



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Forum

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

“The tender Mercy of God has dawned upon us.”

(c/f Lk 1:79)

WELCOME!

We, the people of God of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish, guided by the Holy Spirit are called to continue the mission of Jesus Christ. Whether you come to us from across the street or from across the country, we are honored that you have chosen to spend part of your Sunday with us.

Issue Highlights:

- P.3 Living Nativity-Dec 18, Sacrament of Penance
- P.3 Christmas Masses
- P.5 Advent Mini-Retreat, Young Adults-Dec 15
- P.6-7 Jesus te Ilama!, Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
- P.8 Service opportunities
- P.9-10 Advent Novena
- P.11 PreK-8 Rel. Ed.
- P.14-15 Grief Workshop, Just for You

As we continue our Advent journey, we hear a Gospel passage that focuses on John the Baptist and his role and identity. Last week we heard how the Baptist came with a message of repentance and conversion, a call symbolized by ritual baptism. As Matthew told us, the Baptist’s preaching truly did touch hearts and many came to him to seek reconciliation with God.

Today we hear again from Matthew, but this time John is in prison, knowing that his role to announce the coming of the Messiah is slowly coming to its fulfillment. But John wants to be sure that Jesus is that Messiah and so he sends his disciples to find out. Jesus’ response is very simple- look at my actions -see how they fulfill the words of Isaiah (recalled in our first reading) bringing healing, renewal and restored vision into the lives of those who are in need.

Today we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent, traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*, a name taken from our Second Reading *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.”* As we look around our world there can often seem to be little to rejoice about: wars, famine, poverty illness still abound, the list seems endless, not to speak of the many struggles that beset us as individuals and as a community. And yet we are challenged by today’s liturgy to rejoice: to be a people of joy. Is it possible or even realistic?

Perhaps it might be useful to define what we mean by joy in this context. It is not merely the feeling of pleasure and enjoyment that we might have when everything is going our way and life is carefree and easy. *As a fruit of the Spirit, it has its origins in God and so speaks of a spiritual joy.* It’s that sense of quiet contentment, trust and peace even in the face of life’s trials and challenges. The great characters of scripture who have joined us on our Advent journey have each in their own way exhibited that joy: from Isaiah who despite much opposition persisted in his prophetic mission, to Mary and Joseph who joyfully accepted the role of being parents to the Son of God, and today, the Baptist who readies himself to die for the truth and whom Jesus regards as the greatest of all prophets.

Each in their own way, knew their need of God’s mercy in their lives and in the life of the world. As they join us on our journey, may their prayers and the witness of their lives of faith give us courage and strength. *Just as they came to encounter the mercy of God, revealed in Jesus Christ in their lives may we too encounter it this Advent season.* That Mercy has dawned among us: may it shine brightly in our lives and in the lives of those we love.

Fr. James Conlon
Pastor

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Directory

Parish Offices: (734) 821-2100 or (734) 769-2550, Fax: (734) 821-2102
 2150 Frieze Ave, Ann Arbor MI 48104
Internet Web Page:
www.stfrancisa2.com

Mission Statement

We, the people of God of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish, guided by the Holy Spirit are called to continue the mission of Jesus Christ.
We dedicate ourselves to the fulfillment of this mission by proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of God, by living in love and fellowship, by seeking nourishment in God's Word and in worship and prayer, and by dedicating ourselves to the service of others.
Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we pledge ourselves to be living witnesses of God's presence to the world.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Weekend Mass: Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00, 8:30, & 10:30 a.m., and 12:30 & 5:00 p.m.
Weekday Masses: in main church at 9:15 a.m. on Mon/ Tue/ Wed/ Thurs. 8:15 a.m. on Friday.
Holy Hour: Thursdays after 9:15 a.m. Mass, includes: Reconciliation on 1st Thurs. of month, Anointing of Sick on 3rd, with Eucharistic Adoration continuing all Thurs. until 6:30 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Co-op Nursery: with Toddlers & 2's is during 10:30 a.m. Mass. Questions: Call Kelly Hernandez (734-904-3946).

Baptism: Every Sunday during 12:30 p.m. Mass. A pre-baptism class is required before the baptism. For details and to register, contact Fr. Shaun Lowery at 821-2100 or see the *Baptism* link at our website.

Marriage Preparation: Please call the parish office to begin marriage preparation at least nine months before the proposed wedding date.

Spiritual Direction: Would you like to speak with a Spiritual Director? We have several commissioned in our parish. To contact one, please call Janene Ternes at 734-436-1351.

Alcohol or Drug Addiction: Does that apply to you or a loved one? Help is available through St. Francis. Leave a message in mailbox #1 of the Parish Health Ministry Voicemail, 821-2115.

Health Ministry Voicemail: If you have health questions or concerns, please call our parish health professionals & leave a message at 821-2115.

Parish Library: Open before & after weekend masses, in church gathering area.

Are You Experiencing a Life-Changing Event and in Need of Temporary Assistance? Elizabeth

Ministry volunteers serve parish members & families experiencing difficult situations (serious illness, new baby, miscarriage, hospital recovery, etc). We can offer temporary help in the form of a compassionate ear, prayers, meals, laundry help,

<u>PARISH TEAM</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
<i>Council, Commission & Ministry Chairpersons</i>			
Pastor	821-2100...	Fr. James Conlon.....	frjames@stfrancisa2.org
<i>Pastoral Council, Bob Ferris..... 734-528-0211</i>			
<i>Knights of Columbus, Josh Peck..... 734-645-2254</i>			
Parochial Vicar	821-2100...	Fr. Shaun Lowery ...	frshaun@stfrancisa2.org
Deacon	821-2171 ...	Dcn Rich Badics	rbadics@stfrancisa2.org
Parish Secretary	821-2100...	Pam Smith.....	parishoffice@stfrancisa2.org
Business Manager	821-2111 ...	Michael Scott.....	mscott@stfrancisa2.org
<i>Finance Council, Mary Krasny</i>			
Stewardship & Development	821-2208...	Colleen Pierce.....	cpierce@stfrancisa2.org
<i>Development Committee, Chuck Stankovic</i>			
<i>Educational Trust Fund, Patti Dobbs</i>			
Bookkeeper	821-2112 ...	Nunu Lysloff.....	nunu@stfrancisa2.org
School Bookkeeper	821-2113 ...	Gail O'Neill.....	goneill@stfrancisa2.org
Communications	821-2114 ...	Jim Russo.....	jrusso@stfrancisa2.org
Service & Justice	821-2121 ...	Scott Wright.....	swright@stfrancisa2.org
<i>Christian Service SvDP, Thomas Powell</i>			
<i>Peace & Justice, Kelly Gauthier & Dick Brown</i>			
<i>Senior Citizen Committee, Sharon Wright</i>			
<i>Parish Health Ministry, Danaica Watson 821-2115</i>			
Music & Liturgy Ministry	821-2124...	Jonathan Hasey.....	jhasey@stfrancisa2.org
Worship Coordinator	821-2123...	Susan Wawrzaszek	liturgy@stfrancisa2.org
<i>Worship Committee, Ken Schmanske</i>			
<i>Altar Society</i>			
Adult Faith Formation and RCIA Ministry	821-2125...	Marty Lucas.....	mlucas@stfrancisa2.org
<i>Adult Formation Committee, Karen Cole</i>			
Adult Faith Groups	821-2122...	Kelly Hernandez..	khernandez@stfrancisa2.org
H.S. Youth Ministries	821-2126...	Jake Kanitz.....	jkantz@stfrancisa2.org
<i>H.S. Youth Ministry</i>			
Facilitator of Hispanic Ministry	273-9853	Claudia Morales-Farfan...	HispanicMinistry@stfrancisa2.org
Religious Ed. Director	821-2132...	Ellen Ward	ward@stfrancisa2.org
<i>Religious Ed. Committee, Mary Foeller</i>			
Religious Ed. Secretary	821-2130...	Julie Kanitz	stfired@stfrancisa2.org
Priest In-Residence	821-2100...	Fr. Terry Dumas	ftrdumas@stfrancisa2.org
School Principal	821-2200...	Julie Pritzel	jpritzel@stfrancisa2.org
<i>School Finance Committee, Richelle Babcock</i>			
<i>School Improvement, Merrit Gilliland</i>			
<i>PTG, Marissa Green</i>			
School Secretary	821-2200.....	Kelly VanOirschot.....	school@stfrancisa2.org
Extended School Pgm	821-2290 ...	Christina Busse	cbusse@stfrancisa2.org
<i>ESP Committee, Jackie Lapinski</i>			

