

# SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

**Website: [www.stfrancispikeville.org](http://www.stfrancispikeville.org)  
Email: [stfranchischurch@cdlex.org](mailto:stfranchischurch@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

## *FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

"BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED  
THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD  
WOULD BE FULFILLED."

—LUKE 1:45



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

### Sunday Offertory

12-12-2021.....	\$2,864
Weekly Budget.....	\$2,700
<b>Surplus/Deficit.....</b>	<b>\$164</b>
YTD Offertory.....	\$62,665
Budget.....	\$64,800
<b>Surplus/Deficit.....</b>	<b>\$2,135</b>
12-12-2021 Building Fund.....	\$450

**BUILDING FUND UPDATE:** We currently owe **\$55,973** on the new church building. Thank you for your continued support of the Church Building Fund.



Micah 5:1-4a  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45

From Bethlehem shall come one who will rule Israel. Born of Mary, the servant of the Lord, he will protect and save us, offering himself once and for all in doing the Father's will.

**Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 918**

Good Sunday Morning,

A big thanks to everyone who came out to help with our Christmas giveaway! Your kindness and generosity made a difference in the lives of 24 families, who otherwise might not have had a Christmas.

Speaking of Christmas, we will be decorating the church after Mass on Sunday, December 19. Any help is appreciated!

I also wanted to share our schedule for Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve:

5:00 pm Mass at St. Francis of Assisi, Pikeville  
10:00 pm Mass at St. George, Jenkins

Christmas Day:

10:30 am Mass at St. Francis of Assisi, Pikeville

Sunday, December 26:

8:30 am Mass at St. George, Jenkins  
10:30 am Mass at St. Francis of Assisi, Pikeville

Please note that both Christmas and the following Sunday are Masses of obligation. I know it's tough, but the Church expects us to be at Mass sometime on Christmas and also for the regular Sunday. Let's hang in there and give it our best for the Lord!

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, December 18	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+William Wheeler
Sunday, December 19	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, December 20	No Mass	
Tuesday, December 21	Noon Mass	+Charles McKasson
Wednesday, December 22	Noon Mass	+Timothy Bridges
Thursday, December 23	Noon Mass	+Daniel McKasson
Friday, December 24	5:00 pm Christmas Eve	+Gianna Maria Dickson
Saturday, December 25	10:30 am Christmas Day	For the People
Sunday, December 26	10:30 am Mass	For the People



# Parish Calendar & Announcements



**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE  
DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF  
SCRIPTURE**

St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it

would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be. ©LPI

**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Luke 1:39-45

Blessed Advent!

Today we have two mothers meeting: they are related, and one carries in her womb John the Baptist and the other woman, Mary, carries in her womb Jesus.

The Gospel account says that John, who would cry out in the desert the message that everyone needs to "prepare the way of the Lord," leapt with joy in the womb of his mother upon hearing Mary's greeting.

John's message in the desert is the message that we all need to heed as we get closer to the Christmas celebration. May our faith leap with joy at the chance to proclaim our Lord and to prepare the way!

**POOR BOX** During the month of November, we collected \$233 in the poor box to assist the ministry of Helping Hands. Thank you!

**MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON:** "Our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Owensboro could use our help as the western part of the state of Kentucky recovers from Friday's violent storms. The state of Kentucky experienced extreme weather events including a devastating tornado that resulted in a high number of fatalities and destruction in areas served by the Diocese of Owensboro including Mayfield and Bowling Green. A second collection will be taken today and next weekend for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro to offer help and services for those displaced or who have immediate needs as a result of the storms. Please be generous to support the emergency needs in our state and pray for those affected especially for the many lives lost. Thank you for your kind support"



Deacon Dirck Curry, healing

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

**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.

**VOTIVE CANDLES:**

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



## Are We There Yet?

**I**t's not only children who are impatient with the lo-o-o-o-ng ride that takes them to a party or an amusement park. Adults can hardly contain themselves as they await the announcement of a winner, the return of an absent loved one, or the birth of a baby. This is the kind of excitement found in today's readings. Micah describes the long-awaited leader promised by God. He will be even more than the people could have imaged: firm, strong, and dependable. They must have asked, "When is he coming?"

By the time the Gospel was written, Jesus' followers knew a lot about him, so they were able to embellish stories a bit, the way we often do to emphasize the greatness of someone. They believed he was so extraordinary that his greatness was recognized even before he was born. His pregnant mother was told, "Blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42). She must have been frequently asked, "When are you due? When is he coming?"

The reading from Hebrews does not provide specific details of Jesus' coming. Rather, it tells us why he came: "I come to do your will, O God" (10:7). That is what the people of Micah's era were really longing for—not simply a leader, but one who did God's will and who would lead them to do it too. We're now on the threshold of the fulfillment of that promise. Are you excited? Are we there yet?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *For which of God's promises are you excited?*
- ★ *Open your mind and heart to our firm, strong, and dependable leader.*

*But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah  
least among the clans of Judah,  
From you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel.*

MICAH 5:1





# Dear Padre,

## I just learned there are two versions of the Christmas story in the Bible. How can that be? What's the difference?

**O**ne Christmas story is in Matthew, and the other is in Luke. They differ on some details—but at their hearts, the teaching is the same. In both, Mary is a virgin betrothed to Joseph but not yet living with him, and Jesus is conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. Both also have Jesus

born in Bethlehem.

In Matthew, the angel announces Jesus' birth to Joseph; in Luke, Mary receives the announcement. Jesus is named by Joseph in Matthew and by Mary in Luke.

The biggest difference involves the Christmas visitors. Matthew's Magi were educated Gentiles from a pagan country.

They worshiped Jesus and

brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, showing us at the start of the Gospel that Jesus is King, Priest, and Savior. Luke is always partial to the poor, so he has shepherds rather than Magi witness to Christ.

The Christmas stories are different because the authors and their audiences were different. But there's no need to get lost in the details. Read both accounts and allow God's grace to deepen your faith.

*Fr. John Murray, 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*.



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE / BOB ROLLER



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*[Jesus] did not wait until we were good before he loved us, but gave himself freely to us. May we not wait for our neighbors to be good before we do good to them, for the Church to be perfect before we love her, for others to respect us before we serve them.*

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS, DECEMBER 24, 2019

## Calendar

### Monday

DECEMBER 20  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 7:10–14  
Lk 1:26–38

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 21  
*Advent Weekday*  
Sg 2:8–14 or  
Zep 3:14–18a  
Lk 1:39–45

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 22  
*Advent Weekday*  
1 Sm 1:24–28  
Lk 1:46–56

### Thursday

DECEMBER 23  
*Advent Weekday*  
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24  
Lk 1:57–66

### Friday

DECEMBER 24  
*Advent Weekday*  
2 Sm 7:1–5,  
8b–12, 14a, 16  
Lk 1:67–79

### Saturday

DECEMBER 25  
*Nativity of the Lord  
(Christmas)*  
Is 52:7–10  
Heb 1:1–6  
Jn 1:1–18 or  
1:1–5, 9–14

### Sunday

DECEMBER 26  
*Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary, and Joseph*  
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or  
1 Sm 1:20–22, 24–28  
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17  
or 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24  
Lk 2:41–52

## **2021 MASS SCHEDULE**

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- 10:00 pm Mass at St. George, Jenkins

### **Christmas Day:**

- 10:30 am Mass at St. Francis of Assisi, Pikeville

### **Sunday, December 26:**

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