

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-Fri: 8AM - 3:30PM

Weekday Mass:

Monday - Friday 7AM

School Mass:

Tuesday 9:30AM

Weekend Mass:

Saturday 4:30PM Sunday 8AM, 10AM

In Spanish:

Thursday 7PM Sunday 12PM

Misa En Español:

Jueves 7PM
Domingo 12PM

Pastor

Rev. Jim Berning

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Luis Vargas



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

- Luke 2:51-52

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER LUIS VARGAS



MERRY CHRISTMAS! In this short Christmas message, I take some of the words of Pope Francis in his message from December 25, 2020.

"I would like to bring to everyone the message that the Church proclaims on this feast with the words of the prophet Isaiah: "To us a child is born, to us a son is given" (Is 9:6) A child is born. A birth is always a source of hope; it is life that blossoms, a promise of the future. Moreover, this Child, Jesus, was born "to us": an "us"

without any borders, privileges or exclusions. The Child born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem was born for everyone: He is the "son" that God has given to the entire human family.

Jesus was born in a stable, but was embraced by the love of the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph. By His birth in the flesh, the Son of God consecrated familial love. May Christmas be an opportunity for all of us to rediscover the family as a cradle of life and faith, a place of acceptance and love, dialogue, forgiveness, fraternal solidarity and shared joy, a source of peace for all humanity."

WELCOME. Christmas has a way of bringing to Church individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not been to Mass or the Sacraments for months or years. What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to begin anew that prayerful relationship with the Lord and His Church. I extend to all of you an open, grateful heart of welcome. May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you and your families!

As we celebrate the joyous feast of Our Savior's birth, I pray that the Christ Child will fill your hearts and minds with the blessings of His love, hope, and peace.



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:

Sacristans, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers & Hospitality

Ministers. Thank you for being faithful to your ministry!

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

Parish Administrator (x 204)

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Office Manager (x 201)

Michelle Ibarra

Financial Secretary (x 205)

Debbie Worden

Director of Music/Liturgy (x 301)

Hope Giesen (January, 2022)

Faith Formation (x 207)

Mark Nuehring

St. Francis of Assisi School

(507) 288-4816

Principal

Andrew Poterucha

Trustees

Bruce Anderson

Rosemary Bengal

Knights of Columbus

Bruce Anderson

Calvary Cemetery

Steve Flynn, Director (507) 273-0140

Catholic Charities

(507) 287-2047

A NOTE FROM FR LUIS

¡FELIZ NAVIDAD! En este corto mensaje de Navidad, tomo algunas de las palabras del mensaje del papa Francisco del 25 de Diciembre de 2020.

"Deseo hacer llegar a todos el mensaje que la Iglesia anuncia en esta fiesta, con las palabras del profeta Isaías: «Un niño nos ha nacido, un hijo se nos ha dado» (Is 9,5).

Ha nacido un niño: el nacimiento es siempre una fuente de esperanza, es la vida que florece, es una promesa de futuro. Y este Niño, Jesús, "ha nacido para nosotros": un nosotros sin fronteras, sin privilegios ni exclusiones. El Niño que la Virgen María dio a luz en Belén nació para todos: es el "hijo" que Dios ha dado a toda la familia humana.

Jesús nació en un establo, pero envuelto en el amor de la Virgen María y san José. Al nacer en la carne, el Hijo de Dios consagró el amor familiar. Que la Navidad sea para todos una oportunidad para redescubrir la familia como cuna de vida y de fe; un lugar de amor que acoge, de diálogo, de perdón, de solidaridad fraterna y de alegría compartida, fuente de paz para toda la humanidad."

A todos, ¡Feliz Navidad!



¡BIENVENIDOS! ¡Una BIENVENIDA a todos los que vienen a la Iglesia San Francisco de Asís! Estamos agradecidos con nuestros fieles feligreses y damos la bienvenida a nuestros vecinos e invitados que nos visitan. ¡Queremos que sepan que siempre son bienvenidos aquí!

¿ERES UN MIEMBRO DE LA PARROQUIA?

Frecuentemente las personas asisten a misa en una parroquia durante meses o a veces años, pero nunca se registran oficialmente. Si usted no lo ha hecho, le invitamos a completar el Formulario de Registro Parroquial en nuestro sitio web: https://stfrancis-church.org o comuníquese con la oficina parroquial al 288-7313. ¡Esperamos contarte entre los miembros de nuestra familia parroquial!

