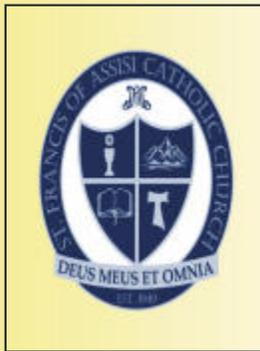


MARCH 14, 2021

FOURTH 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
Pikeville, Kentucky 41501
Phone: 606-437-6117

Website: www.stfrancispikeville.org
Email: stfranchischurch@cdlex.org
App: St Francis Pikeville



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. - Jn 3:20-21



From the Pastor's Desk....

Sunday Offertory

3-07-202.....\$4,005
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
Surplus/Deficit.....\$1,305

YTD
 Offertory.....\$102,274
 YTD Budget.....\$97,200
Surplus/Deficit.....\$5,074

3-07-2021 Building Fund\$720

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



2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 3:14-21

God pardons and raises up those who have been unfaithful, those who have loved the darkness rather than the light. For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to deliver the world from exile.

Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 943

Good Sunday Morning,

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Lent and it is traditionally known as Laetare (pronounced lay-ta-ray) Sunday. While you might not have known that, you probably know it as the Pink Sunday in Lent. This is one of the two days of the whole year where the priest wears pink vestments at Mass. The Scriptures this weekend call us to rejoice in the Lord. And so, the Church wears pink to rejoice that Lent is almost over! Hang in there! If you have had a good Lent-keep up the good work! If you have had a bad Lent-there is still time!

Speaking of the end of Lent, we will be releasing a Holy Week schedule very soon. We will be able to hold all the normal Holy Week Masses, but with reduced capacity and without certain parts of the services. I'll release the Holy Week Schedule as soon as I get it figured out!

God Bless,
 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 13	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Lucille and Ned Bush
Sunday, March 14	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, March 15	No Mass	
Tuesday, March 16	Noon Mass	Intentions of the Goss Family
Wednesday, March 17	Noon Mass	+Cindy Greene
Thursday, March 18	Noon Mass	+Larry Nelson Ratliff
Friday, March 19	Noon Mass	+Covie Joseph Schmidt
Saturday, March 20	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Covie Joseph Schmidt
Sunday, March 21	10:30 am Mass	For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God's unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news.

St. Oscar Romero said that, "a church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge! Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution.

The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God's good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also states, that, "we are workers, not master builder, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the

here and now but of the "what is to come." Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin. ©LPi

SECOND SCRUTINY

Today our catechumens celebrate the second scrutiny in our RCIA process. Earlier in the week they each received a copy of the Creed that we all profess each Sunday. Let us pray with them as they ponder the deep confessional truths in our creed as they look forward to the Easter Vigil.

Let us pray.

We confess our faith in you, our One and eternal Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We pray today for our catechumens who have received the gift of faith and now reflection on the Creed. May they trust in the truth of Christ as they find freedom from sin. We know that we must model for them what it means to live for Christ. Help us and our neighbors to profess the faith in our actions and thoughts. Give wisdom to our catechumens to persevere in faith even when it is difficult. We ask this and profess our faith in you, God and Father with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2ND COLLECTION for Catholic Charities was \$778.00. This money will be used to assist victims of the recent flooding in Eastern Ky. Please continue to be in prayer for the families.

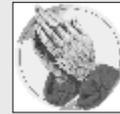
POOR BOX: During the month of February 2021 we collected \$218 in the poor box to assist the ministry of Helping Hands. Thank you!



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins March 14. Spring those clocks forward!



PRAYER REQUEST



Jim Goss

Ron Saros

Jonathan 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

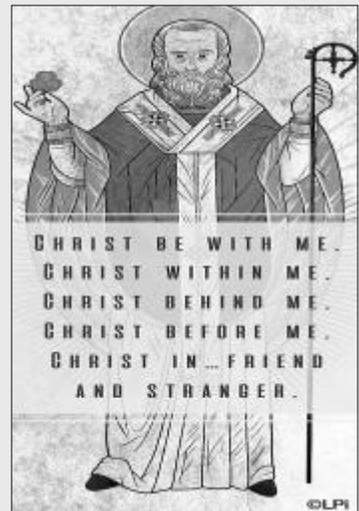
Dr. Harry Altman

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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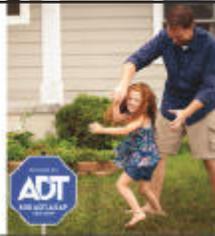
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