

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

January 3, 2021
The Epiphany of the Lord

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

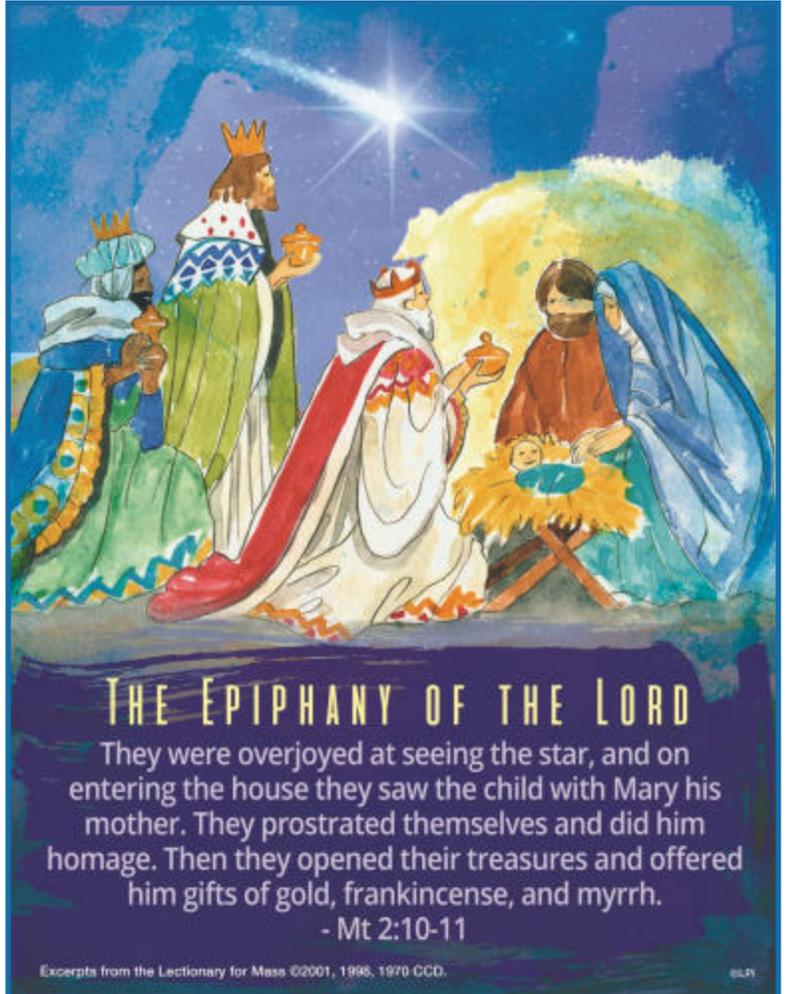
Contact parish office at least six months prior to possible date.

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

Even the slightest flicker of a light helps to properly orient us when we find ourselves in total darkness. Being in darkness can be unsettling and even a bit unnerving. We lose our focus and struggle to find our bearings and achieve balance. On life's journey we may think we are walking in the light but are really lingering in darkness. We do not see the full picture, either because we are distracted, disinterested, or even apprehensive. Sometimes, we even choose to close our eyes when the light is readily available to illuminate our path. Do we really desire to know the truth of who we are? In Jesus Christ, a light has been given to those who dwell in darkness. God's revelation gives us the light to see where we come from, who we are and where we are going. It also tells us that this Good News is not meant for just a privileged few but is intended to go out to all the world. Is this something we want to see?

Sharing Our Talent

Sunday, January 10, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

Liturgical Ministries

Mass Facilitator..... .Tracy King
Sacristan Kaitlyn Rispoli
Rosary Tim Edgington
Children's Liturgy Alyssa Underwood
Children's Assistant Kylie Hurt
Reader 1 Karen McKnight
Reader 2 Don Schortgen
General Intercessor John Rispoli
Music Leader Debbie Durham

Ushers/Greeters:

Kevin Heitland—Lead Jeanine Bratcher
 Kathy Heitland Andrew Sehie

Money Counters Ministry:

Danny Marra Toni Marra Patty Marquez

Laundry Ministry: Joan Baltz

Building Cleaning: Team #4 (Jan 21)

Katie Bond Carolyn Himes Kathy Berkbuegler Donna Hulse
 Darlene Campbell Becky Magnuson Harold & Rose Kuppinger

Plant Care: Harold & Rose Kuppinger

Liturgical Ministers ~ Saturday, Jan. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Mass Facilitator/Sacristan.....Debbie Harris
Reader 1..... Jim Lukavsky
Reader 2.....Rose Kuppinger
General Intercessor Harold Kuppinger
Usher(s): Marc & Ami Rohr
Music.....Jessica Durham



Stewardship

A Way of Life

Wise men came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus bringing gifts as part of their worship. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Savior?

