

# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

January 31, 2021  
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

## Contacts

Office .....417-725-1975  
Website .....stfrancisnixa.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 Truby .....Coordinator of Religious Education  
Debbie Durham.....Music Director  
Sheri Duncan.....Office Manager

## Support Volunteers

Tracy King & Kent Welch.....R.C.I.A.  
Patty Haddock .....Youth Director  
Janet Morehead.....Website Administrator  
John Rispoli .....Technology Administrator

## Weekend Masses

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

## Weekday Mass

Wednesday — 6:30 p.m.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday .....5:00 p.m.

## Sacrament of Anointing of Sick

Contact parish office for appointment.

## Sacrament of Matrimony

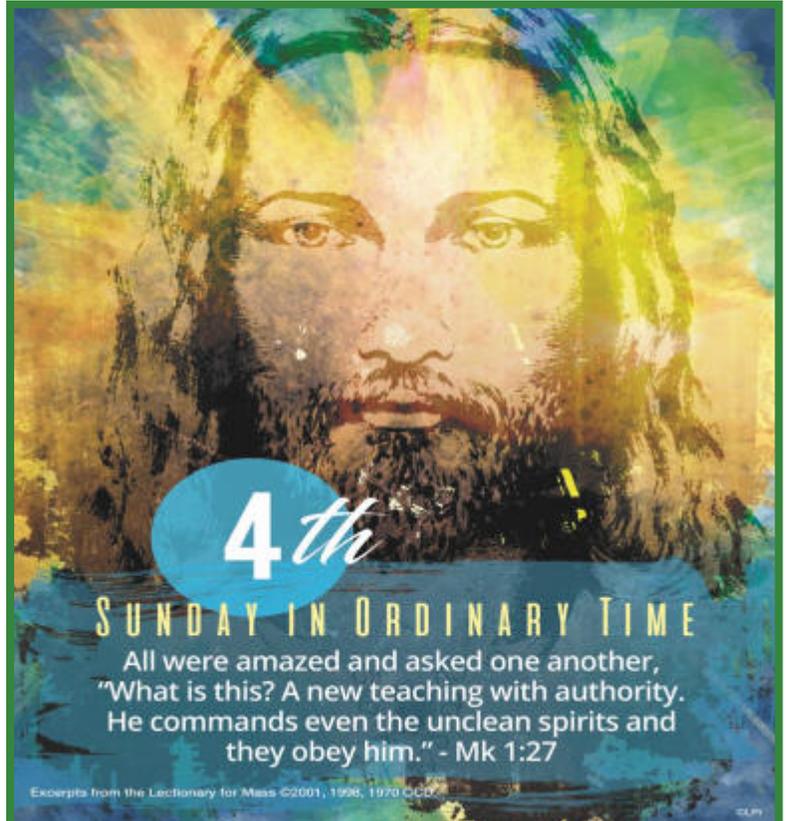
Contact parish office at least six months prior to possible date.

## 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

Most of us are not trail blazers. Throughout history though, there have been many folks who tirelessly and persistently pursued the promptings of their hearts without giving any care to what others thought or trends dictated. Jesus is one of them. St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. Francis of Assisi are examples of others. The rest of us are people who take a more measured look at things, want to test the waters, and take our time choosing what path or person to follow. We need credible witnesses of faith. We need the Moses people in our lives to show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose-driven life looks like. They are the pointers to truth, who even though they struggle themselves, seem to embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and caught the attention of the greatest of skeptics. They were astonished. Even though we need our human prophets we can also be somewhat prophetic ourselves by putting integrity and conviction behind our embrace of the Gospel. Perhaps much to our surprise, we all have the power to be a credible witness. Are you willing to give it a try?

