

DECEMBER 12, 2021

THIRD 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**

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Email: stfranchischurch@cdlex.org

App: St Francis Pikeville

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE LORD, YOUR GOD, IS IN YOUR MIDST,

A MIGHTY SAVIOR;

HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH GLADNESS,

AND RENEW YOU IN HIS LOVE.

—ZEPHANIAH 3:17



Sunday Offertory

12-05-2021.....	\$3,294
Weekly Budget.....	\$2,700
Surplus/Deficit.....	\$594
YTD Offertory.....	\$59,801
Budget.....	\$62,100
Surplus/Deficit.....	\$2,299
12-05-2021 Building Fund.....	\$1,800

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



Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

Rejoice in the Lord always! Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, a mighty savior. It is he whom John foretold; it is he who will baptize in the Holy Spirit.

Readings may be found
in the Saint Augustine
Hymnal Number 915

From the Pastor's Desk....

Good 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!

We are looking at putting together a handbell group for our music. If you are interested in helping with the handbells (or if you just think it's awesome!, please let me or Anne Westgate know. No experience necessary!

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 11	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Ruel Parlier
Sunday, December 12	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, December 13	No Mass	
Tuesday, December 14	Noon Mass	+Lucille Ewer
Wednesday, December 15	Noon Mass	+Lucille Ewer
Thursday, December 16	Noon Mass	+Lolita Tanael
Friday, December 17	Mass at Jenkins at Noon	
Saturday, December 18	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+William Wheeler
Sunday, December 19	10:30 am Mass	For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

3rd Sunday of Advent

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints,
good Lord, deliver us!" St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage. "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that

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.

we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina) ©LPi

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 3:10-18

Blessed Advent!

Remember last week where we read about this crazy man John "crying out in the desert"? Well, this week we read about what the people of his time wondered about him. They all asked him "What should we do?"

The crowds were asking, the tax collectors were asking, the soldiers were asking. And he answers each of them according to the temptation of their particular state in life. To the crowds he says, share of your abundance. To the tax collectors he says, stop taking more money for yourselves. Only collect from the people what is proscribed. To the soldiers he says, stop extorting money.

And so, what must we do to prepare? I ask myself if I am sharing from even the little that I think I have. Do I charge more than a fair price for my work? If I lend money to anyone, do I expect too much more in return?

I challenge myself this week, and I challenge you, to take some time and think about how we are preparing for the coming birth of Christ, in history, in today's world, and in the future when he will come to bring all of creation back to the Father.

HANDBELL GROUP: We are looking at putting together a handbell group for our music. If you are interested in helping with the handbells (or if you just think it's awesome!), please let me or Anne Westgate know. No experience necessary!



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 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent (C)

Zep 3:14–18a

Phil 4:4–7

Lk 3:10–18

Joy to the World!

This is the Sunday of joy, *Gaudete Sunday*. In the first reading, the people are told to “Shout for joy” because “the LORD is in your midst” (Zephaniah 3:14–15). The psalm response tells us to “cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and holy one of Israel” (see Isaiah 12). The second reading directs us to “rejoice in the Lord always” because “the Lord is near” (Philippians 4:4–5). In the Gospel, we see that “the people were filled with [messianic] expectation,” even wondering “whether John might be the Messiah” (Luke 3:15). All John could say was that “one mightier than I is coming” (3:16).

So today, what are we waiting for this Sunday and how is God present? We know that God is already present with us in many ways: in the Church and sacraments; in the lives of good people we know; in

the depths of our hearts. And so, we rejoice. We also know that the story of salvation is unfinished. There are still so many evils from which we must be saved. When you think of them, what’s at the top of your list?

We are eager for God to come into our lives anew to comfort us and strengthen us. We know we cannot do it alone. Even as we wait for the day of salvation to dawn, we rejoice for we know that it came before and will come again. That’s why we sing “Joy to the World.”

