

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.

**Text to Give: (833) 938-2034**

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

## PARISH STAFF

**Pastor:** Fr. Rob Adams

**Deacon:** Dcn. Joe Jacobs

**Administrative Assistant:** Becky Griffith

**Custodian:** Lisa Scalf

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

Website: [www.stfrancispikeville.org](http://www.stfrancispikeville.org)

Email: [stfrancischurch@cdlex.org](mailto:stfrancischurch@cdlex.org)

App: St Francis Pikeville

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

—JEREMIAH 33:14



## From the Pastor's Desk....

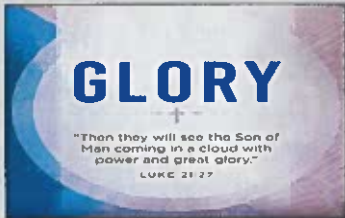
### Sunday Offertory

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

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

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

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



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

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

Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 909

Good Sunday Morning!

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

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

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

Fr. Rob

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is a Eucharistic family of Catholic Christians. Nourished by the sacraments and guided by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim Jesus Christ and the Good News of salvation. Following the spirit of the Gospel, St. Francis parish provides continuous religious education and spiritual growth for all parishioners, varied opportunities for social enrichment, and support for the needs of families in Pike County, our nation and the world.

### Mass Schedule & Intentions

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

## Parish Calendar & Announcements

### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your generosity!

### 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

**Blessed first Sunday in Advent to each of you!**

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

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

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

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



Sister Kathy Avery

Barbara Kiser

Tim Deskins, cancer

Sandy Lowe, cancer

Jerry and Ann Bilicek

Gloria Wagner (Mother of Linda Justice and Susan Chafin)

Ron Saros

Cindy and Christy Hedinger

Rita Scheuer

Kenny Blackburn

Alpha Carroll, Signature Health Care

Dr. Harry and Helen Altman

Carol Rashella

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

### **VOTIVE CANDLES:**

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

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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent (C)

