

DECEMBER 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Very Rev. Rob Adams, STL

Deacon: Dcn. Joe Jacobs

Administrative Assistant: Becky Griffith

Custodian: Lisa Scalf

**137 Bryan Street
Pikeville, Kentucky 41501
Phone: 606-437-6117**

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Adoration: Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

BAPTISM - 2 WEEKS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.

MARRIAGE PREP - 6 MONTHS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
- Jn 1:26-27



From the Pastor's Desk....

Sunday Offertory

12-10-2023.....\$3,721
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
Surplus/Deficit.....\$1,021
 YTD Offertory.....\$67,141
 Budget.....\$64,800
Surplus/Deficit.....\$2,341
 Food Pantry..... \$25



Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

John witnesses to one who is to come, one far mightier than he, one who will proclaim freedom and deliverance from sin and death. As we await his coming again in glory, let us join with Mary in singing the praises of God.

Readings may be found
 in the Saint Augustine
 Hymnal Number 914

Good Morning,

A big thank you to everyone who came to help out with our Christmas Giveaway! I want to personally thank everyone who stepped up into leadership roles while I was unable to work. Please make sure to look at our Christmas Mass schedule! People will need to plan on being at one of the regular weekend Masses on December 23-24 and then one of the Christmas Masses on December 24 (evening) -25. There is no way to get a two-for-one!

This Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is a Latin word that means "Rejoice!" and it appears in the entrance antiphon at this weekends Masses. This is also one of the two times of the year when the priest wears pink vestments. The reason for all this is that the Church knows tht the time of waiting is almost over. God is coming to mee us soon! I think about it like when I'm next in line after waiting and waiting for my turn. There's a sense of relief that the waiting is almost done, and I'm about to get what I came to get.

Fr. Rob

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, December 16	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Lolita Tanael
Sunday, December 17	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, December 18	No Mass	
Tuesday, December 19	Noon Mass Akwari Chibinovim Nova	Intentions of
Wednesday, December 20	Noon Mass	+Larry Ratliff
Thursday, December 21	No Mass	+Lucille Ewer
Friday, December 22	No Mass	+Gloria Johnson
Saturday, December 23	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Nanette Schmidt
Sunday, December 24	10:30 am Mass 5:00 pm 10:00 pm	For the People +Gianna Maria Dickson For the People
Monday, December 25	10:30 am	For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

LECTOR ROTATION - Below are the name and dates of the lector rotation.

12/17 - David Hicks

"If you cannot make your assigned date, feel free to contact a fill in for yourself or contact Sidney Cline at 606-424-8118".

ROSARY - We will be meeting at **noon** the first Saturday of each month to say the Rosary.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron.

I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light. — Father John Muir ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

A CONSTANT COMPANION

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Terry A. Williams, Becky Griffith's brother in law (lung cancer)

Jimmie Goss

Tim Deskins

Christine Misczenski, Steve Misczenski's mother

Melba Schmidt, Kenny Schmidt's mother

Ryan Altman, Helen Altman's grandson

Steve Misczenski, Sr. (cancer)

Erica Hunt, Lisa Scalf's friend (kidney failure)

Deacon Dirck Curry

Frank Shortridge, Becky Griffith's brother (ALS)

John Flichman, stroke

Chona Curry

Terry Williams

Wanda Baker

Jeffrey Scalf, Lisa's son

Sandy Lowe, cancer

Ron Saros

Kenny Blackburn

Helen Altman

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

VOTIVE CANDLES:

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



Making Room for God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

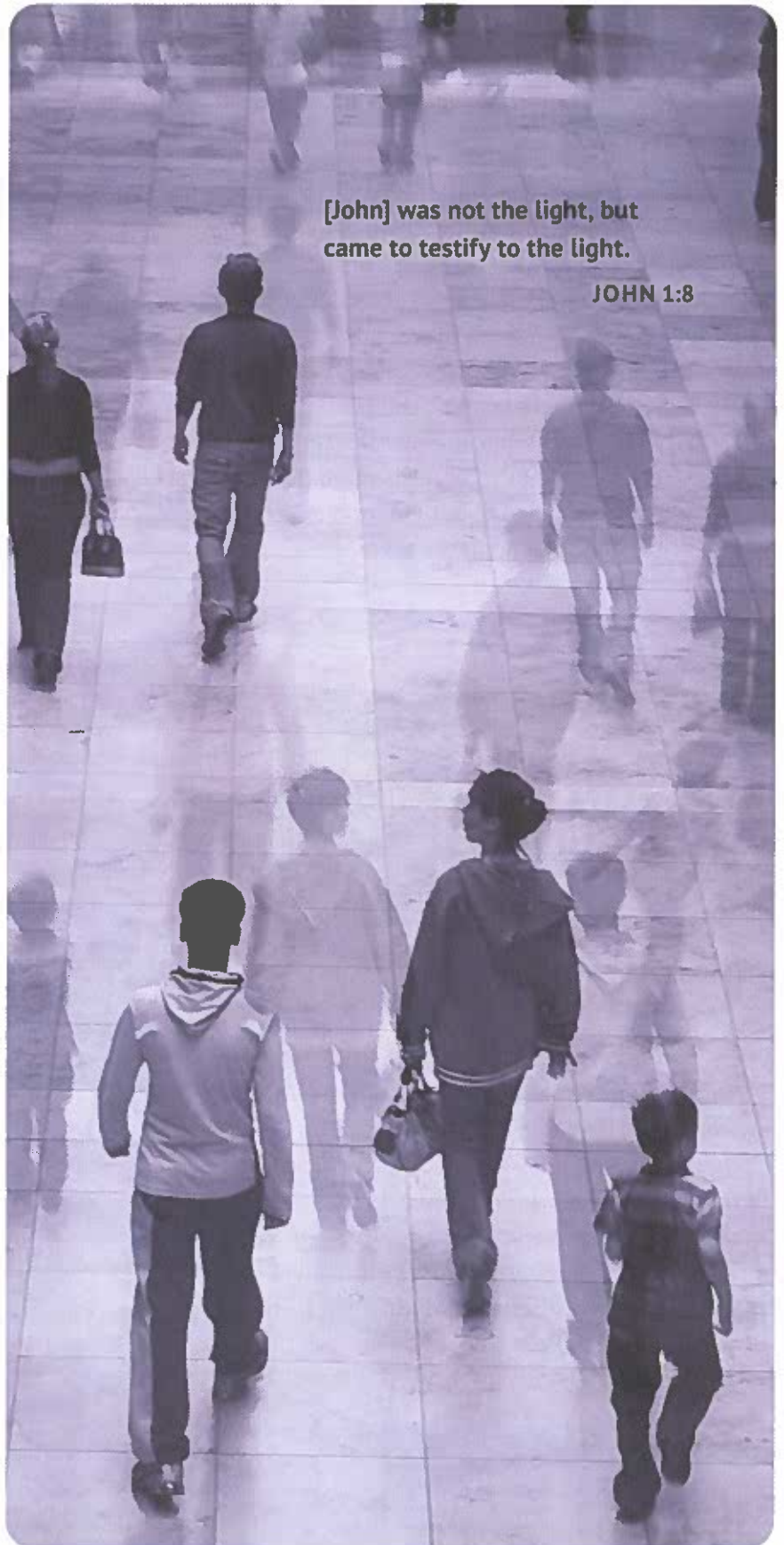
The story of John the Baptist is the story of taking a back seat to Jesus, of fading into the background so that Jesus might be the light. Fading out of the picture is something we may find ourselves doing more than once in our lives. Sometimes it's also a choice we have to make, even when it's painful.

Actor Nick Nolte talked about what it was like for him when he turned seventy; how his body would hurt and how painful it was to get out of bed some mornings. He told of how he cried when a longtime friend passed away and of the sadness death brings. But the worst part, he said, is coming to the realization that your children have grown up, are on their own, and don't need you the way they once did. His son has a family, and for him the family comes first, as it should be. That's the painful part, Nolte says, the letting go of your children because they are no longer yours; in reality, they never were.

From the perspective of faith, why do we need to fade into the background? To leave room for the hand of God in life, that's why. So that God can do what God does best, and so that we don't get in the way of it all. That is a task not only at the end of life but for all of life. ●

Reflect

When has it been difficult for you to fade into the background?



Dear Padre,

Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us. ●



THE OFFICE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, ATTRIBUTED TO JACOBUS COEN

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



DETAIL OF THE ISENHEIM ALTARPIECE BY MATTHIAS GRÜNEWALD, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they are able to do so only by detaching from themselves and from worldliness, by not attracting people to themselves but directing them toward Jesus. This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 13, 2020

MONDAY

December 18
Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

TUESDAY

December 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7,
24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

WEDNESDAY

December 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38

THURSDAY

December 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a
Lk 1:39-45

FRIDAY

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

SATURDAY

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1-4,
23-24
Lk 1:57-66

SUNDAY

December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:1-5,
8b-12, 14a, 16
Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.



St Francis of Assisi Christmas Schedule 2023

Thursday December 7	Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass 7pm
Friday December 8	Immaculate Conception Mass 12pm and 7pm
Tuesday December 12	Adoration and Confession 6pm
Saturday December 16	Christmas Giveaway (St Francis Families Arrive by 1pm)
Tuesday December 19	Adoration and Confession 6pm
Sunday December 24	5pm Christmas Vigil Mass 10pm Christmas Mass in the Night
Monday December 25	10:30am Christmas Day Mass
Monday January 1	12pm Mary, Mother of God Mass (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

