. Thank you so much for your generous response in support of the Parish Festival deficit. With the Powers family gift of $10,000, we are currently at **$34,033** in gifts received. All gifts, no matter the size, will help the parish with this shortfall.

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

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(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
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Zack Stachowski
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Dale Frank
Calvary Cemetery
Steve Flynn, Director
(507) 273-0140
Catholic Charities
(507) 287-2047

A NOTE FROM FR LUIS

¡FELIZ FIESTA DE LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE!

"No se entristezca tu corazón… ¿Acaso no estoy yo aquí, que soy tu Madre?", le dijo la Virgen de Guadalupe al afligido Juan Diego un Sábado 12 de diciembre de 1531. Ella, la Emperatriz de América y Patrona de México, quiso dejar su imagen desde ese día en una sencilla "tilma" como señal del Amor de Dios para creyentes y no creyentes.

Nuestra Madre celestial nos convoca nuevamente para que le rindamos un especial homenaje a ella, y a través de ella a nuestro Señor Jesucristo su hijo a quien ella dio a conocer a los pueblos indígenas en aquel tiempo y sigue dándonos a su hijo en nuestros tiempos.

La programación de la Fiesta en esta ocasión es atípica, pues por la pandemia que estamos viviendo ocasionada por el Covid 19 y las estrictas normas de bioseguridad, nos hemos visto en la necesidad de recrearnos para no dejar de hacer un especial y sentido homenaje a Nuestra Madre sin necesidad de tener todas las actividades que antes teníamos, aunque con mucha sencillez pero con mucho amor le celebraremos la fiesta a Nuestra Reina de las Américas, prestemos atención a lo siguiente:

Vamos a celebrar tres misas para que más personas tengan la oportunidad de participar en la fiesta.

Las personas que participen a la Santa Misa en homenaje a la Santísima Virgen, deben seguir los lineamientos de bioseguridad que los voluntarios y ministros de acogida les indiquen.

Además es recomendable que tengan sus boletos con los horarios respectivos para ingresar a la iglesia y así no sobrepasar la capacidad requerida en la iglesia, dicha capacidad son 180 personas, cabe mencionar que es una boleta por persona.

Los horarios de la Santa Misa son los siguientes:

✠ 7:00 am ✠ 12:00 pm ✠ 7:00 pm

Que sea esta una bonita oportunidad para que como familia parroquial y fieles devotos a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe vivamos una fuerte experiencia de fe y un agradable compartir en la unidad de la familia de los hijos de Dios.

Bendiciones para todos.

This Week's Intentions and Readings

Mass Intentions

For the Week of December 7, 2020

MON Dec 7	7:00 AM	Stan Huber
TUE Dec 8	* 9:15 AM	Jerry Goodman †
WED Dec 9	7:00 AM	Michael Long †
THU Dec 10	7:00 AM	Helen & Louie Sell †
	** 7:00 PM	
FRI Dec 11	7:00 AM	Anthony Ibarra (Bday)
SAT Dec 12	4:30 PM	Alfred Bolster †
SUN Dec 13	8:00 AM	Dorothy Easter †
	10:00 AM	For the Parish
	** 12:00 PM	Joel Patiño †, Maria Martinez †, Salvador Patiño †

* *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 December 6, 2020

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Las lecturas de la semana del 6 de diciembre de 2020

Domingo: Is 40, 1-5. 9-11/Sal 85, 9-10. 11-12. 13-14 [8]/2 Pe 3, 8-14/Mc 1, 1-8
Lunes: Is 35, 1-10/Sal 85, 9 y 10. 11-12. 13-14 [Is 35, 4]/Lc 5, 17-26
Martes: Gn 3, 9-15. 20/Sal 98, 1. 2-3. 3-4 [1]/Ef 1, 3-6. 11-12/Lc 1, 26-38
Miércoles: Is 40, 25-31/Sal 103, 1-2. 3-4. 8 y 10 [1]/Mt 11, 28-30
Jueves: Is 41, 13-20/Sal 145, 1 y 9. 10-11. 12-13 [8]/Mt 11, 11-15
Viernes: Is 48, 17-19/Sal 1, 1-2. 3. 4 y 6 [cfr. Jn 8, 12]/Mt 11, 16-19
Sábado: Zac 2, 14-17 o Ap 11, 19; 12, 1-6. 10/Jdt 13, 18. 19 [15, 9]/Lc 1, 26-38 o Lc 1, 39-47
Domingo siguiente: Is 61, 1-2. 10-11/Lc 1, 46-48. 49-50. 51-54 [Is 61, 10]/1 Tes 5, 16-24/Jn 1, 6-8. 19-28

