



# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

# Forum

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 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
- P.3 Christmas Masses
- P.5 Sacrament of Penance
- P.5 Cards for Homebound
- P.6 Jesus te Ilama!
- P.7 Common Conference
- P.8 Service opportunities
- P.10-11 PreK-High School faith formation
- P.13 Pasterka

Over the past three weeks we have journeyed together as a community of faith. And what a blessed journey it has been! On this final week of Advent as we prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth in time we finally arrive at our destination: a simple manager in Bethlehem, there to encounter and greet the newborn King, the fulfillment of God’s promises and as our Holy Father reminded us during this past Jubilee Year the one who is the *“face of the Father’s mercy.”* Along that Advent journey we have been joined by a myriad of individuals from the pages of scripture, some very familiar, a few less so. We have encountered Old Testament personalities like Isaiah, Ahaz and David and of course great saints like John the Baptist, Paul Joseph and Mary: all different and yet with one common message, that of God’s fidelity, steadfastness and abundant mercy!

Today’s Gospel for this final Sunday of our Advent journey tells the story of Joseph and his encounter with the angel Gabriel. Shocked at the news that his betrothed, Mary, is already with child, Joseph is reassured that the child is of God and sent with the mission to save his people. Here we see a man, who despite his very human fears and doubts finds strength and reassurance in the words of the angel. And so by willingly giving himself fully in service to God’s plan of mercy and by embracing it he finds that great peace and joy that every heart desires.

As we have journeyed this Advent we too have sought God’s loving presence and mercy and have now come to find it in the newborn Christ. Let us pray during this Christmas season that Jesus Christ who is the very mercy of God, will allow that holy presence to dawn in our hearts. May his merciful presence burn away all that is not of God and heal our brokenness and faults. May his merciful presence radiate in our words and actions, reminding all we meet that Christ’s mercy is offered to them also. This is the heart and purpose of our Advent and Christmas seasons: holy moments for all of us to journey and encounter Christ, the face of the Father’s mercy.

Once again, I invite you to try to see Christmas in a new and perhaps surprising way. Maybe this is the year when you finally invite Christ in and allow his light to brighten your heart and life. SO GO ON! Give the real meaning of Christmas a chance this year! Let Christ’s light and mercy be yours and together let us rejoice in God’s eternal love not just for one day, but for the whole year ahead.

May the newborn Christ who reveals the powerful mercy of God, be with you and all your loved ones in these holy days ahead!

*Fr. James Conlon*  
Pastor



The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

**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](http://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 &amp; 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 &amp; Justice, Kelly Gauthier &amp; 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.....	jkanitz@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](http://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**

## Giving Tree: Gifts are Due!

St. Francis parishioners have been donating Christmas gifts for at-risk and struggling families in our area during Advent season. 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.) **Thank you for shopping !**



**After today, please Return all Gifts to the parish office.**

## Please Be Kind and Don't Save Seats at Christmas Masses



*Out of respect for others, we ask you not to save seats at any of the Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Thank you for your cooperation!*

**This Week at St. Francis**  
**December 19—25, 2016**



**Monday**

9:00 AM Preschool Enrichment (nursery)  
**9:15 AM Mass** (chapel): +Billie Navoa Roney—  
 Amelia Novoa  
 2:00 PM Spanish preschool (nursery)  
 3:00 PM Strings class (church)  
 3:00 PM Ham Sale PICK UP to 6PM (PAC)  
 6:00 PM Decorate Christmas trees—Art & Design (church)  
 6:00 PM Assisi Ringers Rehearsal (church)  
 7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal (church)  
 7:00 PM BSA Troop 27 (gym)  
 7:00 PM Divorced/Separated (s.library)  
 7:00 PM Meditation (chapel)

**Tuesday**

9:00 AM Preschool Enrichment (nursery)  
**9:15 AM Mass** (chapel): +Carolyn Holcomb—Bob Berarducci  
 10:00 AM **Confession** (Chapel) \*\*\*  
 7:00 PM St. Francis School Christmas Program (church)

**Wednesday**

9:00 AM Preschool Enrichment (nursery)  
**9:15 AM Mass**: +George Bobowski—His Family  
 10:00 AM Gospel Group (p.library)  
 3:00 PM Strings class (church)  
 5:00 PM Setup Poinsettias & Nativity - Art & Design (church)  
 6:30 PM Rel. Ed. classes for grades K-8 (school)  
 7:00 PM Parish Choir rehearsal (choir)