Parish Registration: forms are at the church entrance. Complete the form and drop it into the collection basket or return to the parish office; or use the parish website www.stfrancisa2.com

Parish Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thursday: 8am-8pm; Wed: 8am-4pm; Fri: 8am-6pm; Sat.: 10am-2pm transportation, etc. Call the parish office at 734-821-2100.

LIVING NATIVITY AND CAROL SERVICE:

Sunday, December 18 at 5pm in Church

You and your family are invited! The Living Nativity is an interactive service with scripture narratives, live animals, and adult and child actors enhancing the story of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The vibrant music features many of our talented parish and school music groups. Afterwards, refreshments and friendship are offered in the Parish Activities Center.



Come Experience with Joyful Anticipation:

- ❖ The Scripture Narratives of the Coming of our Savior Jesus Christ
- ❖ Live Animals to Honor the Birth of the Christ Child
- ❖ Resplendent Music to Glorify the Lord
- ❖ The Peaceful Wonder of the Nativity

Our service will last an hour and half. All ages, from the youngest to the eldest, are welcome.

Please note that there will *not be a 5pm Sunday Mass on December 18*. Please attend one of our other Masses and join us for this Service anticipating the wonder of the birth of our Savior.

For questions, please contact Ellen Ward at (734)821-2130 or ward@stfrancisa2.org or Jonathan Hasey at jhasey@stfrancisa2.org or (734)821-2124.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Please note: All Masses will be held in the main Church (none in the PAC).

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 Masses:

4:00pm; 6:00pm; 8:00pm; and 10:30pm
(Caroling begins at 10:00pm. The 10:30 Mass is also live-streamed and will be available to view anytime.) No 5:00pm Mass today.

Christmas Day, Dec 25 Masses:

9:30am and 11:30am
No 5:00pm Mass today.

Mary, Mother of God Masses:

(A Holy Day of Obligation)
 Saturday, December 31, at 5:00pm, and Sunday, January 1, at 7:00am; 8:30am; 10:30am, and 12:30pm **No 5:00pm Mass today.**

Sacrament of Penance during Advent

Each year, Advent reveals to us the love of God in the birth of Jesus Christ. What better way can we respond to this love than by reconciling ourselves with God and the community through the Sacrament of Penance?

If you have not received this Sacrament in a while, now is the time to do it. The times for Penance here at St. Francis Parish between now and Christmas are:

Each Saturday 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Please note: NO Confession on Saturdays, Dec. 24 & 31

Advent Communal Penance Service: Thurs, Dec. 15

7:00 – 8:00 pm *includes Spanish speaking priest*

Saturday, Dec. 17 ~~11:00 am – 12 noon~~, 3:30-4:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 20 10:00 am – 11:00 am

To help you prepare, you will find an Examination of Conscience on the Parish website.

***Regional Penance Services will be held:**

Mon, Dec.12 – 7PM at St. Thomas the Apostle
 Tue, Dec. 13 – 7PM at St. Mary Student Parish
 Wed, Dec.14 – 7PM at Old St. Patrick, Whitmore Lake Rd and 7PM at St. John the Baptist (Ypsilanti)



This Week at St. Francis
December 12—18, 2016



Monday *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

9:00 AM Preschool Enrichment (nursery)
9:15 AM Mass: +Carolyn Holcomb—Monday Crew
 2:00 PM Spanish preschool (nursery)
 3:00 PM Strings class (church)
 6:00 PM K of C business meeting (PAC)
 7:00 PM BSA Troop 27 (gym)
 7:00 PM Divorced/Separated (s.library)
 7:00 PM Meditation (chapel)
 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry (p.library)

Tuesday *St. Lucy*

9:00 AM Preschool Enrichment (nursery)
9:15 AM Mass: +Carolyn Holcomb—Joe & Yvonne Krasny
 10:00 AM Bible Study: Acts (chapel)
 10:00 AM Senior's Christmas celebration (PAC)
 6:00 PM Cub Scout Pack Meeting (PAC)
 6:00 PM Assisi Ringers Rehearsal (church)
 7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal (church)
 7:00 PM "Advent Mini-Retreat" (chapel)

Wednesday *St. John of the Cross*

9:00 AM Preschool Enrichment (nursery)
9:15 AM Mass: +Aimee Kotecki—Fr. Shaun
 10:00 AM Gospel Group (p.library)
 3:00 PM Strings class (church)
 6:30 PM Rel. Ed. classes for grades K-8 (school)
 7:00 PM Development Council (POMR)
 7:00 PM Parish Choir rehearsal (choir)

Thursday

9:00 AM Preschool Enrichment (nursery)
9:15 AM Mass: +Anne Stemmerich—David Bior
 10:00 AM Adoration until 6:30 pm (church)
 11:00 AM "Advent Mini-Retreat" (chapel)
 1:00 PM Light Weigh Bible Study (choir)
 5:30 PM Parish Children's Choir (choir)
 7:00 PM Stephen Min. Peer Spvn & Cont. Ed. (s.library)
 7:00 PM Bible Study: Acts (chapel)
7:00 PM Advent Communal Penance Service (church)

Friday

8:15 AM Mass: +Agnes Ohno—Rosa Ohno
 10:00 AM MOMS group (chapel, nursery)
 6:00 PM Decorate Christmas trees - Art & Design (church)

Saturday

8:00 AM Decorate Christmas trees - Art & Design (church)
 10:30 AM Funeral (church): Florence Kruzas
 2:00 PM Quinceanera Mass: Keily Salazar (church)
 3:00 PM Mexican Community Christmas Celebration (PAC)
 3:30 PM Confession (church)
5:00 PM Mass: +Rosa Santana—Sylvia Otero

Continued next column —>

Scripture Readings
December 12—18

Monday Zec 2:14-17; (Ps) Jdt 13:18,19; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday Zep 3:1-2,9-13; Ps 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday Is 45:6c-8,18,21c-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2,4-6,11-13; Lk 7:24-30
Friday Is 56:1-3a,6-8; Ps 67:2-3,5,7-8; Jn 5:33-36
Saturday Gn 49:2,8-10; Ps 72:1-4,7-8,17; Mt 1:1-17
Sunday Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Pray for the Sick

Please call the parish office to add a name to our prayer list. Help us to keep our list current by letting us know when we may remove a name. Please remember in your prayers:

Ellen Hoffrichter, Nate Gleeton, Betty Weber, Roosevelt Madison, Jackie Mitchelmore, Joyce Mallory, Dionisia Frando, Rita Vorek, David Iocca, Robert Iocca, Ken Gaertner, Margaret Sandstrom, Kelly Dishman, David Chapman, Mary Ann Gaertner, Jean Massie, Lourena DeAbreu, Bill Ruzicka, Richelle Nicolaus, Billy Reiter, Kathy Reiter, Mark Derenthal, Catherine Shields, Mike Fleszar, Raziell Tungol, Theresa Mhangami, Doyle Barnes, Rosemary Korkowski, Elizabeth Crisostomo, Marion Sczykutowicz, Molly Volz, Paula Savaglio, Brian Boyer, Dorothy Heath, Jim Conlon, Debra Ruthven, Katie Stepnitz, James Kimmet, Hilda Field, Richard Dorr, Margaret Ross, John Schwarz, Libby Derenthal, Deborah Johnson, Mary Stoddard, Nemesia Publico, Dominic Bitondo, Leo Zarins, Mary Hayes, Luz/Mila Fernandez.