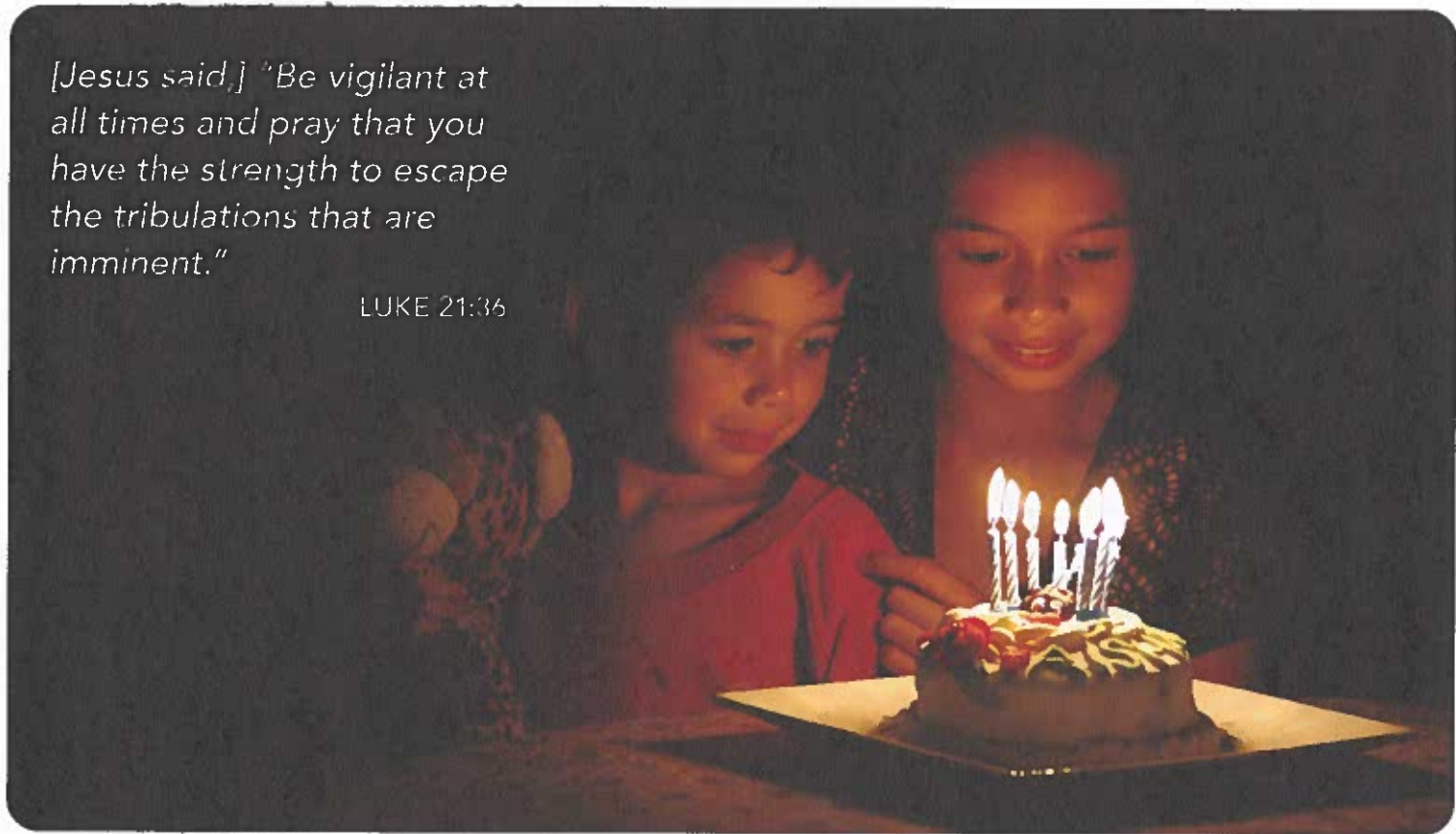
Jer 33:14–16

1 Thes 3:12–4:2

Lk 21:25–28, 34–36

[Jesus said,] “Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent.”

LUKE 21:36



## Birth Day

**O**ur *birth day* is not the anniversary of our birth—that is our *birthday*. Our birth day is the actual day of our birth. However, we do have a second birth day and it is this day to which this Sunday’s readings refer. We might call it our final birth day, the day when we are born into fulfillment. Jeremiah assures us that will be the day when God’s promises will be fulfilled in us. We will finally have a righteous leader; the nation will be safe, and the place where God dwells amid the people will be secure.

In the Gospel, Jesus is probably speaking figuratively about the end of the world—at least the end of the world as it is known to humans. However, it is not the end of everything, for after cosmic destruction takes place, “then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” (Luke 21:27). After suffering the so-called birth pangs of the Messiah (see Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), something new will appear; we will see that our redemption is at hand. We will be born into a new life in a new world.

Advent is the time to look forward to this new birth day of fulfillment. We do not simply await the anniversary of Jesus’ human birth day, for that day announced the coming of the final birth day of each of us. *His* birth announces *our* new birth.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ How are you preparing for your final birth day?
- ★ What do you find most striking in today’s readings? Why?

# Dear Padre,

## What do Advent-wreath candles signify?

**M**ost Advent wreaths have three purple candles and one rose candle to echo the liturgical colors of the Church's Advent celebrations.

Whether the wreath is being used at home or in a church, the lighting of the candles should follow the liturgical colors of the Sundays of Advent. The vestments at Mass are purple during the first two weeks of Advent, so we light a purple candle on the first and second Sundays of Advent.

On the third Sunday, the Church celebrates *Gaudete* Sunday or Rejoice

Sunday, named after the first word of the day's traditional entrance verse (Philippians 4:4-5). The priest wears rose vestments at Mass as a sign of our brightening hope and joy, and on the Advent wreath we light the rose candle to reflect the theme of the liturgy. The fourth Sunday of Advent sees the lighting of the last purple candle.

Some churches and families add a fifth candle to their Advent practices by placing a white candle in the center of the wreath. They light this at Christmas, again echoing the Church's liturgical color for the season and rejoicing in Christ our

Lord, whose birth brings light and life to our world.

*Fr. Matthew Allman, CSSR / [Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)*

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Advent is a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal, to lead it to its fullness, which is the Lord....God is not distant, he is always with us, to the extent that very often he knocks on the door to our heart.*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, NOVEMBER 29, 2020



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## Calendar

**Monday**  
NOVEMBER 29  
Advent Weekday

Is 2:1-5  
Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday**  
NOVEMBER 30  
St. Andrew,  
Apostle

Rom 10:9-18  
Mt 4:18-22

**Wednesday**  
DECEMBER 1  
Advent Weekday

Is 25:6-10a  
Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday**  
DECEMBER 2  
Advent Weekday

Is 26:1-6  
Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday**  
DECEMBER 3  
St. Francis Xavier,  
Priest

Is 29:17-24  
Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday**  
DECEMBER 4  
Advent Weekday

Is 30:19-21, 23-26  
Mt 9:35-10:1,  
5a, 6-8

**Sunday**  
DECEMBER 5  
Second Sunday  
of Advent

Bar 5:1-9  
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11  
Lk 3:1-6

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A Redemptorist Ministry





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Thank you for your generosity!



**They are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous.**

**1 Timothy 6:18**



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