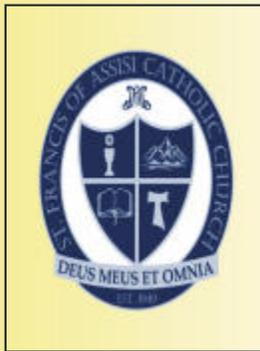


MARCH 7, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

# SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.  
Text to Give: (833) 938-2034

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

## PARISH STAFF

**Pastor:** Fr. Rob Adams

**Deacon:** Dcn. Joe Jacobs

**Director of Religious Education:**

Sr. Amy Westbrook, 614-282-2103

**Administrative Assistant:** Becky Griffith

**Custodian:** Lisa Scalf

137 Bryan Street  
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App: St Francis Pikeville



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area. - Jn 2:13b-15a



## From the Pastor's Desk....

### Sunday Offertory

2-28-202.....	\$2,196
Weekly Budget.....	\$2,700
Surplus/ <b>Deficit</b> .....	\$504
YTD Offertory.....	\$98,269
YTD Budget.....	\$94,500
<b>Surplus</b> /Deficit.....	\$3,769
2-28-2021 Building Fund .....	\$55

**BUILDING FUND UPDATE:** We currently owe \$81,745 on the new church building. Thank you for your continued support of the Church Building Fund.



**Exodus 20:1-17**  
**1 Corinthians 1:22-25**  
**John 2:13-25**

The law liberates and leads us to freedom. It is to be trusted for it is a source of wisdom . Jesus speaks of the ultimate freedom to be won for us by his being raised up. He is the sign of the power and wisdom of God.

**Readings may be found  
 in the Saint Augustine  
 Hymnal Number 940**

This Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Lent. Traditionally, this was the beginning of the Lenten Scrutinies for those who will be baptized at Easter. In the early Church, the Scrutinies were an examination of the candidates for baptism. The Church made sure that people who wanted to be baptized were living the Gospel as best as they could. Nowadays, we do this examination in RCIA, but we still perform the prayers of the scrutinies on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent. This means that all the readings are going to be confusing and all over the place! Please make sure to listen about how to find them!

I am sad to announce that Bill Nusser, a member of our parish, was killed in a car accident on Saturday February 28. His funeral was held at St. Francis last Friday. Please remember Bill and his family in your prayers.

Fr. Rob

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is a Eucharistic family of Catholic Christians. Nourished by the sacraments and guided by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim Jesus Christ and the Good News of salvation. Following the spirit of the Gospel, St. Francis parish provides continous religious education and spiritual growth for all parishioners, varied opportunities for social enrichment, and support for the needs of families in Pike County, our nation and the world.

### Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, March 6	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Charles L. Schmidt
Sunday, March 7	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, March 8	No Mass	
Tuesday, March 9	Noon Mass	+Severino Tanael
Wednesday, March 10	Noon Mass	+William Parlier
Thursday, March 11	Noon Mass	+Charles Schmidt
Friday, March 12	Noon Mass	Intentions of Jim Goss
Saturday, March 13	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Lucille and Ned Bush
Sunday, March 14	10:30 am Mass	For the People

# Parish Calendar & Announcements

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE  
DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF  
SCRIPTURE**

**3RD SUNDAY OF LENT**

Many prefer a “create as you go” approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a “you can’t tell me what to do” attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults, are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other’s space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.

We have lost our axis to the world of “anything goes” and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on “relativism island” where only a possible suggestion to “love and do not harm” may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus’ display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times.

Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life’s preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost. ©LPi

**FIRST SCRUTINY**

Why do we continue to climb that hill day after day for water, when we have been given everlasting water by the One who came to reconcile us to the Father? Those seeking to be cleansed in baptismal waters at Easter go through Scrutinies "to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good" (RCIA 141). The story of the woman at the well speaks to all of us of everlasting water that heals us and gives us strength for the journey. There are those among us who long for this, but we who have been marked for Christ a long time ago already possess it. But too often we continue to climb high hills looking for something else to satisfy us. The Samaritan woman leaves behind her container at the well when she leaves, for there is no reason for her ever to return. You and I have left our vessels at the well also. Stop climbing that hill. Today, as you listen to the words of the Scrutiny prayers and ritual, let us be resolved to drink again from that everlasting water God has given to us.

**ADORATION/CONFESSION** will be each Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm during Lent.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be each Friday, 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm during Lent.

**RCIA** will be each Friday, 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm during Lent.



**PRAYER REQUEST**



Jim Goss

Ron Saros

Jonthan and Michelle Meece, pregnancy. Pat and Ron Saros, nephew

Dave Such, Mollie Dawahare Such's father in law

Andy Vanzant, Lisa Scalf's Family

Cindy and Christy Hedinger

Tedric Evangelista, Gloria Newsom's cousin, cancer

Rita Scheuer

Kenny Blackburn

Alpha Carroll, Signature Health Care

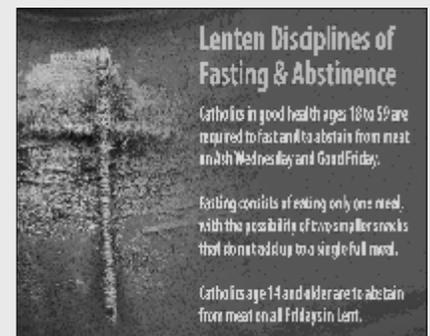
Dr. Harry Altman

Carol Rashella

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

Peggy Brown, Jennifer Brown Day's grandmother



**VOTIVE CANDLES:**

Suggested donation: Large votives \$3.00 and small votives \$0.50



**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH - Sacrament of Reconciliation - Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.**

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