Baptized in Christ

John Remi Martell, son of John & Lisa (Beauchamp) Martell.
 Cecilia Grace Wentworth, daughter of David & Jessica (Aiuto) Wentworth.

Received into Full Communion

Jacob Dimitrios Andrianopoulos, Olivia Maria Andrianopoulos, and Zoe Sophia Andrianopoulos, children of Christos & Carmen Andrianopoulos.

Married in Christ

Lynn Martin and Gerry Wrubel.

Died in Christ

Ann O'Neill, mother of Vince (Gail) O'Neill.
 Evelyn Bush.
 Florence Kruzas. *
 Gerri Sullivan. *
 Ernest Beaulieu, husband of Celine Beaulieu. *
 Alice Corcoran, mother of Jane (Dan) Pasquantonio.

* OBITUARY information for parish funerals can be found at our website STFRANCISA2.COM then click the **Church Community** tab. The link, **Died in Christ** is located in the lower left column.

Sunday **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Enjoy coffee & donuts after 8:30 & 10:30 mass (PAC)
 7:00 AM **Mass:** +Proctor Weir—Joan Weir
 8:30 AM **Mass:** St. Francis Parish Family
 8:30 & 10:30AM Children's Liturgy of the Word (chapel)
 10:20 AM Family Rel. Education (PAC, school)
 10:30 AM Nursery and Toddlers & 2's (nursery)
 10:30 AM **Mass:** +Helen McClatchey—Colleen McClatchey
 12:30 PM **Mass:** Intentions of the VanDort Family
5:00 PM NO 5PM Mass today
5:00 PM Living Nativity & Service of The Word (church)
 6:30 PM Living Nativity Social (PAC)

Please plan ahead: there will be
NO Confession on Saturdays, December 24 & 31

ADVENT MINI RETREAT:

Jesus, The Awesome Gift of God

"The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries" (CCC 522)



During the Christmas season, we all think about the gifts we want to buy for friends and family. We try to find that "perfect gift." It's been said that a gift must meet three criteria for it to be considered "perfect." *First*, the gift should reflect the one who gives it. *Second*, the gift should reflect knowledge of the one who receives it—in other words, knowledge of their needs, desires, tastes, and so forth. *Third*, the gift should be of a nature and quality that will hold its value as time goes on.

God gave us the perfect Gift when He sent His Son Jesus. The Gift of Jesus meets all of the criteria for being a perfect gift: Jesus reflects the One Who gave Him—God the Father. God's gift of His Son reflects knowledge of *our* needs. The Gift of Jesus is of a nature and quality that always holds its value as times goes on.

Take 90 minutes away from the bustle of your Christmas preparations and come prepare your heart! Our mini retreat will take place on:

Tuesday, December 13
at 7:00 PM in the Chapel
and repeated on
Thursday, December 15
at 11:00 AM in Chapel

Tony Sperendi is our retreat director. He is a lay ecclesial minister of the Diocese of Lansing. His ministry called "Hearts Renewed" shares the message and love of Jesus to transform and renew hearts, lives, and families. There will be a basket for a free will donation.

No need to register! For questions, please contact Marty Lucas at 821-2125 or mlucas@stfrancisa2.org.

Attention all Young Adults!

Join us for an Ice Cream Social on Dec. 15 @ 8:30pm!

All young adults of the parish and surrounding community are welcomed to join us for an ice cream social this Thursday, December 15! Join us after the communal Penance Service at 7pm, to *enjoy some sweet treats, along with freshly baked cookies, hot chocolate and more!*

Our evening will start at 8:30pm in the Youth Room, which is located in the rectory basement (behind the church).

If you have any dietary restrictions (or ice cream requests), please email in advance: youngadults@stfrancisa2.org. *See you on December 15th!*



For the latest on parish events, activities, and prayers see our website: STFRANCISA2.COM



Christmas Poinsettias & Decorations



St. Francis Altar Society is offering you an opportunity to remember your deceased loved ones, or honor someone special in your life, by contributing toward the cost of our Christmas poinsettias and decorations in the Church. All names will be remembered during the Christmas Masses and will be printed in the Christmas Forum (*names due Dec. 19*).

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DONATION

Please fill out this form and place it, along with your donation, in the collection basket, or bring it to the Parish Office on or before **12 noon on Monday, December 19.**

Donated by: _____
Your Name

_____ *Your phone*

In Memory /or
In Honor of: _____
(please circle) Name

Suggested donation: _____ \$15 _____ \$25 \$_____ other

En esta página encontrarás diferentes oportunidades de participar en la vida de nuestra parroquia. Algunas de estas actividades serán en inglés y otras en español. ¡Jesús te espera con los brazos abiertos!

¡Jesús te llama!

Hora Santa los jueves después de la misa de 9:15am: (9:45-10:45)



Exposición y Adoración del Santísimo Sacramento, oración en silencio, comunitaria y Rosario. 1er Jueves de mes: Reconciliación. 3er Jueves: Unión de los Enfermos. El Smo. Sacramento es retirado hasta las 6:30pm. Ven a pasar un momento con Cristo Sacramentado.

Misa: Los domingos 18 y 25 de diciembre y 1o. de enero no habrá misa bilingüe a las 5pm.

Misas durante el Adviento:

Todas serán celebradas en la iglesia. Lunes, Martes, Miércoles y Jueves a las 9:15 am, Viernes a las 8:15 am. ¡Prepárate para la venida del Señor!



Servicio Extraordinario de Reconciliación (Confesión). 15 de diciembre a las 7pm. Habrá un sacerdote disponible para confesiones en español.

Grupo en español: Nuestra próxima reunión será el 17 de enero. ¡Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo! Más información con Kelly Hernandez: khernandez@stfrancisa2.org.



Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. 11 de diciembre. Serenata a las 4:30 de la tarde, Santa Misa bilingüe a las 5pm, seguida de recepción en el Centro de Eventos de la Parroquia (PAC). Trae una flor para Nuestra Señora durante la misa y tu plato favorito para compartir durante la recepción.



Pastorela: (Living Nativity) Domingo 18 de diciembre a las 5pm. Narración en vivo de las escrituras referentes a la Natividad de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Seguida de celebración en el PAC. Por esto, el **DOMINGO 18 DE DICIEMBRE NO HABRÁ MISA A LAS 5PM**, haz planes para ir a otra hora.



