

DECEMBER 26, 2021

• THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

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



THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. — Lk 2:41-47

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From the Pastor's Desk....

Sunday Offertory

12-19-2021.....\$Update Later
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$

YTD Offertory.....\$62,665
 Budget.....\$64,800
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$

12-19-2021 Building Fund.....\$Update Later

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



Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
 Colossians 3:12-21
 Luke 2:41-52

Family life is rooted in the unconditional love of God as witnessed by the Holy Family.

Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 923

Good Sunday Morning,

I hope everyone is having a Merry Christmas season! We won't have Mass on Tuesday or Wednesday this week. We will also be taking a week off from Adoration and Bible Study.

This year the Feast of Mary, Mother of God on January 1, is "not" a holy day of obligation. However, I think it's really special to celebrate the New Year by going to Mass! I will offer a Mass on New Year's Day at 12:00 pm for the feast - however, please be aware that this will not fulfill the Sunday obligation!

Happy New Year!

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 25	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	For the People
Sunday, December 26	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, December 27	No Mass	
Tuesday, December 28	No Mass	
Wednesday, December 29	No Mass	
Thursday, December 30	Noon Mass	CES Donor
Friday, December 31	Mass at Jenkins	
Saturday, January 1	12:00 pm Mass 5:00 pm Mass	For the People +Dr. Max Tan
Sunday, January 2	10:30 am Mass	For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

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"



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do,

we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too. ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

ALL IN THE FAMILY

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi



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

VOTIVE CANDLES:

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



[Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.
LUKE 2:51

MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES / SHUTTERSTOCK

All in the Family

So many family-oriented television programs today feature the antics of dysfunctional families. They're often so well produced that we laugh at the blundering exploits, thus giving them credibility. The readings for today's feast show us what a real family looks like. Parents worry about the security of their children (Luke); brothers and sisters are told to be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient (Colossians); elders are respected and cared for in their need (Sirach). Even the psalm response sketches the profile of a flourishing family as understood at that time.

We can only guess what the Holy Family must have been like. There is no indication that their neighbors saw them as anything more than an average family. Jesus learned Joseph's trade and, most likely, would take over the business after he died. Instead, he launched out as an itinerant preacher. Even that does not seem to have been so exceptional for that time. Nor was Mary's widowhood reason for him to stay home. The Gospels indicate that she was part of a protective family unit. This did not appear to be an exceptional family. But how exceptional it was!

The lesson is that even an average family has the potential to be a holy family. What we should do is pattern our lives after Paul's exhortation to the Colossians. If we live like this, we will discover that holiness is all in the family.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * What might you do to make family life easier for those with whom you live?
- * Do you show gratitude to your family for their respect and care of you?

Dear Padre,

I've been trying to teach my children about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Any advice?

It's easy to teach young children about the works of mercy if you keep it simple and call their attention to what they're doing.

When they set the table and pour drinks, tell them they're feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty. When they bring homework to a sick classmate, they're visiting the sick. If they go to a funeral, they're helping bury the dead. When they make up with their siblings after a fight, they bear wrongs patiently and forgive all injuries. Siblings who help each other with their homework are instructing the "ignorant."

A child who soothes someone who's been hurt is comforting the sorrowful. Praying for anyone, living or dead, is a spiritual work of mercy. Listening when someone confides in them is counseling the doubtful. Talking a friend or sibling out of doing something wrong is admonishing the sinner.

As your children get older, volunteer as a family with organizations that build homes for low-income families and help the children of prisoners.

Performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, whether for each other or with each other, will bring you closer as a family as well as closer to God.

Fr. Rick Potts, 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*.



FIZKES / SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The works of mercy reawaken in us the need, and the ability, to make the faith alive and active with charity. I am convinced that, through these simple, daily actions, we can achieve a true cultural revolution....If every one of us, every day, does one of these, this will be a revolution in the world!

GENERAL AUDIENCE, OCTOBER 12, 2016

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 27

St. John,

Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4

Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday

DECEMBER 28

The Holy Innocents,
Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2

Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday

DECEMBER 29

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:3-11

Lk 2:22-35

Thursday

DECEMBER 30

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:12-17

Lk 2:36-40

Friday

DECEMBER 31

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:18-21

Jn 1:1-18

Saturday

JANUARY 1

Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

Sunday

JANUARY 2

Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12e

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.