

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

May 2, 2021
5th Sunday of Easter

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

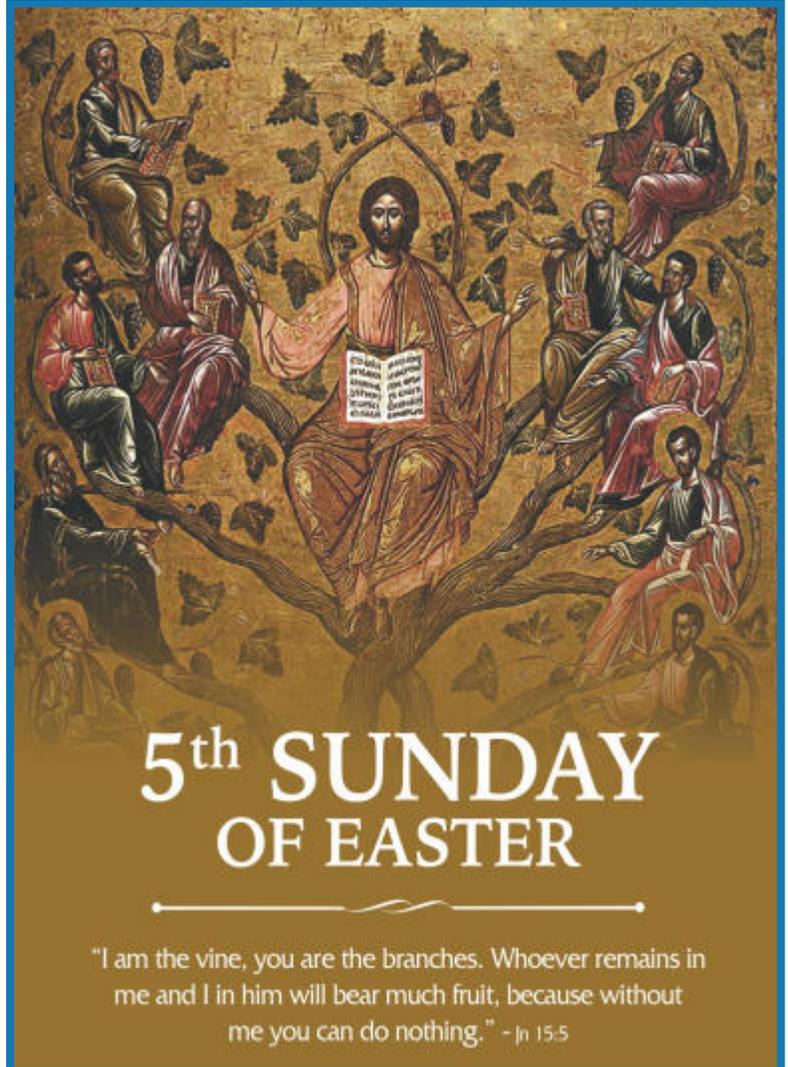
Contact parish office at least six months prior to possible date.

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

Anyone familiar with gardening knows that proper and timely pruning is essential. The health of the plant depends upon it. An unpruned tree can quickly produce suckers that zap many of the essential nutrients from its body. Pruning requires patience and vision. Studies reveal that plants often respond defensively to being pruned, displaying reactions that are similar to hurt or discomfort. Pruning is not easy but necessary. A hard lesson for us to learn is that we also need to be pruned. We become far healthier when we allow God to stretch, refine, and form us into the best version of ourselves. The fruit that then comes from our vines will be more abundant, nutritious, and robust. Left to our own devices we can easily find ourselves running amuck and spiraling out of control. Without a proper vision and trust in the Master Pruner, we will never find the contentment we desperately desire. Nor will the work of the Gospel stand a chance of succeeding.

