

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



**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.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:

"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,

MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.

EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED

AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW."

—LUKE 3:4-5



From the Pastor's Desk....

Sunday Offertory

11-28-2021.....	\$1,931
Weekly Budget.....	\$2,700
Surplus/ <u>Deficit</u>	\$769
YTD Offertory.....	\$56,507
Budget.....	\$59,400
Surplus/ <u>Deficit</u>	\$2,893
11-28-2021 Building Fund.....	\$35

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



Baruch 5:1-9
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6

The Lord has done great things, leading his people out of slavery to the glorious splendor of Jerusalem. Let us make ready the way of the Lord by abounding in love and in works of justice.

Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 912

Happy Sunday Morning,

Just a reminder that we are doing our Christmas giveaway on Saturday, December 18 at 2:00 pm. Volunteers should be here by 1:00 pm! We're trying something a little different with our car line. But I hope everyone will be patient and come lend a hand to help our brothers and sisters!

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 continous 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, December 4	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Nanette Schmidt
Sunday, December 5	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, December 6	No Mass	
Tuesday, December 7	Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass	+Lovina Wheeler +Nanette Schmidt
Wednesday, December 8	Noon Mass	For the People
Thursday, December 9	Noon Mass	+Mary Loretto Murphy
Friday, December 10	Mass at Jenkins at Noon	
Saturday, December 11	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Ruel Parlier
Sunday, December 12	10:30 am Mass	For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your generosity!

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER - Catechists - Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before. ©LPi

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 3:1-6

Blessed Advent to you all!

Today we continue the "joyful expectation" of the birth of Christ in history, the present, and the future. Today we hear the words of John the Baptist calling people of his time to repentance. Now, this baptism that John was calling people to is not the same baptism that we Christians celebrate. However, John's baptism is at the root of our Christian baptism. John's baptism had its roots in the "oblation washing" of the Jewish people before undertaking anything of great importance.

Christian baptism is a sacrament to wash away original sin so as to enter sinless into the Christian community. It is the one sacrament that is celebrated by all Christians, even those Christians who are not in communion with Rome.

Johns enjoins us to "prepare the way of the Lord." His call is to be taken in the widest sense. This preparation is a personal preparation, and is also a communal preparation. We are called to make sure we are ready to meet the Lord, and this means that we need to make a difference in the world to make it better, to make it more peaceful, and to make it more just. We are called to protect each other's dignity and share of our abundance with others so that each may live a life that is centered on helping others.

Prepare the way!



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



Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Bar 5:1–9

Phil 1:4–6, 8–11

Lk 3:1–6

Jerusalem, take off your robe
of mourning and misery;
put on forever the splendor
of glory from God.

BARUCH 5:1



EUGENY ATAMANENKO / SHUTTERSTOCK

And the Word Was Made Flesh

Many of us grew up thinking that this life doesn't amount to much. It's full of pitfalls and enticements that threaten our eternal salvation. Such disdain often boils over into contempt for the world. According to this thinking, it is only the next life that is important, which will unfold in a much better place. Today's readings challenge such extreme thinking. They assure us that the glory of God is partially revealed to us even within this life. They astound us by insisting that God speaks to us through life's events—events that often appear to be quite mundane.

Baruch tells of Jerusalem, the city loved passionately by every Israelite. This was a city like so many other cities. However, God dwelt there and wherever God dwells is, for that reason, a holy city—be it Jerusalem, Munich, or Detroit. God dwells in our midst, right here, right now. Hence, this imperfect life and this damaged world are holy.

The Gospel situates John the Baptist in the middle of the ancient Near Eastern world. It was a Roman world controlled by Caesar and a Jewish province ruled over by Herod. John stated that it was to that place at that time that the Promised One would come, and it was up to John to “prepare the way of the Lord” (Isaiah 40:3; Luke 3:4).

Most importantly, we must never forget that God took on the troubles and sins of this world and entered our life, making it his life. This is the real reason that this world is holy.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *Incarnation means that Jesus is made of the stuff of this world, just as we are. Think about this.*
- ★ *Nothing is too common that it can't be holy. What does that mean?*

Dear Padre,

My sister says that singing the *O Antiphons* are her favorite part of Advent. What are they?

An antiphon is a brief refrain, usually from the Bible, either sung or said during worship. An *O Antiphon* is an antiphon that starts with O, as in “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”—each verse of that song is made up of an O Antiphon.

The antiphons are most at home in the Liturgy of the Hours—the collection of psalms, hymns, prayers, and readings that make up the regular rhythm of the Church’s prayer at morning, midday, evening, and night. The O Antiphons your sister refers to are verses used during the Church’s evening prayer from December 17–23. With one verse spoken or sung before Mary’s Magnificat each evening, these antiphons call on the Lord to come to his people using titles taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

When the O Antiphons are sung in Latin, they present a sort of acrostic with a hidden message. The first letter of each title in the antiphon spells *sarcore*, which is *ero cras* (Latin for “tomorrow I come” or “tomorrow I shall be”) spelled backward.

In their original language and context, the O Antiphons have a particularly rich significance, but they remain beautiful even when sung simply in English as in the verses of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSSR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



JORISVO / SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

To prepare the way of the Lord’s coming, it is necessary to take note of the requirements of conversion to which the Baptist invites us....First of all we are called to fill the “valleys” caused by coldness and indifference, opening ourselves to others with the same sentiments as Jesus, that is, with affection and fraternal attention.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 9, 2018

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 6
Advent Weekday
Is 35:1–10
Lk 5:17–26

Tuesday

DECEMBER 7
St. Ambrose,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Is 40:1–11
Mt 18:12–14

Wednesday

DECEMBER 8
Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9–15, 20
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12
Lk 1:26–38

Thursday

DECEMBER 9
Advent Weekday
Is 41:13–20
Mt 11:11–15

Friday

DECEMBER 10
Advent Weekday
Is 48:17–19
Mt 11:16–19

Saturday

DECEMBER 11
Advent Weekday
Sir 48:1–4, 9–11
Mt 17:9a, 10–13

Sunday

DECEMBER 12
Third Sunday
of Advent
Zep 3:14–18a
Phil 4:4–7
Lk 3:10–18



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
606-437-6117
Christmas "Boxes of Love" Ministry

Can of green beans, corn & peas

Bag of beans & rice

Bag of Candy

Box of spaghetti

Tomato or pasta sauce

Can of Soup

Can of fruit

Bag of potatoes

Peanut butter and Jelly

Box of macaroni & cheese

Can of Tuna or chicken

Non-refrigerated canned ham

Bread or Rolls

