St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

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

Contacts

Office	
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 Directo	r of Religious Education
Renee TrubyCoordinator	of Religious Education
Debbie Durham	Music Director
Sheri Duncan	Office Manager

Support Volunteers

Deacon Gary Steffes & Ker	t WelchR.C.I.A.
Deacon Gary Steffes	Youth Director
Janet Morehead	Website Administrator
John Rispoli	Technology Administrator

Mass Times

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.



THE EPTPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

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

Living the Liturgy

Human beings easily get bored. Life's routines can become so predictable that there is often little time for excitement or freshness. Today is all about the new and the wonderful. In celebrating the beauty and simplicity of the Epiphany, we see in tangible ways God's creative, redemptive, and restorative power. This refreshment and revitalization is offered not only to a select few but to everyone throughout the world. There is nothing routine or static about God. Surprises, wonders, miracles, opportunities, healings, and joy without measure are available to those who believe. There are never any endings, just beginnings. And, when darkness, boredom, and gloom seem to be the order of the day, a bright new light now shines pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

January 2, 2021 The Epiphany of the Lord

Sharing Our Talent Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, 9:30 a.m. Liturgical Ministries

8			
Mass FacilitatorAimee Alviar			
SacristanEdna Garwood			
Altar Servers Laurin Alviar Lillian Alviar Abby Alviar			
Altar Server Shadow Grayson Lechner & Kenzie Baker			
Rosary Rosie Brookner			
Children's LiturgyNEED			
Children's AssistantAndrew Sehie			
Reader 1 Ann Elwell			
Reader 2NEED			
Present Gifts Mitch & Ann Brake			
MusicDebbie Durham			
Ushers/Greeters:			
David Bellm—Lead Judy Davis			
Carrie Bellm Abby Muniz			
Hospitality: Pat Yarberry Suzanne West Dan & Diane Keenan			
Donut Hero: Darrell & Deb Hinkebein			
Money Counters Ministry:			
Kevin & Kathy Heitland Jean Stehle			
Laundry MinistryVirginia Pojar			
Building Cleaning: Team #3 (Jan 18)			
John & Julie Clarke, Carrie Bellm, Jean Stehle, Rachel Sutter,			
Danny & Toni Marra, Chris & Melinda Johnmeyer, Jem Callwood,			
Chris Hardwick, Mark & Regina Schweiss			
Plant Care: Harold & Rose Kuppinger			
<u>Liturgical Ministers ~ Saturday, Jan. 8, 5:30 p.m.</u>			
Mass Facilitator/Sacristan Rose Kuppinger			
Server Jeff Chan			
RosaryChan Family			
Reader 1 Harold Kuppinger			
Reader 2Jayne Parmley			

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry Wed., Jan. 5th, 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 onceper-month meeting for fellowship as well.

Present GiftsJohn & Nancy Staudt

Ushers/GreetersJeanine Bratcher & Dan Baltz

Music Jessica Durham

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 <u>chanjen@mac.com</u>

Sunday January The Epiphany of The Lord 9:00 a.m. Rosary 2 9:30 a.m. Mass 11:00 a.m. Faith Formation Classes 4:30 p.m. RCIA Monday 6:30 p.m. Book Study Meeting 3 Tuesday St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 4 12:00 p.m. Mass Wednesday St. John Neumann, Bishop 5 7:00 a.m. Early Risers 11:00 a.m. Castlewood 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 p.m. Mass Thursday St. Andre Bessette 6 9:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship 12:00 p.m. Mass 1:00 p.m. Loving Stitches Friday St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest 7 12:00 p.m. Mass Saturday 7:00 a.m. Early Risers 8 5:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 p.m. Mass Sunday The Baptism of The Lord 9 9:00 a.m. Rosary "Keep Christ In Christmas" Poster Due before Mass

9:30 a.m. Mass

4:30 p.m. RCIA

Following Mass Welcome Table

Undecorate for Christmas Season

11:00 a.m. Faith Formation Classes

6:00 Social/7:00 p.m. Knights & Ladies Aux Meeting

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 ne 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.



