



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

Rev. Mr. Terry Smith



John was standing with two of his disciples,
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold,
the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said
and followed Jesus.

- John 1:35-37



DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN. Friday, January 22 is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. We pray for the respect of all Life - from beginning to end, conception to natural death and all points in between. We all love those points in between - as we take in each moment of life and cherish it as sacred and behold with all dignity and respect. Every single life is precious and gift from God. I invite you all to read the story of the miracle child through the intercession of Blessed Michael J. McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, which moved him closer to canonization. It is the story of a Down syndrome child, Michael or Mickey, who is now age 5 from Tennessee. Please check it out - truly a story of respecting all life in our own time.

ORDINARY TIME. Ordinary Time begins this weekend. "Besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sunday. This period is known as Ordinary Time." (*Universal Norms, #43*).

"Ordinary Time is not very ordinary at all. Ordinary Time, the celebration of Sunday, is the identifying mark of the Christian Community which comes together, remembering that on the first day of the week the Lord of Life was raised up and creation came at last to completion... Sunday, like all sacraments, is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living." (*St. Andrew Bible Missal*)

We are so blessed to have our Sunday Masses and Liturgies enhanced - whether in-person or virtual - during this time of pandemic. We welcome all to join us! Please find 'home' here at St. Francis of Assisi parish.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY. *Abide in My Love ... You Shall Bear Much Fruit* (cf. *John 15:1-17*). This is the theme and scriptural reference for the 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. "Begun in 1908, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an expression of the ecumenical movement - a worldwide movement among Christians to heal the divisions within the Church; to promote dialogues among churches and Christian communities; and to encourage Christians everywhere to better understand and reflect the implications of 'one Lord, one faith, one baptism.' Each year from January 18 to 25, Christians are encouraged to pray together as a sign of the unity that is already theirs in Christ and that that unity will become complete."

FR JIM BERNING



Our new reliquary - built by Nigon Woodworks - has now been installed opposite the matching cabinet for the Holy Oils. The relics of St Francis of Assisi and St Clare were gifts from the Sisters of St Francis at Assisi Heights. We hope these relics will inspire us to holiness - in imitation of these saints who followed Christ and spent their lives in His service.

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)

Rev. Mr. 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

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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



CONOCE LAS INTENCIONES DE ORACIÓN DEL PAPA FRANCISCO PARA EL AÑO 2021

El sacerdote jesuita Frédéric Fornos, director de la Red del Apostolado de la Oración del Papa, señaló en una entrevista que el punto de partida de las intenciones del Papa en 2021 es "la gracia de vivir en plena fraternidad con los hermanos y hermanas de otras religiones".

A continuación, las intenciones de oración del Papa Francisco para todo el año 2021:

ENERO: Intención para la evangelización – La fraternidad humana. Que el Señor nos dé la gracia de vivir en plena fraternidad con hermanos y hermanas de otras religiones, rezando unos por otros, abriéndonos a todos.

FEBRERO: Intención universal - Violencia contra la mujer. Recemos por las mujeres que son víctimas de la violencia, para que sean protegidas por la sociedad y para que su sufrimiento sea considerado y escuchado.

MARZO: Intención para la evangelización - Sacramento de la reconciliación. Recemos para que vivamos el sacramento de la reconciliación con renovada profundidad, para saborear la infinita misericordia de Dios.

ABRIL: Intención universal - Derechos fundamentales. Recemos por aquellos que arriesgan sus vidas luchando por los derechos fundamentales en dictaduras, en regímenes autoritarios e incluso en democracias en crisis.

MAYO: Intención universal - El mundo de las finanzas. Recemos para que los responsables del mundo financiero colaboren con los gobiernos, a fin de regular los mercados financieros para proteger a los ciudadanos de su peligro.

P. Luis Alfonso Vargas



MASS INTENTIONS



For the Week of January 18, 2021

MON Jan 18	7:00 AM	In Reparation of Our Sins
TUE Jan 19	* 9:15 AM	Patty Griffin †
WED Jan 20	7:00 AM	Michael Long †
THU Jan 21	7:00 AM	Julie Goodman
FRI Jan 22	7:00 AM	Dennis Fohrman †
SAT Jan 23	4:30 PM	Alyssa Garza (Birthday)
SUN Jan 24	8:00 AM	Brian Neisen †
	10:00 AM	For the Parish
	** 12:00 PM	Marisela Sanchez Cabral † (1 yr 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 17, 2021

Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42
 Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 2:18-22
 Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c [5]/Mk 2:23-28
 Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 3:1-6
 Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:7-12
 Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [11a]/Mk 3:13-19
 Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Mk 3:20-21
 Next Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

