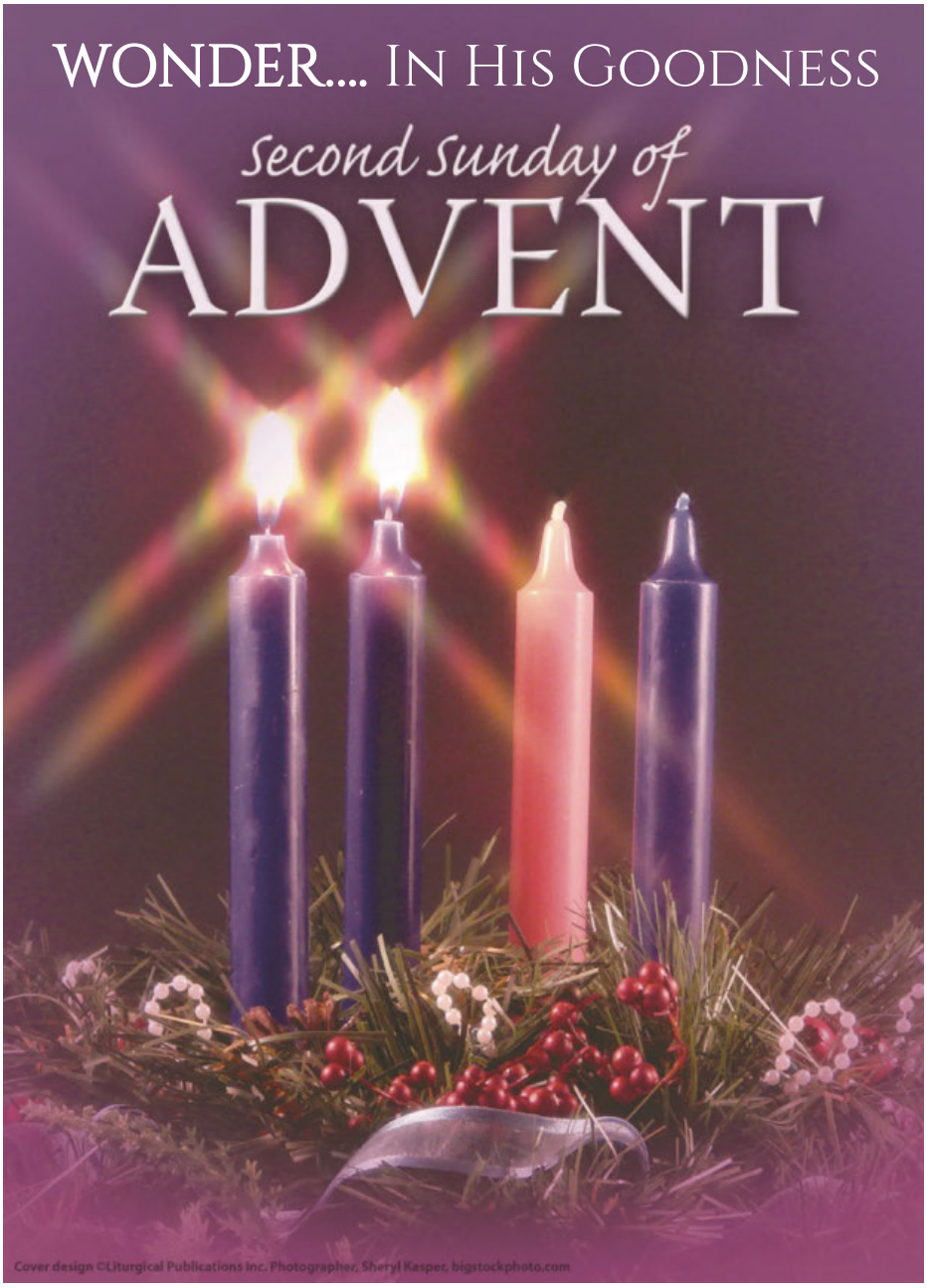
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

7075 Ashworth Road
West Des Moines, IA
Phone 515-223-4577 | Fax 515-223-4768
www.saintfrancischurch.org

We, the parish family of St. Francis of Assisi, are a Catholic, Christian community striving to live the mission of Jesus Christ. As partners in faith, we witness our love of God through liturgy, social outreach and life-long faith formation. We embrace the spirituality of St. Francis, challenging us to be instruments of peace and love.