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

Un-Deck The Halls!! Sunday, Jan. 9th **Please Help!!** After our donut break, we need **MANY** to help take Christmas

decorations down. This will go FAST if you help!!

Welcome

Are you new to St. Francis of Assisi? Or have you been a New Parishioners member for a while but have questions about our ministries or programs? You're in-

vited to stop by the Welcome Table after Mass, Sunday, Jan. 9th. Meet a few of our friendly parishioners and find out what makes our parish unique. We can't wait to meet you!

The Epiphany of the Lord

Bob was growing in frustration and bordering on anger as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. 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 often 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 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, disin-

terested, 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 an-



swers 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. 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!

Readings for Week of January 2, 2022 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 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-4, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16,21-22or, ls 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1-4, 24-25, 27-30 / Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will I go and what will I offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?



CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON ALL THE WAY THROUGH JANUARY 9



Question of the Week Matthew 2:1-12

Key Passage: "Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage..." Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Question: What are the limits and the risks that you would take in your search for Jesus?

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

March for Life

The Knights of Columbus will send 2 adults or youth from this parish to attend the March for Life event in Washington, D.C.



January 19-22. Depart Springfield Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. and return Jan. 22 about 5 p.m. If interested, contact as soon as possible, Deacon Gary,

<u>dre@stfrancisnixa.org</u> or John Clarke 417-880-4292, <u>johnhclarke@sbcglobal.net</u>

<u>Nudging Conversions: A Practical Guide to Bring-</u> ing Those You Love Back to the Church

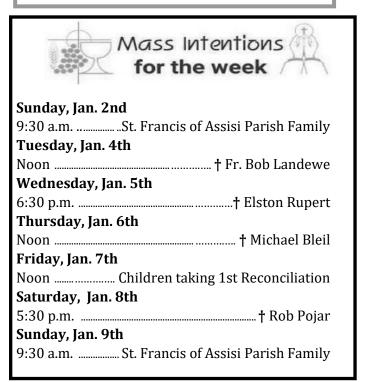
by Carrie Gress

A guide to encourage friends & family to come back to the Church. Learn the right questions to ask, how to answer tough questions about the faith, when to speak up, when to keep silent, and more. <u>https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/nudgingconversions/NCON.html.</u>

If you shop at Amazon, Help Support St. Francis of Assisi. Start shopping by clicking on <u>https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-1317407</u> And saving VES for St. Francis of Assisi

And saying YES for St. Francis of Assisi.

amazonsmile



"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 <u>11/01/2021</u>.



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 or 417-880-4292 . Thank you in advance for your participation.

What is The Synod on Synodality?

"The mission of the Church requires the entire People of God to be on a journey together, with each member playing his or her crucial role, united with each other. A synodal Church walks forward in communion to pursue a common mission through the participation of each and every one of her members. The objective of this Synodal Process is not to provide a temporary or onetime experience of synodality, but rather to provide an opportunity for the entire People of God to discern together how to move forward on the path towards being a more synodal Church in the long-term" (Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality #1.3)

Through the Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis is asking the Church to rediscover its deeply synodal roots and to reflect on how the path of synodality is the way for the entire People of God to journey forward together.

Through the Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis is inviting and encouraging, "ALL People of God" to participate in a local consultation process. For the

diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau this means arranging for local parish consultation sessions in which "ALL People of God" are invited to participate in dialogues groups.



Vocational Prayer Families

Our parish wants to encourage



and foster vocations to the religious life and especially the priesthood which is so vitally important for the ongoing sacramental life and health of the Catholic Church. We are passing a crucifix between families who have pledged to pray daily for the discernment of young men to the priesthood, for our seminarians, and for our clergy. We hope that your family will join us in that endeavor.

There are sign-up sheet in the gathering space. Please consider being part of this prayerful service to the Church. You may also sign up by contacting Deacon Gary <u>dre@stfrancisnixa.org</u>.