**Thursday**

9:00 AM Preschool Enrichment (nursery)  
**9:15 AM Mass**: +Michael Ferrantino—Janette Ferrantino  
 10:00 AM Adoration until 6:30 pm (church)  
 5:30 PM Parish Children's Choir (choir)  
 6:30 PM Evening Prayer w/ Benediction (church)  
 7:30 PM Sunday 5pm Rehearsal (church)

**Friday**

**8:15 AM Mass**: +Herman & Julia Bertl—Ruthann Distler  
 10:00 AM Mother & Child Network (nursery)

*All Christmas masses are for  
 our specially remembered loved ones*

**Saturday Vigil of Christmas**

**4:00 PM Mass** (church)  
**6:00 PM Mass** (church)  
**8:00 PM Mass** (church)  
**10:30 PM Mass** (church) caroling begins at 10pm

**Sunday The Nativity of the Lord** (Christmas)

**9:30 AM Mass** (church)  
**11:30 AM Mass** (church)

**NO 5PM Mass** on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day



**Scripture Readings**  
**December 19—25**

**Monday** Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a; Ps 71:3-6,16-17; Lk 1:5-25  
**Tuesday** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38  
**Wednesday** Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21; Lk 1:39-45  
**Thursday** 1 Sm 1:24-28; (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1,4-8; Lk 1:46-56  
**Friday** Mt 3:1-4,23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab,8-10,14; Lk 1:57-66  
**Vigil Mass** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5,16-17,27,29; Acts 13:16-17,22-25;  
 Mt 1:1-25  
**Christmas** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

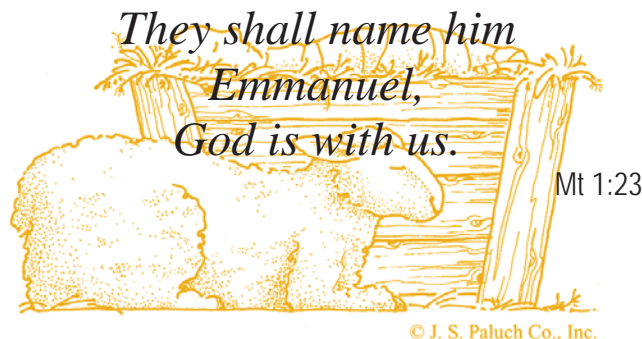
**Pray for the Sick**

**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:**

Betty Lemmer, Visitacion Telan, Bill Boylan, Ellen Hoffrichter, Nate Gleeton, Betty Weber, Roosevelt Madison, Jackie Mitchelmore, Dionisia Frando, Rita Vorek, David Iocca, Robert Iocca, Ken Gaertner, Kelly Dishman, Mary Ann Gaertner, Lourena DeAbreu, Bill Ruzicka, Richelle Nicolaus, Billy Reiter, Kathy Reiter, Mark Derenthal, 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**

Julius Lane Braun, son of Charles Braun and Nicole Seleno.  
 Kyle Patrick Langenderfer, son of Jeremy Langenderfer & Songkran Kongphuthorn.



**Live Broadcast of St. Francis  
 Christmas Eve Mass**

*See a Live Broadcast of 10:30 p.m.  
 Christmas Eve Mass on Your Computer!*



On Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24 the 10:30 p.m. Mass will be live-streamed on our Parish website [www.stfrancisa2.com](http://www.stfrancisa2.com) starting a few minutes before 10:00 p.m., and ends when the Mass is over. Watch it live, or watch it during the day on Christmas.



*\*\*\* Please plan ahead: there will be  
 NO Confessions on Saturdays, December 24 & 31*

## Send A Christmas Card & Greeting to our Homebound Parishioners!

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, it is easy to forget those of our parish who, because of infirmity or old age, cannot get out of their homes to attend many Christmas gatherings.



We invite you to remember the shut-ins of our parish by sending them a Christmas card. Their names and addresses have been printed on a Mailing List that is available in the Parish Office, or by **Emailing parishoffice@stfrancisa2.org** with the **Subject: Homebound List**.

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

## Christmas 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;
- ♦ Project OutReach Team "PORT" for persons who are homeless and living with a mental illness;
- ♦ St. Louis Center in Chelsea, for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Questions, contact: Scott (821-2121).

