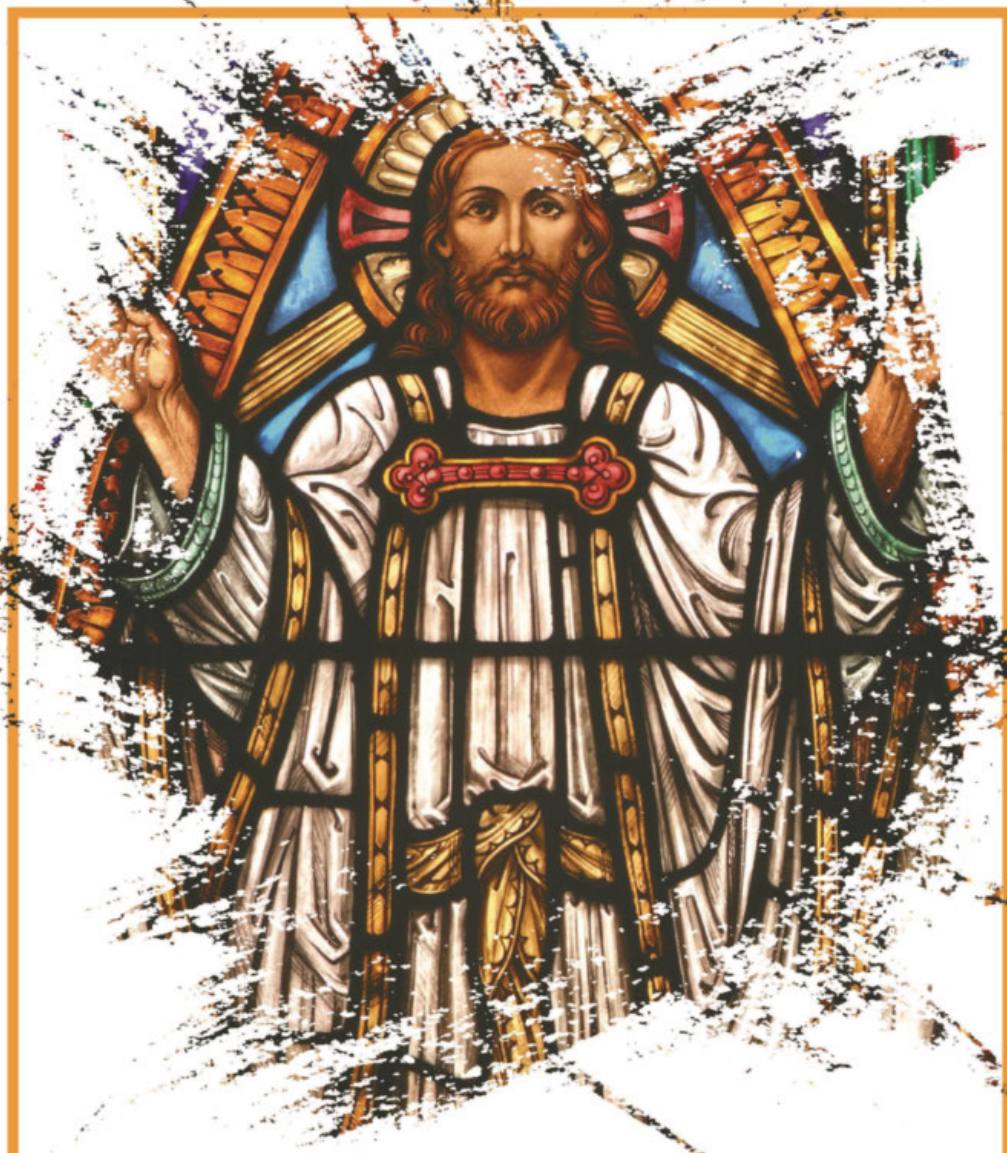


ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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.

JANUARY 23, 2022 | 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME...
- LK 4:18

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

**THANK YOU FOR
WORSHIPING WITH
US TODAY!**

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 6:30 am

Monday at 7 pm in Assisi Room

OUR CLERGY

Fr. Ray McHenry

Pastor | Ext. 109

Fr. John Kwaku Brobby

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	Debbie Muse
Bookkeeper	Pam Danzer
HR Coord.	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.

