

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



When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in
Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."
- Matthew 2:1-2

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER BERNING



EPIPHANY. Blessed Epiphany of the Lord to everyone! It is the manifestation of Christ to all the nations. This Christmas Season continues all the way to the Baptism of the Lord - this year on Sunday, January 10.

FR LUIS. This week, Fr. Luis will be travelling home to Colombia to be with his family and friends for over a month. We pray for him and safe travels and give thanks to God for his ministry amongst all of us at St. Francis of Assisi and beyond.

THANK YOU. MUCHAS GRACIAS. Thank you very much for your continued generosity in helping those less fortunate during this Christmas Season! We thank you and are humbled by your immediate and generous response. Also, thank you so much for your generous response in support of the Parish Festival deficit and thank you for your continued support of our parish!

ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON. Monday, January 4 is the Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious. She is the foundress of the first congregation for women religious in the USA, the Sisters of Charity, devoted primarily to the education of the poor and to teaching in parochial schools, thus, the patroness of our Catholic Schools. We are so blessed to have Rochester Catholic Schools and our Saint Francis School here within our parish. We welcome everyone! We thank all those who support and attend our schools and for all who administer and teach our children and youth.

ST JOHN NEUMANN. On January 5, the Church celebrates the feast of St. John Neumann. He is the first male American saint and was responsible, among many other things, for founding the Catholic school system. From Philadelphia, he was a bishop and known for his holiness and learning. He is the first American bishop to be canonized for us. I hope you have a chance to visit the shrines of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. John Neumann and other beatified and canonized saints in our country.

FR JIM BERNING

Thank You

A HEARTFELT "THANK YOU" again this year to
DOUG DOSE & family for the generous donation of our
Christmas trees & wreathes.

Many thanks to all who donated the poinsettias for the church environment
& to all those that helped decorate our church for the Christmas season.
How beautiful it looks!

Thank you to those who volunteered to serve at our Christmas Masses.
There are so many that help make this liturgy a meaningful event!

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

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Calvary Cemetery

Steve Flynn, Director

(507) 273-0140

Catholic Charities

(507) 287-2047



PALABRAS DEL PAPA FRANCISCO PARA EL 2021

A todos les hago llegar mis mejores deseos para que la humanidad pueda progresar en este año por el camino de la fraternidad, la justicia y la paz entre las personas, las comunidades, los pueblos y los Estados.

El año 2020 se caracterizó por la gran crisis sanitaria de COVID-19, que se ha convertido en un fenómeno multisectorial y mundial, que agrava las crisis fuertemente interrelacionadas, como la climática, alimentaria, económica y migratoria, y causa grandes sufrimientos y penurias.

En muchos lugares del mundo hacen falta caminos de paz que lleven a cicatrizar las heridas, se necesitan artesanos de paz dispuestos a generar procesos de sanación y de reencuentro con ingenio y audacia. En este tiempo, en el que la barca de la humanidad, sacudida por la tempestad de la crisis, avanza con dificultad en busca de un horizonte más tranquilo y sereno, el timón de la dignidad de la persona humana y la "brújula" de los principios sociales fundamentales pueden permitirnos navegar con un rumbo seguro y común.

Como cristianos, fijemos nuestra mirada en la Virgen María, Estrella del Mar y Madre de la Esperanza. Trabajemos todos juntos para avanzar hacia un nuevo horizonte de amor y paz, de fraternidad y solidaridad, de apoyo mutuo y acogida.

No cedamos a la tentación de desinteresarnos de los demás, especialmente de los más débiles; no nos acostumbremos a desviar la mirada, sino comprometámonos cada día concretamente para «formar una comunidad compuesta de hermanos que se acogen recíprocamente y se preocupan los unos de los otros».

