

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

November 28, 2021
1st 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. 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

Deacon Gary Steffes & Kent Welch.....R.C.I.A.
Deacon Gary Steffes.....Youth Director
Janet Morehead.....Website Administrator
John RispoliTechnology Administrator

Mass Times

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday — Noon

Wednesday — 6:30 p.m.

Saturday..... 5:30 p.m.

Sunday..... 9:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday5:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Anointing of Sick

Contact parish office for appointment.

Sacrament of Matrimony

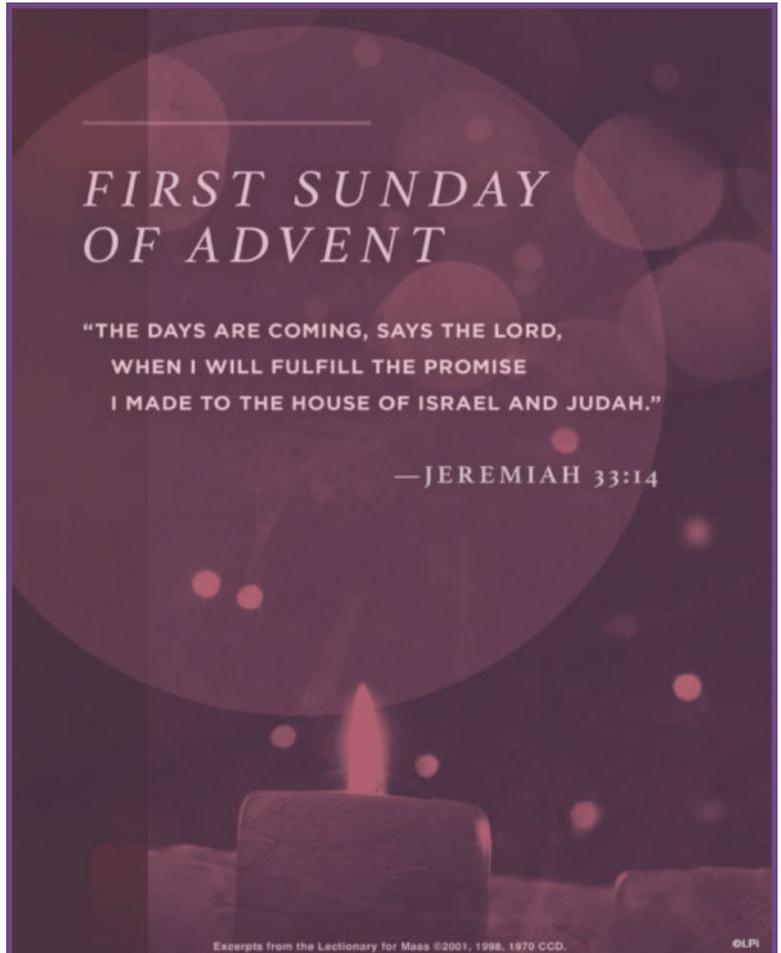
Contact parish office at least six months prior to possible date.

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

Any human success requires vigilance. Opportunities and powerful moments of encounter can easily be missed when we are not attentive. It is all too easy today to live distracted and preoccupied lives. There is so much vying for our attention that it can be hard to be selective and really focus. Caught up in this whirlwind of busyness and anxiety, we become tired and almost sleepwalk through life. Advent is a time to selectively focus. These beautiful four short weeks are a time to look backward and forward and be attentive to the human journey and God's revelation. From the beginning of time, God has been seeking our attention. He constantly reminds us of the justice he desires to bring and the promise of his abiding unconditional love. Understanding and growing in these truths requires alertness so that we can be strengthened in our faith and prepared for whatever will come.