MASS INTENTIONS

1-22	Sat.	4:30 p.m.	† Phil Kuhn
1-23	Sun.	7:30 a.m.	† Kendrick family deceased members
		9:30 a.m.	For the parishioners of the parish
		11:30 a.m.	† Howard & Donna Burch
1-24	Mon.	7:15 a.m.	† Mary & Paul Hudak
1-25	Tues.	7:15 a.m.	† Mariana Taccogna
		Noon	† John F. Sullivan
1-26	Wed.	7:15 a.m.	† Mark Haisch
		8:45 a.m.	† Thomas Wanek
1-27	Thur.	7:15 a.m.	† Holy Souls in Purgatory
1-28	Fri.	7:15 a.m.	† Judy Oliver
1-29	Sat.	4:30 p.m.	† Janaan Redmond
1-30	Sun.	7:30 a.m.	For the parishioners of the parish
		9:30 a.m.	† Ray Essick
		11:30 a.m.	† Dave Howard

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. The next baptism class will be held on January 30th at 12:30 p.m.

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

REMEMBERING OUR PARISH FAMILY

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

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

LIVING OUR FAITH CALENDAR

Saturday, January 22

7:30 a.m.: Men's Faith Sharing
8:30 a.m.: GriefShare

Sunday, January 23

1 p.m.: KC Spelling Bee

Monday, January 24

6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary
7 p.m.: Rosary

Tuesday, January 25

6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary
6 p.m.: ALPHA
6 p.m.: Respect Life Evening
6 p.m.: Bldgs. & Grounds Mtg.
7 p.m.: SFA Young Adults
8 p.m.: Men's Faith Sharing

Wednesday, January 26

6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary
9:45 a.m.: Mark Study
5:30 p.m.: EDGE
6 p.m.: First Reconciliation
7:30 p.m.: FISH

Thursday, January 27

6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary
7 a.m.: Finance Council Mtg.
7 p.m.: Theology of the Body

Friday, January 28

6 a.m.: Adoration/Rosary
7 a.m.: School Chess Club

Saturday, January 29

7:30 a.m.: Men's Faith Sharing
9:30 a.m.: First Reconciliation

Sunday, January 30

Coffee & Donuts
12:30 p.m.: Baptism Class

FROM FR. BROBBEY

ORDINARY TIME BUT NOT ORDINARY CHRISTIAN LIFE

The year 2022 began with my participation in the West Coast Priests Conference in San Diego California from January 3 through January 6. This package was a gift put together by a family or group of people from St. Francis of Assisi who wish to remain anonymous. It has been one of the best if not the best refresher course I have had in my almost 19 years of priestly life. It was such a great opportunity to sit at the feet of seasoned speakers like Dr. John Bergsma, Dr. Tim Gray, Ralph Martin, Fr. Cliff Ermatinger (exorcist) and others to drink from the fountain of wisdom and biblical exposition with a bit of protestant flavor on Catholic content. I wish to register my sincerest and heartfelt gratitude to these anonymous donors for this beautiful package. No terms in human language can adequately express my appreciation. Be assured of my prayers for you and your entire household anytime I lift the cup of salvation and call upon the Lord's name. God bless you until you want no more.

We are in Ordinary Time but Ordinary Time does not imply ordinary visualization and ordinary talks. It is an invitation to see Christ in the ordinary situation of life and find joy like Mary and Elizabeth in the house of Zechariah. In the beginning of Ordinary Time and coming right after the Baptism of the Lord, our Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time will be from John 1:29-34 and John 1:35-42 for Year A and B respectively. Then in year C, we read the text on the wedding at Cana from John 2:1-11. Whilst everything seemed ordinary, John the Baptist "SAW," "the Lamb of God" (Jesus Christ) who takes away the sin of the World" and bore witness to Him (The Gospel of John 1:29-42). John the Baptist "SAW" and hence Ordinary time is putting our eyes of faith into action. It is an invitation to see beyond the superficial things of life, events and people. It is a call to find in Jesus an object of fascination. John the Baptist "bore witness to Jesus". So, it is Ordinary time yet our conversations, internet browsing, text messaging, snapchatting, tiktoking, tweeting, phone calls are not all about us and others but also about Jesus - sharing and witnessing about Jesus, his love, his mercy, his grace, his forgiveness and reconciliation, salvation and humility in suffering.