Mini-Retiro de Adviento "Jesus: El Impresionante Regalo de Dios" (en inglés) en la capilla el Martes, 13 de Diciembre a las 7 PM o el Jueves 15 de diciembre a las 11AM. (En inglés) Información: Marty Lucas: (734) 821-2125 mlucas@stfrancisa2.org.



Para los más pequeños y sus padres-

Niños de Kinder-12o grado están invitados a participar en el **coro y banda de nuestra Pastorela y Misa del 24 de diciembre.** Información con Kelly: 734-821-2122 o khernandez@stfrancisa2.org



Niños: ¿Quieren hacer algo especial para el Niño Dios? Después de las misas de adviento pueden poner un pedazo de paja por cada buena obra que hagan durante la semana. ¡Juntos lograremos que Jesús tenga un lugar cálido y suave al nacer!

Educación Religiosa para niños de PreK-8o grado: **Miércoles** 6:30-7:45 pm y **domingos** 10:20am-12:20pm



Clases de español para niños de 3-5 años. Lunes desde el 3 de octubre hasta el 22 de mayo, de 2 a 3 pm. Costo: \$50/niño.

HORARIO DE MISAS DE NAVIDAD

Sábado 24 de diciembre: 4:00pm; 6:00pm; 8:00pm; y 10:30pm (Canto de villancicos en inglés a las 10:00pm.) La misa de 10:30pm será transmitida por internet:<http://stfrancisa2.com/video-library>) **No habrá misa de 5:00pm.**

Domingo 25 de diciembre: 9:30am y 11:30am **No habrá misa de 5:00pm.**

HORARIO DE MISAS DE LA SOLEMNIDAD DE MARIA, MADRE DE DIOS -Día de precepto.

Sábado 31 de diciembre: 5:00 pm
Domingo 1 de enero: 7:00am; 8:30am; 10:30am, y 12:30pm **No habrá misa de 5:00pm.**

Dios te invita a servirle

Considera estas oportunidades dentro de tu oración, quizás Dios te llama a servirle a través de ellas:

- **Asistentes para Declaraciones de Impuestos.** Contacta a: Scott (734) 821-2121
- **Cantantes y músicos** para el coro bilingüe los domingos a las 5pm. Contacta a: jhasey@stfrancisa2.org.
- **Lectores en español** para Misa bilingüe los domingos a las 5pm. Contacta a Sue: liturgy@stfrancisa2.org.



Horario de atención en español en la oficina de Educación Religiosa

(Formación para niños, clases de español para niños de edad preescolar, Primera Comunión, Confirmación o Quinceañera): Jueves y viernes 10am-4pm y domingo 9:30am-12:30pm con Helena Bichakjian (734) 821-2130.

¿Eres **adulto** y necesitas **preparación o asistencia espiritual en español?**

Contáctanos: hispanicministry@stfrancisa2.org o (734) 273-9853

Suscríbete a nuestro boletín electrónico para información adicional: <http://eepurl.com/cl0hir>

ADVENT AT ST. FRANCIS

This Weekend ...

Blessed Straw for Your Home!



We will bless straw at all the Masses this weekend. *We invite you to take some home to be used in your home nativity scenes.* You might also follow the old custom of tucking a little of the straw under the tablecloth.

By putting straw on the table, we make our homes like Bethlehem – a word that means “the house of bread.” Whenever we welcome guests to eat with us in love, our homes become a place where God comes to live.

Blessing of Expectant Mothers & Fathers



During Advent, we reflect upon Jesus’ impending birth and Mary’s pregnancy. On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, we invite all expectant mothers and fathers (including adopting) to come forward for a special blessing. This will take place after Communion at all masses **this weekend.**

Prayer for the Third Week of Advent

Loving God, the days are drawing close to the birth of your son. There is a lot we still need to “do” but help us to simply “be” and to slow down and savor these days. You know the anticipation we feel. Help us to deepen that sense and to allow it to build in our hearts.



We are grateful for this great gift of your son in our lives. Continue to offer us the gentle nudge of your grace so we cherish that gratitude in the busy-ness of our days, and let it move us to be more generous to those around us. Amen.

Advent Materials for Daily Reflection!

Little Blue Books

Remember to use your *Little Blue Book* to spend a brief 6-10 minutes a day in prayer and reflection on the coming of Christ at Christmas. They are *also available in Spanish and Vietnamese.* English copies are sold out.

A limited selection of **other Advent materials** are also available.

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Domingo, 11 de Diciembre
con la Serenata a las 4:30 de la tarde
y la misa a las 5 de la tarde



Te invitamos junto a tu familia a nuestra celebración bilingüe (Español e Inglés) en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, patrona de las Americas. Invitamos a los niños a traer una flor a la misa. Después de la misa tendremos una recepción en el Centro de Eventos de la Parroquia (Parish Activities Center).

CELEBRATION OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Sunday, December 11

Musical Tribute to Our Lady begins at 4:30 PM
Mass begins at 5 PM

You and your family are invited to join in a bilingual celebration (Spanish and English) in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of all the Americas. Children are invited to bring a flower to Mass. A reception follows Mass in the Parish Activities Center (PAC). Please bring your favorite food to share. **Questions: stfred@stfrancisa2.org / 734-821-2130**

You're invited to Youth Group!

Sunday, December 11

after our 5pm Mass, until 8pm
in the Youth Room (rectory basement)

**All Parish High School Youth
and Friends are invited!**

Join us today—December 11th. Come hang out and have fun! Interesting discussions, AND food will be provided. Drop in or let us know ahead of time ... just email me at jkanitz@stfrancisa2.org

God bless you! *Jake Kanitz*



"Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come." Mark 13:33

OUTREACH, SERVICE + JUSTICE

734-821-2121 ♦ justice@stfrancisa2.org
Visit our parish website, "Sign Up Forms" link.

Giving Tree!!!

St. Francis parishioners will be donating Christmas gifts for at-risk families in our area during Advent season.



Take a gift tag off the tree. Directions are on the tag. Go find the gift, wrap it and securely fasten the tag to your gift package. (All Gift Certificates must be boxed.)

Return all gifts by this Sun, December 11. (If your gift is late please bring it to the Parish Office.) **Thank you for shopping !**

We have ornament-gift-tag-labels for these organizations: Alpha House Family Shelter (IHN); Angel Tree (Prisoners children through Lansing Office); ArborVitae Women's Center; CAN, Community Action Network; Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County; CSTS, Community Support and Treatment Center; Foundations Preschool of Ann Arbor (Perry); Unified - HIV and beyond; Home of New Vision -Recovery; Hope Clinic; Ozone House; Project Transition; SOS Homeless Children's Services; St. Louis Center.

Questions? Contact Scott Wright swright@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2121

Thank you, SAM!!! Our Giving Tree gift storage is donated each year by **SAM, Store And Move** in Ann Arbor. Visit: getasam.com



2017 Catholic Habitat House

We are proud to announce the **2017 Catholic House at: 1438 Bud Ave, Ypsilanti MI 48198**. This habitat house renovation is happening because of the generous support from our St. Francis Catholic community in partnership with neighboring parishes in Washtenaw County. Together volunteers from several parishes will be working to complete renovations on this house following energy star standards, starting April 1, 2017, and working until June 10, 2017. Learn more about our partner family and ways to connect at: <http://catholic-habitat.blogspot.com>

Want to GIVE?