Sharing Our Talent
Sunday, May 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Liturgical Ministries

Mass Facilitator Virginia Pojar
Sacristan Chris Kahl
Altar Servers..... Kylie Hurt Chelsey Kauffman Ethan Beavers
Rosary Divine Mercy
Children’s Liturgy..... Renee Truby
Children’s Assistant Faith Helterbrand
Reader 1 Joe Schmitz
Reader 2 Joy Steffes
General Intercessor John Rispoli
Extraordinary Minister O’Reilly Room..... Chris Kahl
Music Leader Debbie Durham

Ushers/Greeters:

Dana Elwell—Lead Randy Sehie
 Ron Pojar Andrew Sehie

Hospitality:

Barbara Rogers Cliff Gorman
 Joy Steffes Cindy Muniz

Donut Hero: Barbara Rogers

Money Counters Ministry:

Barbara Bettlach Kathy Richards Mike Ecker

Laundry Ministry: Joanne Baltz

Building Cleaning: Team #

Plant Care:: Joy Steffes

Liturgical Ministers ~ Saturday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.

Mass Facilitator/Sacristan..... Rose Kuppinger
Server Jeff Chan
Reader 1 Sandra Sarnes
Reader 2 Marie Shade
General Intercessor Sandra Sarnes
Usher(s): Harold Sarnes & Joe Sarnes
Rosary Chan Family
Music..... Jessica Durham

May	Sunday
2	5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Rosary 9:30 a.m. Mass & May Crowning 10:45—11:00 a.m. Coffee & Donuts 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m Youth & Adult Faith Formation Classes 12:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting
	Monday
3	6:30 p.m. Book Study Zoom Meeting
	Tuesday
4	
	Wednesday
5	7:00 a.m. Early Risers 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 p.m. Mass
	Thursday
6	National Day of Prayer 1:00—4:00 p.m. Loving Stitches
	Friday
7	
	Saturday
8	7:00 a.m. Early Risers 5:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 p.m. Mass
	Sunday
9	6th Sunday of Easter Mother’s Day 1st Communion 9:00 a.m. Rosary 9:30 a.m. Mass & 1st Communion 10:45—11:00 a.m. Coffee/Reception

May is Month of the Rosary

During the month of May, the Church invites us to reflect on Mary’s life and her response to God. Praying the rosary and meditating on the mysteries of the rosary is one way to do this. Mary is our model for coming to know and to follow the will of God in our lives.

Come join us as we gather to pray the rosary in a group setting each Sunday, 9-9:15 a.m. and the first Saturday of the month, 5:00-5:15 p.m.



Coffee and Donuts Back May 2nd

Please join us after Sunday Mass for coffee and donuts. It is a great way to meet new people, enjoy fellowship with all parishioners. Donuts delivered by Donut Hero!



Fellowship

Be Sure to Remember Your Mother Sunday, May 9th

Please take time to remember your mother next Sunday, May 9, with a phone call or visit. Our mothers do so much for us, it’s good to have this day to recognize their gift of life and love and to honor them for the many sacrifices they have made for us.



First Communion



On Sunday, May 9, at the 9:30 a.m. Mass, 6 children will receive their first communion. This is a significant event for them, their families and for our parish. Eucharist is central to our faith life. For these children, it is another step in their initiation as they join us at the table of the Lord. Let it be a time for us to make a renewed commitment to regular attendance at Sunday Mass and a renewed appreciation for the gift of the Eucharist.

Please pray for these children and their families as they experience the nourishment from the Body and Blood of Christ.

Diocesan Development Fund (DDF)

May 1-2, 2021

The annual Diocesan Development Fund (DDF) appeal is conducted in every parish of the diocese to finance the activities and programs of the Catholic

Church in southern Missouri. Our parish goal is \$34,296. We ask you to keep the DDF campaign in your prayers.

Please fill out your DDF pledge card clearly and completely. PLEASE use the card you received in the mail if at all possible. The parish takes in the initial payment/pledge cards to keep track of how we are progressing toward our parish goal.

If you are making a payment by check when you submit your pledge card,

make check payable to St. Francis of Assisi.

You can also make a payment using a credit card, please complete all information on the back of the pledge card.

