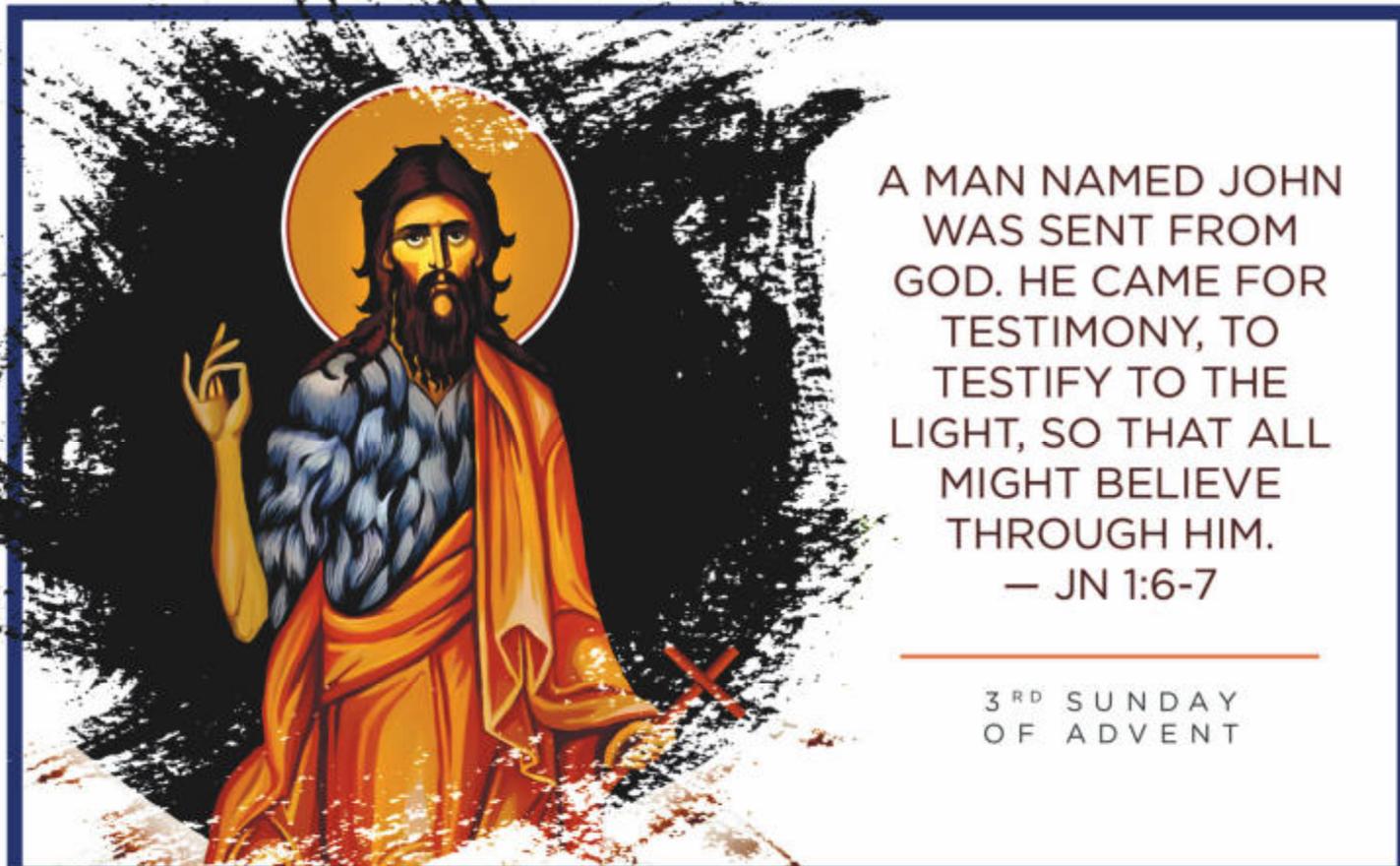
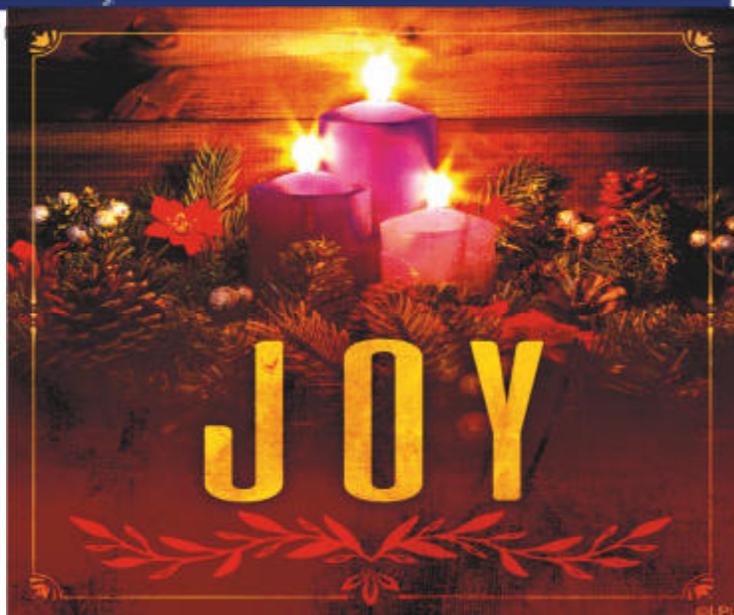