- Online** Please use this link to support our MobileCause platform for fundraising: <http://igfn.us/vf/H4HCatholic>
- Give by texting:** H4HCatholic to 71777.
- Mail a check** (with a note in the memo "for Catholic House") to: Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley, 170 Aprill Dr Suite A, Ann Arbor MI 48103;

Questions: call 734-478-6331 or visit www.h4h.org

C hristmas Re-Gift Box



Did you receive nice new gifts, especially new clothes or new toys, which you won't use? Donate them!

A **Re-Gift box** will be at **St. Francis Church main entrance from December 22, 2016 to January 9, 2017** to collect all Re-Gift items. We will see that your gifts get good homes at a local organization. Gift wrapping is not wanted.

In the past several years we received about 500 gifts, which we redistributed to those in need through:

- ♦ Foundations Preschool (Perry) in Ann Arbor; as well as,
- ♦ Project OutReach Team "PORT" for persons who are homeless and living with a mental illness; and,
- ♦ St. Louis Center in Chelsea, for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Questions, contact: Scott (821-2121).

Help Serve a Meal for the Hungry! **December 16**

Sixteen volunteers (8 per shift) are needed for each meal. Cook at 3-5PM / Serve at 5-7PM. A crew from St. Francis Parish serves **every third Friday (Dec. 16)** evening of the month at Food Gatherers' Community Kitchen, located in the Delonis Center, Shelter, 312 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. **To volunteer:** sign-up at: stfrancisa2.com or contact Food Gatherers (734-761-2796) or Bridget (734-883-9112).

Martin Luther King, Jr. Mass, Choirs & Dinner: Jan. 15



Commemorate, the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who keeping with the Gospel of Jesus Christ worked to bring justice & peace to all. On **Sunday, January 15, 2017** at our 5:00 pm Mass the St. Francis Parish Contemporary Choir will welcome and accompany the Corpus Christi Parish Choir under the direction of Michelle Baines (our sister parish in Detroit).

A light supper will follow the mass in St. Francis PAC... .. \$7/person and children under 5 eat free. **Please RSVP** to help us plan on having enough food for everyone, call 734-821-2121. All are welcome.

Please sign-up to help us with this meal and hospitality at StFrancisa2.com "Sign-up Forms" or call 821-2121.

We need Help with the dinner:

- at 3:30 pm help with food preparation;
- at 4:30 - 5:00 pm, set up;
- at 5:45 - 7:45 pm, serve & clean up.
- bring some kind of dessert.



Advent and Christmas Novena

Catholics in many cultures have prayed the Christmas Novena (nine consecutive days of prayer) from December **16-24** as part of their Christmas preparation. Its focus is on our expectation of the coming of Christ and on God's faithfulness to his people throughout the generations. This novena is built around what we usually refer to as the Great Antiphons of Advent, a series of scriptural titles addressed to Christ, the newborn king and the titles given to Christ in Luke's account of the Annunciation. Together they seem to sum up our Advent longing for Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All can pray this novena, either alone or as part of a family group. They can also be added to our daily prayers to give them an Advent flavor. Each day begin with lighting a candle or the candles on your Advent wreath. A favorite carol or hymn may be sung, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (see below). If prayed in a group, invite one member to read the short scripture passage aloud, allowing time for reflection before all pray the short prayers that follow.

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel*

*O Come, O Come O Wisdom from on high.
Who orders all things mightily
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel*

December 16: Jesus, Wisdom of God

Leader: *"After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers". (Lk 2:46-47)*

All: O Wisdom, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

All: "Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever more."

December 17: Jesus, Lord and Ruler of all

Leader: *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me. (Ex 20: 2-3)*

All: O Lord and ruler of the nations, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Mount Sinai: Come and redeem us with our outstretched arm.

All: "Glory to the Father...."

December 18: Jesus, Root of Jesse

Leader: *"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, a branch that shall grow from its roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall be upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord" (Is 11:1-3)*

All: O Root of Jesse, the long awaited savior of the Chosen People, before whom kings shall kneel and all shall ask for mercy: Come, make haste and deliver your people.

All: "Glory to the Father...."

NOVENA—(Continued from page 9)

December 19: Jesus, Key of David

Leader: *"And I will place on his shoulder the key of the House of David; he shall open and none shall shut; and he shall shut and none shall open. And he will become a throne of honor to his father's house". (Is 22:22)*

All: O Key of David whose life unlocks for us the promise of eternal life: Come and liberate us, free us from the darkness of sin and the shadow of death.

All: "Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever more."

December 20: Jesus, Dawn of the East

Leader: *"In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the east to the west and there is nothing hid from its heat" (Ps 19:5-7)*

All: O Dawn of the East, brightness of the light eternal and Sun of Justice: Come and awaken within us compassion for all who are in need.

All: "Glory to the Father...."

December 21: Jesus, King of the Gentiles

Leader: *"So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (Eph. 2:19-20)*

All: O King of Gentiles, the cornerstone that makes all believers one in the household of God: Come and deliver your sons and daughters, whom you have formed from the dust of the earth into the eternal image of God

All: "Glory to the Father"

December 22: Jesus, Emmanuel

Leader: *"Therefore the Lord will give you a sign. Behold, a maiden shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel" (Isa 7:14)*

All: O Emmanuel, God with us, the long awaited savior: Come and save us, give us once more the joy of your compassion and mercy.

All: "Glory to the Father...."

December 23: Jesus, Son of the Most High

Leader: *"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Lk 1:32-33)*

All: Jesus, Son of the Most High, your birth is the fulfillment of the promises made long ago: Come and empower us to be faithful to our baptismal promises.

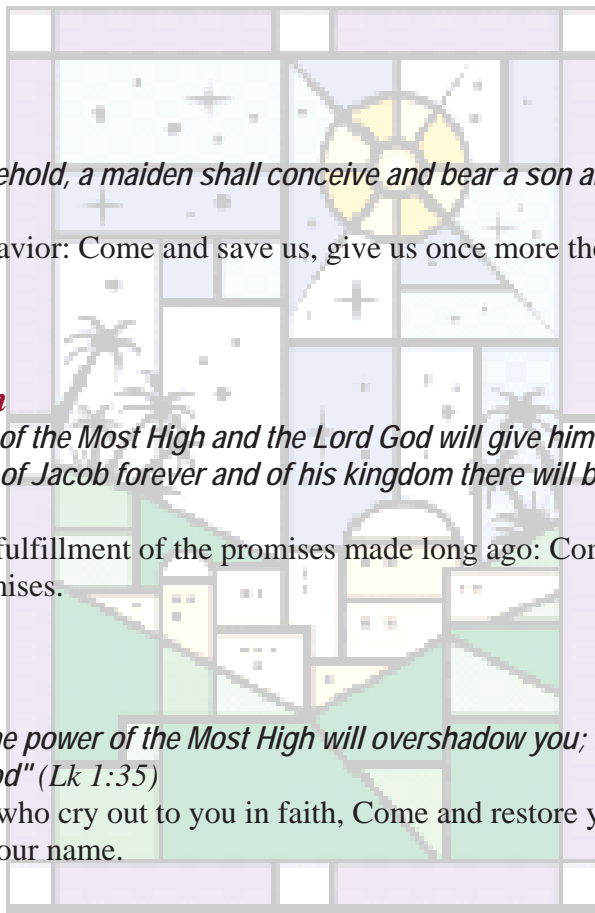
All: "Glory to the Father...."

December 24: Jesus, Son of God

Leader: *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Lk 1:35)*

All: Jesus, Son of God, you bring healing to those who cry out to you in faith, Come and restore your people that we might shine once more in the glory of your name.