December 5, 2021 | Second Sunday of Advent



PRAY WITH US | MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses
Saturday: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. | 11:30 a.m.
Youth Mass: 4:30 p.m. | 3rd Sundays of month

Weekday Masses
Monday-Friday: 7:15 a.m.
Tuesday: Noon

Reconciliation

Wednesday: Noon-1 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Or by appointment

Adoration
2nd & 4th Tuesday each month: 8 a.m.—8 p.m.
Adoration with Benediction: 2nd Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Rosary
Monday—Friday mornings beginning at 6 a.m.
Monday at 7 p.m. in Assisi Room

OUR CLERGY

Fr. Ray McHenry
Pastor | Ext. 109

Fr. John Kwaku Brobbey
Associate Pastor | Ext. 107

Deacon Bill Richer
Pastoral Associate | Ext. 110

PRAYER REQUESTS

Contact the Parish Office with your prayer requests for our Prayer Chain Ministry.
Email your intention to:
prayerchain@saintfrancischurch.org

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

Phone: 515-457-7167
www.sfawdm.org

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

Facebook: @sfawdm | @stfrancisassisischool
Instagram: @sfawdm | @sfawdmschool
Twitter: @sfawdm | @SFASchool_WDM
YouTube

PARISH OFFICE INFORMATION

Parish Contacts

Parish Office 515-223-4577
Parish Fax 515-223-4768
St. Francis School 515-457-7167
Pre-School ..... 515-223-4577, Ext. 116
Faith Formation Office 515-440-1030

Parish Staff

Director of Operations ..... Paula Courter
Director of Liturgy & Music ..... Emily Schmid
Parish Receptionist ..... Sue Kirkhart
Executive Assistant ..... Sheila Timmerman
Communications Coordinator ..... (vacant)
Accountant (incl. ACH, Abundant & tithing) ..... Debbie Muse
Bookkeeper (incl. ACH, Abundant & tithing) ..... Pam Danzer
HR Coord (incl. IRA, matching gifts & stocks) ..... Monica Lihs
Director of Facilities & Maintenance ..... Mario Lastro
Director of Faith Formation ..... Lisa Schmidt
Director of Adult Faith Formation ..... Vivian Day
Faith Formation Administrative Assistant ..... Heather Rohe
Youth Ministry Coordinator ..... Deacon Bill Richer
Early Childhood Faith Formation Coord ..... (vacant)
Family Faith Formation Coordinator ..... Erica Schieffer
Special Needs Coordinator ..... Amy Tallman
St. Francis Pre-School Director ..... Heather Gunson
Kids Care Director ..... Connor Dooley
St. Francis School Principal ..... Jon Aldrich
St. Francis School Assistant Principal ... Gretchen Watznauer
IT Support ..... Diane Nitzel
IT Support ..... Dominic Muse

Parish Representatives

Pastoral Council ..... Rob Manning
Finance Council ..... Mike Brinker
Board of Education ..... Jeremy Masterson
Faith Formation Council ..... Nicole Saegh

Parish Office hours: 8 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.

REMEMBERING OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please pray for those individuals who have passed away as well as their families.

Joseph "Joe" Brick
Joseph P. Sciorrotta
Suzanne Gebel

Give them eternal rest, O Lord, and let them share in your unending glory.

MASS INTENTIONS

12-04	Sat.	4:30 p.m.	† Pat Doug
12-05	Sun.	7:30 a.m.	† Phil Kuhn
		9:30 a.m.	For the parishioners of the parish
		11:30 a.m.	† Larry Stanfel
12-06	Mon.	7:15 a.m.	† Kay Wallace
12-07	Tues.	7:15 a.m.	† Mario E. Siasoco
		Noon	† Vavroch & Weiler families
		5:30 p.m.	† Julie Scheve-Snyder
12-08	Wed.	7:15 a.m.	† Holy Souls in Pergatory
		8:45 a.m.	† Rev. Mark T. McGuire
		Noon	† Maria Hanian
		6:00 p.m.	† Bernadine Wanek
12-09	Thur.	9:00 a.m.	† Anna Graziano
12-10	Fri.	7:15 a.m.	† Loretta Bahl
12-11	Sat.	4:30 p.m.	† Louis White
12-12	Sun.	7:30 a.m.	† Joan Cronin
		9:30 a.m.	† Maria Luz Cabrera
		11:30 a.m.	For the parishioners of the parish

