

DECEMBER 10, 2023

SECOND 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

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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.



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins. - Mk 1:4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



From the Pastor's Desk....

Sunday Offertory

11-26-2023.....\$2,380
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$320
 YTD Offertory.....\$60,873
 Budget.....\$59,400
Surplus/Deficit.....\$1,473

12-03-2023.....\$2,547
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$153
 YTD Offertory.....\$63,420
 Budget.....\$62,100
Surplus/Deficit.....\$1,320

Food Pantry..... \$



Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

As we await new heavens and a new earth, let us make clear the way of the Lord by being servants of justice, truth, and peace.

Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 911

Happy second Sunday of Advent!

Just a reminder that we are having our Christmas giveaway on Saturday, December 16 at 1:00 pm. The event will begin at 2:00 pm, but I would like to have our volunteers here at 1:00 pm to park and prepare for the whole operation! We still need people to help setup the lot and help clean up afterwards!

In our readings this weekend, we hear the call of John the Baptist to “prepare the way of the Lord!” I think there’s quite a bit to think about here. I think about this like a call to build a road for the Lord to meet us. But, have you ever watched people build a road, especially in Appalachia? It takes so much blasting, leveling, paving and painting to make a road. Have you ever wondered why people feel distant from God? I think they see the immense difficulty of preparing the way for the Lord to meet us. Our lives are full of mountains and rough patches. It takes serious heavy equipment to tear those down. If we are willing to put in the good work, Jesus promises that he will come to meet anyone who seeks him.

Fr. Rob

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, December 9	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Doris Lee Hohler
Sunday, December 10	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, December 11	No Mass	
Tuesday, December 12	Noon Mass	+Doris Lee Hohler
Wednesday, December 13	Noon Mass	+Doris Lee Hohler
Thursday, December 14	No Mass	
Friday, December 15	No Mass	
Saturday, December 16	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Lolita Tanael
Sunday, December 17	10:30 am Mass 1:00 pm	For the People For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

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

12/10 - Louren Vanderpool
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**

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free.

This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors. — Father John Muir
©LPi



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

When Mary appeared to Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she had encouraging words for him. "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" In the image on Juan Diego's tilma (tunic), Mary identifies herself with the Aztec people. She has their hair and features, their symbolic maternity dress. She incorporated their important symbols of the sun, moon, and stars. Today's Mass includes two Gospel options. Both are familiar passages from the Gospel of Luke - the Annunciation and the Visitation. Both are equally relevant to today's feast because Mary's yes to Christ isn't only to care for him but to come to us. Our Lady of Guadalupe is pregnant. The image bears witness to Mary's yes to conceive the Savior of the World. But even in her pregnancy, she goes to care for Elizabeth. Now Mother to all the world, Mary comes to the aid of her children, reminding them of her presence among them.



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 Dirk Curry

Frank Shortridge, Becky Griffith's brother
(ALS)

John Fliehman, 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



When Will We Be Satisfied?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In 1992, *Forbes* magazine published an issue titled “Why Do We Feel So Bad When We Have It So Good?” It featured articles by such luminaries as newsman Dan Rather, President George H. W. Bush, and author John Updike. Many of the writers reflected upon our passion for more and our hunger to live in affluence and how that fails to satisfy. In so many ways, we as a nation find ourselves seeking distractions from living with ourselves lest we be confronted by our ultimate loneliness. As a nation we are addicted to entertainment and smartphones, to drugs and pornography, to finding something new. We are confronted by rising suicide rates and a pervasive, deep-seated anger. Why are we not satisfied?

John the Baptist called the people of his day to repent, which is another way of asking them—and us—to look at life differently. Advent is really about getting in touch with our deep longing for more, a part of our human condition that ultimately is only satisfied by God. We have been created to long for more, a longing that feels like loneliness, a longing that seeks to be satisfied. In the end, we can only find a sense of peace in the midst of such longing by accepting that it can never be fully satisfied in this life. Like the spirituality of Alcoholics Anonymous, accepting rather than fleeing from our human reality becomes a path to new life. ●

Reflect

How do you deal with loneliness and a longing for more out of life?

John [the] Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

MARK 1:4

Dear Padre,

Do Catholics have to marry in the Church? If a couple decides to marry outside of the Church, are they still allowed to receive Communion and other sacraments?

Catholics are obligated to follow the laws of the Church, including those laws regarding marriage. If a Catholic marries outside the Church, meaning that they did not follow Church law, then they may not receive the other sacraments until their marriage has been witnessed by the Church.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony for the couple, but it is also a ceremony for the Church. The Christian community is called upon to witness the ceremony, with the bishop, priest, or deacon called upon to bless the union in the name of the Church. The Church can dispense from the form, that is, the place of the wedding, for good cause, and does so when necessary. When a dispensation from the law is granted, then the person has followed the marriage laws of the Church and is free to receive the sacraments.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony in which a sacrament is conferred. While the park may be pretty or the church down the street may be bigger, neither is a sufficient reason to ignore marriage law and marry outside the Church. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



MDV EDWARDS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15	December 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19	December 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	December 17 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

In the Bible [conversion] means, first and foremost, to change direction and orientation; and thus also to change one's way of thinking. In the moral and spiritual life, to convert means to turn oneself from evil to good, from sin to love of God. And this is what the Baptist was teaching.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 6, 2020



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)

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Christmas "Boxes of Love" Ministry



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

1 Timothy 6:18

We will be collecting food items the next three weekends for Christmas food boxes. These food boxes will be distributed through both St. Francis (on December 16) and the First Christian Church's Community Dinner program. All food boxes will go to local needy families. Before Mass place your food donations in the basket in front of the altar.

November 25 & 26: Cans of green beans, corn, & peas. Bags of beans & rice. Bags of candy.

December 2 & December 3: Boxes of spaghetti. Tomato or pasta sauce. Cans of soup. Cans of fruit. Bags of potatoes.

December 9 & 10: Peanut butter and jelly. Boxes of macaroni & cheese. Cans of tuna or chicken. Non-refrigerated canned hams. Bread or rolls.



Thank you for your generosity!