P. Luis Alfonso Vargas



MASS INTENTIONS



For the Week of January 4, 2021

MON Jan 4	7:00 AM	Jerry Goodman †
TUE Jan 5	* 9:15 AM	John & Louise Preuschl †
WED Jan 6	7:00 AM	Don & Jerry Preuschl †
THU Jan 7	7:00 AM	Stan Huber
	** 7:00 PM	
FRI Jan 8	7:00 AM	Erin & Georges Montillet
SAT Jan 9	4:30 PM	Bob Kuhl †
SUN Jan 10	8:00 AM	Dorothy Easter †
	10:00 AM	For the Parish
	** 12:00 PM	Maricela Sanchez Cabral † (1yr Anniversary of Death)

* 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 January 3, 2020

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
 Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Las lecturas de la semana del 3 de Enero de 2020

Domingo: Is 60, 1-6/Sal 71, 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13 [cfr. 11]/Ef 3, 2-3. 5-6/Mt 2, 1-12
 Lunes: 1 Jn 3, 22—4, 6/Sal 2, 7-8. 10-12 [8]/Mt 4, 12-17. 23-25
 Martes: 1 Jn 4, 7-10/Sal 71, 1-2. 3-4. 7-8 [cfr. 11]/Mc 6, 34-44
 Miércoles: 1 Jn 4, 11-18/Sal 71, 1-2. 10. 12-13 [cfr. 11]/Mc 6, 45-52
 Jueves: 1 Jn 4, 19—5, 4/Sal 71, 1-2. 14 y 15. 17 [cfr. 11]/Lc 4, 14-22
 Viernes: 1 Jn 5, 5-13/Sal 147, 12-13. 14-15. 19-20 [12]/Lc 5, 12-16
 Sábado: 1 Jn 5, 14-21/Sal 149, 1-2. 3-4. 5 y 6 y 9 [cfr. 4]/Jn 3, 22-30
 Domingo siguiente: Is 42, 1-4. 6-7/Sal 28, 1-2. 3-4. 3. 9-10 [11]/Hch 10, 34-38/Mc 1, 7-11 o Is 55, 1-11/Is 12, 2-3. 4. 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5, 1-9/Mc 1, 7-11

WELCOME TO 2021!

We can now all take a collective sigh of relief that we are past one of the most challenging years, as a country, in recent memory. 2020 vision will never have the same meaning.

We all know the phrase "20/20 vision" is the idea that we would do some things differently after the fact. In hindsight, there are many lessons to we can learn from 2020. (And, I am sure you have your own list.)

WE are stronger than we think we are. There was no panic in the streets in the Spring when the pandemic kept getting worse and the country shut down. We didn't let it get the better of us, even though it put our hospitals beyond capacity in late fall.

Some people were slow to wear facemasks - but a mask was a sign that you cared for others even though you didn't know them. The Scripture passage "love your neighbor as yourself" comes to mind.

Finally, in spite of all of the challenges, we kept our faith. WE may have had to change how we participated in Mass, livestream versus in-person, but we still carried on and we adapted.

Faith is what carried us through this difficult year, and it is faith that will help us in the New Year.

My favorite Scripture passage from the Old Testament seems especially helpful at this moment,

"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, and not harm you, plans to give you a future full of hope!"

Happy New Year Everyone!

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



MusicNotes

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED!

We are in need of parishioners to serve as readers, Eucharistic ministers, and ministers of hospitality. We will train you. The scheduling system allows you much control over how much you are scheduled and when. Please email Zack Stachowski at litfranc@stfrancis-church.org for more info!

CANTORS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS!

The Music Ministry is looking for more people to serve as cantors and instrumentalists at Mass. If you have experience, or would like to learn, please contact Zack at litfranc@stfrancis-church.org for more info.

UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 9 -10 | 2020

Mass Time	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers	Minister of Hospitality
Saturday 4:30PM	Mary Sagstetter	Rose Bengal	David Klinkhammer Natalie Norris
Sunday 8AM	Ruth Wentz	John Winkels	Tim Macken Sue Macken
Sunday 10AM	Bill Klein		Becky Cleveland Bill Cleveland

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

School News



✧ School resumes on Monday, January 4th.

✧ The regular monthly meeting of the Home and School Association will be held on Monday, January 4th at 6:30 pm in the science lab.