## Sharing Our Talent

**Sunday, February 7, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**

### Liturgical Ministries

**Mass Facilitator** .....Rose Kuppinger  
**Sacristan** .....Debbie Harris  
**Rosary** .....Divine Mercy  
**Children's Liturgy** .....Paul Durham  
**Children's Assistant** .....Andrew Sehie  
**Reader 1** .....Kelly Schmitz  
**Reader 2** .....Joe Schmitz  
**General Intercessor** .....Harold Kuppinger  
**Music Leader** .....Debbie Durham

**Ushers/Greeters:**

Mark Schweiss—Lead                      Austin Schweiss  
 Regina Schweiss                              Art Schweiss

**Money Counters Ministry:**

Greg Eck    Patty Marquez    Margie Arens

**Laundry Ministry:** Barbara Bettlach

**Building Cleaning: Team #4 (Feb 18)**

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

**Plant Care:** Randy Sehie

**Liturgical Ministers ~ Saturday, Feb. 6, 5:30 p.m.**

**Mass Facilitator/Sacristan** .....Rosie Brookner  
**Reader 1** .....Sandra Sarnes  
**Reader 2** .....David Smith  
**General Intercessor** .....Sandra Sarnes  
**Usher(s):** .....Harold Sarnes & Joseph Sarnes  
**Music** .....Jessica Durham



**Celebrate Fr. Colby's Birthday**  
 Fr. Colby's birthday is Feb. 11th.  
 Please take time to wish him  
 Happy Birthday and thank him for  
 all he does for our Parish.

OUR PASTOR'S BIRTHDAY

**Entering The Hospital Or.....?**

Due to Covid restrictions we are unable to freely visit hospitals or nursing homes.

If someone is seriously ill or dying at Cox, Fr. Allen of St. Agnes can be notified by one of the chaplains at Cox (417)269-6000.

At Mercy, Fr. Jerome is the chaplain and can be called Sunday through Thursday by going through Mercy (417) 820-2000 to reach the chaplain on call. On Friday or Saturday the chaplain on call can call Fr. Colby Elbert.

Please notify the parish office if you have a relative going to the hospital or a nursing facility and want their names put on the parish prayer list. Or you may place their name in the prayer book at the usher's stand in the gathering space.

January	Sunday
31	<b>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Catholic Schools Week</b> 9:00 a.m. Rosary 9:30 a.m. Mass 10:45 a.m. Youth & Adult Faith Formation Classes 1:00 p.m. Bowl-A-Thon Century Lanes
Feb	Monday
1	6:30 p.m. Book Study Zoom Meeting
Tuesday	
2	
Wednesday	
3	7:00 a.m. Early Risers 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 p.m. Mass & Blessing of Throats
Thursday	
4	1:00 Loving Stitches
Friday	
5	
Saturday	
6	7:00 a.m. Early Risers 5:00—5:15 p.m. Rosary 5:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday	
7	<b>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 9:00 a.m. Rosary 9:30 a.m. Mass 10:45 a.m. Youth & Adult Faith Formation Classes 12:00 Noon Youth Group Meeting

**Pray the Rosary on Saturday**  
**February 6th, 5:00—5:15 p.m.**

This is done the first Saturday of each month. If you would like to help lead the Rosary, please contact Jennifer at [chanjen@mac.com](mailto:chanjen@mac.com) or 480-225-0857.

We continue to have Rosary every Sunday, 9-9:15 a.m.



### **Celebrate Blessing of the Throats Wednesday, Feb. 3rd 6:30 p.m.**

St. Blaise has long been associated with cures for afflictions of the throat. According to legend, St. Blaise miraculously cured a boy who was choking to death on a fish bone. The Feast of St. Blaise is Wed., Feb. 3rd. We will have the blessing of the throats with crossed candles Feb 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Mass in his memory.



The Church is to celebrate "Candlemas", which occurs on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 40 days after Christmas. This day commemorates Jesus being presented to God at the Temple 40 days after his birth, according to the Law of Moses. To celebrate Candlemas, blessed candles will be available at Mass, Wed, Feb 3rd. for parishioners to use them in their homes, as reminders of Christ's presence in their lives.

### **Many Thanks for Respect Life March/Rosary Participants**

Last weekend's March for Life and Rosary was a great success. Approximately fifty participants from our parish and other parishes and churches in the surrounding area gathered in downtown Nixa, including Fr. Colby and Fr. Mike, and heard an opening prayer delivered by Fr. Tom and a message from Bishop Edward Rice, delivered by Nick Lund-Molfese of the Diocesan Social Ministry office. Another twelve assembled at St. Francis of Assisi to pray the rosary in supporting the dignity of life. Marchers headed north on main street holding signs, praying the rosary and offering other prayers



for the dignity of life from conception to natural death.

