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
Rev. Mr. Terry Smith

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea;
they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me,
and I will make you fishers of men."
- Mark 1:16-17

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER BERNING

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY. We continue the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: "Abide in My Love … You Shall Bear Much Fruit" until the Conversion of St. Paul on January 25. We pray for unity among all Christians and peoples.

MASS FOR LIFE. Bishop Quinn will be celebrating a Mass for Life via live stream at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona at 11:30 am on Wednesday, January 27. Please join us on the Diocesan Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/DioceseWinonaRochester.

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH. During the Year of St. Joseph (December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021), the Apostolic Penitentiary is offering a number of Plenary Indulgences, under the usual conditions, for prayer and devotion to St. Joseph. These include: making a spiritual retreat of at least one day meditating on St. Joseph, meditating on the Lord's Prayer for at least 30 minutes, performing a Spiritual or Corporal Work of Mercy following the example of St. Joseph, reciting the rosary as couples or in families, invoking St. Joseph to find "dignifying work," recitation of the Litany of St. Joseph, and invoking St. Joseph on days set aside for his devotion, such as March 19, May 1, and Wednesdays of the week. During the time of COVID-19, the sick may obtain these indulgences with the intention of fulfilling the three usual conditions as soon as possible (Confession, Holy Communion, and Prayers for the Holy Father's intentions) and reciting an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph as they offer their suffering to God.

INSTITUTE OF LAY FORMATION. Online formation sessions for current Institute students were offered this fall as a way to provide support and formation during this interim period until we are able to resume our in-person sessions. The sessions were optional for our current students, but had good participation and were well received. A series of online Advent prayer and reflection sessions were also offered for our students and alumni, and also had good participation and a positive spirit. We are presently planning for the Institute to continue both online formation sessions for current students in the winter and spring, and online Lenten offerings for alumni and students. When it becomes safe to gather again in-person, our current class will formally begin its third year of formation in the Institute. For more information about the Institute, please contact Todd Graff (tgraff@dowr.org / 507-858-1270)

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.

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Parochial Vicar (x 203)
Rev. Luis Vargas
Deacon (x 208)
Rev. Mr. Terry Smith
Parish Administrator (x 204)
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Michelle Ibarra
Financial Secretary (x 205)
Debbie Worden
Director of Music/Liturgy (x 301)
Zack Stachowski
Faith Formation (x 207)
Mark Nuehring
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(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

A NOTE FROM FR LUIS

CONTINUACIÓN DE LAS PETICIONES DE ORACIÓN DEL PAPA FRANCISCO PARA EL AÑO 2021

JUNIO: Intención para la evangelización | ***La belleza del matrimonio.*** Recemos por los jóvenes que se preparan para el matrimonio con el apoyo de una comunidad cristiana: para que crezcan en el amor, con generosidad, fidelidad y paciencia.

JULIO: Intención universal | ***La amistad social.*** Recemos para que, en situaciones sociales, económicas y políticas conflictivas, seamos arquitectos de diálogo y de amistad valientes y apasionados.

AGOSTO: Intención para la evangelización | ***La Iglesia.*** Recemos por la Iglesia, para que reciba del Espíritu Santo la gracia y la fuerza para reformarse a la luz del Evangelio.

SEPTIEMBRE: Intención universal | ***Un estilo de vida ecosostenible.*** Recemos para que todos tomemos decisiones valientes a favor de un estilo de vida sobrio y ecosostenible, alegrándonos por los jóvenes que están comprometidos con él.

OCTUBRE: Intención para la evangelización | ***Discípulos misioneros.*** Recemos para que cada bautizado participe en la evangelización y esté disponible para la misión, a través de un testimonio de vida que tenga el sabor del Evangelio.

NOVIEMBRE: Intención universal | ***Las personas que sufren de depresión.*** Recemos para que las personas, que sufren de depresión o agotamiento extremo, reciban apoyo de todos y una luz que les abra a la vida.

DICIEMBRE: Intención para la evangelización | ***Los catequistas.*** Recemos por los catequistas, llamados a proclamar la Palabra de Dios: para que sean testigos de ella con valentía, creatividad y con la fuerza del Espíritu Santo.

