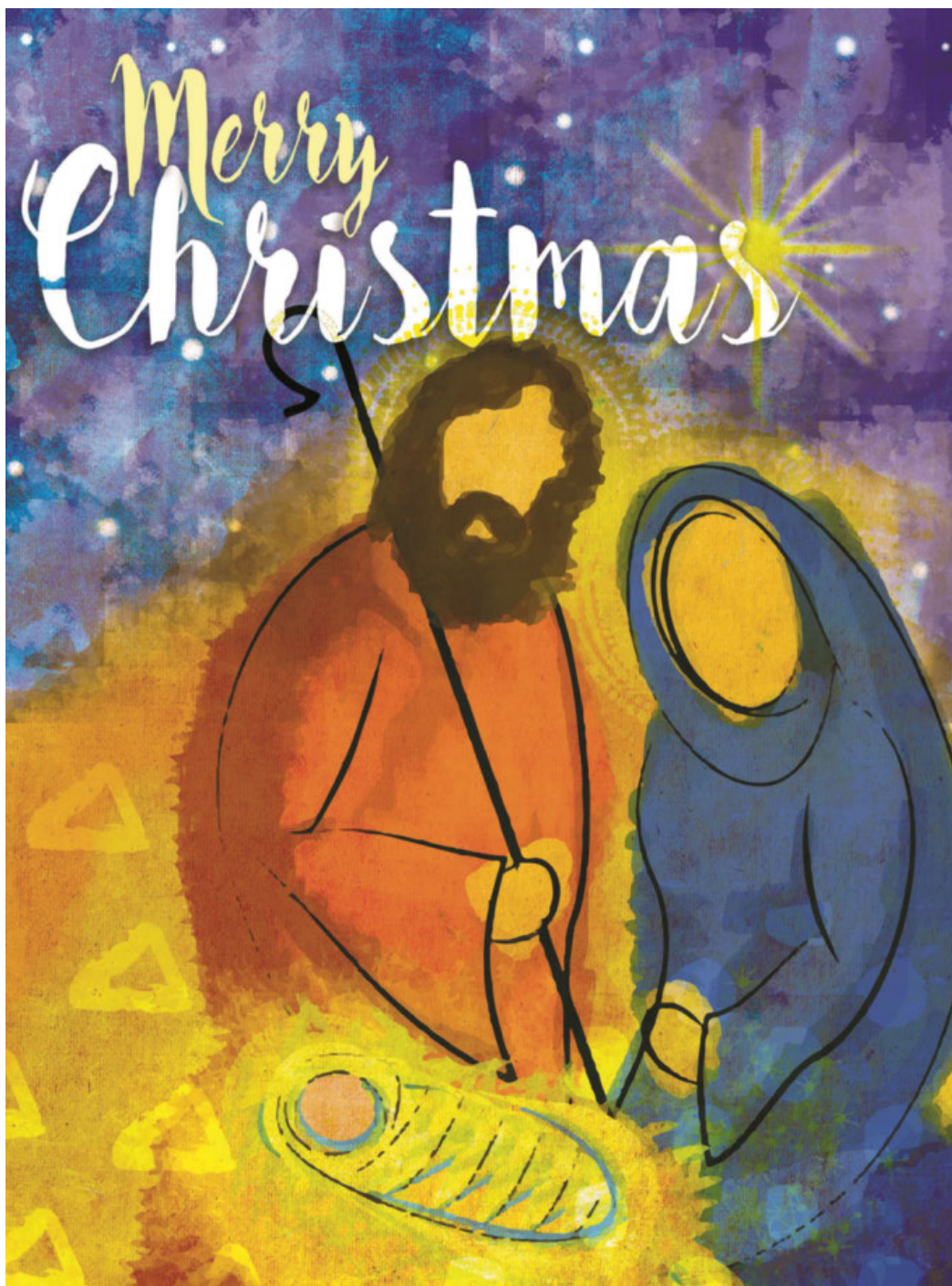


ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

7075 ASHWORTH ROAD | WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266
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 26, 2021 | THE HOLY FAMILY



NEW YEAR'S DAY
Mass Times
9:00 AM & 4:30 PM
(No reconciliation)

MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 am
Youth Mass: 4:30 pm | 3rd Sun. of month

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday: 7:15 am
Tuesday: Noon

Reconciliation

Wednesday: Noon-1 pm
Saturday: 8:30-9:30 am
Or by appointment

Adoration

2nd & 4th Tues. each month: 8 am-8 pm
Adoration w/ Benediction: 2nd Tues. at 8 pm

Rosary

Monday - Friday at 6 am
Monday at 7 pm 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

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

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

SFA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

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.