SACRAMENTS AT ST. FRANCIS

Baptism

Congratulations on preparing to be baptized into the community of the Church! Baptisms are scheduled on the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sundays of the month after the 11:30 a.m. Mass & the 4th Saturday of the month after the 4:30 p.m. Mass. For more info, please call the Parish Office.
Next pre-baptism class: Dec. 5th, 12:30 p.m. (Serra Room)

Becoming Catholic

If you or someone you know is thinking about joining the Catholic Church or is inquiring about the faith, please contact the Faith Formation Office.

First Communion

First Communion is celebrated in April. For more information, please contact the Faith Formation Office.

Confirmation

Confirmation is celebrated once a year for our high school sophomore students. If you have a student who'd like to be part of this, contact Lisa Schmidt at Ext. 156. For info regarding Adult Confirmation, please contact the Faith Formation Office.

Marriage

Congratulations on your engagement! We look forward to helping you prepare for life together. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Homebound Ministry

If you're unable to attend Mass & would like to receive communion, please email homebound@saintfrancischurch.org.

Hospital Visits

As hospital visits start to reopen during COVID-19, Fr. John will be happy to call and speak with you on the phone!

LIVING OUR FAITH CALENDAR

Saturday, December 4
8 a.m.: Men's Faith Sharing
4:30 p.m.: Mass

Sunday, December 5
Saint Nicholas visits SFA
Coffee & Donuts
7:30 a.m.: Mass
9:30 a.m.: Mass*
11:30 a.m.: Mass
7 p.m.: SoulCore

Monday, December 6
6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary
7:15 a.m.: Mass
7 p.m.: Rosary
8 p.m.: Women's Faith Sharing

Tuesday, December 7
6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary
7:15 a.m.: Mass
9 a.m.: You are Enough Study
Noon: Mass
5:30 p.m.: Mass
5:30 p.m.: Bldgs. & Grds. Mtg.
6:00 p.m.: KC Officers Mtg.
7 p.m.: SFA Young Adults
8 p.m.: Men's Faith Sharing

Wednesday, December 8
Immaculate Conception
6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary
7:15 a.m.: Mass
8:45 a.m.: School Mass**
9:45 a.m.: Mark Study
Noon: Mass
6:00 p.m.: Mass
6:00 p.m.: EDGE & FISH

Thursday, December 9
6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary
7:15 a.m.: Mass
6:30 p.m.: Board of Educ.

Friday, December 10
6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary
7:15 a.m.: Mass
7:00 a.m.: School Chess Club

Saturday, December 11
8 a.m.: Men's Faith Sharing
4:30 p.m.: Mass
5:00 p.m.: Grace Night

Sunday, December 12
7:30 a.m.: Mass
9:30 a.m.: Mass*
11:30 a.m.: Mass
4:30 p.m.: Advent Taize Prayer Service
7 p.m.: SoulCore

**Streamed on YouTube*
***School Mass not open to public*

FROM FR. RAY

Welcome parishioners, newcomers and to those visiting!

Next week is the annual collection for retired religious. If you were formed or influenced by a religious priest, sister or brother prayerfully consider supporting them in their retirement by using the special envelope in your envelope packet.

Wednesday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times will be: Vigil Mass on December 7: 5:30 p.m. Masses on Wednesday December 8: 7:15 a.m., 12:00 & 6:00 p.m.

Next Sunday, December 12 at 4:30 p.m., we have an opportunity to celebrate Advent with a beautiful Taize Prayer Service. A Taize prayer service incorporates music, candlelight and silence. This serene prayer service is a perfect setting for the season of hope, wonder and preparation for Christmas.

As we light the second candle marking the Second Sunday of Advent we Wonder in His Goodness. The season of Advent is a time for us to ponder the goodness of God in spite of the difficulties and turmoil we may experience. God is present to give us strength during those times because His goodness is always present.

The reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch proclaims God's goodness. Our God is a God of mercy and justice. God remembers us and God brings us back from those times of defeat. This Advent we wonder in his goodness; specifically the goodness of sending His son to redeem us.

"Rise up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from east to west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God." Baruch 5:5

Fr. Ray McHenry

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.
10:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY
9:00 a.m.
No 4:30 p.m. Mass

WELCOME TO ST. FRANCIS!