✧ The weekly school Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, January 5th at 9:15 am.

✧ Friday, January 8th is a non-uniform day to celebrate the first Friday we are back in school.

A NOTE FROM THE DEACON

During World War II, the US dropped the world's first-deployed atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, immediately killing more than 120,000 people. Many more would die following the bombing from atomic radiation. After the bombings, many people lived in fear that other nations would use these bombs against their enemies.

It was against this backdrop that CS Lewis, English author, wrote the following essay in response to the fear that paralyzed many:

"In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. 'How are we to live in an atomic age?' I am tempted to reply: 'Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents.'

In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors - anesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things - praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts - not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds."

Jesus tells us that not a sparrow falls to the ground without his father's will, and that we are far more important than many sparrows. Our most valuable possessions are our souls. Our earthly lives are a great good to us, but far more important than our earthly lives are our eternal lives in heaven.

Peace, Deacon Terry

CHRISTMAS FLOWER GIFTS

Your Name:

Therese Bowron

Randall Carson

Huyen Dang & Family

Judith Devorak

Michael &

Jayne Desorcie

Dorothy Dukart

Ronald &

Jean Farmer

Paul Feind

Madonna Fogarty

Mary Jo Genz

James Griffin

Anna Marie Hofschulte

Juliann Jenniges

Bob & Karen Kertis

Michael LaPlante

Alberto Marquez & Family

David & Theresa McGuire

Ted Mueller

Cuc Nguyen

Gerald & Alvis Piotrowski

Bob & Barb Plenge

James & Mary Roskos

Marie Schoenwetter

John Sibley

Elaine Stettler

Judy Syring

Stacie Wannarka

Mrs Laverne Zabel

In Honor/Memory of:

Judy Schulz, Mr & Mrs John Bowron
& Marlene Bowron

Sgt. Nicholas Dickhut

Lawrence Hemann (father of Judith)

Allen Desorcie, father of Michael
Desorcie & William Bauer Jr, father of
Jayne Desorcie

Glenn Dukart

Vernon, Rita & Mike Walter

Joe & Nancy Farmer

Jackie Feind

Tom Fogarty

Mr & Mrs Joseph Lynaugh

Patty Griffin

Mr & Mrs Joseph Hofschulte

Reinhardt & Ione Jenniges

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Colin O'Neill

William O'Rourke,

Leo & MaryAnn McGuire

Nicole Joy Plenge

Thomas & Martha Lisowski

Celia, Luke & Ralph Roskos

Lois Sibley & Patty Griffin

Edward, Hazel and Gerald Stettler

Father Harry Jewison, Michael Syring

Don Wannarka

Robert Zabel, Jeff Zabel





THE WEEK OF EPIPHANY:

Daily Prayer This Week

In this week of Epiphany, we can all let ourselves be blessed with the Light of Jesus, in this period after Christmas.

Our Christmas was probably different this year. For some of us, it was simple, perhaps quite poor. For some of us, it was made difficult with some family dysfunction, or at least disagreements or hard feelings. And, yet, our faith offers us the grace of Jesus, being the Light in whatever darkness we experience. We can rely on our faith to see what we are too often prevented from seeing because we are discouraged, hurt, lonely, feeling alienated in any way. We can see hope where others only see darkness, because we let ourselves be touched by Jesus as God-with-us, by Jesus as unconditional love for us, by Jesus as always accompanying us on our journey, each day. We are not alone.

This is a week when we can ask for the grace to be a light ourselves, for others. We can be a light within our family. We can offer comfort, presence and accompaniment for someone who is feeling down, hurt or separated. We can reach out to a friend or relative and offer our care. Such light can even reach into the darkness of anger and grievance. Light that reveals love and presence, can so often, bring healing and peace.

We can let ourselves be blessed by the words of the First Letter of John. "If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: Whoever loves God must also love his brother."

We can let ourselves be blessed by the encounter between Jesus and the leper: "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean." Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I do will it. Be made clean."