Un-Deck The Halls!!

Sunday, Jan. 10th Please Help!!



Following Faith Formation classes, at NOON, we need **MANY** to help take Christmas decorations down. This will go *FAST* if you help!!

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

January	Sunday
3	The Epiphany of The Lord 9:00 a.m. Rosary 9:30 a.m. Mass 10:45 a.m. Youth & Adult Faith Formation Classes 12:00 Youth Group Meeting
Monday	
4	6:30 p.m. RCIA Zoon Meeting
Tuesday	
5	6:30 p.m. Book Study Zoom Meeting
Wednesday	
6	7:00 a.m. Early Risers 2:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 p.m. Mass
Thursday	
7	1:00 Loving Stitches
Friday	
8	
Saturday	
9	7:00 a.m. Early Risers 5:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday	
10	The Baptism of the Lord 9:00 a.m. Rosary 9:30 a.m. Mass 10:45 a.m. Youth & Adult Faith Formation Classes 6:00 p.m. Social/7:00 Knights & Ladies Aux Mtg.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, January 6th at 2:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in joining our group is always welcome! We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the O'Reilly Community Room. No experience necessary! Contact Jennifer Chan at 480-225-0857 or chanjen@mac.com



From the Pastor.....

I want to extend to each of you and your families my personal hope that this new year will be filled with blessings, peace, joy and renewed commitment to allow the Spirit of Christ Himself to fill each of your hearts.

One of the best ways to do this is to make the Eucharist a more central focus of your life. My hope is each of you will renew your commitment to regularly celebrate Mass each Sunday with your family. Eucharist nourishes us individuals, as family and as community to live our baptismal commitment. As we journey through this new year the Eucharist can strengthen us to bring the goodness and tenderness of God to everyone, as a sign that the kingdom of God is already present in our midst.

As we begin our New Year, please know that each of you and your families are constantly in my prayers. May God bless and keep you all.

The Epiphany of the Lord

"Where is that thing?" mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. "I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!" Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, "Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear." The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God's tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God's salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God's healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!



Baptized
Sunday, December 13, 2020

Jeriel Barffour
Maxwell Barffour, Jr.
Ezekiel Barffour

Sons of Maxwell & Antoinette Barffour

We joyfully welcome Jeriel, Maxwell Jr, and Ezekiel into our St. Francis of Assisi family and we ask that you keep them and their family in prayer as they continues to grow in their Catholic faith.

Check It Out

Fr. Mike McDevitt has graciously loaned the parish five copies of a book by Jacques DuQuesne titled, "*Jesus: An Unconventional Biography*". These books are being made available for parishioners to check out and read. The books and checkout list are on the table by the Information Board in Gathering Space. Please return the book as soon as possible.

Fr. Mike suggest that parishioners that read the book to check with others who have read the book and forming a discussion group.



Readings for Week of January 3, 2021

Sunday
 Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/
 Mt 2:1-12
 Monday
 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7-8,10-12/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tuesday
 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
 Wednesday
 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2,10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
 Thursday
 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2,14-15,17/Lk 4:14-22
 Friday
 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15,19-20/Lk 5:12-16
 Saturday
 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Jn 3:22-30
 Next Sunday
 Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-6/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

After Mass Come for Prayer

Take a few minutes on Sunday for Prayer

Saturday and Sunday, immediately after Mass, all are welcome to come to the Chapel to pray. The group will pray a few minutes for the sick of the parish listed in the prayer request book. Anyone attending Mass who is in need of prayer or spiritual help are invited to attend. Questions, contact Deacon Gary Steffes.

Snow/Ice Cancellation Procedure

If Nixa Schools are closed due to bad weather, all church activities scheduled for that day/evening will be cancelled. NOTE: *Mass is never cancelled.* Please use your best judgment; your safety is most important.



If Faith Formation classes are cancelled, we will try to get a message via email to all who have submitted their email to the parish office.

If you do not receive any parish emails currently, you can be added to the list by sending an email to office@stfrancisnixa.org



Living the Word

**Question of the Week
 Matthew 2:1-12**

Key Passage: "...they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

Adult: What gift that you received this Christmas has had the most impact on your life and relationships?

Children: Why do we give each other gifts when it is Jesus' birthday



Come after Sunday Mass, 10:45 to Noon, to the CATHOLICISM Series Study Program. Bishop Robert Barron is an author, theologian and podcasting priest from Chicago, the founder of Word on Fire Catholic

Ministries. He created this program as a thematic presentation of what Catholics believe and *why*, so that all adults can come to a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith. This engaging and formational program uses art, architecture, literature, music and all the treasures of the Catholic tradition to illuminate the timeless teachings of the Church.

