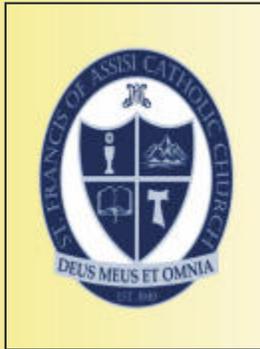


SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



MASS SCHEDULE

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

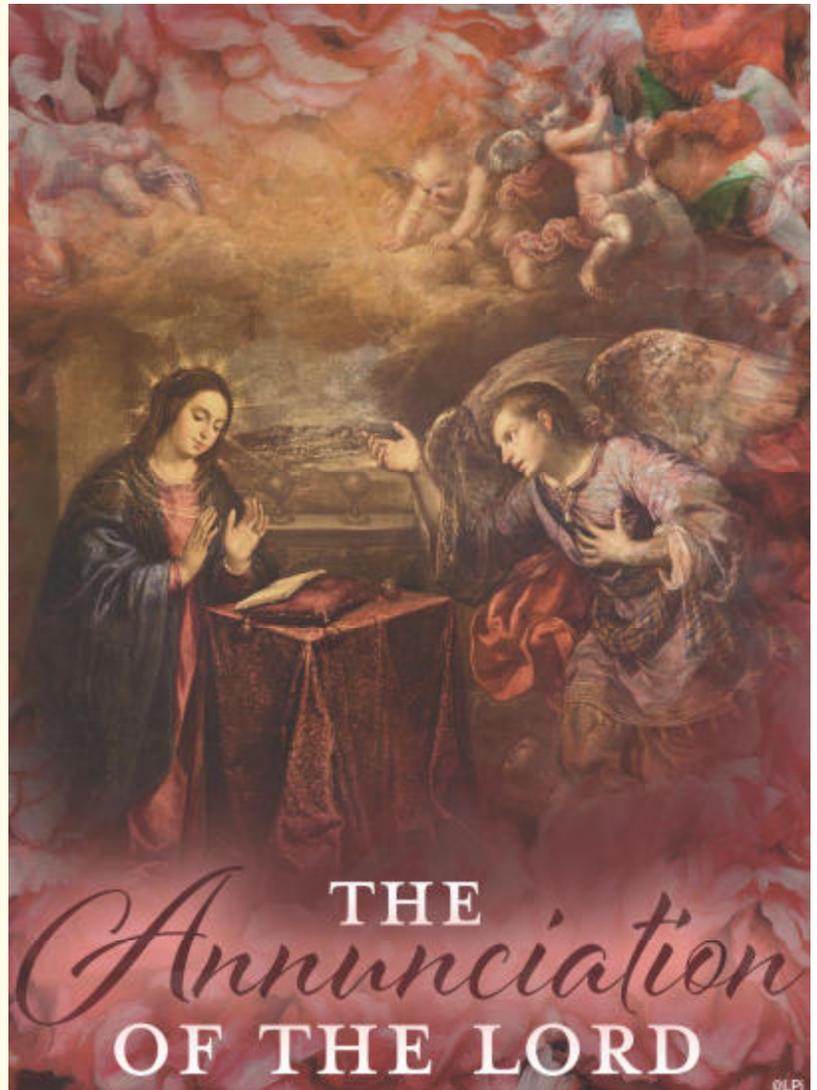
Saturday: 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

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





From the Pastor's Desk....

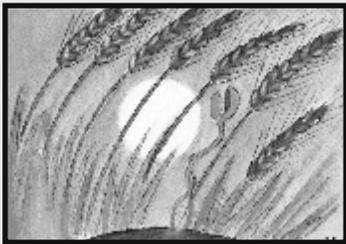
Sunday Offertory

3-14-202.....\$3,226
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
Surplus/Deficit.....\$526

YTD
 Offertory.....\$105,500
 YTD Budget.....\$99,900
Surplus/Deficit.....\$5,600

3-14-2021 Building Fund\$300

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: We currently owe \$79,628 on the new church building. Thank you for your continued support of the Church Building Fund.



Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

The grain of wheat must die to produce fruit. Such dying must be cultivated by obedience and by our covenant with God, rooted in love and forgiveness.

**Readings may be found
 in the Saint Augustine
 Hymnal Number 946**

Happy Sunday everyone!

Today marks the beginning of the fifth week of Lent. Traditionally, this week has some special observances attached to it. The biggest thing you'll notice is that all the images in the church are covered up. This is not because we have decided that statues are evil overnight. Instead, the church invites us to cling more faithfully to God during this last part of Lent. Our statues are covered as an act of penance and to visibly show us that we are separated from God by our sins. We will uncover the cross on Good Friday when Jesus is revealed as the Suffering Servant.

Speaking of Holy Week, we have a Holy Week schedule in this week's bulletin and on our app. Please try to join us for Holy Week. It really is the most important time for our faith!

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 continuous 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 20	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Covie Joseph Schmidt
Sunday, March 21	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, March 22	No Mass	
Tuesday, March 23	Noon Mass	Intentions of the Goss Family
Wednesday, March 24	Noon Mass	+Cindy Greene
Thursday, March 25	Noon Mass	+Larry Nelse Ratliff
Friday, March 26	No Mass	
Saturday, March 27	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Covie Joseph Schmidt
Sunday, March 28	10:30 am Mass	For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never

fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

©LPi

THIRD SCRUTINY

Our catechumens are excited about their impending celebration of the Easter Sacraments at our Easter Vigil. Let us keep them close to our hearts as they enter into final, intense preparation for the sacraments.

Let us pray.

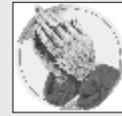
Good and forgiving God,
The Easter Sacraments are drawing near and your children who are preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist confess their faith in you.
Help them to strive against worldly desires and rescue them from ignorance of you.
Give us courage to walk with them as they approach your altar for the first time and receive you in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
Help us to be models of Christian life for them and welcome them to the Mystical Body of Christ. We ask all this in your name, Father, Son and 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!



PRAYER REQUEST



Jerry and Ann Bilicek

Gloria Wagner (Mother of Linda Justice and Susan Chafin)

Steve McCoy, stroke, Lisa Scalf's Cousin
Jim Goss

Ron Saros

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

Dave Such, Mollie Dawahare Such's father in law

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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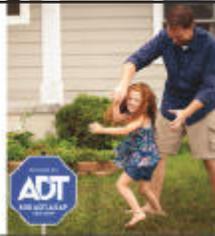
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& Williams**

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