Thank you for joining us at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church! We're glad to have you as part of our family.

We offer various possibilities to grow in faith and love, from education, faith and social ministries, local and international outreach, to celebrating the word of God.

For more information regarding membership and new member activities, please contact the Parish Office. Stop by the Parish Office to pick up a parish registration card or register online!

If renting our Parish Hall, please contact Paula Courter at PCourter@saintfrancischurch.org. Requests for reserving meeting rooms for parish-sponsored campus events should be sent to Sheila Timmerman at STimmerman@saintfrancischurch.org.

As always, make sure to check out our website at www.saintfrancischurch.org for a wealth of information to assist you.

ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. FRANCIS COMMUNICATIONS

SUBSCRIBE TO THE BULLETIN

Subscribe to receive email notifications once new bulletins become available online.

- On the homepage of our website, scroll down and click on "View Bulletins" (next to Upcoming Events).
- Once you click "View Bulletins", click on "Subscribe" for St. Francis' bulletins and enter your email address.

LIVESTREAMING MASS

Livestreaming at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. (ASL interpreted.) Go to: Youtube.com/StFrancisofAssisiCatholicChurchWDM or youtube.com and enter SFAWDM in the search box.

LITURGY AND MUSIC

St. Francis needs ushers to help with our liturgies at all Masses, especially the 4:30 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses.

Ushers are primarily responsible for welcoming, seating, and directing people during Masses.

Please contact Emily Schmid in the Parish Office if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

WE WANT TO SHARE YOUR NEWS

Have something you need announced in the bulletin?
Send an email to Communications@saintfrancischurch.org.

Upcoming deadlines (by 9 a.m.) are as follows:
December 12th bulletin: December 6th
December 19th bulletin: December 13th

***Check out the communications page on our website**
for all the ways we can share your news & how to submit info.
https://saintfrancischurch.org/our-parish/communications/

FORMED. CATHOLIC CONTENT

FORMED RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are based on the Catholic liturgical year, saints and feast days.

Program – Be Not Afraid Family Hour Ep 6--Living Fully Alive
Movie – Saint Barbara: Convert and Martyr of the Early Church
Audio – Advent: Rethinking the Season by Dr. Tim Gray
Books – Advent of the Heart: Seasonal Sermons and Prison Writings by Alfred Delp
Kid's Choice -- Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa
Details on our website by clicking on Formation/FORMED.

Details on our website by clicking on Formation/FORMED.

FORMED® | THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY GRACE

Save the date! December 11 from 5—8:30 p.m.

St. Francis' Special Needs Ministry will be hosting a special respite event called a Grace Night on December 11 from 5—8:30 p.m. in the school gym.

Grace Night events are for families with children with special needs and their siblings.

December's Grace Night will be snow-themed and will include dinner and a movie.

More information forthcoming. We look forward to seeing you there!

ST. FRANCIS PARISH EMPLOYMENT

St. Francis of Assisi is seeking a full-time Communications Coordinator.

This position facilitates the day-to-day communications which includes the bulletin, website, social media, e-newsletters and marketing materials. The ideal candidate will have a demonstrated success in marketing communications, digital and social media, and media relations; with strong writing, editing, communications, and project implementation skills. Candidates should hold a Communications, Marketing, or Journalism degree with a minimum of 3 years of relevant experience. Must have strong computer skills with proficiency in Microsoft Office and web-based content management systems. Practicing Catholic preferred.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to:
Human Resources Coordinator
7075 Ashworth Road
West Des Moines, IA 50266.
Or by email to:
communications@saintfrancischurch.org

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT

St. Francis of Assisi School is seeking Substitute Teachers.

