

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

December 13, 2020
3d Sunday of Advent

844 S Gregg Road,
PO Box 1920, Nixa, MO 65714

Contacts

Office417-725-1975
Websitestfrancisnixa.org
Email.....office@stfrancisnixa.org

Parish Staff

Msgr. Tom E. Reidy.....Pastor
Fr. Colby Elbert.....Associate Pastor
Fr. Mike McDevitt.....Priest in Residence
Deacon Gary Steffes.....Deacon
Deacon Gary Steffes.... Director of Religious Education
Renee TrubyCoordinator of Religious Education
Debbie Durham.....Music Director
Sheri Duncan.....Office Manager

Support Volunteers

Tracy King & Kent Welch.....R.C.I.A.
Patty HaddockYouth Director
Janet Morehead.....Website Administrator
John RispoliTechnology Administrator

Weekend Masses

Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Saturday..... 5:30 p.m.

Weekday Mass

Wednesday — 6:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday5:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Anointing of Sick

Contact parish office for appointment.

Sacrament of Matrimony

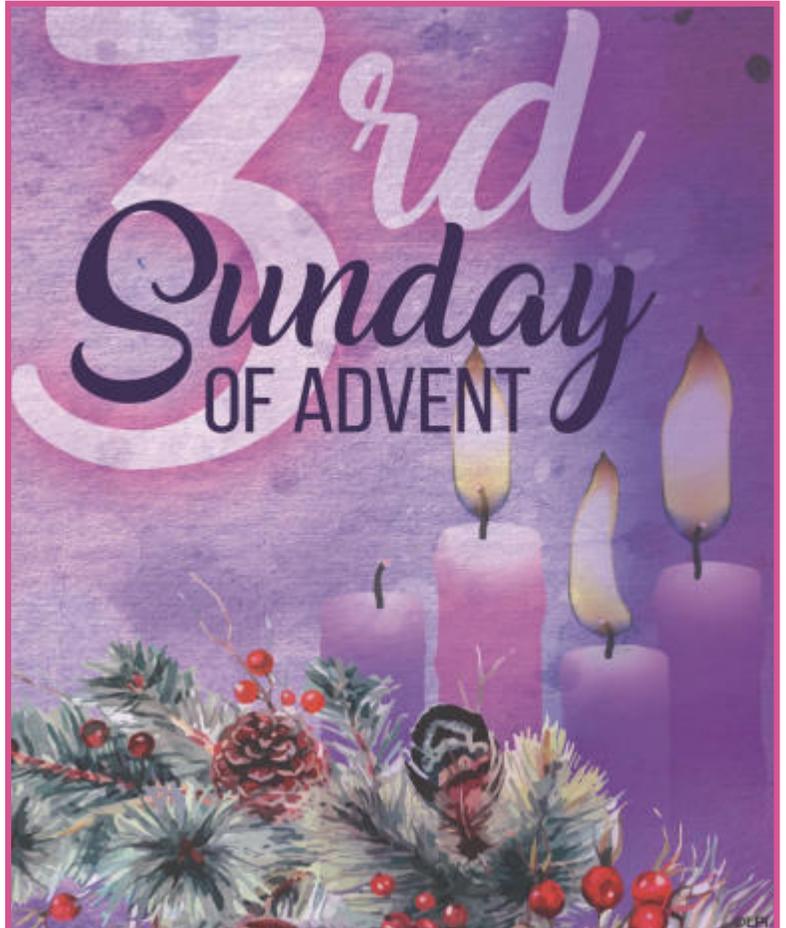
Contact parish office at least six months prior to possible date.

Baptism Preparation

By appointment. Contact Parish Office

Parish Mission

St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners of Nixa, Missouri, being open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, are called to be a welcoming community formed around the Eucharist, a people of prayer serving their faith through their principle of Christian stewardship.



Living the Liturgy

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.