Mass Intentions

For the Week of December 27, 2021

MON Dec 27		7:00 AM	NO MASS	
TUES Dec 28		7:00 AM	NO MASS	
WED Dec 29		7:00 AM	Susyana Lukminto	
THU Dec 30		7:00 AM	Ivan Sherman †	
FRI Dec 31	7:00 AM NO MASS		NO MASS	
	**	7:00 PM	Maria Martinez †	
SAT Jan 1		9:00 AM	Kinsman Family †	
		4:30 PM	Living & Deceased members	
			of the Blaul Family	
SUN Jan 2		8:00 AM	For the Parish	
		10:00 AM	Eileen Harreld †	
	**	12:00 PM	Salvador Patiño †	
2:30 PM		2:30 PM	Vietnamese Christmas Mass	

^{*} 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 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40 Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18 Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21 Next 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

<u>Las lecturas de la semana del 26 de diciembre de 2021</u>

Domingo: Eclo 3, 2-6. 12-14/Sal 127, 1-2. 3. 4-5 [cfr. 1]/Col 3, 12-10 3, 12-17/

Lc 2, 41-52 o 1 Sm 1, 20-22. 24-28/Sal 83, 2-3. 5-6. 9-10 [cfr. 5]/ 1 Jn 3, 1-2. 21-24/Lc 2, 41-52

Lunes: 1 Jn 1, 1-4/Sal 96, 1-2. 5-6. 11-12 [12]/Jn 20, 1. 2-8 Martes: 1 Jn 1, 5—2, 2/Sal 123, 2-3. 4-5. 7-8 [7]/Mt 2, 13-18 Miércoles: 1 Jn 2, 3-11/Sal 95, 1-2. 2-3. 5-6 [11]/Lc 2, 22-35 Jueves: 1 Jn 2, 12-17/Sal 95, 7-8. 8-9. 10 [11]/Lc 2, 36-40 Viernes: 1 Jn 2, 18-21/Sal 95, 1-2. 11-12. 13 [11]/Jn 1, 1-18 Sábado: Nm 6, 22-27/Sal 66, 2-3. 5. 6. 8 [2]/Gal 4, 4-7/Lc 2, 16-12.

Domingo siguiente: ls 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

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UNWRAPPING THE GIFT OF JESUS AT CHRISTMAS.

My father died on December 25th, 2017. One of the heirlooms I got from him was a large framed picture of the Nuehring family farm that has been in the family for over 100 years. This picture and my memories on that farm connect me to something bigger than myself, and help ground me, pun intended, in my families' roots.

The same is true with Christmas. One of the most profound images we have of Christmas is the crèche scene. This depiction of Jesus laying in a bed of straw in a stable connects us to something bigger than ourselves. Jesus' birth connects us to a rich faith history. Every Christmas, we are not just remembering what Jesus did for us 2,000 years ago when he was born, without also understanding in a deeper way what Jesus' life, death and resurrection did for us 2,000 years ago, too.

Jesus' birth, humble life of service and gruesome death challenge us in our faith. Jesus's impact did not end with this death. He gave us an example to follow. He was born in a simple stable to show his humility. He served people on the margins of society to model service for us, and he died a horrible death on the cross to save us.

Christmas is more than just adoring the baby Jesus. Christmas is the whole package and it takes time to truly unwrap the gift of Jesus at Christmas. Jesus is the REAL reason for the season! Merry Christmas.

- Mark (youthminister@stfrancis-church.org)



SEEKING GRANT APPLICATIONS. The Rochester Area Knights of Columbus, of which our parish Council is a member, is seeking grant applications to its donor advised fund. Annually, the fund awards monetary grants to local non-profit projects and programs that

are consistent with the Knight's mission and values. Grant requests in the following areas are given priority, but all worthy causes are considered: • Catholic Organizations • Youth Programs: At Risk, Physical/Mental Challenges, or Support for Vocations • Sanctity of Life-conception to natural death • Relief from Suffering. Request can be for capital projects or program expense costs. Complete details on the award process and guidelines, along with application forms and deadlines, are available on the Council #1013 website: http://www.kofc1013.org