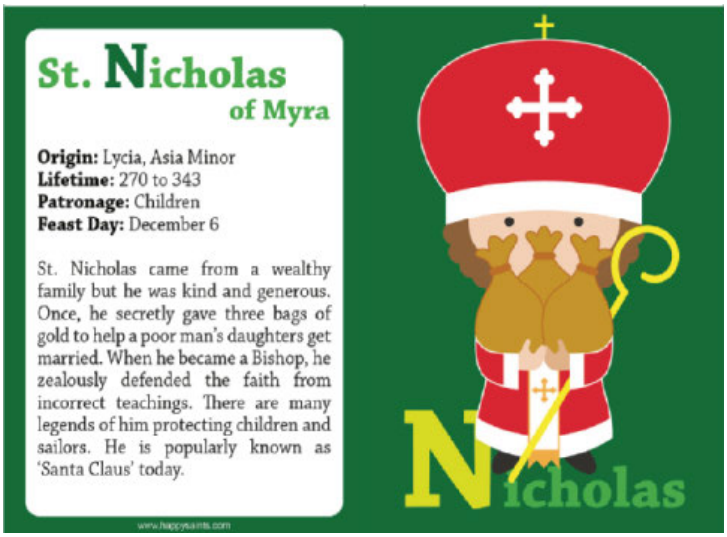
A qualified long-term substitute teacher is needed for K-8 music January through March.

Interested applicants who want to learn more can email Jon Aldrich at jdrich@saintfrancisschool.org.

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE 2021

You are invited to any of these services.

Dec 5 All Saints, Des Moines 2 p.m.
Dec 5 St. Mary of Nazareth, Des Moines 3 p.m.
Dec 7 St. Boniface, Waukee 6 p.m.
Dec 9 St. Pius X, Urbandale 7-8:30 p.m.
Dec 11 Our Lady Immaculate Heart, Ankeny 9 a.m.
Dec 12 St. Mary's, Elkhart 2 p.m.
Dec 13 St. Theresa, Des Moines 7 p.m.
Dec 14 St. Joseph, Des Moines 6 p.m.
Dec 16 Ss John and Paul, Altoona 7 p.m.
Dec 18 St. Anthony, Des Moines 9 a.m.
Dec 19 St. John the Apostle, Norwalk 1pm



SAINT NICHOLAS VISIT

December 6th is the Feast of Saint Nicholas, who is the patron saint of children.

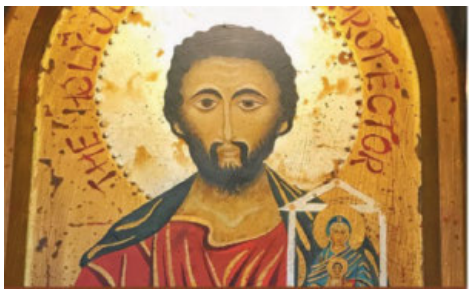
Saint Nicholas will be visiting St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, December 5th after all Masses!

Stop by the Parish Hall to visit with Saint Nicholas. Children can pick up an individually wrapped candy cane, a Saint Nicholas prayer card, and a coloring page. Parents are welcome to take a photo of children beside Saint Nicholas. We wish you a safe and joyful holiday season!

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

The Year of St. Joseph will conclude on December 8, 2021 in honor of the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being solemnly declared Patron of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius IX. As we wrap up, we want to thank all those who helped us celebrate this special year. Thank you to the volunteers, participants, and staff for sharing their time and talent. We also want to thank Fr. Ray and Fr. John Brobbey for their leadership and support.

We still have free copies of the *Consecration to St. Joseph: the Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* by Fr. Donald Calloway. It is not too late to consecrate yourself, your marriage, or your family to St. Joseph. You can pick up a free book either at the Advent table in the gathering space or from the Parish Office between 8-4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.



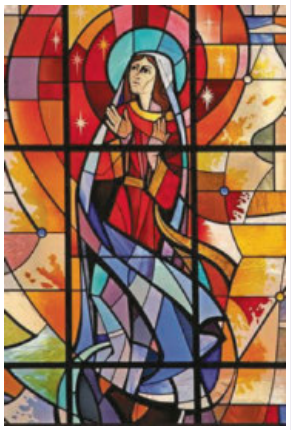
December Prayer
Joseph, Protector of the Holy Church
"The days in which we live are filled with scandal, confusion, and division.
It is not easy to remain faithful, zealous, and hopeful. Yet, we have reason for hope.
God will never abandon us. Saint Joseph will never abandon us either."

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Holy Day of Obligation Mass Schedule:
Tuesday, December 7th
5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8th
7:15 a.m.
Noon
6 p.m.

No Noon Reconciliation



ADVENT TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday, December 12th
4:30pm - 5:30 p.m.
St. Francis of Assisi, Sanctuary

Taize prayer is a time to rest in God, to let the words listened to and sung penetrate one's being. Invite a friend for a calming, quieting, prayerful evening during the Advent season.