## 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:



**Tuesday, Dec. 20 10:00 am – 11:00 am in the CHAPEL**

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

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



**The tender Mercy of God has dawned upon us**  
*(c/f Lk 1:79)*

## 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!**

**Confesiones** durante el adviento: **Martes 20 de diciembre, de 10 a 11 am.**



**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: Unción de los Enfermos. El Smo. Sacramento es retirado hasta las 6:30pm. Ven a pasar un momento con Cristo Sacramentado.

**Jueves 22 a las 6:30 pm: Liturgia de las horas:** Oración comunitaria de los salmos y otros pasajes bíblicos.

**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!

**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.



**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.



**Grupo de hombres (en inglés):** **Jueves 5 de enero a las 6:30pm.** Adoración Eucarística, Bendición y Cantos en la iglesia, seguidos de convivencia, pizza y cerveza en el PAC. Inscríbete: [stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms](http://stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms)

**Pasterka - Misa Polaca:** **Sábado 7 de enero 5pm.** Misa con el Obispo Earl Boyea, coro polaco "Filareci" y recepción en el PAC.

**Nollaig na mban** - Celebración irlandesa de la navidad para mujeres. **Domingo 8 de enero, 2pm** en el PAC. Ven a relajarte y a escuchar la plática de la Epifanía que dará nuestro Pastor, Padre James. Inscríbete: [stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms](http://stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms)

**Para los más pequeños y sus padres-**

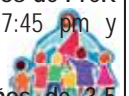
**Niños de Kinder-12o grado** están invitados a participar en el **coro y banda de nuestra Pastorela y Misa del 24 de diciembre.** Información con Kelly: 734-821-2122 o khernandez@stfrancisa2.org



**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.
- ♦ Contribuye a la Campaña "Buen Samaritano" de Catholic Social Services. [www.csswashtenaw.org/donate](http://www.csswashtenaw.org/donate)
- ♦ Dona regalos nuevos que te hagan y que no usarás. Habrá una caja en la entrada de la iglesia. Información con Scott: 821-2121



## 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](mailto:hispanicministry@stfrancisa2.org) o (734) 273-9853

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

# BLESSED ... The Beatitudes explored in Film



Join Fr. Shaun beginning Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m. Come contemplate the Beatitudes of Jesus through modern films. Based on the ideas of Jesuit Fathers John Pungente and Monty Williams in their books *Finding God in the Dark I & II*, a film is assigned to each of the eight Beatitudes.

Questions for reflection are distributed before each film begins. The audience is invited into a prayerful and particular viewing of the film. Time is available after the film for those who would like to remain and discuss the film and the themes, feelings, and questions that arise during the movie. *Rediscover the Beatitudes through cinema*, and encounter God and each other.

The film series is perfect for people of all ages and backgrounds. Each film is appropriate for people ages 16+. Students younger than age 16 should be accompanied by parents. *Some of the films are shown with English subtitles.* Bring a neighbor, colleague, or classmate to a film night as a way of introducing them to our parish community



## Save the date! Saturday, January 21

Seventh Parish  
**Common Conference**  
 for  
**Adults, Teens & Children**

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**God's Mercy  
 Keeps on Flowing**

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**  
**Saturday, January 21**  
 10:00 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.  
 Parish Activity Center (PAC)

Theme: God’s Mercy Keeps on Flowing  
 Keynote Speaker: Sheri Wohlfert

The Jubilee Year of Mercy may have ended on November 20, but *God’s Mercy Continues to Flow*. Do you believe you are a faith-filled Catholic but have gaps in your knowledge of the religion? Are you a “cradle Catholic” just going through the motions at Sunday Mass?

Come, grow deeper in your faith by learning more about it. We offer a wide range of workshops appropriate for all adults and young people.

Children pre-K through 5th Grade are encouraged to attend sessions designed especially for them.

We will have child care for those 4 months through 3 years of age.

## OUTREACH, SERVICE + JUSTICE

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

### Giving Tree Thank You!!!

Thank you all for sharing your Christmas gifts for at-risk families in our area. Thank you for shopping 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.**



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



**Questions?** Contact Scott Wright [swright@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:swright@stfrancisa2.org) or 734-821-2121

### 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?**

- ☑ **On-line** 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 April Dr Suite A, Ann Arbor MI 48103;

Questions: call 734-478-6331 or visit [www.h4h.org](http://www.h4h.org)

### 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](http://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.

### THANK YOU FOR THE PARTY

Our parish St. Vincent Service Ministry started off the pre-Christmas season when over 80 volunteers contributed their time and food to a festive and Merry Christmas dinner provided for Foundation Preschool's family and staff. Our 118 guests feasted on your buffet contributions and the music of St. Francis School children, with a special visit from Santa Claus.