Filmed in 50 locations throughout 15 countries, the series is on-location and in the streets illustrating the splendor of the global Church.

Please join us to take this epic journey around the world and deep into the faith. If you miss one session, you can still join us for the next.

Upcoming Sessions

January 10 - Lesson 2 - "Happy Are We: The Teachings of Jesus"

The revelation of Jesus as God is accompanied by a stunning invitation to a unique new way of life, explained in the teachings of Jesus. To every generation, the words of Jesus have proven fascinating, sometimes confounding, deeply transformative and always unforgettable.



CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON ALL THE WAY THROUGH JANUARY 10



Sunday, January 3rd

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

Wednesday, January 6th

6:30 p.m. † Charles "Dudley" Martin

Saturday, January 9th

5:30 p.m. † Tony Bellm

Sunday, January 10th

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

**Youth Group News
Meeting, Sunday,
January 3rd at Noon
All 5th -12th Grade WELCOMED!**

We need ALL to attend. Come visit with friends and have fun!

Questions, sign-up for an event, contact Coordinator: Patty Haddock, 417-230-5999, or email at pattycakes1189@gmail.com.

Book for Prayer Request

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, write your name or the person's name in the Prayer request book located on the Usher's Stand or email parish office. Requests are emailed to Prayer Network Team.



Many Thanks

A HUGE thank you to all who took an ornament off the **Giving Tree** and donated to Least of These. **\$2,155** was raised to help the over 8,000 people in Christian County living in poverty. Funds will be used to provide food and assistance to these individuals.

**Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments
Wise Men See God in the Simple Things**

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Do Not Leave Valuables In Car

It takes less than 30 seconds to break into a car, grab what is in plain sight, check usual hiding places and get away. Break-ins happen everywhere, including church.

Lock your car doors and take your valuables with you is a way to prevent your car from being broken into. Few cars break-ins are random. Leave nothing in plain sight, not even coins, CD and never a cell phone. This makes your vehicle worth investigating by a thief.



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.

Our Gifts to God
Week of December 27, 2020



Operating Fund

Envelopes.....\$4,515
 Plate.....\$60
 ACH.....\$
Total.....\$4,575

Monthly Receipts Needed.....\$20,511
 Received.....\$18,180
Needed for Month.....\$2,331

Building Fund

Balance Forward.....\$19,094
 Received this week.....\$0
Total Received Month.....\$3,893
Balance Checking.....\$22,987

Building Trust Fund at Diocese.....\$189,665
Total Building Funds.....\$211,652

The Kitchen

Your offering for Immaculate Conception, \$505, will be given to The Kitchen



Christmas Offering

Christmas offering, \$980, will assist the Diocese in funding the formation of our future priests, our seminarians, and meeting the needs of our retired diocesan priests.

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



Help Those in Need

Least of These is the only full-service food pantry in Christian County. The growth in people living in poverty has outpaced the population growth with over 8,000 people in Christian County living in poverty.

Our parish supports Least of These in many ways. We have a food barrel in the gathering space for donations. Bring **unopened & recently dated** items, and place in barrel in gathering space.

Hot or Dry cereals, Rice, Pasta, Mac & Cheese, Dried Beans, Sugar, Flour, Oil, Tea Bags, Coffee, Fruit Juices, Soups, Tuna, Canned Meats & Fruits, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Cleaning Supplies, Bar Soap, Shampoo & Conditioner, Deodorant, Tomato Sauce, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Toothpaste/ toothbrushes, Diapers & Wet Wipes, Toilet Paper & Paper Towels.



CATHOLIC RADIO

Have you heard Catholic Radio? Tune in to 91.9 FM, KQOH, for Catholic programming in Southwest Missouri.



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



**"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!

Lighter Side

Adam: What is a million years like to you?

God: Like one second.

Adam: What is a million dollars like to you?

God: Like one penny.

Adam: Can I have a penny?

God: Sure, just a second.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

Flowers in the sanctuary always looks so beautiful You can provide flowers by remembering loved ones or celebrating special occasions. A minimum donation of \$35 is asked for the florist. Your intention will be acknowledged in the bulletin.



Select a date that you wish to provide flowers. Place your donation in envelope marked "Flowers" with the date you selected and place in offering basket. Questions, contact parish office.



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 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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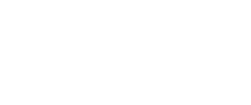
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