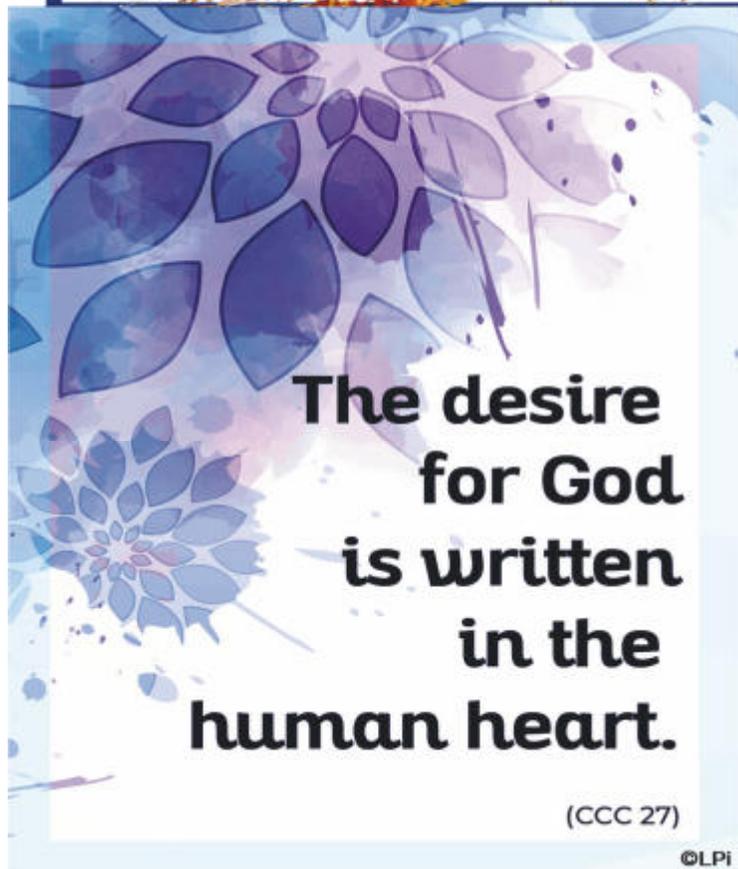