If you are making a pledge commitment to be paid over time, all subsequent payments need to be made payable to DDF and sent directly to the Diocesan office NOT to the parish office. The Diocesan office will send you payment reminders in the mail.

Your DDF contributions are not noted on your annual contribution statements since it is not a contribution to the parish. You will need to keep a personal record for tax reporting.

Dear Parishioners,

The month of May offers many spiritual devotions that can bring with them a deeper prayerfulness. The entire month is dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus. During the month of May, the church invites us to reflect on Mary's life and her response to God. Praying the rosary and meditating on the mysteries of the rosary is one way to do this. Mary is our model for coming to know and to follow the will of God in our lives.

On Sunday, May 9, we celebrate Mothers' Day as a nation. This day is set aside to honor all of those women who have given us life and love and a constant nurturing presence. I hope that all the families in our parish will be able to join in special prayer for their mothers at Mass on this day.

On Memorial Day, May 31, we ask all of you to remember all of those who have died while serving our country in the armed forces. We extend our prayers of gratitude to them and to their families for this selfless sacrifice. May God bless you all.

May God bless each of you and your family during this beautiful Easter season and may the risen Lord bring peace and joy and love to each of your hearts.

~ Fr. Tom

Blood Drive

May 14, 1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a blood drive on Friday, May 14, 1:00—6:00 p.m. 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.



Free T-shirt for all donors! While supplies last.

Give Blood

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Bloodmobile in Parking Lot

844 S. Gregg, Nixa

Friday, May 14, 2021

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Masks are required for donors and staff. If you don't have a mask, one will be provided.

Appointments are strongly encouraged to manage donor flow. To schedule your appointment call 417-227-5026 or go to www.cbco.org/donate-blood

Community Blood Center of the Ozarks is the exclusive provider of blood to ALL year area hospitals.



www.cbco.org



Photo: Steve Neff/our-reporter/Photo and text: enclosed property of Ozark Blood Center

Readings for Week of May 2, 2021

Sunday
Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-28, 30-32/1 Jn 3:18-24/
Jn 15:1-8

Monday
1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-5/Jn 14:6-14

Tuesday
Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-13, 21/Jn 14:27-31

Wednesday
Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-5/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday
Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11

Friday
Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-10.12/Jn 15:12-17

Saturday
Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1-3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1-4/1 Jn 4:7-10/
Jn 15:9-1



Stewardship

A Way of Life

The good steward lives the advice of St. John, loving in deed and in truth, rather than just talking about it.

Memorial Day Mass with Bishop Rice

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic concerns, Bishop Rice will celebrate this year's Memorial Day Mass, Monday, May 31, 9:00 am at Immaculate Conception Church. There will be plenty of seating, but masks are required. The Springfield Area Catholic Cemetery Board and the Knights of Columbus will host refreshments afterwards. This is a beautiful occasion to pray for our deceased loved ones, especially the men and women who have served our nation.



Living the Word

Question of the Week

John 15: 1-8

Key Passage: "(vine grower) removes every branch that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit."

Question: When have you been pruned by your experience in a way that led to greater abundance?

Children: When have you felt stronger or better because you did something hard to help someone else?

May Crowning

On Sunday, May 2nd, the children in the Faith Formation classes of the Parish will participate in a traditional Roman Catholic ritual, May Crowning. A statue of the Blessed Virgin is crowned with a garland or crown of flowers honoring Mary as "the Queen of May". The procession and ensuing crowning with flowers will honor Mary as the Mother of the Son of God. Since medieval times, we have had the combination between Mary and the month of May. May is considered the season of the beginning of new life. "May Crowning" marks a new spiritual season. Our Mary, Queen of heaven and earth, lifted us right out of the last long, cold days of winter and firmly planted our hearts in the warm and promising soil of spring.



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 6, 2021

This year's theme: "Lord Pour Out Your Love, Life, and Liberty." The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first

Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people. Please use May 6 as a day to ask God to pour out His "love, life and liberty" on our nation.

