

# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

December 26, 2021  
The Holy Family

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. 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

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

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.

Therefore, if anyone is in  
Christ, he is a new  
creation. The old has  
passed away; behold, the  
new has come.

—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)



May God's peace be upon  
you and remain with you  
throughout the year.

## Living the Liturgy

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

## Sharing Our Talent

Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

### Liturgical Ministries

**Mass Facilitator** ..... Regina Schweiss  
**Sacristan** ..... Julie Clarke  
**Altar Servers**... Andrew Sehie, David Helterbrand, Fiona Beavers  
**Altar Server Shadow** ..... Brinkley Price  
**Incense** ..... NEED, Abby Muniz  
**Rosary**..... Divine Mercy  
**Children's Liturgy** ..... Paul Durham  
**Children's Assistant** ..... Taegan Schmitz, Faith Helterbrand  
**Reader 1** ..... Sue Geeser  
**Reader 2** ..... Tracy King  
**Present Gifts** ..... Marc & Renee Truby & Family  
**Music** ..... Debbie Durham  
**Ushers/Greeters:**  
 Harold Kuppinger—Lead                      Randy Sehie  
 Rose Kuppinger                                      Carter Lind  
**Hospitality:** Cindy Muniz & Girls,  
 Tracy King, Glenda Griest, Cheryl Coffelt  
**Donut Hero:** Mike Ecker  
**Money Counters Ministry:**  
 Glenda Grist Deb Gorman Cheryl Coffelt  
**Laundry Ministry**..... Virginia Pojar  
**Building Cleaning: Team #1 (Jan 9)**  
 Nicole Kauffman, Carol Devine, Tracy King,  
 Diane Edgington, Jennifer Griest & Girls  
**Cleaning Team #2 (Jan 12)**  
 Dan & Diane Keenan Anna & Mitch Brake  
 Shelly Summar Donna Davis  
**Plant Care:** Harold & Rose Kuppinger

### Liturgical Ministers ~ Friday, Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m.

**Mass Facilitator/Sacristan** ..... Edna Garwood  
**Altar Server**..... Laurin Alviar, Lillian Alviar, Abby Alviar  
**Reader 1** ..... Denise Antley  
**Reader 2** ..... Jayne Parmley  
**Present Gifts** ..... NEED & Virginia Pojar  
**Ushers/Greeters** ..... NEED & NEED  
**Music** ..... Debbie Durham

### Liturgical Ministers ~ Saturday, Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m.

**Mass Facilitator/Sacristan** ..... Chris Kahl  
**Altar Server**..... NEED  
**Reader 1** ..... Rose Kuppinger  
**Reader 2** ..... Harold Kuppinger  
**Present Gifts** ..... Larry & Rosie Brookner  
**Ushers/Greeters** ..... NEED & Judy Davis  
**Music** ..... Debbie Durham



**Un-Deck The Halls!!**  
**Sunday, Jan. 13th**  
**Please Help!!**

After our donut break, we need **MANY** to help take Christmas decorations down. This will go **FAST** if you help!!

December	Sunday
26	<p><b>The Holy Family</b>                      9:00 a.m. Rosary                      9:30 a.m. Mass                      NO Faith Formation Classes                      4:30 p.m. RCIA</p>
Monday	
27	6:30 p.m. Book Study Meeting
Tuesday	
28	12:00 p.m. Mass
Wednesday	
29	7:00 a.m. Early Risers 6:30 p.m. Mass
Thursday	
30	9:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship 12:00 p.m. Mass
Friday	
31	<b>New Years Eve</b> 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass The Holy Mother of God
Jan	Saturday
1	<p><b>The Holy Mother of God</b>                      9:30 a.m. Solemnity of The Holy Mother of God                      NO 5:30 p.m. Mass</p>
Sunday	
2	<p><b>The Epiphany of The Lord</b>                      9:00 a.m. Rosary                      9:30 a.m. Mass                      11:00 a.m. Faith Formation Classes                      4:30 p.m. RCIA</p>



**No Youth or Adult Faith Formation Classes**  
**Sunday, December 26th**  
**Classes resume January 2nd**

Thank you  
MAY GOD BLESS YOU

Our Advent and Christmas liturgies were very prayerful and beautiful liturgical experiences because of the efforts of so many people. readers, Advent candle lighters, music, ushers, liturgy coordinators, all those who decorated the church so beautifully and those who contributed flowers in memory of loved ones. We are grateful to all for their dedication and hard work.