St Francis of Assisi Church & St Philip Benizi Mission

Dec 13, 2020



3RD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



MASS TIMES-

Saturday: 4pm Reconciliation 5:30pm Mass at St. Francis

Sunday: 7:30am & 9am Mass at St. Francis

Sunday: 11am Mass at St. Philip of Benizi Mission in Darby

Tuesday: 12:10pm at St. Francis

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday : 9am Mass at St. Francis

Parish Events

Saturday, December 12
 4pm Reconciliation
 5:30 pm Mass at St. Francis

Sunday, December 13
Third Sunday of Advent

7:30am & 9am Mass at St. Francis
 11am Mass at St. Philip of Benizi (Darby)

Monday, December 14
 NO Mass

Tuesday, December 15
 NO Mass

Wednesday, December 16
 8:30 Rosary in Chapel
 9am Mass
 9:30 Women of Faith
 5:30pm Accountability Group
 6pm JH/HS Religious Ed class

Thursday, December 17
 8:30 Rosary in Chapel
 9am Mass

Friday, December 18
 8:30 Rosary in Chapel
 9am Mass
 9:30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 5pm Community Meals (drive thru)

Saturday, December 19
 4pm Confession
 4pm Rosary Makers
 5:30pm Mass at St. Francis

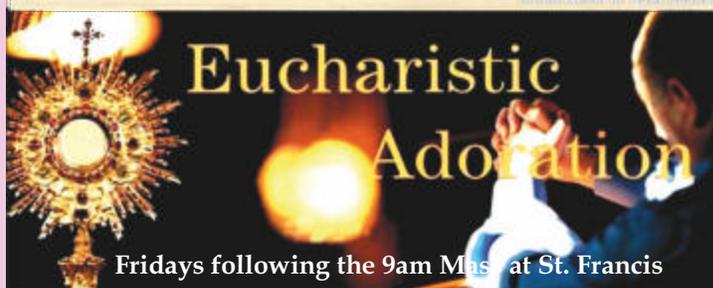
Sunday, December 20
Fourth Sunday of Advent
 7:30am & 9am Mass at St. Francis
 NO Class - K-5th Faith Formation
 11 am Mass at St. Philip of Benizi (Darby)

Christmas Cards to the Homebound

Members of St. Francis will be mailing Christmas Cards to the homebound.

If you, or someone you know is homebound and would like to receive a Christmas Card, please call

Cathy at 961-5413.



Eucharistic Adoration
 Fridays following the 9am Mass at St. Francis



My soul rejoices in my God.
 LUKE 1

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sat Dec 12	5:30pm Mass: For Dr. Armon Meis by Philip, Gailleigh & Timothy Meis
Sun Dec 13	7:30am Mass: For Community of the Parish 9am Mass: For Tom Ford by Jeannie Horner 11am Mass: For Jude Todd by Terri
Tues Dec 15	NO Mass
Wed Dec 16	9am Mass: For Fr. Dan Driscoll by Dave & Cathy Fahrenbruck
Thurs Dec 17	9am Mass: For Joanne Neilson by Joyce McKinzie
Fri Dec 18	9am Mass: For Tom Ford by Pat Ryan Swindler

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 12/12 Ken Nuxoll, Maggie Buchanan, Richard Bujok
Nancy Miller, Josephine Lund
12/13 Linda Jakub, David Beaulieu, Courtney
Albright
12/14 Marlene Hauck, Karin Melnarik, Olivia Buoy
12/15 Larry Bays, Phu Hai Nguyen, Paul Benson,
Carter Giles, Heidi Sanderson
12/16 Susan Wilkins
12/17 Timothy Mueller, Susan Davis, Heather
Shortridge, McKayl Rothie, Isabella Cymbala
12/18 Barbara Haubrich, Donna Severson,
Abaigeal Hart
12/19 Mary Zenon, Jeff McChristian

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 12/15 Juergen & Hermine Berger 56 yrs
12/17 Tom & Ann Martin 32 yrs
12/19 Monte & Dana Monroe 33 yrs

If you don't see your Birthday or Anniversary listed, please call or come to the parish office and fill out/update a registration form because we want to celebrate with you - we want to remember and give thanks!

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The Annual Catholic Appeal 2020

We have 532 registered households.

To date, **128** pledges have been made which is **24%** of our parish families. We have received **\$40,623** in pledges which puts us at **64%** of our goal of \$63,500.00.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.



PARKING ANNOUNCEMENT

Parishioners are asked to utilize the parking spaces on our church property. If none are available, you are asked to use the angle parking that surrounds our property. Handicapped parking spaces are reserved for those parishioners with permits and physical challenges. The use of all parking spaces will be much more convenient when the new building project is completed.



PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The St. Francis Parish Office will be **CLOSED** Thursday, Dec 24th through Tuesday, Dec 29th. The office will be open from **8am - 12pm on Wednesday, Dec 30th.**

The office will be **CLOSED** on Thursday, Dec 31 and Friday, Jan 1st 2021.

Open regular hours starting on Monday, January 4th.



A virtual, online Retrouvaille marriage help program starts Thursday evening, January 14th.