In year C, we read the self-revelation of Jesus as our spiritual bridegroom at the marriage in Cana and Mother Mary's one line sermon, "Do whatever He tells you" as aptly described by Deacon Bill in his last Sunday homily. In this ordinary and fundamental situation of human life, Christ reveals his glory. Ordinary Time is the period to not only SEE but like John and his disciples to also LOOK and recognize Christ in the ordinary and fundamental situations of life. John saw Christ not in the temple, not in the synagogue but outside and in the ordinary life situation. We are admonished to LOOK and find Christ in our streets, market squares, shopping malls, traffic jams, workout places, workplaces, schools, friendships, marriages and families. Like Mary, when the angel departed from her, she reached out to her cousin Elizabeth to share the joy of the savior with her.

Cont'd....

Fr. Brobbey cont'd...

The angels who sang "Glory to God in the highest" on Christmas night have departed from us, let us reach out to the many "Elizabeths" in our world today and share the joy of our faith with them.

On this Word of God Sunday, we are called to reflect on the word of God like the remnants in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. Men, women and children had access to the word of God set on a wooden pulpit and not in the Ark of the Covenant as in the book of Exodus. In the same way we also have access to the word of God both in soft and hard copies. Let us endeavor to make the word of God part of our lives in 2022, for his word is Spirit and Life. Scripture finds its fulfillment in Jesus who proclaims the Jubilee in his hometown of Nazareth. He declares; "these words have been fulfilled in your ears". Indeed, in Jesus, we find the Messiah who proclaims Economic, Political, Physical, Psychological, Emotional and Spiritual liberation.

Fr. John Kwaku Brobbey
Associate Pastor

WELCOME TO ST. FRANCIS!

For information regarding Parish membership, please contact the Parish Office at 515-223-4577. Member Registration Cards may be found in the Gathering Space, Parish Office or online.

For information regarding renting a room, IRA contributions, stock donations, tithing donations, etc., please contact the following staff at 515-223-4577 and they will be more than happy to assist you.

Paula CourterRental Agreements, Event Scheduling
Pam DanzerAbundant, ACH, ADA, FACTS, Tithing Donations
Monica Lihs..... IRA Contributions, Matching Gifts, Stock Donations
Debbie MuseACH, Accounts Payable
Sheila Timmerman/Sue KirkhartReserve a Meeting Room

As always, make sure to check out our website at www.saintfrancischurch.org for all the various possibilities to grow in faith as an individual and family.



WE WANT TO SHARE YOUR NEWS

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

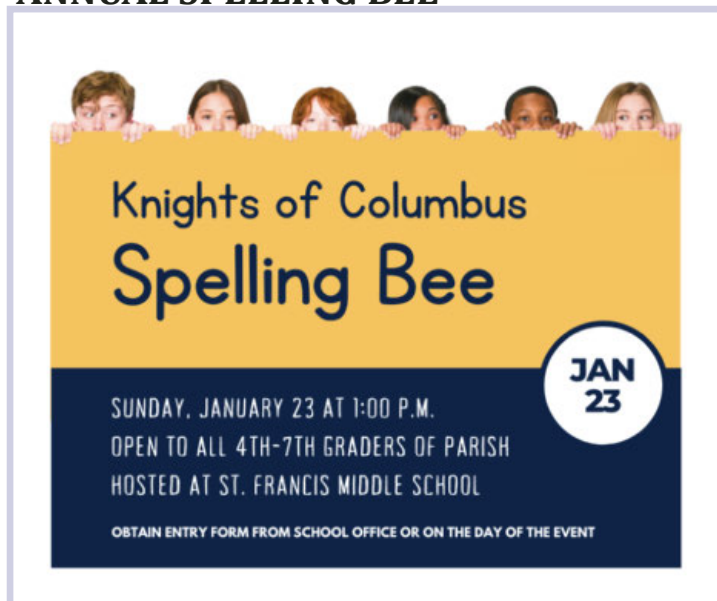
Upcoming deadlines (by 9 a.m.) are as follows:

January 30 bulletin: January 24

February 6 bulletin: January 31

***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/>

ANNUAL SPELLING BEE



Knights of Columbus
Spelling Bee

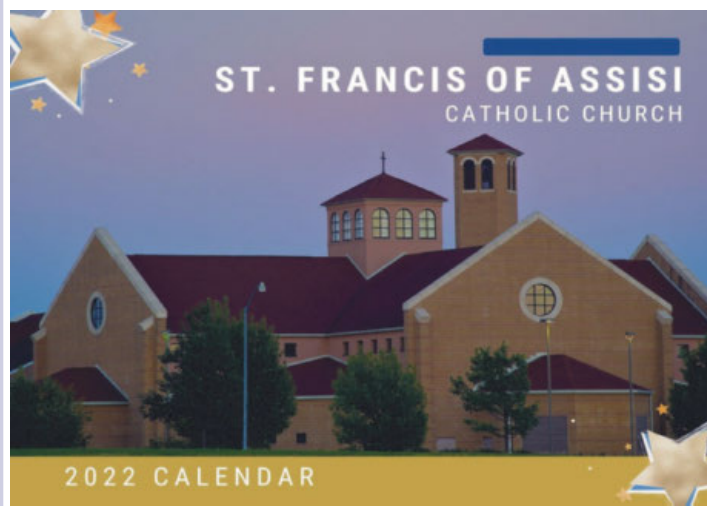
JAN 23

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 AT 1:00 P.M.
OPEN TO ALL 4TH-7TH GRADERS OF PARISH
HOSTED AT ST. FRANCIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

OBTAIN ENTRY FORM FROM SCHOOL OFFICE OR ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT

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.



ST. FRANCIS COMMUNICATIONS

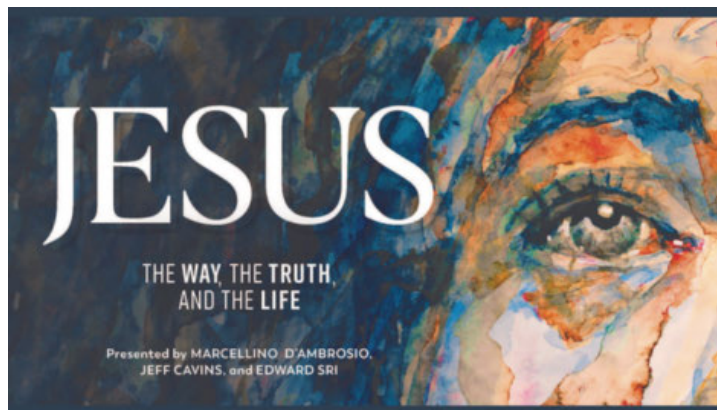
SUBSCRIBE TO THE BULLETIN

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.



The marvelous treasures of the Catholic Faith—the Eucharist, Mary, the saints, and the Creed—are all centered on a single figure: Jesus Christ. Jesus is more than a historical or theological figure. He is our Savior, our Redeemer, our Lord, and our God. While many of us already know a lot about him, how well can we say we really know him?

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life* is a new and fresh look at Jesus—who he is, what he is really like, what he taught, and what he did for our salvation. This encounter with Christ will inspire and empower you to center your entire life on him as you come to know and love him in an ever-deeper and more intimate way.

Wednesdays, Feb 16-May 4

9:45-11:45 a.m.

Serra Room

Suggested donation \$35 for materials

Register at <https://JesusSFA.eventbrite.com>

ST. FRANCIS PARISH EMPLOYMENT

St. Francis of Assisi is seeking an individual to fill the following full-time position:

Youth Ministry Coordinator.

St. Francis of Assisi is seeking a full-time Youth Ministry Coordinator. This position provides vision and coordination for SFA’s efforts in ministry to youth (7th through 12th grades). This includes FISH/EDGE weekly sessions, monthly activities, catechesis, service opportunities, and coordination of Confirmation sacramental preparation. The start date is flexible, with the goal of having an employee fully on-board by July 1, 2022.

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

Come serve in ministry with us!



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

Alpha: It's not too late

"Alpha changed the way I practice my faith. Even better it led me to the Catholic Church. I couldn't be more grateful or excited to be a part of Alpha again!"

-Charlie F., St. Francis, WDM, IA

"Alpha is all about improving relationships and who doesn't need that? First, no matter where your relationship with Christ is, Alpha offers an opportunity to get to know Him better and in refreshing new ways. Secondly, Alpha offers the chance to meet new people who share your love of the Lord who also help us learn about Him with their insights. And by improving your relationship with Christ, we also see a blessing of improved relationships with your loved ones. You will leave Alpha with a renewed love of the Lord and those in your life.