Sharing Our Talent

Sunday, December 20, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Liturgical Ministries

Mass Facilitator..... Regina Schweiss.
Sacristan Debbie Harris & **Shadow:** Aimee Alviar
Advent Wreath..... Helterbrand Children
Rosary Jim Lukavsky
Children's Liturgy Alyssa Underwood
Children's Assistant Kylie Hurt
Reader 1 John Clarke
Reader 2 David Smith
General Intercessor Paul Durham
Music Leader Debbie Durham

Ushers/Greeters:

Joe Schmitz—Lead David Bellm
 Kelly Schmitz & Boys Carrie Bellm

Money Counters Ministry:

Barbara Bettlach Kathy Richards Jeanine Bratcher

Laundry Ministry: Amanda Rispoli

Building Cleaning: Team #3 (Dec 29)

Carrie Bellm Melinda Johnmeyer Toni & Danny Marra
 Natalie Murphy Frank & Jennifer Wittmers Jean Stehle

Plant Care: Linda Howard

Liturgical Ministers ~ Saturday, Dec 19, 5:30 p.m.

Mass Facilitator/Sacristan..... Rose Kuppinger
Reader 1..... Sandra Sarnes
Reader 2..... Harold Kuppinger
General Intercessor Sandra Sarnes
Usher(s): Jeff & Angie Laurin
Music..... Jessica Durham



Stewardship

A Way of Life

All of the people in today's readings – the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist – seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

Blood Drive

Dec 18th, 1:00—6:00 p.m.

The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a blood drive on the parking lot. You can make a difference.

Please sign up to get a convenient time for yourself. Call Virginia Pojar, 417-494-4977 to sign up or if you have questions.



First Penance

Many of our youth will make their first Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Monday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m.** They are working hard to prepare. Please keep the youth in your prayers as they prepare for this Sacrament.



December		Sunday
13	3rd Sunday of Advent Last Day for Giving Tree	9:00 a.m. Rosary 9:30 a.m. Mass 10:45 a.m. Youth Faith Formation Classes 6:00 Social/7:00 Meeting Knights & Ladies Auxiliary
Monday		
14	6:30 p.m. First Penance	
Tuesday		
15	6:30 p.m. Book Study	
Wednesday		
16	7:00 a.m. Early Risers 6:30 p.m. Mass 7:00—9:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration	
Thursday		
17	1:00 p.m. Loving Stitches	
Friday		
18	1:00—6:00 p.m. Blood Drive by Ladies Auxiliary 6:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party	
Saturday		
19	7:00 a.m. Early Risers 5:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 p.m. Mass	
Sunday		
20	4th Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete Sunday	9:00 a.m. Rosary 9:30 a.m. Mass 10:45 a.m. Youth Faith Formation Classes 10:45 a.m. Decorate Church for Christmas



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

CLF

Third Sunday of Lent, Gaudete Sunday

Since the 10th century, the third Sunday of Advent has been called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is Latin for “rejoice”. Today’s Scripture readings call us to “rejoice in the Lord” and reminds us that the Lord is near. We still have two weeks to welcome Christ. As the commercial world is already saturated with red and green, it’s easy to lose sight of the true colors of the season—the Advent season. This week the color pink represents joy.



The explanation for the pink candle is that in the ancient Church on Laetare Sunday in Lent, the Pope gave a citizen a pink rose. Following the papal rose custom, bishops and priests began wearing rose-colored vestments on Laetare Sunday. The Church then brought the Lenten practice of rose vestments to Advent on Gaudete Sunday. As a result, the pink candle gained a place in the Advent wreath.

Although the culture tells us it’s already Christmas, the Church reminds us through the pink candle of Advent that there is an appointed time for everything (Eccl. 3:1). The time now is for rejoicing—because the Lord is coming soon!