The Retrouvaille Community of Montana has been invited to join with California's Northern Community in offering this online weekend. The virtual program begins Thursday & Friday evenings and a full day on Saturday and Sunday, **January 14 - 17, 2021**. The weekend will be followed by a series of virtual Post Weekend Sessions. There is a \$500 registration fee per couple. Please know that no one is turned away because of the inability to pay. For additional information please contact us at 406-761-4830 or view the details at www.helpourmarriage.org

Community Meals continue on Friday's at St. Francis

St. Francis parish will be hosting **FREE** Community Dinners on Friday evenings as part of a coalition of churches to feed those in need. Dinners will be served drive-thru style from **5:00 to 6:00pm. NO meals served Dec 25th or January 1st.**



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 13, 2020 3rd Sunday of Advent

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift.

My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow. ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Obligation: Mass or Communion?

Question: Are Catholics obligated to attend Mass each Sunday, or receive Communion each Sunday?

Answer: The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the "Precepts" of the Church. These specific teachings are intended to stand alongside the Ten



Commandments as fundamental practices for Catholics and are outlined in the Code of Canon Law. The obligations related to Mass attendance and receiving Communion are outlined in the first and third precepts, which we find quoted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 2042): The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days. The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy. Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: "Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human" (Dies Domini, no. 7.) ©LPi



Saint Peter Canisius, Doctor of the Church

Saint Peter Canisius was a Jesuit priest at the height of the many Protestant reformations in 16th century Europe. He is known as a prolific Catholic theologian, preacher, teacher and evangelizer.

Canisius was born in 1521 in the city of Nijmegen, now in the Netherlands, son of the city's burgermeister (mayor). At age 15, he studied at the University of Cologne, earning a master's degree in 1540. Following his stewardship desire to serve God in the Church in Germany, he became the first Dutchman to join the newly formed Society of Jesus in 1543.

Canisius became one of the most influential Catholics of his time. Through his teaching, preaching and writing, he led an historic renewal of the Catholic faith in southern Germany and Austria. Canisius wrote a number of books, preached retreats, founded the first German-speaking Jesuit colleges, and cared for the sick, reputedly traveling more than twenty thousand miles on foot or horseback. Because of these frequent travels, tedious and dangerous at the time, he became known as the Second Apostle of Germany after Saint Boniface. Canisius declined an appointment to become Archbishop of Vienna in order to continue his evangelizing ministry.

Renowned as a popular preacher, Canisius packed churches and was said to have been so eloquent and convincing that he attracted hundreds of Protestants back to the Catholic faith. Canisius produced a well-organized and easily accessible German-language catechism, followed by two abbreviated versions: one for middle school students and one for young children.

Canisius was influential with Emperor Ferdinand I, and participated in the Council of Trent. Devoted to the Virgin Mary, he is credited with adding to the Hail Mary the sentence Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners. When asked if he felt overworked, the energetic Canisius replied with a stewardship quote: "If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all."

Canisius died on December 21, 1597 at age 76. Canonized and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1925, he is the patron saint of Germany.

His feast day is December 21.

Sacraments

Baptism: By appt. Baptismal preparation sessions offered to parents and sponsors as announced. Parents must be registered with our parish.

Reconciliation: Saturdays 4pm in the Church or by appointment with the priest.

Marriage: Diocesan policy requires six months preparation. If you are planning a wedding, always check with the pastor before setting a date.

Confirmation: Preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation is integrated into High School Youth Program. Youth are expected to attend starting in the 9th grade. The sacrament is celebrated for 10th though 12th graders who have received a minimum of two years catechesis and other Confirmation Classes in addition to other requirements.

1st Penance & 1st Eucharist: For 2nd grade as scheduled in the year. The child must be enrolled in Religious Education Class & a registered family member of our parish.

Sacrament of the Sick: As needed in each sickness, call and let us know.

Prayer Chain: Judy Giggar 363-2784 or judy.giggar@gmail.com, Ginny Rose at 360-7779 or casadersas@msn.com, or Joyce Faucher at 361-8298 or daddsgirl913@yahoo.com



~ Parish Directory ~

Parish Office phone # 406-363-1385 fax # 406-363-1451

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Wellness Ministry	(703) 786-5990	RCIA Coordinator	Bonnie McKenna email her at

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