We would like to extend a special thank you to all of you for making the dinner successful and to all parishioners who provided food or assisted with the meal.

Gemma Almendras & family, Carmen Andrianopoulos, Jane Antosiak, Deacon Rich Badics, Teri Billau, Kristy Bonasso, Elaine Brandenburg, Marionette Cano, Elaine Caoili, Cynthia Carnevale, Tanya, Nicholas, Kate, & Andrew Castrogiovanni, Cathy Cieglo, Susanne Daniels, Alexa Daniels, Dick Dehn, Karen DeWulf, Patti Dobbs, Victoria Emch, Mary Pietra Fesmire, **Doris Filisko**, Dick Galant, **Adriana Ham, Mary Hayden**, Jacquelyn Heidelbaugh, Sheila Hoef, Lauren Hoef, **Marty Javornisky**, Mary Kellermann, **Chris Kempton**, Estelle Kratochwill, Donna Krukowski, Molly Lobdell, U. Christine & Ana Marquis, Lea McGregor-VonKoss, Katie Millan, **John & Cece Miller**, Joan Minerath, Chris Mollo, Felice Moorman, Claudia Morales-Farfan, Paige and Ratu Nong, **Jacqueline Nutting & The St. Francis Strings Musicians, Linda Opaleski & St. Francis School Children's Choir**, Kim Pavicich, Cathy Pietrasiuk, Charlene Plagens, Carly Plagens, Tom Powell, Tess Raveendra, Felipe Ronquillo, Matthew Ryder, Annie Scott, Sharon Sprague, Clare Stando, Becky Targett, Christian & Colleen Tassie, Kat Volz, Dan White, Gary Williams, Ion - Covali Wiseman, James & Linda Wiseman family, Scott Wright, Sharon Wright, Susan Zill.





# Just For You!

## 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.

## All Mothers are Invited to join MOMS – Ministry of Moms Sharing! on Friday, January 20 for

### *The intersection of Faith & Science*

Join us for a conversation on Science and Faith. Presenter, Lin VanNieustadt, will give a brief personal perspective on the integral relationship between science and faith based on her professional life as an engineer, as well as share her family's efforts in combining scientific knowledge to practice 'sustainable' living, rooted in their Catholic faith.



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](mailto:stfrancismoms@umich.edu) or find us on Facebook.

## Grief Support Workshop: January 13 & 14

Friday January 13, at 7:00-9PM (in Church); Saturday Jan. 14, at 10AM-4PM (in PAC)

*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.

## 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.

Looking for Peace, Healing and Hope after your Divorce?

**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




**To register**, please visit [stfrancisa2.com](http://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](mailto:khernandez@stfrancisa2.org).

# CONFIRMATION



For Youth currently in 7th Grade Confirmation Preparation 2018, Begins January 22 & 25

Parents and Youth in 7th grade or older who desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please plan on attending either **Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m.** or **Wednesday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Parish Activities Center (PAC).

These meetings will give an overview of the preparation process and offer a timeline of important events. Following the meeting, the youth will enter into a more engaged time of service.

Youth grade 7 through high school desiring Confirmation are asked to attend this meeting with a parent. Arrangements are made to prepare the older youth. For information, please contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or call 734-821-2132 .

## Epiphany Party for all Middle School Youth

Sunday, January 8 at 6:15 p.m. in the PAC

All Middle School Youth (Grades 6-8) are invited to an Epiphany party on Sunday January 8 at 6:15 p.m. in the Parish Activities Center (PAC).



Bring a white elephant (an inexpensive gift that you desire to give away as part of the exchange game).

Sign up by showing up! Contact Catherine Anderson at canderson@stfrancisa2.org or Andrew Kanitz at akanitz56@gmail.com or the RE office at 734-821-2130.

## Preparation Meetings for

**First Reconciliation: January 11 & 15 And First Eucharist (Communion): Feb. 8 & 12** Meetings are in the Parish Activities Center (PAC).