Holiday Office Hours:

December 24: Open 8 a.m.-12 Noon
December 27 & 28: Office Closed
December 29: Open 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
December 30: Open 8 a.m.-12 Noon
December 31: Office Closed

MASS INTENTIONS

12-25	Sat.	9:00 a.m.	† Judy Otis
12-26	Sun.	7:30 a.m.	For the parishioners of the parish
		9:30 a.m.	† Dutchie Harty
		11:30 a.m.	† Victoria Drozjock
12-27	Mon.	7:15 a.m.	† Filemon Escoto
12-28	Tues.	7:15 a.m.	† Rudy Guara
		Noon	† Frank G. Mona Sr.
12-29	Wed.	7:15 a.m.	† Alvin & Matilda Drey
12-30	Thur.	7:15 a.m.	† Rudy Guara
12-31	Fri.	7:15 a.m.	† Dutchie Harty
1-01	Sat.	9:00 a.m.	† Marie Sabastian
		4:30 p.m.	† Odelia Garrett
1-02	Sun.	7:30 a.m.	† Kelly Evans
		9:30 a.m.	† Glenna Day
		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.

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!

REMEMBERING OUR PARISH FAMILY

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

Connie Swanson

Judy Oliver

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

LIVING OUR FAITH CALENDAR

Saturday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

No reconciliation

9 a.m.: Mass

No 4:30 p.m. Mass

Wednesday, December 29

6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary

Thursday, December 30

6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary

Sunday, December 26

Regular Mass Times

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

Friday, December 31

Office Closed

6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary

Monday, December 27

Office Closed

6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary

7 p.m.: Rosary

8 p.m.: Women's Faith Sharing

Saturday, January 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY

No reconciliation

9:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. Mass

Tuesday, December 28

Office Closed

6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary

7 p.m.: SFA Young Adults

8 p.m.: Men's Faith Sharing

Sunday, January 2

Regular Mass Times

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

FROM FR. RAY

Welcome parishioners, newcomers and to those visiting!

Merry Christmas! We celebrate the Christmas season until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 9 so continue to wish people "Merry Christmas."

During this holy season I want to thank all of our ministers and volunteers who made the Advent season and Christmas masses beautiful and worshipful: our musicians, servers, lectors, mass coordinators, Eucharistic ministers and the Art & Environment committee. Thank you for your prayerful ministry.

This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Pope Benedict XVI taught us that "Jesus willed to be born and to grow up in a human family and deserves the title 'Holy', for it was fully engaged in the desire to do the will of God, incarnate in the adorable presence of Jesus. Yet his family was a family like all others and as such, it is a model of conjugal love, collaboration, sacrifice and entrustment to divine Providence." Our family can be holy families, like the family in Nazareth, by living with the same values.

We will celebrate this feast day by praying a consecration to the Holy Family at all masses this weekend.

Saturday, January 1, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. There will be one mass at 9:00 am.

Bishop Joensen reminds us that the Diocese continues to strongly encourage masks at all indoor liturgies and other events, especially for those who are unvaccinated and without natural immunity. Also masks are required for all ministers during the distribution of Holy Communion.

"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

Fr. Ray McHenry



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 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](https://www.youtube.com/StFrancisofAssisiCatholicChurchWDM) or [youtube.com](https://www.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:

January 9th bulletin: January 3rd

January 16th bulletin: January 10th

***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/>

SIGN OF PEACE

We are excited to announce that the Sign of Peace is now back in the Mass! Parishioners are welcome to extend a sign of peace through a handshake or hug before communion when directed. Those wishing to continue social distancing are invited to make a non-physical sign of peace.