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Faith Formation

A week ago, I took a call at the parish office from a young man who did not know why he called the Church, but wanted to talk to someone about becoming Catholic. He then said that he was calling from the front door of the Church. I immediately told him to walk to the parish office so we could meet and talk. It turns out his grandparents were Catholic, but he was never really raised with any faith background. But, now, as an adult, he was interested in learning more about the Catholic Church. He will now be the third person in our RCIA process this year.

RCIA is the official name for how we help people interested in becoming Catholic learn and appreciate the beautiful tradition of our Church. I recently received an email from one of our participants in the process and she gave me permission to share this paragraph with you… "I think that our recent engagement at St. Francis has been so good for my family during a very difficult time, and we will plan to keep attending faith formation, sacrament prep and Mass, as long as they are available and we are healthy."

I think we all need to remember that the Holy Spirit is still working in our lives - and the lives of others - even during this pandemic. God is good all the time.

- 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

Music Notes

Connect with our parish this Advent and Christmas season! If you haven't already, follow St. Francis of Assisi on Facebook @stfrancisrochmn. We will be posting a variety of resources to help facilitate your prayer life through Advent and Christmas.

Weekend, Feast Day, and Christmas celebrations will all be live-streamed for all who are unable to attend Mass. Additionally, our Christmas Mass will be posted on Youtube (link to follow).

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR 12/12-12/13

4:30PM MASS
Reader: Jean Farmer
Hospitality Ministers: David Klinkhammer, Natalie Norris
Eucharistic Minister: Beth Lamsam

8AM MASS
Reader: Sarah O'Brien
Hospitality: John Sibley, Pat Stern
Eucharistic Minister: John Winkels

10AM MASS
Reader: Rick Fishbune
Hospitality Ministers: Bill Cleveland, Becky Cleveland
Eucharistic Minister: Sherri Kirk

- Zack (litfranc@stfrancis-church.org)

School News

- The regular monthly meeting of the Home and School Association will be held on Monday, December 7th at 6:30 pm in the school Science Lab.
- The weekly school Mass will be celebrated by students in grades K, 2 and 3 on Tuesday, December 8th at 9:15 am.
- Friday, December 11th, our third grade will participate in the Blessing of the new Nativity scene for the parish.
- Donations for Missionary Childhood Association are welcomed this week.

SOLEMNITY *of the*
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION *of* MARY,
Patronal Feast Day of the United States

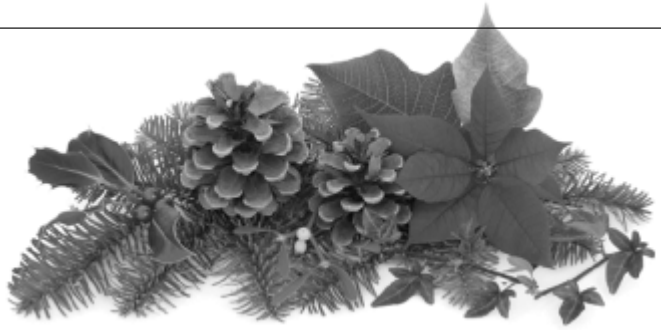
✠

For the Feast of the Immaculate Conception,
we will have Masses on:
MONDAY, December 7 (Vigil) at
5:15PM (English) and 7 PM (Spanish) as well as on
TUESDAY, December 8
at 7AM and 5:15PM (English) and 7PM (Spanish)

SATURDAY, December 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will have three Masses (*in Spanish*): 7AM, 12PM and 7PM. A ticket is required. Please call #288-7313 if you want a ticket. Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, pray for us.