Parents, please plan on attending one of the **First Reconciliation** meetings with your child:

**Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m.** or **Sunday, January 15 at 2:30 p.m.**

Sign up will take place at these meetings to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation on either Saturday morning, January 28 or February 4.

Also please plan on attending one of the **First Eucharist** meetings with your child:

**Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m.** or **Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 p.m.**



Preparation for First Eucharist normally begins in the second grade. Please contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2130 if your child is older and in need of the sacrament.

### Confirmation Meetings

For candidates (8th grade youth) preparing to receive the Sacrament this June 2017

1.) For all Confirmation candidates, the Diocesan workshop, **Theology of the Body** is **Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the PAC.**

Candidates are required to attend. Parents & sponsors are welcome.



2.) Confirmation candidates, sponsors (if available) and parents: Please plan on attending one of the following **Confirmation preparation meetings** in the Parish Activities Center (PAC):

**Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m.** or **Sunday, February 5 at 3:00 p.m.**

3.) Candidates: Remember, all Confirmation sponsor/candidate text chapters should be completed by the time of this meeting. Forms reporting at least 30 hours of service are due the end of January to the Religious Education office.

For information, please contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or call 734-821-2132.

## You're invited to Youth Group!



**Sunday, December 18**

at 5pm Living Nativity in the church

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

We will take a break for Christmas, please join us again after 5:00PM mass on **Sunday, January 8** in the Youth room. Questions? please email me at [ikanitz@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:ikanitz@stfrancisa2.org)

God bless you! *Jake Kanitz*

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

*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](mailto:suzannekaji@yahoo.com)) or Ellen Ward (at [ward@stfrancisa2.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 18, 2016 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT The coming of the new law

As we move closer to Christmas, the O Antiphons in the Liturgy of the Hours highlight the prophecy that foretold Jesus' coming. Today, we pray, "O Leader of Israel, giver of the law to Moses: rescue us with your mighty power!" Time and again, God has rescued his people. Faith and divine law go hand-in-hand. Just as the Israelites tried to hold fast to the law of Moses, we are called to embrace Jesus as a new embodiment of that law. He is coming to renew the face of the earth, may his birth at Christmas renew the law in our lives.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24* (10). "They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 ADVENT WEEKDAY Hope starts early

A child is born, and a surge of hope arrives with it. Truthfully, we have no idea who this stranger will be. The color of a baby's eyes may change; this tiny being may grow to be seven feet tall. She might be president of her own company. He may be a priest, a plumber, a playwright. So much potential lies hidden in each new person. Why not support our children with every possible resource? We pray in thanksgiving for the hope new life brings: "O Root of Jesse's stem, come save us without delay!"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25* (195). "For the boy shall be consecrated to God from the womb."

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 ADVENT WEEKDAY Be free

Freedom is talked about, legislated, protested for. But what is freedom? Some definitions seem watery: We want to do as we like without restrictions. We want Mom or the government or the church off our backs. A better sense of liberty is the capacity to become more than the sum of our givens. The imprint of divine nature distinguishes us: makes us self-creators, re-inventors, transcendents of present circumstances. We pray for the right key to unlock our best selves: "O Key of David, come and free the prisoners of darkness!"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38* (196). "Elizabeth has conceived a son in her old age... for nothing will be impossible for God."



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

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## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

MEMORIAL OF PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### May calmer minds prevail

Saint Peter Canisius is remembered for being the calm voice in the midst of a storm. For Catholics in 16th-century northern Europe, the storm was the Protestant Reformation. While most partisans on both side of the divide used strident words and sometimes violent actions, Peter called for reason. Rejecting the inflamed rhetoric against Protestants that was coming from his associates, he said, "With words like these, we don't cure patients, we make them incurable." Think twice before you criticize those who see things differently. Keep the dialogue open.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45* (197). "O Radiant Dawn, shine on those in darkness and the shadow of death."

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Kinship with all

In today's antiphon for vespers we pray, "O King of all nations: save us, whom you formed from the dust!" That is a reminder that all people come from the same source and have been formed by the same God. Each one of us is made in God's image and likeness. The kingdom of God is one of kinship. If we take the time to truly come to know one another, we will find the glimpses of God all around us. We just need to look!

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56* (198). "He remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever."