All are welcome!

ASL - AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

We strive to offer American Sign Language at one weekend Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. Unfortunately, due to a shortage of interpreters, many masses continue to be unfilled.

Currently, we have an interpreter scheduled for December 8th at the 6 p.m. Mass and December 24th at the 4 p.m. Mass.

Please continue to pray for this ministry going forward.

UPCOMING LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Please make note of the following liturgical dates for the remainder of 2021 at St. Francis:

Immaculate Conception Vigil (Dec. 7): 5:30 p.m.
Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8): 7:15 a.m., Noon, and 6 pm

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24): 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.
Christmas Day (Dec. 25): 9 a.m. (No 4:30 p.m. Mass)

Solemnity, Mary Mother of God (Jan. 1): 9 a.m.

WONDER.... In His Goodness

Liturgical Link

Holy, Holy, Holy is a prayer that we pray or sing with all the angels and saints in heaven. Listen to the words of this prayer. What does it say about God?

Spiritual Challenge | Practice of Charity

- Make/write homemade Christmas cards with hope and encouragement for the homebound or those in nursing homes. Bring to Parish Office for delivery.
- Find ways to give generously to people who might be struggling in some way.
- SFA Angel Tree
- Perhaps you have the opportunity to lend a listening ear to someone who recently lost a family member or friend.
- Are you staying committed to your advent focus?
- Are you as joyous as you could be?
- Are the gifts in your life that you are called to recognize and act on in new ways?
- How can you take advantage of the Advent season to do some hard work on your life and relationships?

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent

In the psalm this weekend, we proclaim, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy." (Psalm 126) And He has done great things indeed!

While there are seasons of our life where it can be challenging to see the goodness of God active in our lives, it doesn't change the fact that God is doing good things in and through us. Gratitude and humility are important practices for us to engage in to see God's goodness. They remind us what gifts we have and from whom we receive those gifts.

The goodness of God extends throughout our lives, but often we have to reflect back on our lives to notice. We can easily see the goodness of God in scripture. God continually brought the Israelites back into relationship with Him even when they strayed time and again. We see the fulfillment of God's promise declared by the prophets that He would send a Messiah, which is Jesus Christ. Paul constantly reminds us of the Goodness of God. He tells the Philippians that "the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6) In Romans, Paul declares that "We know that all things work for good for those who love God…" (Romans 8:28). By virtue of our Baptism, God is working in us and for us. We are His children, and He gives His children good things.

What good things can we proclaim in our lives that come from the Lord? How often do we take stock in the things God has done for us? How often do we give credit to God for the good things in our lives?

By reflecting on God's gifts for us, we pray that all those who profess the Christian faith will, at all times, be able to declare that "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

Emily Schmid, Director of Liturgy & Music

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Your contribution to the Annual Diocesan Appeal makes an impact!

A big "Thank You" to everyone who continues to make gifts to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Each and every person's gift is important. Remember, when we reach our parish goal, any additional gifts stay right here for our own use.
Every gift matters. No gift is too small!

We're slowly moving closer to our goal! Help us get there!
*******Our 2021 Parish Goal is* **$399,532.**
*******To date, we have pledged or paid* **$352,735 (88%)!**

We need everyone's participation in order to reach our goal.
Make an online gift today.
Gifts can be made online at dmdiocese.org/giving. (Be sure to select SFA as your parish.)
Thank you for your generosity and your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

2021 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

ABUNDANT GIVING

Now there are even more ways to support all the great things happening at St. Francis!

For the last two years, we've used the online application Abundant Giving to give you an additional way to tithe. We've now added additional categories, including School, Faith Formation, our Campus Project Wish List, and Thanksgiving.

Go to our website and click on Our Parish/Tithing & Donations or go directly to https://abundant.co/stfrancisofassisi/give to see all of the ways you can support St. Francis.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

A big "Thank You" to one of this month's featured St. Francis advertisers:
Edible Arrangements
Please consider reciprocating our advertisers' generosity by supporting their business.

Grow Your Business!
We are always looking for businesses that would like to expand their reach locally by advertising in the St. Francis weekly bulletin. You will be able to build your business and help grow a vibrant faith community at your parish at the same time. As an advertiser, you can count on support from the parish leadership and parishioners. Your business will be seen as a trusted resource in the community.