Special thanks to Rosie Brookner, Carl Schimek and his team, and our traffic and safety team of Dan Barrett, Dan Baltz, Daniel Keenan, Jeff and Jennifer Chan, and others. We had beautiful signs prepared by the Loving Stitches quilters, the Beavers and Truby families, and Avery and Abby Muniz. Thanks to The Bridge Church for the use of their parking lot and thanks to anyone I've missed and to the parish for your prayers and support.

Deacon Gary and Joy



**CELEBRATE  
CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS  
WEEK 2021**  
January 31 - February 6  
#CSW21

Catholic schools offer academic excellence and faith-filled education for students. National test

scores, graduation rates, and other data show that Catholic schools frequently outperform schools both in public and private sectors.

Choosing a school is one of the most important decisions parents will make. Springfield Catholic Schools promotes a balanced, traditional curriculum for students to learn in an atmosphere that encourages development of life-long study skills and critical thinking. Students practice their faith daily through prayer, Bible study, community outreach and attending Mass regularly. They educate the whole child—spiritually, academically, physically and socially.

The Springfield Catholic Schools System is made up of four (4) elementary schools (preschool-8th grade) and one (1) high school. For a tour, enrollment information or to check availability at various grade levels, please contact the school (s) in which you are interested: Immaculate Conception: 881-7000; St. Agnes: 866-5038; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: 887-6056; St. Joseph: 866-0667; Springfield Catholic High: 887-8817.



### **Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry Wed. Feb. 3, 2:00 p.m.**

Open to anyone who knits, crochets, or would like to learn! The goal is to make prayer shawls and/or blankets (baby or lap blankets) to be blessed and given freely to people who are sick or in the hospital/nursing home. Work on your own time and/or join a once-per-month meeting for fellowship as well.

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](mailto:chanjen@mac.com)

### **Wednesday Evening Mass**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Try to come at least once a month.**



## Readings for Week of January 31, 2021

Sunday

Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

Monday

Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20-24/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday

Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7-10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40

Wednesday

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday

Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-4, 9-11/Mk 6:7-13

Friday

Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-6/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-6/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/

Mk 1:29-39



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

**Feb 7—Lesson 5 – “The Indispensable Men: Peter, Paul, and the Missionary Adventure”**

Bishop Barron calls Saints Peter and Paul “two indispensable men, the ones without whom the Church never would have emerged and survived.” In telling each man’s story, Bishop Barron shows how the Holy Spirit worked through apostles and disciples to build the Church.

### Prayer and Distraction



The mind is a marvelous and complex thing, producing amazing thoughts, images, wisdom and inspiration. Yet at times it is like a two-year-old: it does not follow directions, does what it wants and loves to tell us “no!” This is probably the oldest and most common problem in the spiritual life—dealing with distraction. It comes in all forms: good intentions forgotten, wandering thoughts at Mass, daydreaming, etc. A little poem says it all: When the soul begins to pray, the brain always wants to play!

There are many ways to handle distractions. If we are distracted by thoughts about our families or friends, we should pray for them. If we lose our focus, we need just “recollect” ourselves. If some worry or concern just won’t leave our mind, then we deal with it and come back to prayer or make it part of our prayer. And when words just won’t come, the only prayer we might offer is our presence, our suffering, and our desire to be close to the Lord. Most importantly, we need to be patient with ourselves. These things are not sinful, but reminders of our human frailty. Our weaknesses and good efforts are all acceptable to God, who reads the love in our hearts and the good intentions of our minds. ©LPi



**Stewardship**

*A Way of Life*

Moses told the people, “The Lord will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own kinsmen.” God still provides among His people the gifts and talents necessary to continue the work of His Church. What gifts are yours to share?



### Sunday, January 31st

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

### Wednesday, February 3rd

6:30 p.m. .... † Margarita Heisserer

### Saturday, February 6th

5:30 p.m. .... † Virginia Reichert

### Sunday, February 7th

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

# YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group News  
7th—12th Graders  
Meeting, Sunday, Feb. 7th at NOON

Questions, sign-up for an event, contact Coordinator: *Patty Haddock, 417-230-5999, or email at [pattyatkes1189@gmail.com](mailto:pattyatkes1189@gmail.com).*

## Why are Catholics required to give money to the Church?

Answer: Offering money and other goods to God and the Church is, before all else, a statement of gratitude. We see this when we look at how our spiritual ancestors showed their gratitude to God for the gifts they had received (e.g. Genesis 14:18-20 and Genesis 28:16-22).