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 ADVENT WEEKDAY

### O come, O come Emmanuel!

"O Emmanuel: come to save us, Lord our God." Every day for the past seven days, the church has prayed the O Antiphons, using the ancient words and divine images found in the Old Testament. In these prayers, people of faith asked God to come and free us, to rescue us, and to shine on us. Today, the divine word is *Emmanuel*, which means "God-with-us." As today unfolds, remember that God is with you right now and will be with you through thick and thin, stress and peace, sorrow and joy. It is your job to pay attention and notice God's presence in the insights, conversations, and events of your days—and then to act accordingly.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66* (199). "Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths."

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 ADVENT WEEKDAY

### God is with you always

What's in a name? In the case of Emmanuel, it's *all* in that name. "God-with-us" in the infant whose birth we celebrate; "God-with-us" in Jesus' forgiving sinners; "God-with-us" in Jesus weeping over a friend's death; "God-with-us" in feeding thousands with bread and countless people with his word; "God-with-us" carrying the cross; "God-with-us" on Christmas morning and in his last words, "I am with you always." God is with you today and always because Jesus has lived up to his name. Is there someone you ought to be with tonight?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79* (200). "I have been with you wherever you went."

**"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](http://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](http://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](mailto:kgbobowski@gmail.com) Or Scott Wright at (734-821-2121) [swright@stfrancisa2.org](mailto: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 ... *No Adoration on Thursday, Dec. 29*



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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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)



## BEQUEST, MEMORIAL, AND HONORARY GIFTS

November 21, 2015—November 1, 2016

St Francis of Assisi Parish would like to acknowledge receipt of bequests during the past year (November 21, 2015 to November 1, 2016) from the following

*Anonymous*

*Felix Chmiel Estate Trust*

Additionally, we also wish to acknowledge receipt on behalf of the Parish, School, Tuition Assistance Fund, Hopes and Dreams Fund, or Educational Trust Fund for the following memorial and honorary gifts:

**Jack & Jane Beadle:** Mary Jane Tramontin

**Robert Bordeau:** Sharon Bordeau, Ken & Carol Bruneau, Joanne B. Herrington, Joanne Herrington

**David Alfred & Leelavathy Cole:** Arundhathi Cole-Rebbapragada

**Joanne P. Colwell:** Richard & Cheryl Moote

**Thomas R. DeFord:** Dan & Carole Peterlin

**Evelyn Downer:** David & Melissa Himich

**Richard Erickson:** Joan Charboneau

**Dr. Qais Farjo:** Dr. Rand S. Farjo

**Robert Graham:** Cynthia Graham

**Dr. Peter Hagen:** Craig Albert

**Monica Judson:** Tim & Lisa Judson, Shane & Kristin Martin, Joel & Kristine Dreffs, John & Monica Judson, Lynn Breyfogle, Mary Massey, Meredith Woods, Patricia Chrysan, Max & Sue Supica, Scott and Patricia Hanson

**John Kinney:** Donald Eaton & Clare Canham-Eaton

**Camille Macgowski:** Barbara Yaich

**Aline Madison:** Richard & Barbara Mannis

**Luisa Martinez:** Adrian Ham

**Hugh McCann:** Downington Area Education Association

**Neil Mueller:** Susan Hanson, Ann Hungerman, Maralyn Wright, Patti Dobbs, Joyce Malloy, Wayne Vaner, Johnny & Connie Johnson, Suzanne Mueller, Jane Cronkleton, Tim & Vivian Langton, Mashbanks Golden Retriever Club, Jeff & Mary Lynn Fosdick, Herb Black, Susan Zill, John & Mary Pedley, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Courtois, Adele & Ernest McCarus, Norman Hessel & Evelyn

Harris, Ben Bock, Maya Savarino, Kathleen Miller, The Quinlan Family, Amy Remillard, Jane Huhn, Doris Filisko, Hands On Center for Physical Therapy, Nancy Johnson, Edward & Sharon Wright, Eric & Breanna Ries, Lucy Ann Visovatti, Dick & Barb Dehn, Karen & Robert Murphy, Betty Lemmer, Don & Skip Horning, Rick & Marybeth Worcheck, Ken & Marianne Schmanske, Pam Fair, Mary Westoff & Mara Markos, Bill & Mary Claire Anhut, Patrick O'Conner, Brian & Calie Ries, Teruko Eisenlohr, Janene Ternes, Funovation Crew, Bernice Mathews, Joyce White, Gary Miller