Sharing Our Talent

Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

Liturgical Ministries

Mass Facilitator Edna Garwood
Sacristan Julie Clarke
Altar Servers..... Abby Muniz Evie Truby Harley Pojar
Rosary..... Divine Mercy
Children's Liturgy Joy Steffes
Children's Assistant Ari Baker & Brylan Griest
Reader 1 Helen Krudwig
Reader 2 Kelly Schmitz
Music Leader Debbie Durham
Ushers/Greeters:
 Kevin Heitland—Lead Jeanine Bratcher
 Kathy Heitland Cliff Gorman

Hospitality:

Harold & Rose Kuppinger, Mary Slaughter, Cheryl Hobbs

Donut Hero: Mark & Regina Schweiss

Money Counters Ministry:

Danny & Toni Marra Jeanine Bratcher

Laundry Ministry: Chris Kahl

Building Cleaning: Team #1 (Dec 12)

Nicole Kauffman, Carol Devine, Tracy King,
 Diane Edgington, Jennifer Griest & Girls

Building Cleaning: Team #2 (Dec 15)

Dan & Diane Keenan, Mitch & Anna Brake,
 Donna Davis, Shelly Summar

Plant Care: Debbie Harris

Liturgical Ministers ~ Saturday, Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m.

Mass Facilitator/Sacristan Chris Kahl
Server..... John Staudt
Rosary..... Chan Family
Reader 1 Jen Chan
Reader 2 Jim Lukavsky
Ushers: Linda & Terry Howard
Music Jessica Durham



Stewardship

A Way of Life

“Be on guard,” Jesus warns in today’s Gospel, “lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence.” Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

Blood Drive

Dec 17th, 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.



November	Sunday
28	<p>1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Rosary 9:30 a.m. Mass 11:00—Noon Advent Wreath Workshop No Faith Formation Classes 4:30 p.m. RCIA</p>
Monday	
29	6:30 p.m. Book Study Meeting
Tuesday	
30	12:00 p.m. Mass
Dec	Wednesday
1	7:00 a.m. Early Risers 11:00 a.m. Castlewood Rosary & Communion 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Meeting 6:30 p.m. Mass and Anointing of Sick
Thursday	
2	9:00 a.m. Men’s Fellowship 12:00 p.m. Mass 1:00 p.m. Loving Stitches
Friday	
3	12:00 p.m. Mass
Saturday	
4	7:00 a.m. Early Risers 9:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m. NET Retreat 5:00 p.m. Rosary 5:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday	
5	<p>2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Rosary 9:30 a.m. Mass 11:00—Noon Faith Formation Classes 2:00 p.m. Advent Tea 4:30 p.m. RCIA</p>

This is a time set aside by the Church to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus Christ into our lives. Advent calls us to reflection, prayer and a greater sensitivity toward those who struggle in our society to feed, house and clothe themselves and their children. As such, it is a time to recommit ourselves to the importance of Eucharist in our lives, both on a daily and weekly basis.



Advent opens our new Liturgical Year C - when we proclaim the Gospel of Luke. Listen for some of his favorite themes: joy and gratitude, inclusion of the lowly, emphasis on the compassion of Jesus, the need to pray, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, attention to women and "Do not be afraid."

~ Fr. Tom

Christmas Flowers

Please use the Christmas Flowers envelope in your regular monthly packet or mark an envelope Christmas Flowers to make a contribution for Christmas flowers in the name of a loved one. Make a note on the check and **PRINT** the names of those you wish to remember on the outside of the envelope. Thank you for your contribution for beautiful flowers for our church. **Please submit by December 8th.** A list of the names will appear in the December 19th bulletin.



The annual Giving Tree is up and ready for you to select your donation. We need your help to make this project a HUGE Success! Funds collected from the Giving Tree will be given to Least of These to provide food baskets for the needy of Christian County at Christmas.

All parishioners – children, youth, and adults – are encouraged to take an ornament in some amount. Place your donation in an envelope with a check or cash and drop it into the collection basket.

Because Least of These needs the funds before Christmas, the Giving Tree will conclude at noon on December 12. Be sure to stop by the tree and get an



Advent Begins November 28th

In this consumer world in which we live, we sometimes forget that our Christmas preparation should be more spiritual than commercial. Let us give some thought to how we can make Advent a more meaningful part of our lives. It won't be easy, but it is possible. Some suggestions for Advent:

Try to attend at least one extra Mass during the week. See front of bulletin for times.

Use **The Little Blue Book** – Discover God speaking to you through Scripture, traditions and customs. Copies are in Gathering Space.

Celebrate Advent through Formed programs . Observe Advent in your home by praying with your family around the Advent Wreath, and by making a special effort to be together as family as much as possible.

Remember those less fortunate by contributing to the Giving Tree collection.