One of the ways they offered thanks to God was through a practice called “tithing,” in which 10 percent of a person’s goods (crops, livestock, money, etc.) were given back to God. Today, the practice of tithing — giving 10 percent — is still common in many Protestant communities, but it is not required for Catholics. Instead, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that, “The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to [their] own abilities” (no. 2043).

This means that, although we are not bound to practice “tithing” in the traditional sense, we do share a responsibility to share our money or other resources with our parish communities. Like our spiritual ancestors, we give as a sign of our gratitude for the many gifts that God has given to us. Beyond this, we also share our resources with other Catholic organizations to help them finance their ministries, to continue and grow their outreach to the poor and the needy, and to provide just wages for their employees.

How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are.

Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us, “As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied graces” (4:10).



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## Question of the Week Mark 1:21-28

**Key Passage:** All were amazed and asked one another, “What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirit and they obey him.”

**Adult:** What teachings or action of Jesus inspire you to let go of your “demons” and follow his way?

**Children:** What is the hardest thing Jesus asks or expects of you?

## Safe Environment

Any suspected or known abuse of a minor must first be immediately reported to the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-3738, and suspected or known abuse of adults to the Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392-0210. Suspected or known abuse may also be reported to law enforcement agencies.

Additionally, all diocesan personnel are required to report violations of The Code of Conduct for Clergy, Employees and Adult Volunteers of the Diocese, Parishes, and Schools to the Diocese Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 417-866-0841 or [childandyouthprotection@dioscrg.org](mailto:childandyouthprotection@dioscrg.org). Concerns may also be discussed with your supervisor, the Diocesan Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection, or a Victim Assistance Coordinator. Violations and concerns may also be reported using the TIPS online reporting system, accessible through the Diocesan webpage, [www.dioscrg.org](http://www.dioscrg.org).

Failure to Report is a Class A Misdemeanor for a person who is required under the law to report. No supervisor may interfere with or impede the reporting of suspected abuse. Filing a False Report is also a Class A Misdemeanor.

To view the Safe Environment Policy and Procedures, the Code of Conduct for Clergy, Employees and Adult Volunteers and for other important information, including a link to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document, Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, go to <http://dioscrg.org/index.php/about/child-youthprotection2/>.

If you are unable to access the website or desire printed information, contact the Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at 417-866-0841.

**Our Gifts to God**  
**Week of January 24, 2021**



**Operating Fund**

Envelopes.....	\$5,286
Plate.....	\$23
ACH.....	\$
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$5,309</b>
 Monthly Receipts Needed .....	 \$20,511
Received .....	\$18,917
<b>Needed for Month .....</b>	<b>\$1,594</b>

**Building Fund**

Balance Forward .....	\$8,922
Received this week.....	\$770
<b>Total Received Month.....</b>	<b>\$3,025</b>
<b>Balance Checking.....</b>	<b>\$11,947</b>
 Building Trust Fund at Diocese.....	 \$205,635
<b>Total Building Funds.....</b>	<b>\$217,582</b>

**Embracing Change in Christ**

It's officially one month since we popped the champagne, toasted 2021 and wrote down a list of resolutions. This is usually the time when we start to take a good, hard look in the mirror to assess what we have done — or have not done — with the first month of this brand-new year.

New years can be scary, can't they? Full of promise, sure, but also full of room for failure. Full of space for our old baggage, old fears and the continuation of old mistakes.

The same can be said of Christ, and the new life he offers us, if we are brave enough to accept it. Opportunities like that can be intimidating. In that moment, we might find ourselves like the man with the unclean spirit crying out: "What have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

Jesus is a comforter of the afflicted; he is a consoling figure, but he is also a challenging one. Sometimes we have grown attached to our afflictions. The idea of correcting bad habits or forming new ones is frankly terrifying to us. We have a voice deep inside who sees Christ and his invitation to repentance, and it cries out in fear: "I know who you are!"

When we live in the present, disavowing the baggage of the past or fear of the future, we submit ourselves to the promise of redemption. Let us be brave everyday stewards and invite Christ's healing power into our lives. We won't regret it — I'm sure the demoniac never did.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**The Mirror Offering**

*The Mirror*, our diocesan publication represents our faith, our lives, our community, and proclaims the new evangelization. It is delivered to all who are registered in the diocese. *The Mirror* is a bargain at only \$14 a year per subscription. Our parish pays the subscription fee for our parish families.