Las lecturas de la semana del 17 de Enero de 2021

Domingo: 1 Sm 3, 3-10. 19/Sal 39, 2. 4. 7-8. 8-9. 10 [8. 9]/1 Cor 6, 13-15. 17-20/Jn 1, 35-42
 Lunes: Heb 5, 1-10/Sal 109, 1. 2. 3. 4 [4]/Mc 2, 18-22
 Martes: Heb 6, 10-20/Sal 110, 1-2. 4-5. 9 y 10 [5]/Mc 2, 23-28
 Miércoles: Heb 7, 1-3. 15-17/Sal 109, 1. 2. 3. 4 [4]/Mc 3, 1-6
 Jueves: Heb 7, 25—8, 6/Sal 39, 7-8. 8-9. 10. 17 [8 y 9]/Mc 3, 7-12
 Viernes: Heb 8, 6-13/Sal 84, 8 y 10. 11-12. 13-14 [11]/Mc 3, 13-19
 Sábado: Heb 9, 2-3. 11-14/Sal 46, 2-3. 6-7. 8-9 [6]/Mc 3, 20-21
 Domingo siguiente: Jon 3, 1-5. 10/Sal 24, 4-5. 6-7. 8-9 [4]/1 Cor 7, 29-31/Mc 1, 14-20

Faith Formation

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is this week and his spirit is profoundly present as we begin to wrap our minds around the inauguration of the president of the United States of America this week.

In the past week, I have heard words I thought I would never hear in the USA... insurrection, coup attempt, and rioters in the capitol. The images captured on social media and television make you think we are talking about another country.

In sharp contrast, Martin Luther King believed in peaceful protests. He was promoting equality and acceptance for all. He was articulating a vision of solidarity.

The Catholic Church has held solidarity as an important concept since the creation of the 7 Catholic Social teachings by Pope John Paul II. Solidarity as defined by the USCCB:

“We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace.”

We are inaugurating a president on January 20th and should pray for him and his success. God Bless the United States of America! Amen.

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

SPRING FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR

All classes meet from 6PM-7:30PM in the Parish Center.
We are using the Library entrance.

Wed, January 13	Wed, February 24
Wed, January 20	Wed, March 3
Wed, January 27	Wed, March 10
Wed, February 3	Wed, March 17
Wed, February 17	Wed, March 24

First Communion classes meet on Sunday morning from 10:55AM – 11:55AM in the Saint Clare Room.

Confirmation classes for 9th and 10th graders are on Sunday nights from 6:30PM – 8PM at Saint James Coffeehouse. This Sunday, Year 2 Confirmation students start back on an every other week rotation with Year 1.

Music and Liturgy

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 23 –24 | 2021

Mass Time	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers	Minister of Hospitality
Saturday 4:30PM	Rose Bengal	Beth Lamsam	David Klunkhammer Natalie Norris
Sunday 8AM	Mary Sagstetter	Ruth Wentz	Jimi Macken Sue Macken
Sunday 10AM	Bill Klein		Lesia Palek Steve Palek

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

School News



- ✘ NWEA testing continues this week.
- ✘ There will be NO School Monday, January 18th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- ✘ The weekly school Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, January 19th at 9:15 am.

- ✘ Extra-curricular pictures will be taken on Wednesday, January 20th.
- ✘ January 21st will be a Student Council sponsored theme day to mark the end of first semester. There will be NO School on Friday, January 22nd. It is a Professional Development Day.

HOW SHOULD WE UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM OF ABORTION?

On Friday, January 22, the Church in the United States observes the annual "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children." This day is set aside to pray for the legal protection of human life and to do penance for the violations to human dignity through abortion. We are called to observe this day through prayer and penance.

Most people cringe at the idea of unborn children being killed by abortion. Many work to end its legality. But if there is ever a hope that it will be made illegal, we must understand the underlying reason for it. Dr. William Newton, an associate professor of Theology at Franciscan University explained in a May 2015 article that the root cause of abortion is contraception. I will summarize three points he made.

In three studies (Spain, UK, and Turkey), a hand-in-hand increase in the use of contraception and the rate of abortion was observed. The most reasonable explanation for this was that both phenomena reflect a change in attitude toward sex and babies.

Second, contraception changes the meaning of sex because it uncouples (in the minds of those who accept it as normal behavior) the relationship of sexual intercourse to babies, and to life-long commitment. Contraception trivializes sex, which in turn, leads inevitably to unwanted pregnancies, which leads to abortion.

Newton also stated that contraception changes our moral outlook. St. John Paul II's major argument in his Theology of the Body was that contraception contributes significantly to lack of sexual restraint. Fallen human sexuality is inclined to sexual selfishness by default. For JP II contraception was not so much anti-life as anti-love, because it discourages the need for abstinence and leads to self-love over love of the other. However, when the couple respects that the marital act connects them emotionally and can result in a child, and they temper their activity by recourse to periods of infertility, they act as ministers of God's plan and experience the happiness of marriage as a result of giving themselves to one another without manipulation or alteration.