Use **Keeping The Season** – weekly bulletin insert that includes a prayer, reflections on the Scriptures and ideas for sharing charity and hospitality

Participate in Matthew Kelly's "Move Toward The Light" online; based on book "Life is Messy" which will be our parish Christmas gift to you!! Book delivery date TBA. You do not need book so sign up today: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>

Follow St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Nixa MO on Facebook for daily Advent challenges.



Advent Tea Sunday, Dec 5th 2:00—4:00 p.m.

All Ladies of the Parish are invited to attend. Come to an Advent-related activity with faith, food and fellowship. Sister Charlotte Flarlong, SSND will present a meditation on the O Antiphons. The event is designed for you to duplicate in your home as a way to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary. Sign-up sheet in gathering space.

Readings for Week of November 28, 2021

Sunday

Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1--9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 4:18-22

Wednesday

Is 25:6-10/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5--8

Next Sunday

Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Upcoming Holy Day of Obligation Wednesday, December 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



As we celebrate this special feast of the Blessed Virgin, the paternal feast of our nation, let us especially pray for our country, let us pray for peace throughout the world and for the safety of all our men and women who serve in the military. We encourage everyone to attend Mass with your family on this feast.

Collection for the Mass will be donated to *Catholic Charities of SW Missouri*. If you can not attend you can place your donation in an envelope marked *Catholic Charities* with your name.

Mass times for this Feast will be Wednesday, Dec 8th at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.



Advent Resource

The Parish subscription to Formed offers a number of programs through the Augustine Institute that offers well-produced programs and documentaries.

Please consider viewing *Adventus-A Spiritual Pilgrimage*. This documentary unites Catholics worldwide in experiencing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in a beautiful 33 minute video that takes us to places associated with the birth of Jesus Christ.

If you have not previously accessed Formed,

1. Visit FORMED.org
2. Click Sign Up
3. Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"
4. Find St. Francis of Assisi by parish name, address, or zip code
5. Enter your email and you're in.

Little Blue Books - Advent Reflections

Discover God speaking to you through daily reflections that focus on scripture, traditions and customs of the season. Enrich your Advent journey and Christmas season with this book

Pick up your family's free copy of "Little Blue Book" in the gathering space at Church.



Mass Intentions for the week



Sunday, Nov 28st

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

Tuesday, Nov 30th

Noon Children struggling with Covid

Wednesday, Dec 1st

6:30 p.m.† Susan Horvath

Thursday, Dec 2nd

Noon † Michael Livery

Friday, Dec 3rd

Noon For those who are alone

Saturday, Dec 4th

5:30 p.m.† Larry Berkbuegler

Sunday, Dec 5th

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



Living the Word

Question of the Week

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Key Passage: Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.

Question: What has been the strengths of your prayer life?

Children: What prayers will you say each day and each week during Advent?

**Nixa Christmas Parade
Sunday, Dec. 5th at 2:00 p.m.**

Assist our youth with their Parade float. We need adults to assist in decorating. We'll hold a brainstorming session to finalize our plan in the near future and set a date to work on the float. The Confirmation class has some great ideas. The theme is "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree".



If you can't help with float, please help with a donation of individually wrapped candy. Place in container in gathering space.

All youth of parish are invited to participate!
Contact Deacon Gary, dre@stfrancisnixa.org



**Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry
Wed. Dec. 1st, 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

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 request are emailed to Prayer Network Team.



Preparing the Manger

Where do you fall in the "Christmas-songs-in-November" debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them?



There's no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it's not everyone's cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger.

Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It's hard to miss that point — Lent doesn't even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It's harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — "advent" — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, "so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap."

So let us not forget — our master's advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



**Anointing of Sick Mass
Wed, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m.**

When the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is given, the hoped-for effect is that, if it be God's will, the person be physically healed of illness. But even if there is no physical healing, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age.

We have Anointing of the Sick on the first Wednesday of Advent and the first Wednesday following Ash Wednesday during Lent. If you are in need of the sacrament at any other time, contact the Parish Office to schedule a time, office@stfrancisnixa.org or 417-725-1975 message.

Gluten Concerns

Low-gluten hosts are available for those on a gluten-free diet. If you wish to receive a low-gluten host at communion, please see the Mass Sacristan in the gathering space before Mass.