ADVENT ANGEL TREE. The Church of St. Francis of Assisi will again be collecting gifts for neighbors/parishioners in need this Christmas. The Angel Tree will go up the weekend of November 21/22. Please take one or more tags off the Angel Tree that is located in the Gathering Space and purchase the gift that is listed. Please return the gift, wrapped and tagged with the angel, by **SUNDAY, December 13** (before noon). Thank you very much for your continued generosity in helping those less fortunate.

ADVENT RESOURCES. The weeks leading up to Christmas, we often find ourselves caught up in the hustle and bustle of the upcoming holiday. As cliché as it may sound, we can easily forget what our focus should be these four weeks prior to us celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Advent marks two things – the beginning of a new church year and the preparation of the birth of Christ! How fitting is it that we start our preparation of His birth with the start of a new year? To help our parish family this Advent season, we have researched some FREE online resources with links available on our website (https://stfrancis-church.org) to help you during this Season of Hope! We hope that you will be able to use these resources for you and your family as you grow to a deeper relationship in your faith.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to donate Christmas flowers or decorations for our church, either as a gift or in memory of a loved one, please complete and return this form with your donation either in the collection or to the Parish Center. Thank you!

Your Name: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

_____

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.
When he humbled himself to come among us,
he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago
and opened for us the way to salvation.
Now we watch for the day,
hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ will come again in his glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven
we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest. Amen"

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND ASKING FOR THE GRACE. We prepare this week by stepping up the longing. We move through this week by naming deeper and more specific desires.

Each morning this week, if even for that brief moment at the side of our beds, we want to light a second inner candle. We want to let it represent "a bit more hope." Perhaps we can pause, breathe deeply and say, "Lord, I place my trust in you."

Each day this week, as we encounter times that are rushed, even crazy, we can take that deep breath, and make that profound prayer. Each time we face some darkness, some experience of "parched land" or desert, some place where we feel "defeated" or "trapped," we hear the words, "Our God will come to save us!" The grace we desire for this week is to be able to hear the promise and to invite our God to come into those real places of our lives that dearly need God's coming. We want to be able to say: "Lord, I place my trust in your promise. Please, Lord, rouse your power and come into this place in my life, this relationship, into this deep self-defeating pattern. Please come here and save me."

Each night this week, we can look back over the day and give thanks for the moments of deep breath, that opened a space for more trust and confidence in God's fidelity to us. No matter how difficult the challenges we are facing - from the growing realization of our personal sinfulness, to any experience of emptiness or powerlessness, even in the face of death itself - we can give thanks for the two candles that faithfully push back the darkness.

And, we can give thanks for the graces given us to believe that "Our God will come to save us" because we were given the courageous faith to desire and ask boldly.

Come, Lord Jesus! Come and visit your people. We await your coming. Come, O Lord.

https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/secondweek.html

REPORT OF SVDP ACTIVITIES. Our parish Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Conference recently finished its fiscal year of September 30th and wanted the parish to know the impact your support has made possible. This past year, our members made in-person or visits by phone to 221 families and assisted over 600 individuals. We provided material support of over $81,000 with the single largest category being housing support of $47,106. Financial support to our parish conference of $49,000 included parish and member support of $28,500, fund-raising events of $5,300 and approximately $12,000 from our share of contributions and grants received by the citywide SVDP district council. The ability to make grants of $81,000 versus our revenue of $49,000 was made possible by a large gift received from the estate of a parishioner in the prior year.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is founded on three principles: ❶ Service to the poor ❷ To bear witness to Christ by showing that our faith inspires is to work for the good of humanity ❸ Developing friendship and fellowship among our members.

To this end, our regular meetings include development of our spirituality and discernment on how we can assist those in need who have contacted our city-wide central intake number. We ask for our parishioners' support. Financial support can be sent to the parish office via the Neighbors in Need envelope or specifically designated to SVDP. Please also pray for our conference and our friends in need. If interested in becoming active in SVDP, please consider joining one of our semi-monthly meetings or contact Dave Oeth, our conference president, at 259-3170 or oethclan@yahoo.com

The Greater Catholic Community

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. 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. Collection bins located in the Gathering Space. We will be collecting food through December 13th.