My sincere thanks to the many parishioners who so thoughtfully remembered me at Christmas. I do appreciate your prayers, cards and gifts and the many kindnesses, support and generosity which I experience throughout the year. God Bless you all!

- - - Fr. Tom

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Best wishes to all members of the St. Francis of Assisi parish family for a most blessed and happy New Year. Let us make a special effort to pray for peace today and throughout the coming year.



### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, the "enfleshment" of God as a human person. In Jesus, God is bodily present in the human story. Today we honor the Holy Family, helping us to see that God is active in daily family life. God is near at hand, amidst the tensions, joys, and uncertainties of family life. As our Gospel passage describes, even with family miscommunications and with limited understanding of Jesus' mission, the Holy Family persevered in their life together. Like many family conflicts, there was no immediate or clear resolution of the issues raised by Jesus and by Mary. God's intentions for the family, and for Jesus, were still unfolding. They continued to stay connected with each other and with God. Within the turbulence of family life, they trusted God to actively sustain and guide them into an uncertain future. We are invited to follow their example.

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### The Holy Mother of God

Friday, December 31, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 1, 9:30 a.m.

*Does Not Take Place of Sunday Mass, Jan. 2nd. There will be No Mass Sat, Jan 1st at 5:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi. Check schedules of area churches for Sat night Mass for Sunday obligation.*

On this octave day of Christmas, it is fitting to honor Mary as Mother of Jesus. When we celebrate this solemnity, we are not only honoring Mary who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary, "mother of God" is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," this feast honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace." New Year's Day is also designated the World Day of Peace.



Our collection will be for Lifehouse for pregnant women sponsored by Catholic Charities of SW MO.

### Christmas Gems



Formed offers many Christmas gems for the whole family! Check out one or more of the following titles: The Story of the Nativity, Joseph of Nazareth, Mary of Nazareth, Christmas in Rome, The Gift of Peace, Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree, Brother Francis: O Holy Night, Were the Magi at Jesus' Birth? There are also many other resources to make this Christmas season the best ever. Just type "Christmas" in the Formed search menu and enjoy!

### First Reconciliation Jan 10th

The second grade Faith Formation class is preparing for their First Reconciliation on Jan. 10th.

Please keep all the students and their families in your prayers as they will be preparing for this holy sacrament.

Blessings To You



On Your First Reconciliation

## Readings for Week of December 26, 2021

### Sunday

#### Next Sunday

1 Sm 1:20-22,24-28/Ps 84:2-3,5-6,9-10/  
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

### Monday

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1-8

### Tuesday

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7-8/Mt 2:13-18

### Wednesday

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-3, 5-6/Lk 2:22-35

### Thursday

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/Lk 2:36-40

### Friday

1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-13/Jn 1:1-18

### Saturday

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

#### Next Sunday

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/  
Mt 2:1-12



## Stewardship

*A Way of Life*

The first reading today provides a challenging blueprint for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

### 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.



Living the Word

### Question of the Week

Lk 2:41-52

**Key Passage:** He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and men.

**Question:** Reflect/talk about "What is special about your family?"

**Children:** What do you like best about your family?

## Coming Back to Church

### Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

### Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and

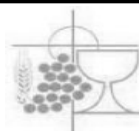


St. Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Come Back to Mass!*

you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back. This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

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Mass Intentions  
for the week



### Sunday, Dec 26th

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

### Tuesday, Dec 28th

Noon ..... † Fr. Robert Landewe

### Wednesday, Dec 29th

6:30 p.m. ....† Sherrill Pojar

### Thursday, Dec 30th

Noon ..... † Michael Livery

### Friday, Dec 31st

5:30 p.m. .... † Paul Bramer, Jr.