This Week's Intentions and Readings

Mass Intentions

For the Week of January 25, 2021

MON Jan 25	7:00 AM	Marguerite Marie Montillet
TUE Jan 26	* 9:15 AM	James Neisen †
WED Jan 27	7:00 AM	Steve & Clara Woodward †
THU Jan 28	7:00 AM	Gerald & Violet Jordan †
FRI Jan 29	7:00 AM	For the Parish
SAT Jan 30	4:30 PM	Helen & Louis Sell †
SUN Jan 31	8:00 AM	William O'Rourke †
	10:00 AM	Emily Thornwall †
	** 12:00 PM	For the Parish

** 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 24, 2021

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20 Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Mk 16:15-18 Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 [3]/Mk 3:31-35 Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 4:1-20 Thursday: Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/Mk 4:21-25 Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 [39a]/Mk 4:26-34 Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 [cf. 68]/Mk 4:35-41 Next Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

Las lecturas de la semana del 24 de Enero de 2021

Domingo: Jon 3, 1-5. 10/Sal 24, 4-5. 6-7. 8-9 [4]/1 Cor 7, 29-31/Mc 1, 14-20 Lunes: Hch 22, 3-16 o Hch 9, 1-22/Sal 116, 1. 2 [Mc 16, 15]/Mc 16, 15-18 Martes: 2 Tm 1, 1-8 o Tit 1, 1-5/Sal 95, 1-2. 2-3. 7-8. 10 [3]/Mc 3, 31-35 Miércoles: Heb 10, 11-18/Sal 109, 1. 2. 3. 4 [4]/Mc 4, 1-20 Jueves: Heb 10, 19-25/Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6 [cfr. 6]/Mc 4, 21-25 Viernes: Heb 10, 32-39/Sal 36, 3-4. 5-6. 23-24. 39-40 [39]/Mc 4, 26-34 Sábado: Heb 11, 1-2. 8-19/Lc 1, 69-70. 71-72. 73-75 [cfr. 68]/Mc 4, 35-41 Domingo siguiente: Dt 18, 15-20/Sal 94, 1-2. 6-7. 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7, 32-35/Mc 1, 21-28

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Faith Formation

The other day, my son's engine light in his car came on and he ignored it. Lucky for him, I got into his car a day or two later and reminded him that an engine light on means you need to tend to your car's needs.

Wouldn't it be nice if our spiritual lives had a "check engine light" that told us when we were running low on good faith? Keeping a good spiritual life can be compared to keeping a car running at its peak. A car needs regular maintenance, and so do our spiritual lives.

What are you currently doing for your spiritual formation? Do you pray everyday? I would encourage you to cut out the following prayer and commit to saying it for the next 100 days. If you do pray everyday, would you consider adding this prayer?

ACT OF LOVE: Oh my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart, and soul, because You are all good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

All people of faith are needed now, more than ever, to pray for this country and for "the soul of America." We need to remember that "love" of our neighbor is our mission, regardless who that neighbor is and where they live.

Please know of my prayers for you and your family during this challenging time.

- 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 30-31

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers	Minister of Hospitality
Saturday 4:30PM	Jean Farmer	Judy Devorak	David Kirkhammer Natalie Norris
Sunday 8AM	Mary Sagstetter	John Winkels	Jean Helmer Alan Helmer
Sunday 10AM	Pat Woodcock		Bill Cleveland Becky Cleveland

- Zack (litfranc@stfrancis-church.org)

School News

- NWEA Tests continue this week.
- The weekly school Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, January 26th at 9:15 am.
- Tuesday, January 26th is our HERO Day.
- Report cards will be sent home with students in K-3 on Friday, January 29th. Reports for grades 4-8 will be available on the Infinite Campus Portal for parents to view.

5 REASONS WHY PARENTS CHOOSE A CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION.

Catholic School Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. In honor of Catholic School Week, we looked at reasons why parents choose a Catholic school education. Here are 5 common reasons why parents choose a Catholic school education for their children.

1. Parents believe that their child's teachers should serve as moral role models. The CARA Institute at Georgetown University confirmed that "strong moral values" is the top reason parents choose to send their child to a Catholic school. Many of the parents who choose a Catholic school education want their child's education at school to be an extension of what they are being taught at home. They are looking for influences on their child that mirror their religious beliefs and moral choices.