Does your heart rejoice and sing, or are the pressures and burdens of life weighing you down? We can easily become overwhelmed. The weaknesses and sins of life eat away at the joy and hope God wants us to know. Those who are grounded in their faith and possess deep spiritual lives know that God is near. Realizing this puts life into perspective. We really want to be free from our burdens, but do not always know how to achieve this. We keep stumbling and falling. Advent is a time when we can learn to “do life differently,” just like John the Baptist instructed the crowds. Joy and hope are the gifts God offers, not anxiety and indifference.

Baptism

Please contact Deacon Gary Steffes if you have any questions about being baptized in the church. An appointment will be scheduled for you. Email dre@stfrancisnixa.org

Wednesday Evening Mass

6:30 p.m.

Try to come at least once a month.



Nativity of The Lord

Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass, Thursday, Dec. 24th

Mass, 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, Friday, Dec 25th

Mass, 9:30 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, Holy Day

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Vigil on Thursday, December 31, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, January 1, 9:30 p.m.

Everyday Stewardship ~ A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.” This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Readings for Week of December 13, 2020

Sunday
Is 61:1-2, 10-11/Lk 1:46-54/1 Thes 5:16-24/
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday
Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday
Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Friday
Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Saturday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25/Ps 71:3-6, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Next Sunday
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-3

Cancellations Due To Covid-19 Pandemic



Due to the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic, and in the interest of keeping everyone safe, we have had to cancel our annual **Advent Penance Service** for 2020,

Please pray that this virus will be contained soon and we can go back to our lives as normal. Fr. Reidy and Fr. Colby will schedule more times this year for individual confessions.



This fall Adult Faith Formation can be done in

Cancelled Until January

person online. We will do this in-person in the St. Clare Chapel on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (after Mass)

Parish Monthly Eucharistic Adoration Wednesday, Dec. 16th, 7:00—9:00 p.m.



Bring a prayer book or rosary for your use during adoration, or you are invited to just sit quietly, gazing at the Blessed Sacrament, and taking in the grace and peace that comes from being with Christ.

For more information and to sign up online go to <http://tinyurl.com/StFrancisAdoration> or contact Janet Morehead, janetfro@hotmail.com, 913-558-8039

Solemnity of Mary Mass Schedule Thursday, December 31, 5:30 p.m. Friday, January 1, 9:30 a.m.

This feast in Christmastide allows us to celebrate Mary as the Mother of God. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the “Prince of Peace,” this feast honors Mary as the “Queen of Peace.” New Year’s Day is designated as a World Day of Peace.



Meaningful Mass Monday

Have you ever wanted to know why we say this or do that during the Mass? Check out our **Meaningful Mass Monday** Facebook

posts each Monday for bite-sized explanations of the Mass, one step at a time.



Living the Word

Question of the Week John 1:6-8, 19-28

Key Passage: John said, “I am not the Christ...not Elijah...not the Prophet...I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.”

Adult: John the Baptist knew who he was and what was his calling. What words describe your identity and calling?

Children: How can you be a “light” to someone this week?



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, December 13th

9:30 a.m.St. Francis of Assisi Parish Family

Wednesday, December 16th

6:30 p.m. † Irene Steffes

Saturday, December 19th

5:30 p.m. † Liz Bramer

Sunday, December 20th

9:30 a.m.St. Francis of Assisi Parish Family



**"Keeping Christ in Christmas"
Poster Contest
Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council
13748**

Kids, get your art supplies ready! This year's contest will kickoff December 6th after Mass. The Knights will distribute poster paper and parent consent forms for all kids 5 through 14 years old. Age as of 11/01/2020.

There are three age groups, 5-7, 8-10 and 11-14. **All posters and consent forms must be turned in NLT 01/10/2021 after Mass.** The best poster in each group will win \$25 and will be submitted to the District level contest!

Judging will be based on: Slogan(30pts), Visuals (30pts) and Overall Impact(40pts). Questions from parents can be answered by Ron Pojar via email at bosunron@msn.com or 417-693-7507. Thank you in advance for your participation. Good Luck!



St. Francis of Assisi has purchased an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). We are looking for 10 to 12 parishioners who are willing to get training for CPR and AED. Training will be on January 16, 2021, from 9 am till noon. Please contact Mike Ecker at 417-763-0702 to register for training.