The St. Francis bulletin serves as the primary publication tool to the parishioners each week. The cost covers the cost of the bulletin and even serves as a fundraiser for the parish once the bulletin has been paid for.

If you are interested in advertising, please call our bulletin provider at 1-800-950-9952.

ADVENT ANGEL TREE

This year, the need is greater than ever.

Social Concerns will have their advent angel trees in the gathering space. Please stop by and pick an angel tag that will help our community at large including someone in need this advent season. There are many different local charities and families we will be helping.

Please place gifts/items in the bins in the Parish Hall in their respective Angel tag bin. Make sure to return items with the original angel tag attached to the church on these weekends: December 11/12, and December 18/19 or by the date indicated on the tag . Thank you!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

Our Art & Environment Ministry invites you to honor your loved ones with a Christmas flower donation.

Every year, we decorate our church with poinsettias at Christmas. Christmas poinsettias may be purchased in memory/honor thanksgiving of special family and friends. These donations will be displayed in the sanctuary during the Christmas season.

Donations of $25 can be made a couple of ways:
1. Use the envelope from your envelope packet
2. Donate online at: https://abundant.co/stfrancisofassisi/give

FAITH FORMATION: GO DEEPER

The Family That Prays Together Stays Together

Far too often Advent becomes a time of busyness and stress as we engage in the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, decorating, and travel. Instead of rushing towards Christmas, we should wait patiently with anticipation. One of the best ways to enter into the season of Advent is by prayer. Here is a beautiful prayer you can say with your family as you invite the Lord into this Advent season:

God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for his coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.
Amen.

Oftentimes, the most beautiful prayers are the ones we come up with on our own. Try as a family to write your own prayer this Advent. Then, post it somewhere you'll see it, and commit to praying it each day as a family.

Saint Spotlight

The feast of Saint Nicholas on December 6 is a very important day to celebrate during Advent, since Saint Nicholas is the patron of children and the real man behind the stories of Santa Claus. It is exciting for children to learn that he was a real person, a bishop of our Church who loved and cared for little children. It is even more exciting for them to learn that Saint Nicholas is alive in heaven and hears all their prayers. Saint Nicholas, pray for us!

Weekly Faith Formation Happenings

December 8: CGS will not meet due to Immaculate Conception Masses

Youth Ministry Schedule Update

Next Wednesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. In honor of this important day, EDGE and FISH will gather together at the same time. Please celebrate Mass with us at 6 p.m. followed by social time from 7-8:30pm in the Parish Hall.

Deacon Bill has a wonderful Advent gift to give those who are able to join us!

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY STUDY

The Theology of the Body: Discovering the Master Plan for Your Life

Have your children or friends ever left you stumbling when they asked you about premarital sex, pornography, contraception, LGBTQ+ rights, abortion, gender equality and identity, or substance abuse? These are heavy topics in the midst of a world with so many voices telling us what to believe about our bodies. Through the Theology of the Body, St. Pope John Paul II offers a loving lens to view the world with great mercy, healing, and hope for the future.

The Theology of the Body seeks to answer two basic questions:

1. ***What does it mean to be made human, male and female, in the image and likeness of God?***
2. ***How can I live my life in a way that brings happiness and fulfillment?***

Join this nine-week study to dive deeper into the overwhelming love of Jesus.

- **When:** Thursdays, Jan 13-Mar 10, 7-8:30 PM, (1st night 7-9pm)
- **Location:** Serra Room
- **Cost:** Suggested donation of $25 for materials & facilitator expenses. Can be paid at the first session via cash or check made out to SFA Faith Formation.

Register: http://saintfrancischurch.org/formation/adult-faith-formation/

PARISH DIRECTORY | 30TH ANNIVERSARY | *Our Parish Directory will not be complete without YOU!*

Photography sessions are almost complete, sessions will resume in early January. Book your appointment today!

Everyone will receive a session with a professional photographer, a complimentary 8x10 portrait, and a copy of the parish directory once it is complete. Participation not only helps staff put names to faces, it helps you as parishioners get to know our constantly growing parish family.

So please encourage everyone you talk with to be part of the directory and sign up for a session today!

Register online

Monday—Friday at www.ucdir.com
Click on "Photography Appointment Scheduling Login" on the right side of webpage
Our church code: ia145 | **Our church password**: photos

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN INFO NIGHT

As parents, providing your child with an outstanding education in an environment that fosters the development of their Catholic faith is the most important gift you can give.