2. Daily exposure to the Catholic faith is important to developing a strong religious foundation. Daily lessons in the Catholic faith create a strong foundation for children. Graduates of Catholic high schools are statistically more likely to continue church involvement as an adult. According to Our Greatest and Best Inheritance: Catholic Schools and Parental Choice (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) "Catholic school students are more likely to pray daily, attend church more often, retain a Catholic identify as an adult and donate more to the Church."

3. A church parish and school create a community for the family. Families who have children in a parish school have an easier time of developing a sense of community with their fellow parishioners. Opportunities for fellowship, friendship, and service are available for families and create a warm and welcoming community. For those who don't have other family in the area, this can be especially important and their church and school become an important hub.

4. Catholic education is a relatively affordable private school education. Private school tuition can be expensive, but many Catholic schools and dioceses offer generous tuition-assistance programs for parish families who need help.

5. Catholic schools offer high-quality education. According to The National Catholic Educational Association ninety-nine percent (99%) of Catholic secondary school students graduate and eighty-eight percent (88%) go on to college. In general, on national and standardized tests, Catholic schools consistently outperform public and other private schools by as much as 20 percentage points.

Parish Notes

CALVARY CEMETERY BOARD ANNUAL MEETING. The Calvary Cemetery Board will hold its annual public meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 2:30 PM at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in the fellowship area. All are invited to attend and learn about the cemetery, meet the board members and ask any pertinent questions. We will be following recommended Covid-19 guidelines and will require everyone to wear a mask and practice social distancing. This year we will be offering a Zoom option. If you would like to attend via Zoom, please email our director, Steve Flynn at www.calvarydirector@gmail.com and a link will be provided.

ROCHESTER ROSARY RALLIES. Fervent prayers continue to be needed for our country, conversion and peace. Please join us as we continue to publicly pray the Patriotic Rosary on all the upcoming Sundays through the last Sunday in February (January 24 & 31, February 7, 14, 21, & 28). All rallies will held near the Rochester Government Center at the corner of 4th Street SE and 3rd Avenue SE at 3pm, the Divine Mercy Hour, lasting about 35 minutes. We encourage all to step out in faith to publicly pray for our state and country. Bring your families and friends. If you are ever unable to join us physically, please consider joining us spiritually by praying a Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet from wherever you are. May our united prayers through Mary find the heart of Jesus. Questions? Contact Janela Hubka at daveandjanela@gmail.com (507-282-6090) or Mary Amiot at mamiot@hotmail.com (507-287-6481)

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ. Join thousands of people in listening to the #1 podcast in America - The Bible in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz. There is no homework! Fr. Mike reads the Scripture aloud and provides a short reflection. Most episodes are between 15-20 minutes. It is definitely worth your time!

THE NEST IS THE BEST! We are pleased to share that The Nest at Rochester Catholic Schools has been named the WINNER among preschools in the 2020 Post Bulletin Best of the Best awards! At Rochester Catholic Schools, we are incredibly proud of our students, teachers, and staff and want to thank the Rochester community for voting The Nest as the top preschool in town. The Nest is where it all begins - EXCELLENCE encouraged for all, CHARACTER shaped by faith, and COMMUNITY devoted to growth. Learn more at www.rcsmn.org/thenest

THIRD WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday is the **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**. The readings include the wonderful story from **Mark's Gospel** repeated from last week's weekday readings: Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James and John. "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Monday is the **Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul**. Tuesday is the **Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops**. Thursday is the **Memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church**.

The first reading this week continues with the **Letter to the Hebrews** which teaches that Jesus is mediator of a new covenant and a priest who "offered one sacrifice for sins. He took his seat forever at the right hand of God."

In **Mark's Gospel** this week, the ever-critical scribes accuse Jesus of being possessed by demons. Jesus responds clearly, "If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand." When told his family has arrived to see him, he replies that "whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." He tells the imaginative story of the sower and the seed and after the crowd dispersed, Jesus explains to the disciples that the seed is the word of God, accepted at various levels.

He encourages his disciples to show their light: "Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket or under a bed, and not to be placed on a lampstand?" Jesus compares the Kingdom with the tiniest of mustard seeds which grow to "the largest of plants." He calms the seas during a storm. His disciples wonder, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

On the **Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time** Mark's Gospel brings us the story of Jesus driving out unclean spirits from a man in the synagogue. The people are impressed because he taught with authority in ways the scribes did not and they marveled that even the unclean spirits obey him.