- Jerry D., St. Francis, WDM, IA

Tuesdays 6 - 8 p.m.

Reserve your spot by email:
sfaalpha@saintfrancischurch.org

Invite a friend to Alpha

The Veil Removed

A STUDY ON THE HOLY MASS

TUESDAYS

9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

FEB 8 - APRIL 5

SERRA ROOM



REGISTER AT
[HTTP://SAINTFRANCISCHURCH.ORG/
FORMATION/ADULT-FAITH-FORMATION/](http://saintfrancischurch.org/formation/adult-faith-formation/)

FORMED. CATHOLIC CONTENT

FORMED RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Program – St Francis De Sales: Character of a Christian

Movie – Paul: Contending for the Faith

Audio – Saint Paul by Pope Benedict XVI

Books – Practical Theology: Spiritual Direction from St. Thomas Aquinas by Peter Kreeft

Kid's Choice -- Saint Thomas Aquinas by Raïssa Maritain

Details on our website by clicking on Formation/FORMED.

FORMED®

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

SFA PRAYER CHAIN

*ST. FRANCIS
PARISH PRAYER
CHAIN*

Our prayer chain involves dozens of people praying for the needs of others.



Consider becoming a prayer warrior by committing yourself to develop and sustain not only your own personal prayer life, but also 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.

LITURGY CORNER

Hearing Scripture

Imagine you're with a group of friends swapping stories about recent trips. But each of you brings a written copy for everyone else. When it's your turn, you don't tell the story while everyone listens. Instead, everybody pulls out your written account and reads along with you while you speak. Sound like fun? Sorry, that's not how we tell stories.

Listening is an art as rich as reading. We still do it in classrooms, seminars, phone conversations and the living room. Lively interaction between speaker and listener means the speaker proclaims ideas and the listener gives attention. In that low-tech communication, human beings connect.

The proclamation of Scripture recaptures the age-old art of speaking and listening. God's presence appears in the assembly as word. In actively listening to the Word of God, as we naturally do in conversation, we open our hearts to wonder. Technology has made the mass production of written materials more available now than ever. With little effort, Scripture readings can be placed in the hands of every worshiper. Advocates of this practice say it permits the worshiper to use sight, not just hearing. However, it's like having everyone read your trip story while you tell it. It can let the air out. The even requires both the proclamation of the reader and the eagerness of listeners. Hearing the word together bonds and expresses our community. If everyone reads the text silently, we become individuals again, with noses in our laps and faces turned down from one another.

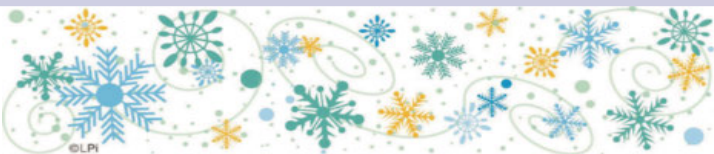
We'll hear the Word of God with better attention if we prepare. Worshipers can read the texts prior to coming to Mass and pray over them throughout the week before. We may also discuss them with family and friends. Then our ears will be open to listen attentively to the Word of God. All eyes will be fixed on the one who reads. And our hearts will be joined as one body of believers. When the divine word resounds in our assembly-heads up! And listen.

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.

NEW LECTIONARY RESOURCE

St. Francis is excited to offer Word of the Lord, a resource that offers the official text of the lectionary for parishioners who prefer a written scripture resource.

Limited copies of the Word of the Lord resource can be found on a cart in the Gathering Space before Mass. Parishioners may take the book off the cart to use during Mass, and return it to the cart after Mass. Information regarding the page number for that day can be found on the screens.



MINISTRY IN ACTION

Did you know 58 of our youth gave their time to serve in the nursery during Masses since last fall? We are truly grateful for their help and support!



\$1,750 was gifted to Habitat for Humanity by St. Francis of Assisi Parish to help make the dream of homeownership come true for low-income, hard-working families. Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity will positively affect housing situations for over 275 families this year through affordable homeownership and critical home repairs. To discuss this opportunity, please contact Brendalyn Shird at bshird@gdmhabitat.org.



St. Francis of Assisi also donated \$2,500 to support Alpha USA. Because of your support, thousands of churches are able to offer Alpha for free. Together, we are spreading the love and message of Jesus. May God continue to use our shared work for his glory and for the good of those we serve.