St. Francis of Assisi School can provide this experience with rewards that will last your child's lifetime.
St. Francis of Assisi School is a Preschool-8th grade school community with three sections of each grade.
Classroom size averages 24 students with teacher associates in each Preschool-2nd grade classroom. Our students excel in a safe, nurturing environment under the leadership of a faith-filled, caring and professional faculty and staff.

We invite you to attend our upcoming Preschool and Kindergarten Information Night
Monday, January 10th
· Preschool Information Night— 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall.
· Kindergarten Information Night— 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Information that will be posted on our website will include the daily schedule, curriculum and what you can do to prepare your student for a successful experience.

Please note: This evening is geared toward parents who are new to SFA and will be a Question and Answer format. If you have already had a child in Preschool and/or Kindergarten at SFA, material presented will be familiar to you, so your attendance is not imperative.

Follow the steps below to register your students.

Preschool and Kindergarten Parents who are new to SFA School must complete the following steps to register their child:
· E-Enroll their student via the link on the front page of our website (www.sfawdm.org) between Tuesday, January 11th and Friday, January 21st
· Provide a copy of your child's birth certificate
· Provide a copy of your child's baptismal certificate (unless child was baptized at SFA)
· Pay tuition deposit* (cash or check, non-refundable upon admission)
  * 5% of total tuition for K-8
  * $210 registration fee for Preschool

In the event there are more applicants than seats available, enrollment will be determined according to the SFA Board of Education admission policy.

Thank you for your interest in St. Francis of Assisi School.

We look forward to seeing you and invite you to call the School Office (515-457-7167) with any questions you may have.

ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH SCHOOL

CHILDREN'S SECTION

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.

PUZZLE

Circle these words from today's Gospel:

~~BAPTIZED~~ FORGIVEN ISAIAH JOHN DESERT STRAIGHT CROOKED SMOOTH ROUGH

C	I	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N
R	O	U	G	H	L	O	Y	U	L
O	N	B	D	I	F	T	S	M	V
O	I	A	S	M	O	O	T	H	E
K	C	P	T	W	S	H	R	I	J
E	Y	T	O	U	M	Y	A	S	O
D	U	I	L	I	S	A	I	A	H
R	J	Z	O	C	E	T	G	K	N
O	Y	E	M	K	Y	I	H	I	W
H	A	D	E	S	E	R	T	O	U

MISSION

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EVENTS AROUND THE DIOCESE

MONTHLY HEALING SERVICES

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
All are invited to attend a monthly healing service at St. Ambrose Cathedral—every third Wednesday at 7 p.m.

YCDM CATHOLIC SINGLES GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY AND SERVICE EVENT

'Tis the season for making spirits bright, so join the Catholic Singles group for our Christmas party while also helping out a local family in need. During the party, we will be wrapping gifts for our adopted family from InnerVisions. For details about our service project, please email YCDMCatholicSingles@gmail.com.
Drinks & appetizers provided, including a hot cocoa bar.
Ugly Christmas sweaters encouraged but not required.
For Catholic singles in their 20s and 30s.

SAVE THE DATE

January 22, 2022 5:30-9:00 p.m. | SFA Parish Hall
Chili Cook-Off to support Sleep in Heavenly Peace

--Do people rave about your chili?
--Do you love to eat chili?
--Have you missed attending social events in the parish hall?
--Do you know there are kids in the Des Moines area who don't have a bed to sleep in?

We are looking for chili makers and chili tasters to help raise funds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that builds and delivers beds to kids in need. Join us to help raise funds for this organization and find out more about how you can help with their mission.
For more information or to sign up as a chili maker, please contact Dan Buscher or John Lensing through our parish website http://saintfrancischurch.org/our-parish/contact-us/.
Ticket sales for the event will go on sale early January.

JOB OPENINGS

St. Pius X Catholic School is looking for individuals age 16 on up to work part-time with Pius Pals (the before and after school program). Hours are M-F, 3-5:30 pm with the opportunity for additional hours on no school days. More info can be found on the school website. https://stpiusxurbandale.org/our-school/employment-opportunities--

For more employment opportunities
in the Diocese of Des Moines visit:
www.dmdiocese.org/about-us/employment.