You received a blue envelope in your monthly envelope packet for "The Mirror" subscription in February. If you may wish to make a donation for this publication, it is appreciated, whether it is for one or more subscriptions.

Place donation in blue envelope provided. Make checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi. Or you may include donation in your weekly offering envelope if you note the amount you are contributing to "The Mirror" on the envelope.

**Thank You to the SFA Parishioners**

We know it's been tough for many of our parishioners to even meet their necessary ongoing living expenses, let alone make donations to St. Francis of Assisi and other charitable organizations during the COVID pandemic. So, we are especially grateful to those who have been able to continue to make their contributions to our parish and help us keep the lights on through these difficult times. It goes without saying that you have made sacrifices to be able to do that, and we appreciate all of you very much!



*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](http://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

## Catholic Men's Conference

Sat., Feb. 20, 2021

### Springfield Catholic High School

All men, ages 18 and older, are invited to participate in the 2nd annual Catholic Men's Conference featuring Super Bowl Champion Harrison Butker. The purpose will be to equip men to effectively engage in spiritual warfare through intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth by providing fellowship, talks and prayer. It will offer further faith formation and spiritual support opportunities outside the conference.



Doors open 7 a.m. and Mass with Bishop Rice begins at 8 a.m. Admission is free, donations accepted. Lunch provided.

Speakers will be Bishop Edward Rice, Fr. Joseph Kelly, Fr. Allen Kirchner, Fr. Patrick Nwokoye, Craig Henley, and featuring Super Bowl Champion, Harrison Butker

All safety protocols will be enforced, including masking and social distancing. Seating is limited, register early. To register go to:

[https://dioscg.formstack.com/forms/mens\\_conference\\_2021](https://dioscg.formstack.com/forms/mens_conference_2021)

More information at <https://dioscg.org/men/>



### Worldwide Marriage Encounter is Coming to Your House!

Great marriages are made when husbands and wives make a lot of everyday choices that say "I love you" rather than choices that say "I love me". Now is the time to tell your spouse "I love you" by giving them the gift of an intimate retreat right in the comfort and security of your own home. Join us for a **Virtual Weekend Experience, Feb. 26th - 28th**. For more information, or to apply for the weekend, visit our website at [www.wwme4youandme.org](http://www.wwme4youandme.org) or call/email Deacon Tony & Barb Zimmerman at 816-741-4066, [tonybarbz@prodigy.net](mailto:tonybarbz@prodigy.net). And don't forget to follow us on Facebook for the latest updates about WWME Greater KC!

Please remember St. Francis of Assisi Parish 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."

## COVID VACCINE SIGN-UP

Anyone who is 65 years old or older and/or has an underlying illness can go to [mercy.net/movaccine](https://mercy.net/movaccine) to get on a list to make an appointment to get the Covid-19 vaccine. You will be contacted for an appointment date/ time. Cox Health patients can sign up at the Cox Health Portal <https://www.coxhealth.com/covid/vaccine/>



## Holy Trinity Super Bowl Smoked Meats

February 7, 2021 let the "holy smokers" provide smoked meats for your Super Bowl. Available after the 8:30 am and 10 am Masses in the Holy Trinity Kitchen Hall. Social Distancing and Masks are required. Carry out pickup available at Kitchen Rear - call 417-773-9615 to order.

SLICED BRISKET \$12.00/LB  
PULLED PORK \$12.00/LB  
SMOKED BRATS 3 FOR \$4.00  
SMOKED POLISH SAUSAGE 3 FOR \$4.00

~Cash or check only~



## Missourians for Alternatives to Death Penalty

The Springfield Chapter will meet virtually by Zoom on Monday, Feb. 1 at 7:00 p.m. Twelve men and one woman have been executed in our names by the federal government since July, 2020. Please join us as we work to repeal the death penalty in Missouri and in our country. Visit us at <http://www.madpmo.org/> Email [donawalmsley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donawalmsley@sbcglobal.net) for link to the Zoom meeting.

## Diocesan Perpetual Adoration at Holy Trinity

*Please observe mask and social distancing.*

**Adoration Hours: Weekdays 1pm-5pm**



Adorers Needed

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2pm-3pm

Tuesday, Thursday 3pm-4pm

**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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