Sacrificial Giving

Week of
November 14, 2021
Nov 21 Not Available

Operating Fund

Envelopes.....	\$3,891
Plate.....	\$230
ACH.....	\$1,710
Total.....	\$5,831
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$22,187
Received	\$13,638
Needed for Month.....	\$8,549

Building Fund

Building Funds in checking	\$6,296
Building Trust Fund at Diocese.....	\$259,079
Total Building Funds.....	\$265,375



We're on Facebook!

You can find us at St Francis Nixa MO. Like our page and watch livestreamed Mass, get parish information, updates about cancellations, notice of upcoming events, uplifting resources, etc.

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 Jeff Chan, 480-225-0856, chanj@mac.com



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A Prayer for the First Sunday of ADVENT

Great Giver of all that is, show us how much we have received through your abundant generosity. Satisfy our restless hearts with the assurance of your love for us, that we will grow to desire your potter's hands shaping and molding us. Amen.

Mass Intentions

A beautiful custom in the Catholic Church is remembering someone at Mass whether living or deceased. These are the intentions that are listed in the bulletin and for whom the priest officiating at the Mass offers the prayers.

There is no charge for having a Mass said, but many people will make a donation, \$10.

Please place your request of date with the name of the person for whom you are requesting a Mass in an envelope and place in offering. Or contact the Parish Office.

We currently have Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Noon open for 2021. You can book all dates for 2022 and 2023.

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 collection basket.

Or you can register online at <https://tinyurl.com/SFANewMember>

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Best Choice UPC Label

PLEASE place your Best Choice UPC Labels in the box on the Information Table. Each label is worth \$0.03 to our parish. **ALL BEST CHOICE products** are eligible. *Funds will be used to provide ministries for the youth in the parish.*

Card Ministry

Now we need you to submit someone you know who can benefit from receiving a card. Please contact Rose Kuppinger, with the name, address and occasion (birthday, get well, thinking of you, etc.) at pappa853@suddenlink.net or if you would like to join the team writing in the cards. Let's work together to brighten someone's day!



After Mass Come for Prayer

Take a few minutes 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.

Diocesan Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration!



Contact: Marilyn Gibson 417.224.4043

marilyngibson@outlook.com

Holy Trinity Parish Office 417.883.3440
Security Measures are in place for those with safety concerns,

Immaculate Conception School Cafeteria Hiring

Do you or does someone you know need a part-time job? Immaculate Conception School Cafeteria is seeking a kitchen helper. (8:30-1:00 Monday-Friday) Food service experience is helpful, but it is not a requirement. Contact Mary McClain at (417) 581-3164 if interested in the position

Sacred Heart Craft Vendor Cookie Sale

**Friday, December 3rd, 5 pm— 9 pm,
Saturday December 4th. 10 am— 5 pm.**

The sale is in conjunction with the Midtown Victorian Homes Tour. This year Sacred Heart Church will be part of the tour. Vendors/crafters from Springfield and surrounding communities will offer a wide variety of items. Again this year we will have our famous cookies by the pound. Please contact Bob Horton at rmhorton711@gmail.com, or call the office at 869-3646, if you have any questions.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Build your marriage on solid rock . . . How well can your marriage withstand the storms of this life? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is an opportunity to strengthen the foundation of your marriage. Grounded in the love of Jesus Christ, the weekend will provide you the tools and the time necessary to go deeper into the Sacrament so that you can live more intimately and responsibly as a couple of God.

Make plans now to attend the weekend of March 18-20, 2022 at the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer in Carthage, MO. For more information, or to register for a weekend, visit www.wwme.org, or call/Email Kim Brayman at (417) 866-0841/ kbrayman@dioscg.org.

Advent Penance Service

Our parish will provide various dates during Advent for an opportunity for you to come and seek God's forgiveness for our sins. Watch for dates to be released.



You may choose to attend other services in the area:

- Dec 5, 7 p.m. St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield
- Dec 6, 7 p.m. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Springfield
- Dec 9, 7 p.m. Holy Trinity, Springfield
- Dec 13, 7 p.m., St. Joseph, Springfield
- Dec 14, 7 p.m. St. Joseph the Worker, Ozark
- Dec 15, 7 p.m. Sacred Heart, Springfield



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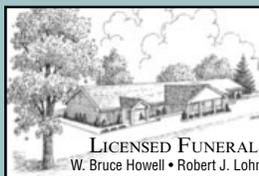


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