CHANNEL ONE NEEDS YOU! One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to feed the hungry. Channel One provides food assistance to working families and individuals, seniors, and people in times of crisis due to job loss, medical problems, or personal disaster. Channel One is currently working to support everyone impacted by COVID-19: they have begun offering prepared meals at some locations, are partnering with the Rochester Public Schools and other agencies to provide food for families when students are distance learning, and they also have funding for Nutrition Assistance for Seniors.

ASSISI HEIGHTS JOB OPENING. Do you know anyone who would like to join our great staff in Rochester's most unique facility? The Residential Life Assistant supports the Director of Residential Life for the well-being of Sisters residing at Assisi Heights to provide support and implement opportunities and events for the communal, social, ministerial, spiritual, liturgical, and congregational life of the Assisi Heights Sisters. Qualified candidates have a Bachelor's Degree in Pastoral Ministry, or the equivalent, and two years of gerontology or long-term care experience. https://rochesterfranciscan.org/employment-2/

2020 STEWARDSHIP. We humbly ask those who have been blessed with an abundance this year to consider making a special gift to help the Church of St. Francis of Assisi end the calendar year with a balanced budget. We sincerely appreciate your generosity!

REMINDER: Please bring your contributions for parish support up-to-date before December 31st. We are so grateful to all of you who honor your commitment.

HAVE YOU MOVED? As we prepare to mail out 2020 Year-End Contribution Statements, please help us by keeping our records current. Please notify the Parish Center office at #288-7313 if you have recently moved. Thank you so much!

A NOTE FROM THE DEACON

The title "Our Lady of Loreto" recalls the mystery of the Incarnation. The title is associated with the Holy House of Loreto in Italy, the house of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, miraculously transported by the angels from Palestine to Europe.

Shortly after 313, St. Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine, built a basilica over this structure. The Saracens invaded the Holy Land in 1090, plundering and destroying Christian shrines, including Constantine's basilica. Under the ruble, the Holy House was found intact.

During the twelfth century, another basilica was built to protect the holy dwelling. In 1263, the Muslims destroyed the basilica again, but once more, the house was found intact. When the crusaders were driven out of the Holy Land in 1291, the Holy House disappeared. On May 10, 1291 a parish priest, in Tersatto, Dalmatia, (present-day Croatia) noticed a small building resting on a plot of land. After praying about it, he had a dream in which the Blessed Virgin Mary, explained that the structure was the house of the Holy Family, brought there by the power of God.

In 1294, with the Moslem invasion of Albania, the house disappeared again. According to shepherds, it was seen on December 10 of that year, born aloft by angels over the Adriatic Sea. This time the Holy House came to rest in a wooded area four miles from Recanati, Italy. As the news spread fast, thousands flocked there. Many miracles took place at the site. Due to contrary circumstances, twice again the house was moved, finally coming to Loreto, Italy, its present location.

Miracles continued to occur in connection with pilgrimages to the house, Studies were made of the house which reveal surprising results: 1) Its mortar and bricks are identical to those found in Nazareth. 2) the house in Loreto has no foundations. It was found sitting on a plot of land that was part field and part road, a sure indication that it was not built there but placed there. 3) The style of the house is not Italian but Eastern.

Today a great basilica houses the dwelling of the Holy Family. From 1330, practically all the Popes have considered Loreto the greatest shrine of Christendom. Numerous saints have visited it. On the threshold are these words; "Hic Verbum caro factum est" – "Here the Word became flesh."

Peace, Deacon Terry

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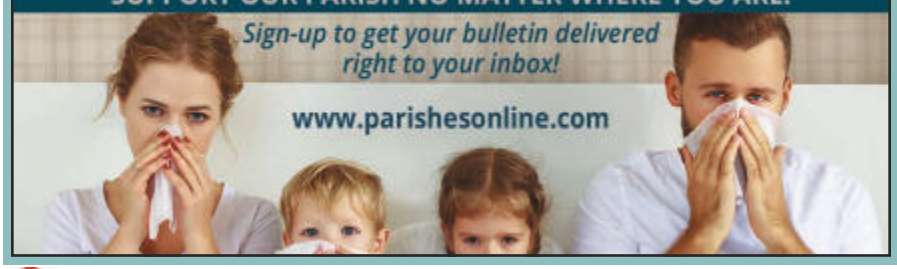

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