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



Week of December 26, 2021

Operating Fund

Envelopes	\$2,864
Plate	\$748
ACH	\$0
Total	\$3,612
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$22,187
Received	\$21,570
Needed for Month	\$617
Building Fund	
Building Funds in checking	\$9,828
Building Trust Fund at Diocese	\$259,079
Total Building Funds	\$268,907



Ladies Auxiliary 15th Annual Chili/Soup Cook-off Sunday, January 30th, Following Mass This event is open to ALL. You

can enter your winning recipe and decorate your booth for a prize! OR you can simply

come and taste all the GREAT Chili and Soup! Bring canned good(s) as your entry fee and use to <u>vote</u> on your favorite recipe and favorite booth. Canned goods will be donated to Least of These Food Pantry. Questions, contact Julie Clarke, jclarke109@live.com



A little girl and her mother were looking at the Nativity scene. The mother was explaining that the Wise

Men were presenting their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the newborn King. The little girl looked in great adoration at the babe in the manger, then, turning to her mother, thoughtfully asked, "Why didn't they bring Him a bed?"

Stewardship Prayer

We recognize that through prayer we nurture our personal relationship



with God. The second Sunday of each month before Mass, a parish member will lead the congregation in a Stewardship Prayer.

Additional Donations for Christmas Flowers

We are grateful to those who made a contribution toward the flowers and decorations for this Christmas Season. THANK YOU for your generosity.



Margie Arens; Althea Champagne in memory of Louis Champagne; Jackie Coleman; Darrell & Deb Hinkebein; and Carl Schimek

Alternative Ways to Contribute

Required Minimum Distributions: If you have reached the age of a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA (age 72), there are some tax advantages you may want to consider. If you have your IRA account administrator write the check directly to the Diocese for the benefit of St. Francis of Assisi Parish or other ministries of your choice, your gift will not be treated as taxable income. This is a tremendous tax benefit. Please consider a gift to St. Francis of Assisi Church. Contact your financial planner, IRA administrator, or the Diocesan Finance office if you have any questions.

<u>Gifts of Appreciated Stock</u>: Many people have realized significant gains in their stock market holdings. We hope you will consider a gift of stock to St. Francis of Assisi Church. The Diocesan Finance Office can assist you with your gift.

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 <u>https://tinyurl.com/SFANewMember</u>

Name _____

Address ____

City _____

Phone ____

____Email___

Zip_____

Knights of Columbus Meeting or Ladies Auxiliary Meeting



Meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 9th. Social at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m. at

St. Francis of Assisi O"Reilly Community Room.

If you are interested in Knights of Columbus,

please contact Grand Knight John Clarke,

johnhclarke@sbcglobal.net

If interested in Knights Ladies Auxiliary, contact Julie Clarke, <u>jclarke109@live.com</u>



The Cornerstone Catholic

RSTONE Scripture Study You are invited to take a spiritual journey through

spiritual journey through scripture where Jesus is "The Cornerstone."

The Cornerstone is a Catholic in depth study of the Scriptures for men and women involving daily study questions, small group sharing, spiritual reflection, and commentary readings.

Join us as we study the Book of Genesis and journey with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Learn how God revealed His almighty power and love through His everlasting covenants that enjoined God and man.

The daytime group meets on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. <u>A Visitor's Day is scheduled for January 13</u>, <u>2022.</u> For more information, phone Nicola at 823-0911.

The nighttime group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. <u>A Visitor's Day is scheduled for Jan-</u> <u>uary 11, 2022.</u> For more information, phone Paula at 894-4678 or Mary Ellen at 849-1793.

www.thecornerstonescripturestudy.org

Diocesan Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration!

Contact: Marilyn Gibson 417.224.4043 <u>marilyngibson@outlook.com</u>



Adorers Needed

Wednesday 12 a.m. and Saturday Noon Adoration will resume Jan 3rd at 1 p.m.

To reach our goal of 2 people per an hour we need 65 Additional Adorers. Join our substitute list to experience the peace of adoration. Please call Marilyn Gibson 417-224-4043 to sign up for the Diocesan Perpetual Adoration. Holy Trinity Parish has security measures are in place for those with safety concerns,



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.

The fee is \$15 advanced; \$20 day of registration, per bowler covers the cost of bowling (3 games) plus shoes and bowling ball.



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.

This year, everyone is asked to bring a canned food and/or non-perishable item for those in need. For more information and forms: <u>https://</u> 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.



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Francis Assisi, Nixa, MO

A 4C 02-0950