Our faith teaches us that contraception is a moral evil because it allows us to thwart God's plan that our marriages should be open to life and the love that nourishes it. Natural Family Planning, used for the right reasons is perfectly in line with the Church's teaching.

Peace, Deacon Terry

muchas
GRACIAS
thank you very much!

'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'
- Matthew 25:40

On behalf of our Hispanic community, we want to extend our most sincere gratitude for your generous donations in cash and gift cards in response to the needs of so many families in our parish suffering the affects of COVID - either by having the disease or by losing employment. Since December 5, we have given \$5805 in gift cards to 72 families.

In addition, we have started a food shelf with items such as bread, beans, rice, tortillas, canned goods, cereal and cleaning supplies. Donated items can be left in the Gathering Space, in bags, and a member of our ministry for the St Clare Pantry will collect them, disinfect them and deliver them to families in need. We thank all who have contributed to help "feed the hungry" - as our Lord asks of us. A large number of families have also received baskets of personal items and cleaning supplies from our parish Resource Room. Much of this has been delivered to the homes where families have been in quarantine.

In this difficult time, our parish united in this common effort, and we have experienced the Holy Spirit moving in us, putting into action the works of mercy and easing the burden that COVID has placed on the shoulders of the most vulnerable.

Following are some responses from members of the Hispanic community that have received help:

Hello my name is Maria, and I want to thank you on behalf of my family for your generous Advent donations to help the Hispanic Community of St Francis. My family was affected by the virus and thanks to your donations we were able to receive food, and cleaning supplies. Thanks for your support. May God multiply your blessings for your good works during this time of Pandemic. (I am sharing a picture of my family)

Hello my name is Sonia, and I am most thankful that you helped me with food, and cleaning supplies. Although I am now COVID-free, my wellbeing is not the same. I am still suffering from pains in my body and arms and eyes. I ask God to bless all the people who participated in all kinds of donations so that my family could have food and essential things. (I am sharing a picture of my family)

(continued on next page.)

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Hello my name is Guadalupe, and my son and I are most thankful for receiving your support. God is great and He continues to deliver blessings to our family. I am still suffering with the side effects of COVID, but I trust in God that I will recover. I have faith in Him.

Hello my name is Rosa. Your help felt like an angel visit sent by God. I was able to see God in action in the good people who donated. I could see how the seeds God had planted bloomed and the leaves grew to give shadow at the right time. It was all the work of God while we were sick. Everything happened just as God planned it to show us that we all need to depend on Him, and that He continues to move in good people. A thousand thanks for all the food that was sent so that we had enough to eat during our recovery time. Thank you Family of God ...

En nombre de la comunidad Hispánica, queremos extender nuestro más sincero agradecimiento por sus donaciones de dinero y tarjetas de despensa, en respuesta a la petición de ayuda para el número creciente de familias afectadas por el COVID ya sea de manera directa al tener la enfermedad o indirecta al perder el empleo por esta causa. Gracias a su generosa respuesta, hemos podido ayudar a más de 50 familias, hasta ahora en el nombre de Jesús.

También hemos iniciado una colecta de despensa con artículos como pan, arroz, frijoles, tortillas, cereal y artículos de limpieza, y se pueden dejar en bolsas en el área de hospitalidad, y un miembro del ministerio de la Despensa-Santa Clara ayudara a desinfectarlo y hacerlo llevar a familias en necesidad. Por todas sus donaciones Muchas Gracias. También muchas familias han recibido canastas con artículos personales del salón de los recursos de nuestra parroquia, los cuales han sido entregadas en la mayoría de las veces directamente a las casas de las personas en cuarentena.

En estos momentos difíciles nuestra parroquia unió es fuerzas comunes y hemos experimentado al Espíritu San

to moverse en todos y en cada uno de nosotros, poniendo en acción actos de misericordia para hacer más llevaderas las cargas que el COVID ha puesto en los hombros de los más vulnerables.

A continuación compartimos algunos testimonios de algunas de las familias Hispánicas que han recibido ayuda:

Hola mi nombre es María y quiero agradecer en el nombre de mi familia a donaciones de Adviento para ayudar a la comunidad Hispánica de San Francisco en este tiempo de COVID de necesidad en que lamentablemente mi familia fue afectada y gracias a sus ayudas recibimos alimentos gracias a su generosidad y su apoyo. Dios siga multiplicando sus buenas obras en este tiempo de pandemia, una vez más Gracias! (Comparto la foto de mi familia)



Hola me llamo Sonia, estoy muy agradecida por toda la comida, y limpiadores que me donaron, aunque ya me recupere, sigo sufriendo de efectos secundarios con dolores en mi cuerpo y en mis ojos. Le pido a Dios bendiga a toda la gente bondadosa que me ayudo y por todas sus donaciones para que a mi familia no le faltara nada. (Comparto una foto de mi familia).