Meals from the Heartland received a gift of \$1,430* from St. Francis that will feed 22 children for a year! Thank you for helping to fight hunger here in Iowa and around the world! *Every dollar donated goes directly to food, packaging, or distribution to feed hungry and starving children.

WINGS (Women In God's Service)

All ladies in our parish (over 21) are invited to the next WINGS (Women In God's Service) meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Serra Room. WINGS is a fellowship of SFA Catholic women who "welcome and serve". Join us for appetizers, desserts, and drinks followed by a guest speaker on the first Tuesday of each month. We enjoy social time together to get to know each other better and we select service projects to support as a large group to help contribute to the needs of our parish and community. For more information email: wings@saintfrancischurch.org.

RESPECT LIFE EVENING

St. Francis Respect Life will be hosting a potluck on Tuesday, January 25 at 6 p.m. in the St. Clare Room. We have a great lineup of speakers. **Bryan Gonzalez will explain new directions in the life-saving work of InnerVisions Healthcare. **Laura Limmex** will speak on her post-abortive experience and her ministry, Restored By Grace. Fresh from the March for Life, in Washington DC, **Maggie DeWitte** and St. Francis students will speak about lessons learned and about Pulse Life Advocates. Discussion will also focus on how to be an effective prayer volunteer for life. Bring a dish to share. We have a great evening planned for you!**

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Dear Parishioners,

2,800 second appeal letters for our 2021 ADA Annual Diocesan Appeal were sent out last week to those who are still prayerfully considering a donation. A donation of \$15.00 each would fulfill our 2021 ADA goal, however any amount would be much appreciated.

Pledges outstanding \$979

Balance left to go \$22,815

****Our 2021 Parish Goal is \$399,532.**

****To date, we have pledged or paid \$376,717(94%)!**

Gifts can be made online at dmdiocese.org/giving. (Be sure to select SFA as your parish.)

Thank you for your generosity and support!



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

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

* Midlowa Contracting*

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.

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 Annual Diocesan Appeal.

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.

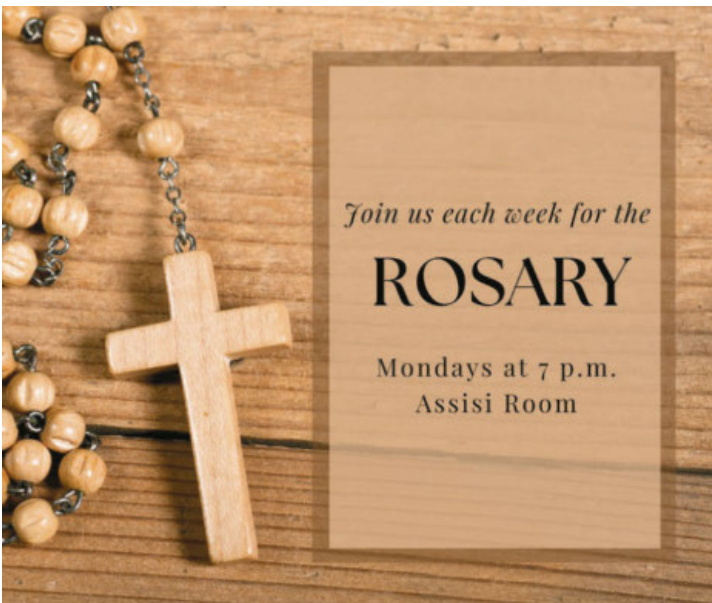
ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

St. Francis is hosting altar server training on multiple dates for all 5th grade students in the St. Francis parish.

The dates include:

- Saturday, February 26, 10:00—11:30 a.m.,
- Saturday, March 5, 10:00—11:30 a.m.,
- Saturday, March 26, 10:00—11:30 a.m.,
- Thursday, March 31, 4:30—6 p.m., and
- Saturday, April 2, 10:00—11:30 a.m.

To register, please email Deacon Bill Richer at bricher@saintfrancischurch.org



PARISH DIRECTORY PHOTOS

If you missed your opportunity to get your picture taken for the Parish Directory, there's still time to submit your own family photo.

Send your photo with the following guidelines below to info@saintfrancischurch.org by **FRIDAY, JANUARY 28.**

Resolution: a minimum of 300 dpi at 2 x 3 inches

Size preference: vertical wallet or 4 x 6 photo

File type: jpg, pdf or tif

Please include family last name, parent's names, and children's names in age order in your email.