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 1/2

	Reader	Hospitality Minister	Minister of Holy Communion
Saturday, 4:30 PM	Robin Erickson	John Sibley Natalie Norris	Judy Syring
Sunday, 8:00 AM	Tim Lawler	Pat Stern [OPEN]	Ruth Wentz
Sunday, 10:00 AM	Florence Miller	Lesa Patek Steve Patek	Sherri Kirk

MERRY CHRISTMAS I FELIZ NAVIDAD



UPCOMING MASS SCHEDULE

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Friday, December 31 (Vigil): 7PM (Spanish) Saturday, January 1: 9AM

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday January 1: 4:30PM Sunday, January 2: 8AM, 10AM and 12PM (Spanish)

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be **NO 7AM** Masses on December 27, 28 and 31.

HOLIDAY HOURS:

The Parish Center Office will be OPEN December 27 thru December 30 from 8AM to 12PM. We will be CLOSED on Friday, December 31.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Parish Notes



DONOR MATCH PROGRAM. Our online giving provider **WeShare** is generously providing a donor match program to help us increase recurring giving. Online gifts help reduce costs and our time spent handling other forms of payment. For every FIRST gift from a

new recurring donor that is added between November 1 and December 31, 2021, WeShare will match that first gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000 for our church. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be transacted **by December 31**, 2021. We appreciate your generosity and your support of our church. We prayerfully ask that you consider helping us meet this goal by creating your recurring online gift today. Thank you!



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- 1. Open the Amazon app on your phone.
- 2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features.
- 3. Select "The Church of St Francis of Assisi" as your charity.
- 4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app.



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

¡BIENVENIDOS! ¡Una BIENVENIDA a todos los que vienen a la Iglesia San Francisco de Asís! Estamos agradecidos con nuestros fieles feligreses y damos la bienvenida a nuestros vecinos e invitados que nos visitan. ¡Queremos que sepan que siempre son bienvenidos aquí!



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Your Name: In Memory of:

Beverly Bakken My Parents, My In-Laws
Beatrice Bloem Nelly Mondot, Willem Bloem

Fred & Bernetta

Boucsein Roy & Margaret Connelly & family,

Frederick Sr & Alyce Boucsein & family

Chris & Katie Bowron

Therese Bowron Mr & Mrs John Bowron, Judy Schulz,

Marlene Bowron

Huyen & King Dang Michael & Jayne Desorcie

Allen Desorcie, William Bauer
Dorothy Dukart Glen F. Dukart, Arnold Kuntz
Judy Devorak Lawrence Hemann, Father of Judy
Ronald & Jean Farmer Rita, Vernon & Mike Walter,

Brent Farmer Jackie Fiend

Paul Fiend Jackie Fiend Madonna Fogarty Tom Fogarty

Mary Jo Genz Mr & Mrs Joseph Lynaugh (parents), Andrea Thompson (daughter) and

Joseph Thompson (son)

Silvana Gherbaz

James Griffin Patty Griffin

Salvador & Silvia

IbarraFiliberto Martinez, FatherJuliann JennigesReinhardt & Ione JennigesBob & Karen KertisObermiller & Kertis familiesMarlys King-CarvelliRobert King, Clarence Carvelli

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Carmen Gloria Marquez Goyco Larrazabal

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Leo & Mary Ann McGuire,

William O'Rourke

Mike & Bev Motil Matthew Motil, Mike Motil Jr,

Richard Francis

Bob & Barb Plenge Nicole Joy Plenge

Jim & Mary Roskos Thomas & Martha Lisowski

Celia, Luke & Ralph Roskos

Rita Southwick Anton & Catherine Krofta

Judy Syring Michael Syring, Fr Harry Jewison

Charles & Nora Watts Bob & Carol Breckle Mrs Laverne Zabel Robert Zabel, Jeff Zabel

(gifts received as of December 16, 2021)



We continue to be inspired,
encouraged and humbled by your
outpouring of generosity for those in need
as well as your unfailing support
of the parish.

May the splendor and beauty of this Season remind you of the One who is worthy of all our praise!

> Merry Christmas, and may God bless you richly!

Thank you - Muchas gracias!

- Staff of the Church of St Francis of Assisi
- "...Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." - -Luke 2:14

The Greater Catholic Community

ROCHESTER ROSARY RALLIES SCHEDULE CHANGE.

