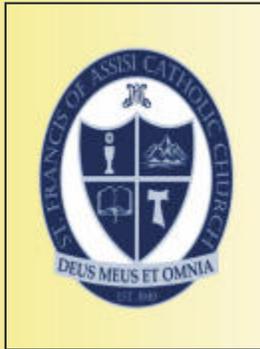


NOVEMBER 28, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD,
WHEN I WILL FULFILL THE PROMISE
I MADE TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH."

—JEREMIAH 33:14



From the Pastor's Desk....

Sunday Offertory

11-21-2021.....\$2,603
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
 Surplus/**Deficit**.....\$97

YTD Offertory.....\$54,577
 Budget.....\$56,700
 Surplus/**Deficit**.....\$2,123

11-21-2021 Building Fund.....\$40

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: We currently owe \$58,857 on the new church building. Thank you for your continued support of the Church Building Fund.



Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

We must be on guard for the Day which is to come when all will be fulfilled. As we await the coming of Christ, let us love one another, observing his covenant and decrees.

Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 909

Good Sunday Morning!

Wow it's hard to believe that we're already in Advent! I would encourage everyone to set up an advent wreath in their home. It doesn't have to look like the one we use in church-the important thing is to prepare for Jesus's coming at home AND church.

We have included a new handout on the food that we need for this year's food distribution. Please read it carefully, as we have changed some things from previous years!

We will resume our Bible study this Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

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, November 27	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+John Altman
Sunday, November 28	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, November 29	No Mass	
Tuesday, November 30	Mass	CES Donor
Wednesday, December 1	Noon Mass	+John Altman
Thursday, December 2	Noon Mass	+Serafin Terrenal
Friday, December 3	Mass at Jenkins	
Saturday, December 4	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Nanette Schmidt
Sunday, December 5	10:30 am Mass	For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love. ©LPi

CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY - As we approach the Christmas season, we will be collecting food items for our Christmas give-away. These boxes of food will be distributed through both St Francis (Dec 18) and the First Christian Church's Community Dinner program. All food boxes will go to local needy families.

This year we will be collecting the food a little differently, so please read closely!

We will have empty paper bags in the lobby of the church. Each of these bags will have a list of items that we need. If you would like to help, please take a bag and fill it with the items on the list. (Don't worry if you need to bring everything in a different bag!) Then, bring the bag to St Francis during the week of Dec 12-Dec 17.

On Dec 17th, from 6pm onwards, we will prep everything for the next day's distribution. The church will provide pizza, so come have some fellowship and lend a hand! We will also need volunteers to help with the distribution on Dec 18th. St Francis volunteers should plan on being here by 1pm, and those we will be assisting will arrive at 2pm.

Thank you for your generosity!

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Blessed first Sunday in Advent to each of you!

Advent and Lent are the two penitential seasons of the church year. However, Advent is a season in anticipation of the birth of Christ in time. Now, what is meant by "the birth of Christ in time"? Our four Sundays of Advent are not just Sundays in preparation for the birth of a child destined to become the Savior of the nations, but the birth of a child every day in the hearts of every Christian and the future return of the second coming in time where everything will be taken back by our God.

In today's Gospel, for some this reading might strike fear into their hearts: "...perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright." Even today, we hear about doomsday sayers professing the end of the world on a particular date. To be sure, the end of the world will come! However, we truly do not know the time. Only God knows when God will call everything to return to him.

In the final lines of today's Gospel we are told to "be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent."

This first Sunday in the season of Advent is a time for us to joyfully await the coming of Christ for the first time, at birth; for the second time, into our everyday lives; and looking forward to the last time when he will come to take all of creation back to his Father.



Sister Kathy Avery

Barbara Kiser

Tim Deskins, cancer

Sandy Lowe, cancer

Jerry and Ann Bilicek

Gloria Wagner (Mother of Linda Justice and Susan Chafin)

Ron Saros

Cindy and Christy Hedinger

Rita Scheuer

Kenny Blackburn

Alpha Carroll, Signature Health Care

Dr. Harry and Helen Altman

Carol Rashella

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

VOTIVE CANDLES:

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

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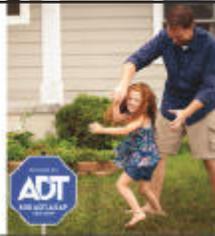
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