All: "Glory to the Father...."



Are you in K-12th Grade?
Do you like to sing?

Join the
**Parish Children's Choir
and Parish Youth Band**
for the
**Living Nativity
and Christmas Eve Mass.**



For rehearsal dates and more information,
please contact Kelly Hernandez at
khernandez@stfrancisa2.org
or 734-821-2122.

For the children of our Parish

Good Deed Straw

Would you like to do something special for Jesus? Each week during Advent, following Mass, you are invited to place a piece of straw in the crib for each act of service you have done during the week. The gift of your good deeds could be an act of kindness, an extra chore, a rosary or other special prayers for the sick, or a part of your allowance for the poor. At Christmas, this straw – representing your good deeds – will form a soft, warm bed for the Baby Jesus!



Nursery and Toddlers & 2's

During the 10:30 a.m. Mass, St. Francis offers the **Toddlers and 2's program** for children aged 1 to 3 years of age as part of the Nursery. Interactive games, songs, and bible stories designed for the very young will be offered during the nursery Mass times. The nursery is located downstairs in church and is best designed for children aged 1 to 3 (and okay for up to 5) years. No pre-registration is needed. Parents may check their children into the nursery when they arrive for Mass. The Toddlers & 2's program runs most Sundays until early May.

Adult, Middle School, and High School Youth Volunteers are needed. For questions or to sign up to help in the Toddlers and 2's program, please contact Suzanne Kaji, coordinator (at 517-937-3305 or suzannekaji@yahoo.com) or Ellen Ward (at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132).

Children's Liturgy of the Word

In the Children's Liturgy of the Word, children hear the scripture readings proclaimed and explained to them at an age appropriate level. During the 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Masses, at the time the scriptures are to be read, the priest invites the children in grades K-3 to come to the front of church for the Children's Liturgy of the Word. Adult volunteers then lead the children to the chapel, located in the basement of the church. Here the children hear and participate in the Word of God at their own level. At the time of the collection, the children are led back upstairs and return to their parents for the Eucharistic prayers. All children aged K-3 attending the day's 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Mass are invited to participate. No pre-registration is required.

Adult, High School, and Middle School volunteers are needed to help lead or assist in the Children's Liturgy of the Word during Mass. If you can help, please contact Melissa Milton-Pung at miltonpung@gmail.com or 517-230-6881

Religious Ed. Classes for Children in grades PreK-8!

Give your child or grandchild the gift of Faith!



Enroll your child in Religious Education classes. Forms can be found on our website STFRANCISA2.COM or call 734-821-2130.

Horario de atención en español en la oficina de Educación Religiosa (formación para niños, clases de español para niños en edad preescolar, Primera Comunión, Confirmación o Quinceañera): Jueves y viernes (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) o domingo (9:30 a.m.--12:30 p.m.) al 734-821-2130, con nuestra asistente Helena Bichakjian.

Would you be more comfortable speaking in Spanish for questions regarding Religious Education classes for children (grades preK-8), Sacramental preparation (First Eucharist or Confirmation), or Preparation for Quinceañera? Please contact RE assistant secretary, Helena Bichakjian Thursdays and Fridays (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) or Sundays (9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) at 734-821-2130 or stop in the Religious Education Office during those hours.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; GAUDETE SUNDAY

Joyful anticipation

Gaudete is Latin for “Rejoice!” The church tells us to rejoice, but not in a be-happy-on-demand kind of way. Advent gives you a *reason* to be joyful, as you are when you know that someone who deeply loves you is on her or his way. It is anticipation; it is hope that comes from trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled. Is there a promise you need to fulfill, someone who is waiting for your visit, a phone call, a letter? Don’t wait until Christmas to bring someone joy—not with a material gift, but with a simple reminder that God is good.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (7)*. “*They will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.*”

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Am I not here?

When Mary appeared to Juan Diego on Tepeyak Hill on the outskirts of present-day Mexico City, she said to him, “Don’t be afraid. Am I, who am your Mother, not here?” She also said, “Know for certain that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God,” and she called him, “my little one.” Juan Diego was not a little boy—he was a grown man. Still he was Mary’s “little one.” Mary is our Mother. And if she is our Mother, why are we afraid? Seems so simple, yet for many it is a profound realization. And no matter how old we are, we are still Mary’s “little ones.” Spend some time with your Mother Mary and thank her for being with us.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A)*. “*Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!*”

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 MEMORIAL OF LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR Let your light shine

In the darkness of these Advent days, Saint Lucy stands as a shining example of the gift of faith in this world. Martyred in fourth-century Italy after being outed as a Christian by a disappointed suitor, Lucy is one of only seven women included in the original Eucharistic Prayer. Said to have worn a crown of candles into the dark catacombs of Rome to serve the poor, Lucy reminds us that bringing light into the darkness of the world is a costly venture. Faith, though, calls us to shine bright, no matter the cost.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188)*. “*I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the Lord.*”

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Respect reformers

John of the Cross is revered with one of the highest honors possible, named a “Doctor of the church” as a saint of particularly high importance. Yet during his life, a group of superiors from his own order who opposed his visionary reforms forcibly imprisoned him and subjected him to cruel treatment and public lashings in front of his community. Perhaps as John sat in his cold, dark jail cell, Jesus’ line about prophets being honored except in their home town came to mind. Be slow to criticize modern-day reformers; perhaps they have a message we need to hear.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 (189)*. “*Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?*”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 ADVENT WEEKDAY Prophet-able thoughts

Do you think about prophets like you do about fortune-tellers? Prophets predict the future, right? Well, not in God’s world they don’t. God’s prophets have the job of making people aware that God wants to be first in everyone’s life. God has a call and an invitation for everyone. Today, when the temptation is to focus on the 10 shopping days until Christmas, what do you think John the Baptist would say to call your attention to God’s presence in your daily life? In the eyes of God, what really matters on this Advent day? Ask today for the grace to see God’s presence around you.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30 (190)*. “*I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you.*”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 ADVENT WEEKDAY Let your light shine

Jesus told his followers not to hide their “lamp under a bushel.” But why would anyone shield their inner light? Perhaps we fear that we’re not worthy of the greatness of being a child of God, says author Marianne Williamson. “Your playing small doesn’t serve the world,” she writes. “There’s nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you.” In her book, *A Return to Love*, she urges everyone to “make manifest the glory of God that is within us” and “give other people permission to do the same.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; John 5:33-36 (191)*. “*John was a burning and shining lamp.*”

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 ADVENT WEEKDAY Cue the Magi

The Magi begin their long trek across the East, and we’re glad to honor these Wise Men of old. But we need even more the wisdom of men and women of this generation, and every generation, to show us how to build a better world. The genealogy of Jesus contains a surprising list of who might contribute to history’s rescue from the ways of death. As we begin the days of the O Antiphons of the church, we pray: “*O Wisdom of our God Most High, teach us the path of knowledge!*”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193)*. “*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*”



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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"We saw the star at its rising and have come to do him homage." Mt 2:2


These words spoken by the Magi reflect the heart of every person who approaches our Lord in Eucharist Adoration.

Join us for Eucharist Adoration, Benediction & Song
Thursday, January 5
6:30 p.m. in church

"O Come Let Us Adore Him."

Afterwards, **ALL MEN** are invited to join the Men's Ministry for pizza, beer, and fellowship in the P.A.C.

