

# St. Francis of Assisi

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



**MAY 01, 2022 • 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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**Rev. George-Bede Ajuruchi, SSJ**  
[gebee78@yahoo.com](mailto:gebee78@yahoo.com)

## THE JOSEPHITES

Betty John - *Volunteer Secretary*

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.–12 noon

### MASS SCHEDULE WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 7:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

### WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday-Friday 7:00 a.m.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

In the Rectory Chapel

Friday, 8:00a.m. to Friday 6:00 p.m.

### CONFESSIONS

Tuesday through Friday 7:30–8:00 a.m.

Saturday 3:45–4:15 p.m.

Sunday 8:45–9:15 a.m.

and any time upon request.

### BAPTISMS

If you are s32

seeking information about Baptisms please contact Mrs. Melazie Jacobs at 332-1788.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes September through April

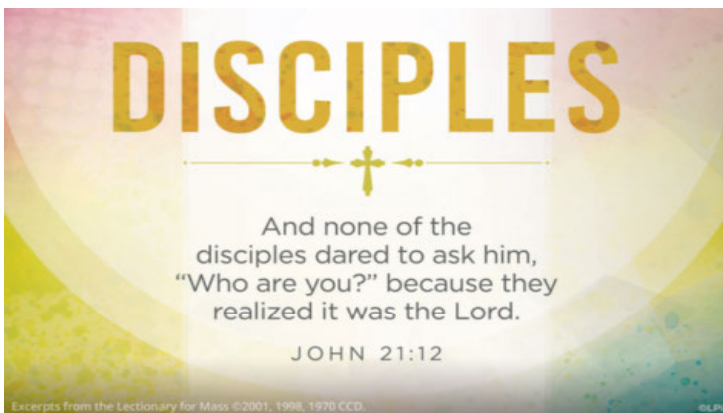
Sundays 8:00–9:00 a.m. (Grades 1–6)

Sundays 10:45–11:45 a.m. (Grades 7–11)

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**May 01**—Marie Celestine, Sherry Dugas  
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**May 03**—Paige Williams  
**May 04**—Verna Celestine, Betty John  
**May 05**—  
**May 06**—Joseph Babineaux, Corky Benoit, Cotrell Foster, Brenda Gary, Keisha Noel  
**May 07**—William Alexander  
**May 08**—Alta Mae Celestine, Michael Cochran Jr.

**Happy Birthday**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA) desires to bring the Light of the Holy Spirit to everyone we encounter, and we ask the faith filled Christians here at St. Francis of Assisi to be part of our Evangelization process. Let us embark on a journey of Light following our Lord who will give us the “Light of Life”.

For more information call Cassandra Griffin at 337-257-1942 or Betty John at 337-442-1177.



**WEEKLY BULLETIN**

**Potier’s Washateria**

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**MASS ATTENDANCE**

<b>APRIL 23</b>	<b>4:30 P.M.</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>APRIL 24</b>	<b>7:00 A.M.</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>APRIL 24</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>	<b><u>215</u></b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>337</b>

**COLLECTION—04/24/22**  
**\$2,818.50**

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 Ada Landry

## WORSHIP & MEDITATION



### FIRST READING

"We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." (Acts 5:32)



### PSALM

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. (Ps 30)  
Or Alleluia.



### SECOND READING

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing." (Rev 5:12)



### GOSPEL

Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. (Jn 21:13)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



### GOSPEL MEDITATION

#### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Could it be that God's image has become so soiled and distorted that it is hard for us to see it? Our self-serving agendas have done a great job twisting God's image into what profits us. We want our agenda to be God's agenda and use prayer as the convincing leverage we need. Worse still, our success and egocentric agenda often erases God's image completely, replacing it with our own. St. Oscar Romero instructs us that the Son of Man "dies on the cross to cleanse God's image, which is soiled in today's humanity, a humanity so enslaved, so selfish, so sinful." Striving to preserve control of our destinies at all costs, we fail to see the risen suffering servant, the Christ, standing right beside us.

Jesus, who suffered and died on a cross and was raised from the dead, corrects our soiled image of God. He shows us God as God is, not who we want to make God to be. God is the God of the poor, the weak, and the marginalized. He is the God who tenderly caresses us when we are suffering and hurting, assuring us that all will be safe and well. He is the God of equity, peace, justice, and compassion who wants happiness for each of His children, desiring their wellbeing and success. God goes where men and women are afraid to go, sitting with the lost, the broken, and the sorrowing. St. Oscar Romero challenges us to illuminate with "Christ's light ... even the most hideous caverns of the human person: torture, jail, plunder, want, chronic illness. The oppressed must be saved." The resurrection calls us to be God's microphone, a messenger, and a prophet (St. Oscar Romero).

Using eyes that see beyond the limited constructs and desires of our world, we can see the true and real Jesus standing before us, calling us to transformation and change. Asking us more than once, "do you love me?" We are beckoned to give an answer. Answering in the affirmative, it is now our task to feed the sheep and the lambs who belong to God. In short, equipped with the power of the resurrection and a corrected image of God our task is to make things better, brighter, holier, more life-giving, and just for all of God's children. Considering our choices, our interactions, our philosophies, and aspirations, how can we do this?

From the Pastor's Desk**FOOD FOR THOUGHT****ENCOURAGING THE ENCOURAGER**

I remember brother John today. We called him Brother J. Everyone knew him in our church then, especially members of the parish's Charismatic Movement prayer group. He was an encourager. If he knew of someone with a need, he would not rest until he met it or until he got someone who could. He was not a priest, nor was he one of the leaders in the Charismatic Movement, but he would have passed for any of those. He visited, counseled, and prayed for people. No one could miss our prayer meetings two weeks in a row without having Brother J visit him. He was one smiling, energetic brother who was always smiling and available. He did not seem to have a care in the world. As busy as he always was helping people, I never heard him complain about anyone. I had seen him respond to the most abrasive insults with good-natured jokes and sweet laughter.