Gluten Concerns

Low-gluten hosts are available for those on a gluten-free diet. Please see the Mass Sacristan in the gathering space before Mass.



Sunday, May 2nd

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

Wednesday, May 5th

6:30 p.m. † Mildred Clark

Saturday, May 8th

7:00 p.m. † Liz Bramer

Sunday, May 9th

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

Youth Faith Formation News

Renee Truby, CRE
cre@stfrancisnixa.org



Vacation Bible School Week of June 13-17th.

Vacation Bible School for all Catholic Parishes in the area will be held in the evenings at SEAS, and children through the 5th grade from St. Francis parish are invited.

Adult Volunteers are needed. Teens volunteers can use this as service hours. If you would like to volunteer to help with Vacation Bible School, contact Renee Truby.



Camp- Re-NEW-ALL Registration OPEN Now

Camp is open to 5th-9th graders in the fall. Camp facilities are limited to 50% of normal capacity. Register NOW!

Staff applications are being accepted for high school staff going into 10th-12th grade and adult staff.

For more information and to register go to <https://dioscg.org/camp-re-new-all/> or call Katie at Catholic Center, 417-866-0841



Please **contact Renee Truby** if you are not a part of the St. Francis of Assisi Faith Formation Group on Facebook. Here you will find lesson plans, family activities, updates, etc.

Altar Servers and Training

We always welcome Altar Servers. If you will be a 4th grader next school year OR older, you have been baptized and received 1st Communion, then you can be an Altar Server.

If you would like to find out more about this ministry or have been an Altar Server in our parish and not received training this year, Deacon Gary will **offer training on May 15, 16, 22 or 23**. Contact Deacon Gary for details, 660-651-1779 dre@stfrancisnixa.org



As an Altar Server, it is a privilege to kneel so close to the altar. You have a place of honor at Mass, because you assist the Priest in many ways. Your service and commitment are signs of your faith and your love for God.

50th Anniversary of Priesthood Ordination Sunday, May 23 for Fr. Mike McDevitt

Make plans to help celebrate Fr. Mike McDevitt's Golden Jubilee on Sunday, May 23rd. Fr. Mike was ordinated on May 22, 1971 by Bishop Baum on the feast of St. Rita, his father's patron saint, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Bel-Ridge, MO.



Golden Jubilee

After Mass there will be a brief program with coffee and donuts to follow, per Fr. Mike's request!!

If unable to attend, your cards may be mailed to parish office, PO Box 1920, Nixa, MO 65714 or placed in basket on table by information board.

May 27, will be Fr. Tom's 54th Anniversary of Priesthood.

June 2, Fr. Colby Elbert will celebrate his 4th Anniversary of Priesthood.

Please pray for our priest, for all they do for our Diocese, our Parish and for each of us.



Our Pastor's Anniversary



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.

WELCOME TO OUR
PARISH

Please introduce yourself and welcome all new members to our parish!

Josh & Candice Lohkamp and their daughter Eliza

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. All requests are emailed to Prayer Network Team.



Lost and Found

If you have lost an item at church, Please check for your items in the ushers stand in the gathering space.

Our Gifts to God
Week of April 25, 2021



Operating Fund

Envelopes.....	\$1,442
Plate.....	\$73
ACH.....	\$
Total	\$1,515
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$20,511
Received	\$20,387
Needed for Month	\$124

Building Fund

Balance Forward	\$18,876
Received this week.....	\$225
Total Received Month.....	\$3,528
Balance Checking.....	\$22,404
Building Trust Fund at Diocese.....	\$205,635
Total Building Funds.....	\$228,039

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!



**Branching Out Isn't Always
 What It's Cracked Up to Be**

"That's a really beautiful tree branch. Man, would you look at the bark on that thing? The others are real duds, but that low-hanging branch has really got it all together."