**Youth Group News
All 5th -12th Grade WELCOMED!**

**Holly Jolly Holiday Party
Friday, Dec. 18th, 6;30 p.m.**

We will have "Holly Jolly Holiday" Christmas Party for the Youth Group. Come watching the Trans Siberian Orchestra concert, thanks to Deacon Gary, Enjoy cookies & cocoa. We will play games. Prizes. Snacks, Yuletide Magic. Come join the fun.

We need to know if you plan to attend by Dec 13th to plan for food and prizes. **PLEASE RSVP: Questions or to sign-up for the event, contact Coordinator: Patty Haddock, 417-230-5999, or email at pattycakes1189@gmail.com.**



**Decorating Our Church
for Christmas!**

Sunday, December 20th, after Mass at 9:30 a.m., we will be "Trimming the Church" to make it extra beautiful for our Christmas season. We will place the greenery, Christmas trees, nativity scene, etc. The more the Merrier!!

Coordinators will be available to divide you into groups. To help plan, please let us know if you and your family can help by contacting Debbie Harris, 417-300-3264 or the parish office: office@stfrancisnixa.org.



Want to Serve on Parish Council?

Each year an election is held to select members from the parish to serve on the Parish Council. An Ad Hoc Committee is formed to bring names of candidates forward. The committee is searching for adults for the March election. Members serve a 2 year term.

If you are interested in serving on Parish Council, please contact Clark Parmley, 417-818-3967, c.j.parmley@att.net

**Your Parish
Needs YOU!**

With Covid-19 we have seen MANY changes at church in attendance, volunteers declining and financial giving decreasing. We are all hurting in this crisis.

We are down to two cleaning teams, plus the Knights cleaning when they can. We need help or our parish will have to consider paying a company to clean. This can cost over \$10,000 a year.



**Serve on the
cleaning team.**

Consider working with a group to clean the church. Can you run a vacuum, dust the pews, clean the bathroom and replenish supplies, sweep the floor? If so, please consider being a member of a cleaning team. If enough Teams, you would clean once every 6 weeks. Form a team, go to dinner or dessert after cleaning!! If interested or have questions, contact Joy Steffes, 660-651-5280, joy_steffes@yahoo.com



Coronavirus
& the
Church

Our Gifts to God
Week of December 6, 2020



Operating Fund

Envelopes.....	\$2,775
Plate	\$23
ACH	\$1,725
Total.....	\$4,523
Monthly Receipts Needed.....	\$20,511
Received	\$4,523
Needed for Month.....	\$15,988

Building Fund

Balance Forward	\$19,094
Received this week.....	\$860
Total Received Month.....	\$860
Balance Checking.....	\$19,954
Building Trust Fund at Diocese.....	\$189,665
Total Building Funds	\$209,619

Year End Charitable Giving

More than half of all charitable giving is made at the end of the year. Why? It is the time of year when we express thanks for the many blessings we have received. It is the time when we review our finances and do our tax planning. It is the best time to remind parishioners that you can help the mission and activities of our parish through your generosity.

As you consider your end-of-year donations, please consider a gift to St. Francis of Assisi Church. Won't you consider a year-end-gift to your parish?

2021 Calendars

"Catholic" calendars for 2021 are available in the Gathering Area. Please take for your home and some to share with neighbors, friends, etc. We are grateful to Adams Funeral Home for providing them for our parish.



Please remember St. Francis of Assisi in your will

Legal language to make a bequest:
"...to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, a Missouri not-for-profit corporation, for the exclusive use and benefit of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Nixa, Missouri."

We Need Your Contributions!

Many parishioners are placing contribution in offertory basket or mailing to the parish or donating through ACH or WeShare. Thank you! The Parish deeply appreciates your sacrifices in supporting our parish. May God bless you for your generosity!