At the Sign of Peace, worshipers are invited to show their peace and love before receiving the Eucharist, which accomplishes their unity most perfectly. The nature of the sign is to be determined by the culture of the people who express it. In the United States, the bishops let local communities determine the actions and words. We have no set formula or gesture for extending this sign. Most often worshipers will shake hands and say, "Peace be with you." But you may also see them kiss or embrace, wave or flash a two-fingered Sign of Peace. Although today it would seem cold to omit the Sign of Peace, it is optional. Introduced in the 1960s to a bashful Church unaccustomed to speaking to one another at worship, it broke the silent mood before Communion. Now it has become a welcome expression of unity among those preparing for communion together in Christ.

The invitation to extend the Sign of Peace comes from the deacon. The deacon directs posture, gesture, and action in the liturgy. He tells us when to stand or sit, when to leave and when to show peace.

The placement of the Sign of Peace still confuses some who think it comes too late to say hello and too early to say goodbye. However, the purpose of the sign is not to extend a greeting. It is to express our love; it foreshadows our Communion. It's like an all-for-one huddle before the team charges into play. Team members should have said hello to one another long before. In fact, some communities take a few moments before Mass begins precisely to encourage worshipers to greet those near them. Such a greeting allows people to feel at home, and it can also be shared by catechumens who will be dismissed after the homily. The Sign of Peace has a purpose deeper than a greeting—it expresses the unity of those baptized in Christ.

When extending the Sign of Peace, attentive worshipers resist turning it into a break. This is not the time to congratulate someone on their anniversary, to set up an appointment, or to exchange messages with the servers. It is the time to express peace and love.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Mass © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.

SFA 2022 CALENDARS

2022 SFA parish calendars are now available. There is a limited supply in the Gathering Space. If you would like to make a freewill donation, you can place it in the mailbox in the Gathering Space.

CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY DECEMBER 26TH MASSES



It is the wish of Pope Francis that families will become places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Good News of Christ, and a true domestic church. It is in this light, that we find it most expedient and spiritually enriching to consecrate our families to the ideal family that ever lived on the face of the earth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. On December 26, at every Mass, we shall be invited to say a prayer of consecration to offer our

families to the Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as part of the celebration of the year of the Family established by Pope Francis on March 19, 2021 through June 26, 2022.

Fr. John Brobbey

PRAYER TO THE HEARTS OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Holy Family, I give my heart to You to protect, guide and fill me with graces on my earthly pilgrimage. Let my heart be overflowing with so many of Your graces that I become a missionary of grace to my family, friends and all who the Holy Spirit places in my path.

Holy Family, I give my heart to You to transform the hearts of my family into the likeness of Your Holy Hearts. Make our home to be like Yours so that it is filled with the love, peace and joy that only God can give. I beg You to carry our family's hearts at each moment and set them aflame with Your Divine Love so that we can joyfully carry our crosses each day.

At the end of our lives, I implore You to place our hearts into the bosom of the Blessed Trinity to spend all eternity in Heaven.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

ST. FRANCIS PARISH EMPLOYMENT

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

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

An introduction to the

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Discovering the Master Plan for Your Life

Thursdays, Jan 13–Mar 10
7–8:30 p.m. in Serra Room
Suggested donation of \$25
Register on the Parish Website

WWW.SAINTFRANCISCHURCH.ORG /
FORMATION/ADULT-FAITH-FORMATION /

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 9-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 first session via cash or check made out to SFA Faith Formation.

Register: <http://saintfrancischurch.org/formation/adult-faith-formation/> or use the QR code below:



MASKS ENCOURAGED

The Diocese continues to strongly encourage masks.

In light of our increasing number of hospitalizations and COVID cases, and the upcoming celebration of Christmas, this is a friendly reminder that the Diocese continues to strongly encourage masks at all indoor liturgies and other events, especially for those who are unvaccinated and without natural immunity, as a small sacrifice that can assist our health care professionals and help all members of our community feel comfortable worshipping together. Thank you.



PRAYER REQUESTS

St. Francis Parish Prayer Chain

Our prayer chain involves dozens of people praying for the needs of others. If you would like to become a prayer warrior by committing yourself to develop and sustain not only our own personal prayer lives, but to bear the burdens of members of our parish community and beyond through intercessory prayer. If you would like to submit a prayer request to our prayer chain or be a prayer warrior please contact Sheila Timmerman.

Email: prayerchain@saintfrancischurch.org. Please indicate if you would like your name linked to the prayer request.