### Saturday, Jan. 1st

9:30 a.m. ....† Bonita Holtkamp

### Sunday, Jan. 2nd

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

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of



any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able

to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

*He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.*  
- Lk 2:51-52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Local businesses and sponsors that advertise on bulletins need you now more than ever before. Please encourage and remind others to show their support during this time.

DECEMBER 26, 2021

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**Week of  
December 19, 2021  
Not Available at Print**

**Operating Fund**

Envelopes.....	\$
Plate.....	\$
ACH.....	\$
Total .....	\$
Monthly Receipts Needed .....	\$22,187
Received .....	\$7,084
<b>Needed for Month .....</b>	<b>\$15,103</b>

**Building Fund**

Building Funds in checking .....	\$8,727
Building Trust Fund at Diocese.....	\$259,079
<b>Total Building Funds.....</b>	<b>\$267,806</b>



**Many Thanks**

A HUGE thank you to all who took an ornament off the **Giving Tree** and donated to Least of These. **\$2,545** was raised to help the over 37,375 people in Christian County living in poverty. Funds will be used to provide food and assistance to these individuals.

**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.

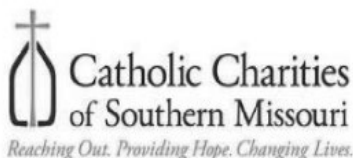
There is no charge for having a Mass said, but many people will make a donation, \$10.

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.

You can book all dates for 2022 and 2023.

**Catholic Charities of SW MO**

Your offering for Immaculate Conception, \$777 will be given to Catholic Charities of SW MO. Motivated by the love of Christ, Catholic Charities of SW MO seeks to improve the lives of the vulnerable by providing quality, compassionate social services which meet local needs. They serve all people regardless of faith.



**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.



**Good Samaritan Program**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish's Good Samaritan Program provides funds for those in need. Funding for the program is from parishioner donations. And when parishioners bring food for Least of These, once we donate 1,000 pounds, the Knights donate \$100 to the fund, up to \$500 per year.

The program funds are distributed confidential. If you are in need of assistance, please contact the parish office via email or Sheri Duncan 417-725-4260.

**New Members 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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



Kids, get your art supplies ready! This year's contest supplies: poster paper and parent consent forms

for all kids 5 through 14 years old, are in the gathering space. Age as of 11/01/2021.

There are three age groups, 5-7, 8-10 and 11-14. **All posters and consent forms must be turned in no later than 01/09/2022 after Mass.** The best poster in each group will win a prize 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 John Clarke via email at [johnhclarke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnhclarke@sbcglobal.net) or 417-880-4292 . Thank you in advance for your participation.

**Purpose of a Cry Room?**

Children of all ages are welcome to worship. However, out of courtesy to rest of community, if your child becomes disruptive, please take them into the Community Room until calmed. There are windows and a speaker so you can hear the Mass. Once your child has calmed, please feel free to return to worship. The "Cry Room" is just as described for when child is upset or disruptive.

For the benefit of all worshippers, please teach your child that the pew is neither a play space nor a place to eat. Food and drink are not permitted in worship space.

**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](http://www.wwme.org), or call/Email Kim Brayman at (417) 866-0841/ [kbrayman@dioscrg.org](mailto:kbrayman@dioscrg.org).



**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 the event will benefit three organizations: Catholic Charities of SW MO, Least of These, and The Kitchen. The goal is \$1 million! 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

**Volunteers Needed In  
Lifehouse**

We are looking for volunteers to work in the LifeHouse office, answering phones and assisting the staff with various tasks. We need you during business hours, and scheduling is flexible. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Jill Bryant at 417-720-4213 or [jbryant@ccsomo.org](mailto:jbryant@ccsomo.org).





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