Mail contributions to:
 St. Francis of Assisi
 PO Box 1920
 Nixa, MO 65714



How have priests helped you through difficult or stressful times? How have priests helped you grow closer to our Lord and to each other? How can you help prepare the men who will server your parish in the years to come? What can we do to show our gratitude for the priests who have ministered to us?

The Christmas offering will give us the opportunity to assist the Diocese in funding the formation of our future priests—our seminarians—and meeting the needs of our retired diocesan priests. We ask you to generously support ***Those who Have Served and Those Who Will Serve.***

Even though we have recently completed a diocesan endowment campaign for these needs, many of those pledges will not be completed for a few years, making this collection still necessary at this time.

Welcome!

We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you, whether longtime residents or newly arrived in the parish. If you are not registered, please fill out the form below and place in the collection basket or mail to the Parish office. Or visit our website, www.stfrancisnixa.org for a New Member Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- New Parishioner New Address
 New Phone Moving, please remove from parish list

Knights and Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

The next Knights Council and Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be **Sun, Dec 13th** with social at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m. All men of the Parish, who are not Knights, are welcomed to come and share some good food, and check us out. Contact Harold Sarnes, 417-425-1805. To learn more about the Ladies Auxiliary, contact Glenda Barchak, 417-699-5019

Lighter Side

The Peace and Love of God

After a very long and boring homily the parishioners filed out of the church saying nothing to the pastor. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the homilies.

“Father, today your homily reminded me of the peace and love of God!”

The pastor was thrilled. “No one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Why did it remind you?”

“Well, it reminded me of the peace of God because it surpassed all understanding, and the love of God because it endured forever!”

Gift for Jesus

At the Christmas Eve service, the pastor, quizzing some children about the nativity, asked, “What gifts did the three wise men give the Christ child?”

“Gold!” one child yelled.

“Frankincense!” shouted another.

After a pause, a third asked, “Gift cards



**Ladies Auxiliary
15th Annual
Chili/Soup Cook-off**



Be Friends with St. Francis of Assisi on Facebook

Search for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Nixa and like our page. Get parish information, upcoming events, uplifting thoughts and occasional bits of humor! If you do not use Facebook, no problem. Just go to our WEBPAGE, stfranciscusnixa.org!! Facebook post are listed at the bottom of the 1st page!



1:00-4:00 P.M.

Check in time: 12:00 Noon, Bowl 1:00

Century Lane * Nixa, MO

This family friendly event makes a difference in the lives of homeless children, youth, veterans, families and individuals. This year you can chose for your donation to benefit Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Least of These Food Pantry and/or The Kitchen. The goal is \$60,000! Your sponsorship ,the bowlers and your donations will make this a success.

You can help by buying Raffle Tickets:



Purchase raffle tickets for a two night stay and \$500 Visa Cash. \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20. Contact Linda Howard 417-818-6220 or John Clarke 417-880-4292 for tickets or call 417-225-7415 to purchase.

The \$15 advanced; \$20 day of registration, per bowler covers the cost of bowling (3 games) plus shoes and bowling ball.

This year, everyone is asked to bring a canned food and/or non-perishable item for those in need.

For more information and forms: <https://www.thekitcheninc.org/knights-striking-out/>

For further information contact: John Clarke - 417.880.4292 or Dean Arens - 417.844.1293

Diocesan Perpetual Adoration at Holy Trinity

Please observe mask and social distancing.

Adoration Hours: Weekdays 1pm-5pm

Adoration will be suspended for Christmas and New Year's Celebrations starting Tuesday, Dec. 22 and will resume Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021



Join our substitute list to experience the peace of adoration.

Please call Nicola Mullins at 417-300-0840 to sign up for the Diocesan Perpetual Adoration,.



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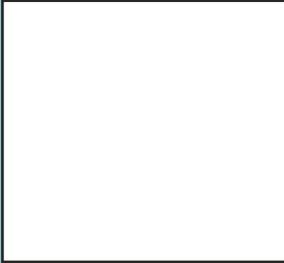
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