Is your home is in need of a Catholic Bible?

Pick up the gift of the Word of God at the small table by the bulletin board along the north entrance as well as by the south entrance. Read the Sunday readings before you come to Mass. Bring it with you for Adoration, personal prayer, or any time you're looking to be inspired by the Word of God! **"Your words, Lord are Spirit and life."** Psalm 19



Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you. – Jeremiah 1:5, CCC 2270

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion in the United States. Since then, more than 55 million babies have been aborted in America alone – over 1.1 billion documented worldwide. That equals two babies aborted every three seconds (statistics provided by Human Life Alliance).

This month in Family Formation, the Home Lessons focus on the Sanctity of Life, What Makes a Family, and Love. While these are some of the most controversial topics of our time, they are foundational to who we are – unique, unrepeatable beings, created by God to participate in a life of love with Him for all eternity.

If you are not enrolled in Family Formation and would like resources on how to talk to your children about Life, Love, and God's plan for our sexuality, please contact Lisa Schmidt in the Faith Formation Office (lschmidt@saintfrancischurch.org). We also have Jeremiah 1:5 posters children can color and keep in a special place as a reminder to pray for the protection of the unborn and an end to abortion.

As we learn about the sanctity of life and God's plan for our sexuality, it is important that we, as parents and adult Catholics, know the truth amidst all the messages and false teachings we hear in our current culture. One great resource to help us better understand the truth is an audio entitled, *Why Contraception Matters*, by Stephen Patton. It is available for purchase and as a free download from One More Soul at <http://onemoresoul.com>.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord Jesus, You are the author of life, our redeemer, and the source all mercy and love. Through the mystery of Your birth, you show us the value of human life by becoming one of us. Help us all grow in our understanding of the beauty of the life you give to each of us. Amen.

Lisa A. Schmidt
Director of Faith Formation

FAITH FORMATION HAPPENINGS

Family Formation

- January 22/23: First Reconciliation Retreat*
- January 26/29: Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Youth Ministry

- January 26: EDGE meets from 5:30 – 7pm; FISH meets from 7:30 – 9pm. Gather in Parish Hall.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

All CGS levels will meet from 5:15 – 6:45pm on the following Wednesdays: January 26

*Reconciliation Retreat

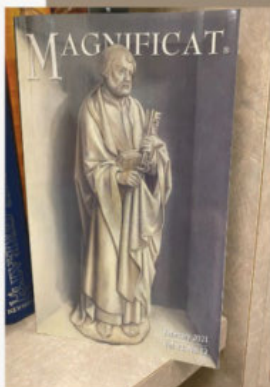
137 students are preparing to celebrate their first Reconciliation. Please pray for these children and their families as they participate in this weekend's retreat.

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.



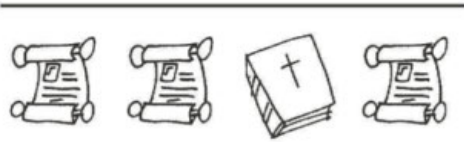
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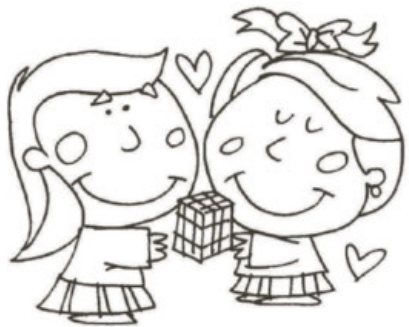
PUZZLE

Circle the picture that is **different**. Then color in all the pictures.



MISSION

I will ask my family to give old eyeglasses to the Lions Club.



GOSPEL

Jesus says, "Tell the words of God to those who have never heard it." Tell others that God loves and forgives them. The best way to tell is to show the word of the Lord by your actions. Hand a Band-Aid to your injured brother. Talk instead of hitting someone when you get angry. Say "I forgive you," when your sister hurts you. Let others play with your toys. Share your favorite candy bar.

PRAYER

Open the eyes of others to your love and forgiveness, Lord.

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE C

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



DRAW

Draw someone before and after they learn about God's love and forgiveness.

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- * Sprinkle ice melt or sand on icy patches.
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