Hola me llamo Guadalupe mi hijo y yo estamos muy agradecidos por todo el apoyo recibido, Dios es grande! Y nos continúa ayudando. Sufro de efectos secundarios pero tengo Fe en el señor!

Hola me llamo Rosita, ustedes fueron como ángeles en mi cabecera enviados por Dios para estar exactamente en el lugar indicado y mi pregunta es, la ayuda que recibimos de la buena

gente fue gente samaritana en la obra de Dios en la enfermedad. El querer ayudar es como una semilla que va creciendo poco a poco para extenderse con sus ramas para dar sombra justamente en el momento preciso. Todo sucedió tal y como Dios lo había dispuesto para enseñarnos que todos dependemos de El. Gracias a toda la ayuda que Dios hizo para indicar que se sigue moviendo en personas buenas como ustedes, mil gracias por todos los alimentos que fueron enviados para que pudiéramos recuperarnos poco a poco. Gracias a todos familia de Dios.

The Greater Catholic Community

MARCH FOR LIFE. The annual Prayer Service for Life is scheduled for January 22, at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Archbishop Bernard Hebda will be the presider and a maximum seating capacity of 225 spaces will be available on a first come, first serve basis. The event will be live-streamed from the Cathedral of Saint Paul's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cathedralsaintpaul>

MCCL. Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life will hold its rally at 12PM at the Capitol, after the prayer service. If they are unable to hold the rally, they will also be live streaming an event; please check their website for details: <https://www.mccl.org/march>

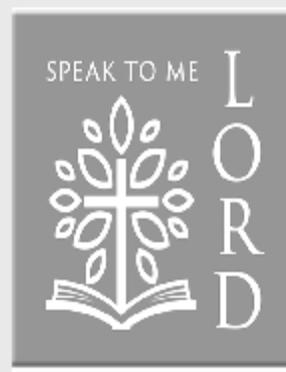
MASS FOR LIFE. Bishop Quinn will be celebrating a Mass for Life at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona at 11:30AM on Wednesday, January 27. Please join the live-stream on the Diocesan Facebook page.

RCIA: SAVE THE DATE. The diocesan Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion is celebrated each year on the First Sunday of Lent. The Rite will not be celebrated in-person this year but will be live-streamed on Sunday, February 21. More details about this will be communicated in the coming weeks.

JOIN OUR TEAM OF ST. JAMES COFFEE VOLUNTEERS! Join the great ministry of St. James Coffee to reach out to the Rochester community for Christ. Learn how to make coffee drinks, etc. Flexible schedule and great place to share your time. Fill out a volunteer profile and set training times with Melissa to get started. Or stop by the coffeehouse in person. Questions? mscac-cio@stjamescoffee.com

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

O God, who arrange all things according to a wonderful design, graciously receive the prayers we pour out to you for our country, that, through the wisdom of its leaders and the integrity of its citizens, harmony and justice may be assured and lasting prosperity come with peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.



HEARING THE CALL: SCOTT HAHN REFLECTS ON THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In the call of Samuel and of the first Apostles, today's readings shed light on our own calling to be followers of Christ.

Notice in the Gospel today that John's disciples are prepared to hear God's call. They are already looking for the Messiah, so they trust in John's word and follow when he points out the Lamb of God walking by.

Samuel is also waiting on the Lord - sleeping near the Ark of the Covenant where God's glory dwells, taking instruction from Eli, the high priest. Samuel listened to God's word and the Lord was with him. And Samuel, through his word, turned all Israel to the Lord (see 1 Samuel 3:21; 7:2-3). The disciples too heard and followed - words we hear repeatedly in today's Gospel. They stayed with the Lord and by their testimony brought others to the Lord.

These scenes from salvation history should give us strength to embrace God's will and to follow His call in our lives. God is constantly calling to each of us - personally, by name (see Isaiah 43:1; John 10:3). He wants us to seek Him in love, to long for His word (see Wisdom 6:11-12). We must desire always, as the Apostles did, to stay where the Lord stays, to constantly seek His face (see Psalm 42:2).

For we are not our own, but belong to the Lord, as Paul says in today's Epistle. We must have ears open to obedience, and write His word within our hearts. We must trust in the Lord's promise - that if we come to Him in faith, He will abide with us (see John 15:14; 14:21-23), and raise us by His power. And we must reflect in our lives the love He has shown us, so that others too may find the Messiah. As we renew our vows of discipleship in this Eucharist, let us approach the altar singing the new song of today's Psalm: "Behold I come . . . to do your will O God."

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We pray for the repose of the soul of:

*Dorothy "Irene" Weis
(March 27, 1925 - January 12, 2021)*



May she rest in God's love and peace.

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