DAILY PRAYER THIS WEEK

This week is set at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and the pictures we get of how challenged and pushed he is, help prepare us to hear the simple parables he tells us. All of us get challenged and pushed in our daily lives. Even when we are on the right road and following a faithful path, there are forces, conflicting demands, tempting alternatives, differing values that batter us. It takes grace and courage to trust our real mission and that our Lord will be with us through it all.

Each morning this week, we can take a moment, to ask for what we desire. The entire day will be different just by spending 20 seconds sitting at the edge of the bed saying, "Lord, I want to keep my eyes open today. Whatever comes at me today, I want to stay in touch with you. Thank you." Another morning I may be aware of a big decision I have to execute that day or a conflict I am planning to face, and I might pray, "Okay, Lord, this is the day. This is how I live out my relationship with you. Be with me and give me what I need. Keep reminding me I can't do it without you."

Each day will offer a different brief moment of connection with our Lord, but each will ground the day. Then it is so very easy, while in the shower or walking down a hall, for just brief moments here and there in the background of our day, to stay in touch with our Lord. These guides can help keep us focused on the nourishing Word which interacts with our daily life. Every day can seem like a living Parable of the Sower. There is seed being scattered all around us and we can see and experience our degrees of receptivity.

And while we are doing the best we can, all day, every day, in a variety of things, we can be consoled by the Lord's smile reminding us that the Kingdom is like a mustard seed. The real graces come from very small seeds, the smallest of efforts that make a big difference.

Most of all, when things get rough, during any day, we can pause and take a breath and ask Him to calm the wind and sea in our hearts. Every night we can thank Him for His presence and ground our growing relationship with Him.

© https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Prayer/B1-OT-03.html

The Greater Catholic Community

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 via live -stream on the Diocesan Facebook page.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER. 2020 has been incredibly difficult on all of us and marriages have suffered! Commit to 2021 being the year you find enrichment, joy and hope in your relationship! Register for the February 13-14 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org for additional information or call 651.454.3238.

COR JESU - FIRST FRIDAY OF FEBRUARY! The Cathedral invites you to Cor Jesu on Friday, February 5th from 7PM-8:30PM. Cor Jesu is an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, and music in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For more details, search for Winona Cor Jesu on Facebook, go to cascwinona.org/prayer-opportunities and click on "Cor Jesu" in the drop-down list, or call Olivia Gadient at (507) 951-7063.

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. Questions? Contact Melissa at mscaccio@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.

FOLLOWING HIM: SCOTT HAHN REFLECTS ON THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The calling of the brothers in today's Gospel evokes Elisha's commissioning by the prophet Elijah (see 1 Kings 19:19–21). As Elijah comes upon Elisha working on his family's farm, so Jesus sees the brothers working by the seaside. And as Elisha left his mother and father to follow Elijah, so the brothers leave their father to come after Jesus.

Jesus' promise - to make them "fishers of men" - evokes Israel's deepest hopes. The prophet Jeremiah announced a new exodus in which God would send "many fishermen" to restore the Israelites from exile, as once He brought them out of slavery in Egypt (see Jeremiah 16:14–16).

By Jesus' Cross and Resurrection, this new exodus has begun (see Luke 9:31). And the apostles are the first of a new people of God, the Church - a new family, based not on blood ties, but on belief in Jesus and a desire to do the Father's will (see John 1:12–13; Matthew 12:46–50).

From now on, even our most important worldly concerns - family relations, occupations, and possessions - must be judged in light of the Gospel, Paul says in today's Epistle. The first word of Jesus' Gospel - repent - means we must totally change our way of thinking and living, turning from evil, doing all for the love of God.

And we should be consoled by Nineveh's repentance in today's First Reading. Even the wicked Nineveh could repent at Jonah's preaching. And in Jesus we have "something greater than Jonah" (Matthew 12:41). We have God come as our savior, to show sinners the way, as we sing in today's Psalm. This should give us hope - that loved ones who remain far from God will find compassion if they turn to Him. But we, too, must continue along the path of repentance - striving daily to pattern our lives after His.

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We pray for the repose of the soul of:

Caroline Madonna Schuelke
(July 2, 1926 - December 17, 2020)

✠ ✠ ✠

May she rest in God's love and peace.

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