*Lord, teach us to love,
to be a light for others,
and to bring reconciliation and peace
where it is so needed.
And, Lord, let us turn to you,
with whatever isn't "clean" in me
and ask you for your healing.
We so long to hear you say,
"Be made clean."*

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Prayer>



FROM VERY REV. WILLIAM D. THOMPSON, VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

As the vaccine against COVID-19 is produced and distributed, I share with you a joint statement from the USCCB Committees on Pro-Life Activities and Doctrine.

Please review this statement, which provides direct advice on the current vaccines, as well as background to support that advice. I offer a few highlights here:

"Generally speaking, receiving a vaccine is morally acceptable and can be "an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good."

Of the three available vaccines, Moderna and Pfizer have produced vaccines that were produced in an acceptable manner to Catholics. The vaccine from Astra-Zeneca was not, and should be avoided when other vaccines are available.

Catholics continue support for a vaccine that has absolutely no connection to aborted fetal cell lines. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines do have a connection to cell lines from an aborted fetus, but those connections come through confirmatory tests, not the production of the vaccine.

This connection "is very remote from the initial evil of the abortion," and in the absence of other vaccines with no connection, and in the face of a dangerous pandemic, these vaccines are morally acceptable for Catholics. In addition to this document, there is talk from various sectors that is considering mandating vaccines for different groups of people.

The Diocese of Winona-Rochester Task Force is not recommending any mandate for any group of people at this time. When vaccines become available, you are able to freely choose whether you will receive that vaccine, keeping in mind the guidance offered by the attached statement.

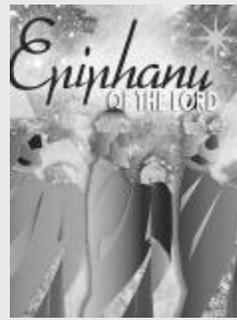
Read the full document: <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>

SAVE THE DATE! Annual Pax Christi/Holy Spirit Social Justice Retreat: Saturday morning, January 30, virtual this year. Two local speakers: Kendall Hughes, founder of Three Rivers Restorative Justice and Karen Edmonds, founder of Project Legacy. This is an opportunity to learn about restorative justice and its implementation through a new organization in Rochester. Although we will miss our traditional soup luncheon and camaraderie, we will be enlightened and encouraged to learn about work in Rochester to help heal the lives of others. For more information or to register for this free event, contact hspaxsocialjustice@gmail.com

CHANNEL ONE FOOD BIN. Channel One is NOT accepting food donations at this time. For information on volunteering opportunities with Channel One, call 287-2350.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES. Thinking about adoption but not sure where to start? Catholic Charities offers free adoption information meetings to help you learn about the process to begin building your family. We have adoption social workers in Winona, Rochester, Mankato, and Worthington who can walk you through the process of international or domestic infant adoption. Please email adoption@ccsomn.org or call 507-287-2047 to schedule an information meeting.

JOB OPENING @ PAX. Pax Christi Parish, a vibrant, diverse Catholic parish of 1600 families in Northwest Rochester, MN, seeks a full-time Director of Liturgy and Pastoral Ministry to plan and coordinate liturgical and pastoral ministries as well as recruit, train, and schedule liturgical and pastoral ministers. The ideal candidate will possess a degree in theology, liturgy or pastoral ministry or equivalent experience and have excellent organizational and communication skills. Please send cover letter, resume, and 3 professional references to: Jessica Scully, Parish Administrator, Pax Christi Parish, 4135 18th Ave NW, Rochester, MN 55901, or email to Jessica.Scully@PaxChristiChurch.org by January 4. Full position description is posted to our website: www.paxchristchurch.org/employment



ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE:

**January 3, 2021
The Epiphany of the Lord**

“Where is that thing?” mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. “I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!” Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, “Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear.” The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

“And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.” The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God's tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God's salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God's healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS.

The Church of St. Francis of Assisi will be mailing 2020 Contribution Statements to all parishioners during the week of January 18, 2021. If you have recently moved, please notify the Parish Center office at (507) 288-7313. Thank you for your generosity!

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