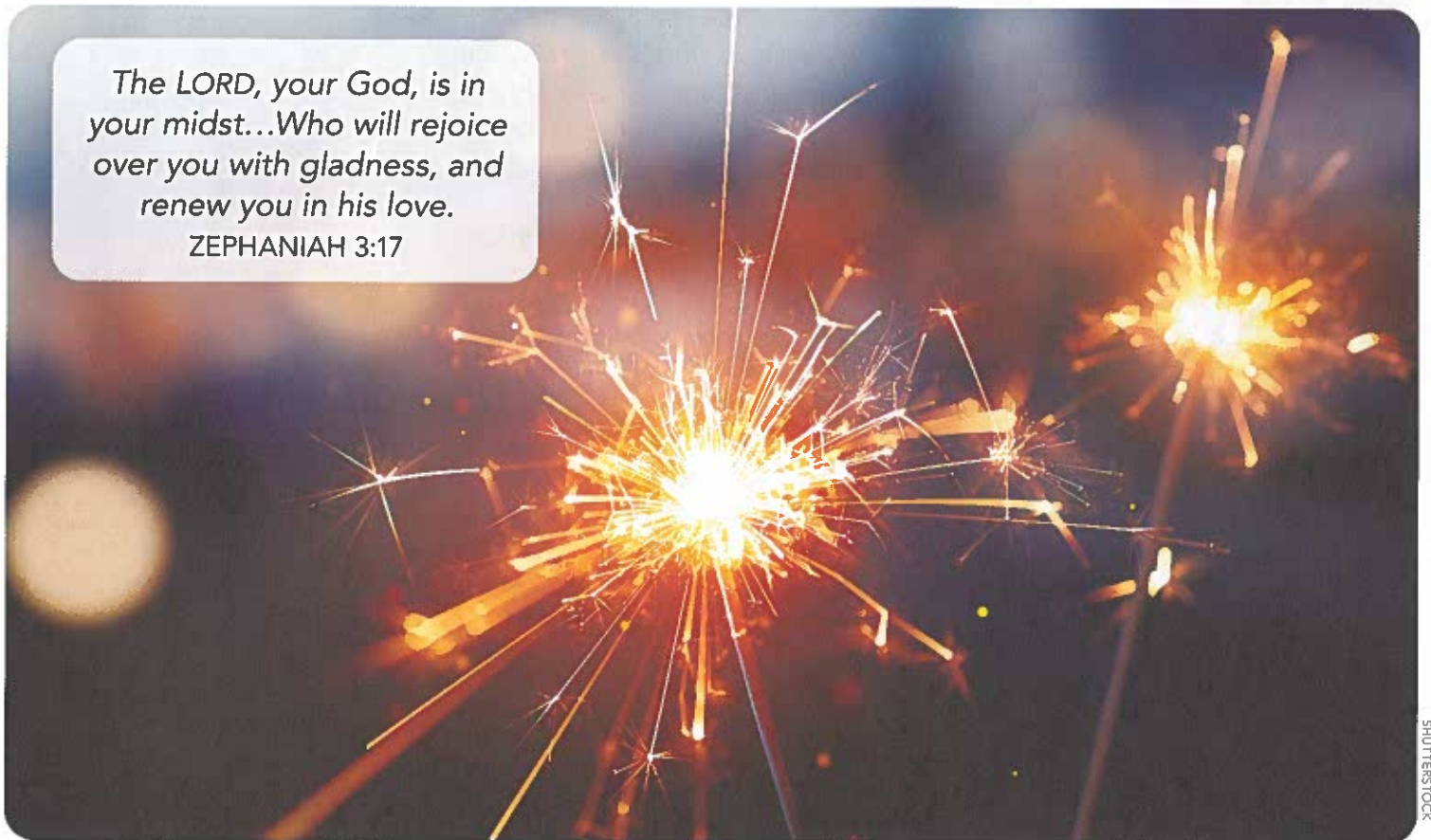
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Think of a few ways you have experienced God’s goodness in your life. Rejoice and give thanks for these blessings.
- ★ What are your hopes for the day of salvation?

*The LORD, your God, is in
your midst...Who will rejoice
over you with gladness, and
renew you in his love.*

ZEPHANIAH 3:17



SHUTTERSTOCK

Dear Padre,

I recently moved to a parish that includes a large Mexican community that's known for their annual *posadas* event. What is that?

Las *posadas*, a nine-day novena preparation for the celebration of Christmas, begins December 16 and ends Christmas Eve.

Posada is Spanish for "inn." The ceremony remembers Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem and their difficulty finding a place to stay. *Posadas* are celebrated in many ways, but the traditional celebration involves a group of people, the "pilgrims," going to several houses, knocking on the door, and asking for *posada*. The pilgrims sing the part of Joseph as he explains their situation and asks for a place to stay. The people inside sing back that they have no room and that the pilgrims should just move on.

On the last night, the people in the last house recognize that Mary is the Queen of Heaven and that the child she carries is the Savior of the World. They invite the pilgrims inside and hold a prayer service that may include a Scripture reading or the rosary. The celebration ends with food and singing.

This tradition is more than a folksy reenactment of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging—it's a solemn dramatization by women and men who believe God

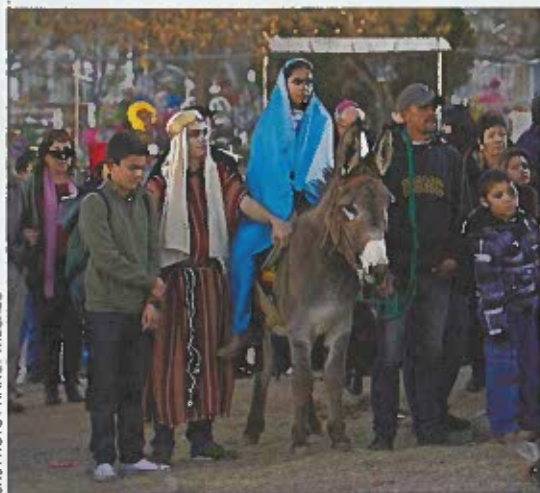
searches with them, a touching ceremony that can help Christians today see the real needs of those who live without the security of a home, health insurance, or a steady job.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, 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.



CNS PHOTO / NANCY WIECHNEC



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Many Christians have that face...from a funeral wake, a face of sadness. But Christ is risen! Christ loves you! And you have no joy? Let us think a bit about this and let us ask: "Do I have joy because the Lord is close to me, because the Lord loves me, because the Lord has redeemed me?"

GAUDETE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 13

St. Lucy,
Virgin and Martyr
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

DECEMBER 14

St. John of the Cross,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

DECEMBER 15

Advent Weekday
Is 45:6b-8, 18,
21c-25
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday

DECEMBER 16

Advent Weekday
Is 54:1-10
Lk 7:24-30

Friday

DECEMBER 17

Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-17

Saturday

DECEMBER 18

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

Sunday

DECEMBER 19

Fourth Sunday
of Advent
Mi 5:1-4a
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

Helping Catholics apply gospel messages today!

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