Let us know if you can make it:
st.francisa2.com/sign-up-forms



PASTERKA - Polish Shepherds' Mass

Saturday, January 7, 2017
at 5:00PM Mass at St. Francis

All are invited to celebrate this Polish tradition with Bishop Earl Boyea in English and in Polish language. Choir Filareci from Hamtramck, Michigan, will sing kolędy, traditional Polish Christmas carols in the spirit of joy.



The Mass is followed by a light reception in our PAC (Parish Activities Center). All are invited to bring a dish of baked goods to share.

The Polish community has been enjoying this tradition at St. Francis for more than 30 years, since about 1982. It is organized by the Polish American Congress, Ann Arbor Chapter - annarborpolonia.org.

Like those shepherds, in haste, let us go to adore Him! For more information, please contact Krystyna Bobowski at 734-973-1226 or kgbobowski@gmail.com Or Scott Wright at (734-821-2121) swright@stfrancisa2.org

"Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." (Luke 2:8-20)

Thursday Holy Hour ... *Spend an Hour with Jesus!*



Our *weekly* Holy Hour begins immediately after the 9:15a.m. **Thursday morning Mass that is celebrated upstairs in the main Church.**

The Holy Hour: (9:45 to 10:45AM in the church)

- Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
- Silent Prayer time.
- On the 1st Thursday of each month, we offer the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
- On the 3rd Thursday of each month, we offer the *Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick*
- Rosary
- Prayers for our school children, our community and for the needs of the universal Church

Eucharistic Adoration continues all day Thursday in the main church. You're invited to spend an hour of prayer in the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament—any time on Thursdays from 10AM to 6:30 PM.



'Nollaig na mban' or Women's Christmas Sunday, January 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the P.A.C.

"Nollaig na mban" is an Irish tradition, celebrated on the Epiphany of the Lord, in which women gather in each other's homes or the local pub for relaxation and celebration after the long holiday. Come join in this special Irish tradition, with special gifts to celebrate your hard work and dedication to your families, and learn about the Feast of the Epiphany from our Ireland-native pastor, Fr. James.

Let us know if you can make it:
stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms



"Even God rested by the seventh day, Irish women didn't stop until the twelfth."

(excerpt from the Irish Times 1998)

Dearborn Ham Fundraiser for the St. Francis MS Choir Trip to Chicago and Barcelona, Spain



The St. Francis Middle School Choir will attend the Great Lakes Pueri Cantores Festival in Chicago (March 2017) and the International Pueri Cantores Festival in Barcelona Spain (Summer 2018).

Great products from Dearborn Ham Company! Spiral ham, kielbasa, hot dogs, and much more for your **CHRISTMAS** celebrations!

Order online at www.stfrancisa2.com/ham

Ordering ends at 5pm on December 11th

You can make a donation to a family in need. Just indicate your intent to donate an item in the comment box on the online order form, and we'll arrange delivery through the parish office.

Pick Up Orders: Monday, December 19th in the PAC from 3:00 to 6pm.

Questions? Contact Kathy Ignatoski (at 734-213-1521 or kwi@umich.edu) or Kari Walworth (at 734-644-6313 or kari.walworth@comcast.net).

Christian Meditation:

Meets Every Monday

7:00-8PM in the lower level Chapel

Meditation is Silent Prayer. It is the Listening that occurs after all Praise, Gratitude and Asking are completed. Whether you are a beginning or advanced meditator, come join us! Contact parishioner Paul Thompson at 734-646-5591 for more information or just show up. **Meditation will not meet Dec. 26 or Jan. 2.**



What does the Sunday Gospel Mean?

Meets Wednesday Mornings

The Gospel Group meets on **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the parish Library.** No prerequisites, drop in anytime. Notes are posted on the parish website, on the Church Community page at "Sunday's Gospel". Questions: call Marty at 734-821-2125.



Grieving with Great HOPE



Grief Support Workshop: *January 13 & 14*

- ❖ Opening Session Friday January 13, at 7:00-9:00p.m. (in Church)
- ❖ Continues Saturday January 14, at 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (in Parish Activity Center)

Grieving with Great HOPE is a weekend grief support workshop that offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. If you have lost a spouse, a child (including pregnancy loss), a grandchild, a parent, another family member or a friend, you are encouraged to attend. Presenters are *John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy* from *Good Mourning Ministry*, a Catholic bereavement organization.

To register, please visit stfrancisa2.com or visit the parish office. *Registration is a suggested donation of \$20.* For more information, contact Kelly Hernandez at (734) 821-2122 or khernandez@stfrancisa2.org.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Mt 5:4

Just For You!

Seniors @ St. Francis

Join us at 9:15am Mass in the Chapel, after Mass enjoy these events, which are open to all interested, friends and family of any age!!!

Tuesday, December 13

Cheese & Chocolate Christmas Celebration on Feast of Saint Lucy



At 10:00 AM in Parish Activities Center. enjoy Christmas goodies, snacks, tea, coffee, and some Christmas music. Please bring a treat to share and/or offer a free will donation. No RSVP is expected. Questions? Call 734-821-2121.

Feastday: December 13: Lucy, whose name means "light" or "lucid," is the patron saint of the blind. She is often seen with the emblem of eyes on a cup or plate. In paintings, she is often depicted with a golden plate holding her eyes and often holds a palm branch, which is a symbol of victory over evil.

Support for Divorced or Separated Meets Every Monday 7:00 pm in the School Library



The Divorced and Separated Group will not meet Dec. 26 or Jan. 2.

This is a difficult time in your life but there is comfort with others along the same journey. Looking for ways to move forward with your healing? Wondering where God is in your life as you rebuild your life?

Despite how you feel, you belong to the church and with God in these difficult and confusing times. Come share your thoughts and feelings and get answers to many frequently asked questions. Members of the group are in various stages of the process and can offer comfort and community. You might help yourself and others as you discover you are not alone. We all have something to offer. No need to register, just come and check us out. Feel free to bring a friend. For questions, contact Jeff at 734-678-0995.

Mothers Support Groups!!!

All Mothers are Invited to join **MOMS – Ministry of Moms Sharing** on **Friday, December 16** for

Potluck and White Elephant!

Join us for our Christmas Potluck and (optional) White Elephant gift exchange! Bring a dish to share and/or a wacky gift to exchange.



The M.O.M.S. group meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month. Through prayer, presentations and shared experiences, we help each other understand and nurture God's presence in our lives, our families and our homes. Connect with other active moms on a diverse range of topics, participate in service projects, book reviews and more, and join us for the occasional *Mom's Night Out!* All are welcome. For details, please email us at: stfrancismoms@umich.edu or find us on Facebook.

Moms and Dads with Young children



Join us for 8:15 a.m. Mass every 2nd & 4th Friday of the month

This FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Mass is in the main church (upstairs) and all children are encouraged to come! Afterwards, you are invited to stay for a fun playgroup in the church nursery from 9:00—11a.m.! You are welcome to bring a snack to share.



The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide will help you:

- Discover how to work through the emotions of separation and divorce.
- Experience personal healing and hope.
- Gain wisdom and comfort from others who share your experience.
- Address questions of forgiveness and new family dynamics.
- Obtain an understanding of the annulment process.

Beginning January 16, 2017

7-9 P.M. in the School Library

For questions, contact Jeff at (734) 678-0995



Do you have appreciated **Stock** or need to make a minimum **401k Distribution?**



It is not too late for a 2016 appreciated stock gift to St. Francis! If you had gains on your investment in 2016, you might be thinking of using those gains as a gift to our St. Francis Parish or School. Donating your appreciated stock would help avoid paying capital gains tax which otherwise be incurred through normal sales of shares of stock.