NURSERY SCHEDULE

The Nursery will be closed on the following dates:

- Christmas Day 12/25
- Sunday 12/26
- New Year's Day 1/01/22



Have a safe and happy time with family and Friends!

Your Nursery Ministers

Judy, Kathy, Anna, Claire, Ivanka, and Kendra

WONDER...in His Love



Liturgical Link

- Why do you think Jesus called the temple “his Father’s house”?
- In what way is your church “your Father’s house”?
- Just as Mary did, reflect on the past year and share your most memorable family moment.
- What is your favorite thing to do at Church?
- God worked miracles in the life of St. Reparata. Share a time when you saw God’s hand at work in your life.

Spiritual Challenge | Practice of Charity

- Consider the interrelationship among God, creation, and humankind. How can you step up your role in this relationship during this year?
- Remember those who might be suffering from seasonal depression or who have lost a loved one during the past year.
- Rather than wrapping another physical present for family members, gift them with your presence through an experience that you can do together.
- Consider a creative activity you can do a clan after attending Mass. Your celebration of togetherness will reinforce God’s celebration of you.
- Consider inviting a struggling friend or parishioner to join your home meal. Talk about memories or topics that bring you both joy.
- Consider your family, biological, spiritual, and otherwise chosen. How might you give thanks for them in coming years?
- Make a commitment to enhance your prayer life in this New Year so that you feel led by God’s Spirit rather than the chaos of the times. Perhaps this is the year that you can try another prayer discipline, such as lectio divina.
- Consider becoming involved in one of your parish’s liturgical ministries.
- Reflect on the concepts of “epiphany” and the multifaceted ways God can manifest in your life.
- In what ways might God be calling you to defy the status quo—your own or societies? How could this benefit you and those around you?

To conclude our Advent theme to *Wonder* in the birth of our Lord, we *Wonder in His love*. More accurately, we wonder in love itself, for God IS LOVE (1 John 4:16). This love was present from the beginning of the world and throughout all of history.

At St. Francis, we proclaim the infancy narrative from the Gospel of Luke at our Christmas Masses, but another option is to read the genealogy of Jesus from Matthew 1. The genealogy doesn’t make for a gripping narrative, but it proclaims something fascinating about how God works throughout history. In the telling of Jesus’ ancestry, we see God setting the world up to receive the Messiah.

Love was working in the hundreds and thousands of years leading up to the birth of Christ - leading up to Love itself entering the world taking on humanity. God loves us so much that he descends to our level so we may have a God who can relate to our humanity.

We are not alone in our suffering, our pains, our trials, and our tribulations. Indeed, we have a God whose name is *Emmanuel* or “God with us.” Love is always with us.

Through the Sacrament of Eucharist, we receive Love through the bread and wine that becomes the body and blood of Christ so that Love dwells in us and we are commissioned to take Love out to the world. This reality is what we celebrate at Christmas.

At Christmas, we stand amazed and wonder in Love itself who came down to earth so we might know Him and love Him in return.

Emily Schmid
Director of Liturgy and Music

PARISH DIRECTORY—30TH ANNIVERSARY

Book your appointment today!

Thursday, January 6—Sunday, January 9

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

Receive a free 8x10 portrait and copy of parish directory. Our Parish Directory will not be complete without YOU!

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 \$363,240(90%)!**

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.



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, Christmas and Christmas poinsettias.

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.

PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

Would you like to learn more about praying the rosary in a non-intimidating atmosphere?

All are welcome to join the Rosary group on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Assisi Room at St. Francis. It is a most powerful prayer opportunity which lasts about 45 minutes.

Please join us!



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

A big "Thank You" to one of this month's featured St. Francis advertisers:

*** Louie's Floor Covering***

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.

FORMED. CATHOLIC CONTENT

FORMED RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Program – FORMED Now! The Holy Family

Movie – The Story of the Nativity: The Truth of Christmas

Audio – The King is Born: A Collection of Christmas Praises in Song

Books – The Strangers at the Manger by Lisa M. Hendey

Kid's Choice - O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About

Details on our website by clicking on Formation/FORMED.

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

FAITH FORMATION: GO DEEPER

Liturgy Link

Don't be too quick to set Christmas aside. The church marks the end of our Christmas celebrations on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 9 this year), and our priests will be wearing white from December 25 until then.