Please NOTE: **NO** Rosary Rally on Christmas weekend, **Sunday, December 26**. We will resume our weekly Rosary Rallies for our country, conversion, and peace on Sunday, January 2, 2022. These rallies continue to be held near the Rochester Government Center at the corner of 4th Street SE and 3rd Avenue SE at 3PM, lasting about 35 minutes. Questions: Contact Janela Hubka at daveandjanela@gmail.com or 507-282-6090.

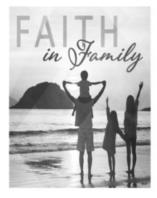
MERCY MISSION: February 19-21. Singer/songwriter/missionary disciple Steve Angrisano will offer workshops, discipleship talks, worship opportunities, and inspirational music. There will also be events specifically for children and youth. For more information or to purchase tickets: www.rescathroch.org/WP/mission

7TH ANNUAL MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT: February 18-19, 2022. "Merciful Love" Couples will reflect on the importance of Divine Mercy in marriage, enjoy a wine and cheese social Friday night, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and the beautiful scenery of the Lanesboro countryside. Please note - lodging is not included, but Lanesboro is the Bed & Breakfast Capitol of MN. Sponsored by the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Office of Life, Marriage & Family. Register now: www.dowr.org/offices/life-marriage-family/index.html

ENERGY ASSISTANCE. Too many low-income Minnesotans have to choose between paying their energy bill and other necessities. Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program offers eligible residents help to pay their energy bills so they do not have to choose between life's necessities. Spread the word to your friends and family. You may be eligible for assistance even if you are not behind in your payments. It may be worth your time to see what the eligibility requirements are. For more information, call 1-800-277-8418 or visit: www.threeriverscap.org/energy

CONFIDENT PREGNANCIES AND STABLE BEGINNINGS.

Whether a pregnant woman is excited to bring her new baby home or is choosing the loving option of adoption, Catholic Charities supports confident pregnancies and stable beginnings. Our social workers travel to new and expectant parents all across the Diocese to bring help and hope through financial assistance, pregnancy counseling, parenting education, free baby items, and helping women throughout the entire process of placing a child for adoption. We are honored to work with those who are pregnant or have a child under 12 months old. We work with teens and adults, women who are single or married, those who are financially secure or living in poverty. Reach our social workers at 800-222-5859 for more information or to schedule an appointment.



FAMILY CONNECTION.

Today's Gospel describes a time of anxiety in the life of Jesus' family. We can imagine their panic and worry as they discovered that Jesus was not with the caravan returning to Nazareth. The Holy Family journeyed with family members and friends because traveling alone was dangerous. When

they found Jesus at the Temple, Jesus spoke like a typical adolescent, unsympathetic to his parents' concern. Yet his words teach an important lesson about reducing anxiety in our family life.

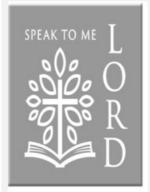
In essence, Jesus says, "If you had remembered who I am, you would have known where to find me." In their panic, Mary and Joseph had forgotten what had been told to them before Jesus' birth, that their son was the Son of God. Knowing a person well helps reduce our anxieties for them because we can better predict how they will behave, and we know their capacity to handle the challenges life might present to them. As you gather as a family, have fun playing the game "How well do you know me?" Take turns trying to stump one another by asking family members questions about yourself, such as "What is my favorite memory of a family vacation?" "Given a choice, what dinner menu would I pick?" "If I could travel anywhere in the world, where would I go?" One member of the family might prepare and read the questions aloud as each person writes down the answers. Family members then take turns guessing the answers, playing this game as a quiz show. Observe that one thing about families is that we learn to know each other well.

https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/



The St Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council 14170 meets the second Tuesday of each month from 7PM to 8PM in the St Clare Room in the basement of the church. We invite all men of the parish to join us to find out more about the Knights of Columbus and about the men who belong to Council 14170.

Questions? Please contact Bruce Anderson via email (branderson781983@gmail.com) or phone (507-358-5478). We look forward to seeing you!



Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gos-

pels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost.

https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/first-sunday-of-advent-cycle-c-sunday-connection/

We pray for the repose of the soul of:

DAVID A. DANIELS

(November 25, 1936 - December 4, 2021)

X

GERMAINE M. LITTLE

(November 2, 1928 - December 6, 2021)

May they rest in God's love and peace.

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