I returned from school when I was in college, and at my first prayer meeting, I noticed that Brother J was not there. I asked some of his 'friends' why, and they could not give me a definite answer. One said maybe he had traveled to see his family. Another said maybe he was busy doing something important. All I got was a bunch of "maybes" and more maybes from his 'besties.' I asked some guys who had been helped by brother J, and they could not tell me anything useful. Even those in leadership could not tell me anything important.

During the week, I decided to look for Brother J. It took me two days to find his house. I was shocked. This gracious brother was living in the most inhospitable condition. A boy showed me his room, the room he used to live in. Brother J had died four months earlier. None of his brethren was aware. Not even those he helped. This gracious brother had fallen on hard times in the past eighteen months and had lost so much. This made him move to this terrible neighborhood of gangs, living in unsanitary conditions. He had been asthmatic, but his trials and living conditions aggravated his ill health. Brother J was sick and was in his room for a week. He died in that room.

The boy that took me to his room told me Brother J sent him to one of the brothers in his church group at the height of his sickness. That one said he would tell the others. My investigation revealed that he told a couple of people, and they all agreed to visit him sometime. They never did. His neighbors took his body to the morgue and did what they could to find his extended family members. Brother J had been quietly forgotten by the people he loved. I cried.

My dear friends, do not ever think that the people around you who seem to be very strong do not need encouragement. The brethren who neglected Brother J were probably good people who took his strength for granted. They believed Brother J was usually fine and would be okay this time as well. You know that smooth presumption that makes you think, "I know it is too late, and daddy should be home by now, but I am sure he can take care of himself. Let us go to sleep"?

Encouragers need encouragement. To encourage you, they sometimes have to ignore their own troubles, which may be much bigger than yours. You may think they are very rich, but they may have issues in their lives that money cannot handle. You may think they are always happy, but they are only smiling for you. They may be trying to lift you up while they are down. Those who are strong for others sometimes need someone to be strong for them. The people you go to when you feel like giving up on life, when you are neck deep in financial or marital challenges, who leave everything to spend hours with you on the phone, pray with you, visit you and nurse your battered confidence back to health, they need encouragement too.

Your mother, father, brother, or pastor may be the strongest person you have ever known. Most times, what they have shielded you from had hit them hard in the past and left some marks on them. You do not know about these because they chose not to tell you. Sometimes the minor errors they commit are due to the pressures on them. You sometimes judge them too harshly because you have not been where they have been.

I call on you today to encourage your encouragers. Call them and thank them. Tell them how much you appreciate them. Tell them you have not taken them for granted and pray for them. Some of us are alive today because of those who left their challenges to attend to our troubles. Do not abandon your Brother J. He is probably battling a giant now that a word from you can help him defeat. Letting him know you care for him may be all he or she needs to hear. Don't be offended if he seems to have withdrawn from you. He is probably hiding his challenges from you, not wanting to burden you with his troubles.

Again, encourage your encourager. Remain blessed.

## PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

*“Eternal Father, we lift up to You these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen*

*May 01*—Pope Francis

*May 02*—Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

*May 03*—Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel

*May 04*—Bishop Emeritus Michael Jarrell

*May 05*—Rev. Salinger Istre

*May 06*—Rev. Thomas James, SVD

*May 07*—Rev. Johnathan Janise

*May 08*—Rev. Stanley Jawa, SVD

*“For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.” (Hb. 5:1)*



### Baptism Requirements for St. Francis of Assisi

Parents or guardian requesting Baptism must pick up a copy of the Baptism Requirements from the office.

All information must be turned in by the week before Baptism.



## What are the qualities of a good confession?

A good confession is humble, sincere and complete.

- It’s humble when we accuse ourselves of our sins with a deep sorrow for having offended the Lord while imploring his loving mercy.
- It’s sincere when we tell all of our sins honestly and truthfully, without exaggerating or excusing them.
- It’s complete when we confess all of our mortal sins, including the number of times we have committed each one.

# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 1, 2022

**Sunday:** Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

**Monday:** Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29

**Tuesday:** 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

**Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40

**Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51

**Friday:** Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59

**Saturday:** Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Jn 6:60-69

**Next Sunday:** Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 [3c]/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 1, 2022

**Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Easter; St. Joseph the Worker

**Monday:** St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

**Tuesday:** Sts. Philip and James, Apostles

**Thursday:** National Day of Prayer; Cinco de Mayo

**Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations; Mother’s Day

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

What prevents us from seeing the Lord? We are not used to seeing Jesus in the ordinary, everyday events of our lives. We expect some kind of startling, extraordinary revelation to occur that definitely and unmistakably sends a signal that God wants our attention. We don’t expect a visit from Jesus while we are having breakfast, doing the dishes, running after the kids, negotiating a deal at work, or taking a shower! Sometimes when God simply stands on the shore of our lives casually looking for us, we don’t recognize him. Did we ever stop and think that God is really and truly interested in the routine, run of the mill events of our lives? So, “what did you do today?” God may ask. Maybe we don’t think that God is concerned about such things, or we are so consumed with life’s demands that we give it little if any thought. Perhaps we are determined to achieve our own success, desire to control things ourselves or not really sure what God cares about. God is there. One day, out of the blue, God will get our attention and ask, “Do you love me?”

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