Family Fun: Create a Comic Book

In today's Gospel, we hear how Mary kept memories in her heart. Capture some of your favorite family stories in a creative way by designing a family comic book. Have each family member draw a different family story as if it were in a comic book. Share your stories with one another and assemble them in chronological order into a "book." Keep the book until next year's feast of the Holy Family!

BECOMING CATHOLIC / RCIA

The journey of someone becoming Catholic often begins with an encounter they have with Jesus through the ordinary and extraordinary people in their lives.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ and experience his inviting us into a relationship with him, please consider accepting the invitation to try Alpha. What is Alpha and who is it for? Alpha is for everyone, from the special people in our lives who we know are searching - whether a member of the St. Francis parish, another parish or faith tradition, or no faith community. Alpha is for everyone who desires connection with others and with Jesus.

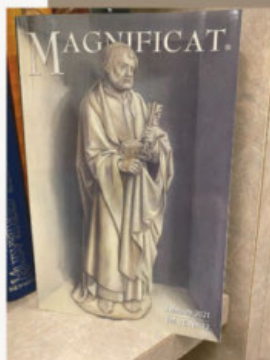
Please keep those who are currently in the Becoming Catholic/RCIA community in your prayers - that our candidates and catechumens may experience the enduring love of the Lord in their lives, and for those who are seeking to come and see Alpha.

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MAGNIFICAT TODAY!

We are submitting a bulk subscription order.

The Magnificat is a monthly Catholic publication that contains daily readings, prayers, reflections and articles on Catholic topics.



To order, call Heather in the Faith Formation Office, 515-440-1030

- Cost \$35
- First issue April 2022
- Delivered to St. Francis for pick up
- Order and payment due Feb 1, 2022

ALPHA



Think. Chat. Eat. Laugh.
Connect. Explore. Question.

Alpha: Come & See

"I started using Alpha 15 years ago; I said I'll start using it until I find something that works better, and I'm still using it. Because we see results: life transformation, people encountering Jesus, experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit, coming alive in their faith; falling in love with the Eucharist, with the Sacraments, with Scripture, taking their place in the mission of the Church, taking ownership of the mission of the church. And not just people in the pews, but people who didn't even go to church...our current Alpha...43% are not church-goers!"

-Fr. James Mallon, St. Benedict's,
Halifax, Nova Scotia

**Tuesdays 6 - 8 p.m.
begins 1-18-2022**

Reserve your spot:
saintfrancischurch.org/formation/alpha

Invite a friend to **Alpha**

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 10**

- Preschool Information Night—6 p.m.—Parish Hall.
- Kindergarten Information Night—7 p.m.—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 their child's birth certificate
- Provide a copy of their 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 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@saintfrancissschool.org.

CHILDREN'S SECTION



PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God.

P

L

E

A

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S

MISSION

You can praise God like the angels did.
Go Christmas caroling together as a family.
Sing all of your favorite songs together.

Call Us Today
Middendorf Insurance Associates, Inc.
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YOUNG ADULT CATHOLIC NETWORK

Save the Date. All young adults are invited to come to the next Young Catholic Network gathering January 25 in downtown Des Moines. You can look forward to networking, complimentary drinks and appetizers, and a guest speaker with tremendous insight into living our Catholic faith in the professional world. Learn more at dmdiocese.org/ycn.

Calling all high school seniors. As you enter the last semester of your high school years, pause and consider what it will mean to stay rooted in Christ after high school. Come to a Radix retreat and escape for a weekend of prayer and relaxation. Get more information at dmdiocese.org/radix.

JOB OPENINGS

St. Ambrose Cathedral Parish, Des Moines is seeking an Administrative Assistant for the parish offices. This position works 30-35 hours per week, during normal business hours M—F, providing multi-department support. If you love to serve, have a cheerful disposition, and are organized and familiar with social media communications, we would like to talk with you. For job description click <http://www.saintambrosecathedral.org/> or email cover letter and resume to Fr. Nipin Scaria at fnipin@saintambrosecathedral.org or mail to 607 High Street, Des Moines, IA 50309.

The Diocese of Des Moines has an immediate opening for an Internal Control Specialist in our Finance Department working with parishes and schools. More information can be found on the Employment page of our website under Diocesan openings. www.dmdiocese.org

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



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.