**Cecily & L. R. Olsen:** Leslie A. Olsen

**Don, Jane & Cathy Peterson, and St. Francis School Second & Third Grades:** Donald Peterson

**Eliza Jane Pritzel:** Patti Dobbs

**Ernest Sarosi:** Mary Bradshaw & Deborah Overcash, Dr. Robert & Susan Dettmer, Ft. Wayne Radiology Association, Dr. & Mrs. Galileo Sarmiento

**Ken Schmanske:** Maya Savarino

**Jack Sherzer:** Patti Dobbs, Betty Lemmer, U of M War Studies Group

**Elizabeth Lloyd St. Antoine:** Theodore J. St. Antoine

**Anne Stemmerich:** David & Monika Barera, Bridget McGillicuddy, David & Janice Robb, Van Bohle Family, Don & Joan Perdue, Mark & Jane Vogel Family Foundation, Susan Seger, Martha Seger, Tayna Parzondek, Ray Yerkes, Matt Furca & Family, Karin Deam-Mendoza

**Andy & Emily Vigo:** Katherine Burr

**Mari Kay West:** Robert West

**Robbi Zinser:** Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zinser



On behalf of the people and staff of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and School, we wish to thank all the donors of memorial and honorary gifts for their thoughtful and generous gestures.

# 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.

# Help support St. Francis School's Student trips to Chicago, Washington D.C. and Barcelona, Spain

Do you shop at Amazon.com?  
Start your shopping at either ~  
<http://StFrancisA2.org/finearts> or  
<http://StFrancisA2.org/8thgradetrip>

Start your Amazon search from either web address above, and Amazon will pay a percentage of your purchases to St. Francis School. AT NO COST TO YOU!

This year our choir is singing at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, and next year they will travel to Barcelona, Spain. In both cases they will sing in *Pueri Cantores Festivals* with children from around our nation, or around the world. Additionally our 8th grade class is traveling to Washington, D.C. this spring to explore our nation's capital. This fundraiser will defray the costs of these trips for our children. **Questions?** Kelly Palkowski at kellypalkowski@yahoo.com



# Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!!!

During the winter weather, St. Francis Parish's main concern is for the safety of all parishioners and guests. We ask for your support by walking cautiously and carefully in the parking lots. We will do our best to clear all sidewalks and treat icy spots in a timely fashion.



Our new Weekday Parking Lot Snow Policy for predicted snowfalls of one inch or less, will be to wait to plow/salt until the storm ends.

During Weekend and Holyday Mass times, and special events we will use our best judgment whether to pre-treat parking lots.

# 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.**



# God calls us into personal relationship...

One way to know God more personally, and to recognize God's actions and presence in our lives, is through monthly spiritual direction. Guided by the Holy Spirit and companioned by a trained Spiritual Director, you will look at your daily life with new eyes. Through discussion of your prayer, activities and encounters with others, you will better recognize God's active presence in your life. This will help develop the gift of discernment, which enables you to be more attentive to how God is leading and guiding you. To arrange an exploratory, confidential visit with one of our experienced Spiritual Directors, or for more information call Janene Ternes at 734-436-1351.



## 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.)

**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. Questions, please contact Sue at 734-821-2123 or [liturgy@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:liturgy@stfrancisa2.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](mailto: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](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/employment).

**Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist** is seeking a full-time Communications Coordinator to work in their Mission Advancement Office on the design and production of various collateral and other communication materials. Proficiency in Microsoft Office products required. To apply, please e-mail a cover letter and resume to Pamela Hufnagel at [phufnagel@sistersofmary.org](mailto:phufnagel@sistersofmary.org). Applications are due no later than January 13, 2017.

## Monday Church Crew: Invites You!!!



**Come Join Us!!!** We are always looking for a few more hands to lighten the work load. There are tasks for every ability level. We have fun tidying up the church from 7:00 to 9AM each Monday. Come whenever you can, and join us for a cup of coffee when the job is finished. Questions? Call Mike Scott in the parish office at 821-2111.