Do you need a minimum 401k distribution before the end of 2016? Have you thought about gifting your 401k minimum distribution to the Parish and School? If you are of age and haven't made a minimum distribution on your 401k, you will have to request your minim distribution before the end of the year. By making a donation, you can avoid paying taxes on your minimum distribution.

The Parish is well-equipped to assist you should you wish to take advantage of improved market or 401k minimum distribution. For further details, please contact the Parish Business Manager, Michael Scott at 734-821-2111 or mscott@stfrancisa2.org.

Allergies & Communion

Are You Gluten Intolerant?

Are you gluten intolerant and therefore cannot receive Communion? If so, we have a special low gluten host that you can receive at Communion time. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 734-821-2100.



Precious Blood for Those Who Cannot Drink Alcohol

If you cannot share in the Precious Blood at Communion time because you are not able to drink alcohol, the Church allows a special non-alcoholic wine, called "mustum," to be consecrated along with the regular sacramental wine. Here at St. Francis, this non-alcoholic Precious Blood is available at ALL weekend Masses and is ALWAYS at the Communion station closest to the organ. If you would like to avail yourself of this non-alcoholic Precious Blood, please use this Communion station each week.

Happy Birthday to You!!!

We hope that you will wish a "Happy Birthday" to those you know, and say a prayer for all those celebrating their birthday this week. Please call the Parish Office (769-2550) with corrections. Thank you!

12/12

- Nicholai Azzi
- Walker Bedard
- Chris Birkmeyer
- Matthew Boyer
- Danilo Cabrerros
- Drew Cunningham
- Margaret De Shano
- Grace DesJardins
- Eric Farris
- Jacqueline Flowers
- Matthew Graf
- Anthony Grover
- Mary Lou Heidt
- Julia Inge
- Adam Karr
- Clare Levijoki
- Maurice Lynch
- Bridget McGillicuddy
- Tony Scalzi
- Christopher Stemple
- Holden Zann

- Charles Cuneo
- Lillian DeBacker
- Gregory Dull
- Antonette Fabriga
- Johanna Grum
- Ural Hill
- Anne Kubis
- Kym London
- Joe Mello
- Lucy Miller
- Ryne Quinlan
- Laurie Rigan
- Aaron Seybert
- Clare Still
- Benjamin Stille
- Mario Teixeira
- Monica Thibault
- Michael Tirico

12/14

- Everett Barsan
- Noah Bonner
- Donald Courtois
- Elodie Delp
- Laurence Hagerty
- Chris Kempton

- Jennifer Ledwidge
- Robert McGinnis
- Kevin Mondro
- Eric Neal
- Jacqueline Portu
- Corbin Robinson
- Yann Roussillon
- Julius Sawyer
- Cynthia Sliskovic
- Daniel Sougstad
- Kate Stante
- Caitlin Watripont
- Charles White

12/15

- Thomas Alberty
- Justin Alexander
- Aris Alexiou
- Anastasio Alexiou
- Joanne Brines
- Nathan Carrera
- Yeonhee Choi
- Shin Young Choo
- Vita Ciemiorek
- Michael Clancy
- Nicholas Cobello

- Paul Corsello
- Nancy Haverty
- Dana Higa
- Patrick Hollinshead
- Delia Kiley
- Josef Knierbein
- Morgan Lyle
- Bryan McCullough
- Emeka Nriagu
- Suzanne Parsell
- Sue-Ellen Pastrana
- Judith Schummer
- Sara Szafranski

12/16

- Carl (Trey) Allen III
- Eusebio Cabatuando
- Venus DePena
- Buchi Ezeoke
- Walter Fechner
- Gina Gardner
- Chris Jurasek
- Antonina Juzba
- Mara Kaji
- Jeffrey Marley
- Lori O'Neil

- Tran Phung
- Adelaida Poole
- Daniel Preston
- Menchie Valenzuela
- Sara Zuleta

12/17

- Teresa Bossard
- Michael Ciaramitaro
- Benjamin Deininger
- Sam DeNicolò
- Monica DiMagno
- Leonardo Fioramonte
- Neil Galbraith
- Abigail Gillett
- John Hansen
- Michael Hesse
- Noora Kazanj
- Grace Newman
- Nicholas Pace
- Patrick Ujowundu
- Mary Wakefield
- Grant Weber
- Alyssia Woods
- Genevieve Zeimet

12/18

- Elijah Adams
- Cayla Allen
- Helen Clark
- Louisa DiMagno
- Rosana Fioramonte
- Daniela Garcia
- Ana Garcia-Osorio
- Kathleen Garner
- Nicholas Goethals
- Sandra Hahn
- Trenton Hill
- Clare Hong
- Abigail Jensen
- Jane Jibson
- Nicholas Laten
- James Millan
- Emilia Mousigian
- Katarina Munson
- Michael Munson
- Michelle Shulman
- Dominic Tucker
- James Varani
- Luke Veninga
- Lewis Vincenz
- Marc Ybarra

Bulletin Board

Got an Hour for God's House?



The **Monday Morning Crew** needs a few more hands to help straighten up the hymnals in the pews, sweep the aisles, etc. Join us at 7:00—9AM on Mondays. Come

for any part of our time. We finish with a cup of coffee, and some stay for morning Mass.

Some of our members are heading south for the winter, and we need YOU to help us. We save the parish a great deal of money over the course of a year, through this weekly gift of our time. Questions? Call Mike Scott in the parish office at 821-2111.

Come Decorate God's House!

Your help is needed in decorating the inside of the church for Christmas! (This is a great project for those looking for service hours.)



- Friday, Dec. 16** – 6:00-9 pm
set up inside decorations
- Saturday, Dec. 17** – 8:00-9:30 am
finish decorating large Christmas trees
- Wednesday, Dec. 21** – 6:00-8:00 pm
final preparations for Christmas

No need to sign up. Just show up at the church! Come for all or part of the time. Many hands make light work.

An artistic eye is helpful but not required. Guidance is provided. If you have any questions, please contact Sue at 734-821-2123 or liturgy@stfrancisaa.org.

Job Openings:

St. Francis School: Immediate need

- Part-Time Math Teacher
- Part-Time Physical Education Teacher

Must be a practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church, with a strong working knowledge of the Faith. Must have Michigan teaching certification, pass a criminal background check and complete the Protecting God's Children program. If interested, please send a resume and cover letter to the principal, Julie Pritzel at jpritzel@stfrancisaa.org

Diocese of Lansing is accepting applications for a full time Administrative Assistant position for the Department of Vocations. To read the full job description and how to apply, visit our website at www.dioceseoflansing.org/employment.

Thank You for Your Support!!!

Sunday Collection:

Thank you for your generous support of our parish and its ministry! **Tithing for December 4** was \$28,489 including Children's good deeds, and 2 envelopes with \$2.00. Monthly **Direct Debit*** for December was \$83,893 from 560 donors. Donations for the St. Vincent Service Ministry 'Needy Fund' as of 12/04/16 were \$4,055.00.

Please be sure to mark your envelope with the amount donated. This will ensure proper credit to your account. If you move, please let us know as soon as possible.

Thank You! *Bookkeeping Department*

* **FREE Direct Debit!!!**

Have your Sunday Contributions transferred electronically from your checking account, with no fee charged to you! If interested, please call Michael Scott at the parish office, 821-2111.