I've never heard anyone say this. Maybe I just need to hang out with more arborists, but I can't recall ever hearing someone admire the particular beauty of a single branch. When someone comments on a tree, it's usually the whole tree — perhaps a visual element of it, like the color of the leaves or its height. But people don't usually zero in on one branch.

The Bible tells us that when we bear fruit as good everyday stewards, it is for the Father's glory. We are the branch on His magnificent tree. What we have is from Him, and what we do likewise points back to Him. We also tend to reflect how well the other branches around us are incorporating the nutrients coming their way. That's all fine and good in theory. In practice, it can be an arduous exercise in humility.

When I do something virtuous or charitable or kind, there is a part of me that wants to stand out for it. I think that's true for all of us. We've given of ourselves in some way or overcome some human temptation to accomplish a little bit of good in this world, and even though we know God sees us, we'd really love for everyone else to see it, too.

It's a struggle, for sure. But we need to remember that our fruit belongs to the whole tree.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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.stfrancislaxa.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



Gardening At Catholic Charities

Come help with gardening the vegetable beds and ground maintenance at Catholic Charities/LifeHouse on **Thursday, May 27 from 8:30 -10:30 a.m.**



We hope you can join other volunteers from area parishes on this year's Earth Day! Weed eaters, favorite gardening tools, and gloves will be needed. Volunteers will continue to wear masks and social distance. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Jana Hukriede@ 417-840-4109 or janahukriede@gmail.com.

"WHO IS IN THE KITCHEN?"

Saturday, May 8th starting at 9 am.

The Knights are cleaning -- High & Low the Kitchen and general cleaning of the church on Saturday, May 8th starting at 9 am. Members of the parish are welcome to join the Knights and add an "extra Shine and Deep Spring Cleaning to our Kitchen.



"Fatima Rosary Rally"

Saturday, May 15th at 11 am

In front of Planned Parenthood on Battlefield Rd., to commemorate the 104th apparition of the Blessed Mother's appearance to the 3 shepherd children at Fatima. Our Lady pleaded for peace and asked that we pray the Rosary daily. For details, contact Carl at 417-725-9444 or email carlschimek@gmail.com

Wednesday Evening Mass

6:30 p.m.

Try to come at least once a month.



Diocesan Perpetual Adoration at Holy Trinity

Please observe mask and social distancing.

Adoration Hours: Weekdays 1pm-5pm

Adorers Needed

Tuesday, Friday 3pm-4pm

Join our substitute list to experience the peace of adoration.

Please call Marilyn Gibson at 417-224-4043 to sign up for the Diocesan Perpetual Adoration.

Employment Opportunity at Diocese

Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau seeks qualified applicants to fill a position working in collaboration with the Diocesan Director of Evangelization, Catechesis and Youth Formation Ministry. Applicants must be practicing Roman Catholics. It is preferred that applicants have a Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry, Theology or Religious Education/Catechesis. Bachelor's Degree will be considered. Experience at parish or diocesan level is required.



This is a full-time, exempt position. Evening and weekend hours, as well as extensive travel driving across the diocese will be required. Position start date is July 1, 2021. Compensation includes competitive salary, excellent health benefits and retirement plan based on diocesan guidelines.

To request an application packet, including detailed job description, please contact Jan Smith at The Catholic Center, jansmith@dioscg.org or call 866-0842

Urgent need for LifeHouse!

Ladies, imagine being pregnant and without transportation to get to the doctor.

LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home is close to capacity, with more mothers and children than ever before, which means that we need more volunteers to provide transportation to and from appointments, work, and daycare.

Could YOU step up & offer a little of your time to make a big difference in the lives of the mothers and babies of LifeHouse. For more information about becoming a transportation volunteer, contact Jill Bryant at jbryant@ccsomo.org or call

417-720-4213.

Volunteer at LifeHouse

LifeHouse is restarting our childcare program and is looking for women who want to hold babies! We have chosen Tuesdays at 5:30-7:30 pm, and Thursdays at 9:00-11:00 am. Please contact Jill Bryant at 417-720-4213 or jbryant@ccsomo.org



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