## 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!

### 12/19

Julie Allison-Conlin  
Patricia Biggs  
Gregory Bratkovich  
Traci DeBoer  
Jeff DeGraff  
Roella Ellwood  
Camille Flores  
Jerry Gould  
Craig Kreger  
Ogechi Nriagu  
Brennan Pollock  
Nemesia Publico  
Jack Rea  
Cameron Still  
Stella Szuch  
Madelyn Tincher  
Jordan Trott  
Andrew Vigo  
Lucas Weintraub  
Laura Zanchetta

Luke Bonner  
Bernard Diedrich  
Thaddeus Dombrowski  
Kathleen Downer  
John Downer  
Michelle Fingerle  
Madeline Groshans  
Jane Heibel  
Lisa Hitchingham  
Susan MacMillan  
Alice Overland  
Ian Pastula  
Brittany Robbins  
Francis Sakaya  
Kristina N Thompson  
Koen Van Nieuwstadt

### 12/21

Gavin Bassett  
Anthony Bossard  
Kevin Busch  
Timothy Cornell  
Ron Fitzgerald

Anne Giordani  
Rafael Gonzales  
Maria Herbert  
Mary Catherine Malcolm  
J.P. McBride  
Caitlin McCullough  
Julia Millan  
Lisa Morris  
Mary Ruvo  
Jane Ryan  
Jonathan Smith  
Hannah Smithseeley  
Joshua Talampas  
Elba Williamson

### 12/22

Claudia Arreola  
E. James Barnowsky  
Steven Cox  
Nicole Dirksen  
Kyle Farlie  
Jenniffer Fichera  
Jillian Giordano

Nikolaj Ivancic  
Sean Kennison  
Hua-wei Ling  
Erin McKeown  
Barbara Meade  
Jennifer Pampreen  
Rudo Zishiri

### 12/23

Hailey Bretzius  
Kenneth Bruneau  
Michael Calice  
Chase Danek  
Karl Edelmann  
Ethan Goodchild  
Barbara Gottschalk  
James Harbaugh  
Elizabeth Hood  
Sean Hoydic  
Martin Lobdell  
Julia Marshall  
Charles Meldrum  
Jane Moll  
Christen Oberdoerster

Walter Power  
Holly Stankovic  
Anthony Wen

### 12/24

Jeanette Cousino  
Harry D'Souza  
Kristen Fialkowski  
Michael A. Fontana  
Christina Grant  
Raymond Hepburn  
Deborah Hoffman  
Thomas Kratochwill  
Kris Kullgren  
Elizabeth Laird  
Roosevelt Madison  
Catherine Miling  
David O'Dwyer  
Andrew Paterson  
Gabiella Rollet  
Philip Tribble  
Andrew Wakefield  
John Walper  
Helena Wierzbecki

Renu Yonkoski  
Thomas Zeimet

### 12/25

Wendy Azrak  
Carol Bruneau  
Julian Cabrera  
Peter Chopp  
Medhanie Debru  
Ivanice DeNicolò  
Patton Doyle  
Stephen Ellwood  
Peyton Feeney  
Parker Gaertner  
Susan Goold  
Dona Ihalaranaweerage  
Mya Morse  
Edward Schlegel Jr.  
Alina Verdiyan

### 12/20

Matthew Blaney



# Bulletin Board

## Church Calendars for 2017

As you leave Mass today, we invite you to pick up a Church Calendar for 2017. These calendars are generously provided to St. Francis parishioners by:



**Nie Family Funeral Home  
and Cremation Services**  
And  
**Rick Jarzembowski Realtor**

## Fourth Week of Advent Prayer

Jesus, your cousin Zechariah did not speak for many months but when his son John, was born, he spoke words of praise and thanksgiving as he finally came to trust that nothing is impossible for you. Help us to carry that kind of trust and gratitude in our hearts today.



We are invited to be instruments in God's plan. Help us to hear that invitation you offer us daily, and to accept it with trust and gratitude. Help us to open our eyes and ears to those people you bring into our lives today. May the deep and lavish love you show us open our hearts to recognize those people who need our care the most. Amen.

## Early Print Deadlines for Christmas



Due to our Publisher's early deadlines for the Christmas holiday, all notices for the **Christmas Day & January 1<sup>st</sup> Forum** bulletins are **due Monday morning, Dec. 19**. Thank you!

## Parish Offices will be closed on

December 24, 25, 26, and  
December 31, January 1 & 2.

*A Blessed Christmas  
and New Year to all!*



## Thank You for Your Support!!!

### Sunday Collection:

Thank you for your generous support of our parish and its ministry! **Tithing for December 11** was \$20,408 including Children's good deeds, and 3 envelopes with \$5.00. Donations for the St. Vincent Service Ministry 'Needy Fund' as of 12/11/16 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.*