

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

• TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# 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: [stfranschurch@cdlex.org](mailto:stfranschurch@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.

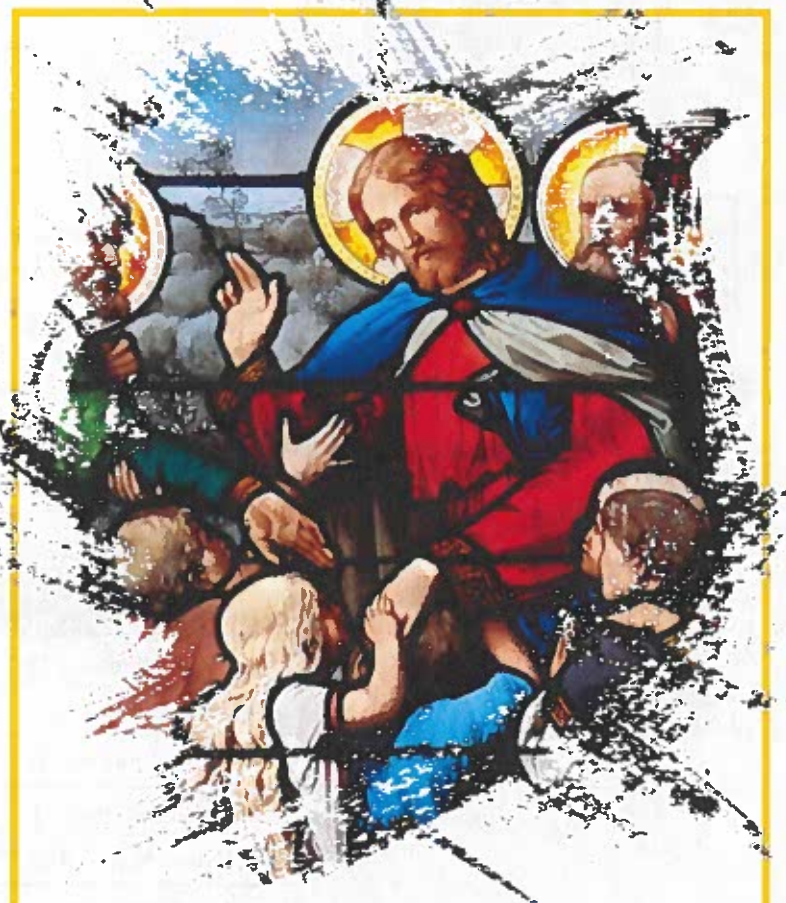
## PARISH STAFF

*Pastor:* Fr. Rob Adams

*Deacon:* Dcn. Joe Jacobs

*Administrative Assistant:* Becky Griffith

*Custodian:* Lisa Scalf



"WHOEVER RECEIVES ONE CHILD SUCH AS THIS  
IN MY NAME, RECEIVES ME." - MK 9:37A

25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS © 2001, 1998, 1970 C.C.D. LP



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

### Sunday Offertory

9-12-2021.....	\$2,387
Weekly Budget.....	\$2,700
Surplus/ <u>Deficit</u> .....	\$313
YTD Offertory.....	\$30,124
Budget.....	\$29,700
<u>Surplus/Deficit</u> .....	\$424
9-12-2021 Building Fund.....	\$450

**BUILDING FUND UPDATE:** We currently owe \$66,793 on the new church building. Thank you for your continued support of the Church Building Fund.



Wisdom 2:12, 17-20  
James 3:16-4:3  
Mark 9:30-37

Jesus speaks of his own rejection, torture, and shameful death. True discipleship, he says, is concerned not with status but with service to the poor, with justice and peace.

**Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 1052**

Good Sunday Morning,

Thanks to everyone for your work on our parish picnic! I mean it when I say that we can't do these kinds of things without your hard work and dedication! Included in this thanks are all those people decided to stay home due to health concerns. Good and courageous decisions like this allow our parish to continue having events.

I also want to extend the parish's deepest sympathy to Kenny Schmidt upon the passing of his wife Nanette. I don't think people really know just how much she did around here. Let's continue to pray for her soul (yes, Catholics do this!) and try to honor her memory through generous service.

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, September 18	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Ed Love
Sunday, September 19	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, September 20	No Mass	
Tuesday, September 21	Noon Mass	For the Love Family
Wednesday, September 22	Noon Mass	+Nanette Schmidt
Thursday, September 23	Noon Mass	+Nanette Schmidt
Friday, September 24	Noon Mass @ St. George Church	
Saturday, September 25	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Jim Altman
Sunday, September 26	10:30 am Mass	For the People

## Parish Calendar & Announcements

**PARISH PICNIC:** Join us to today, Sunday, September 19 for some delicious food and fellowship after the 10:30 am Mass.

**POOR BOX:** During the month of August, we collected \$245 in the poor box to assist the ministry of Helping Hands. Thank you for your continued support!

### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

There is something about being first. Whether it be first in line, first to be picked for the team, or the first one to finish their work, great satisfaction is achieved. Our egos love being first. It somehow sets us apart from everyone else, gives us a sense of pride and positions us to feel better than others. When we are first, we can glory in our efforts, skills, and achievements. Isn't that what really matters? After all, we are taught from a very young age to be proficient, stay on top, be the best at what we do, and win the praise and esteem of others. This is the stuff that makes us successful and provides us with a comfortable, satisfying life.

Jesus wants none of it. All of the details we anguish over mean little to the kingdom of God. You want to be first? Then, be a servant and welcome a child. All of this is the opposite of our often vehement pursuits. If we are serious about following Jesus and living the Gospel, then we must put the needs of others before our own. If we continue to listen only to the noise of the world, we are going to continue to believe the illusions we inherit. Those illusions come in many forms, but all have things in common: me before you, being on top and not the bottom, us versus them, personal security over universal harmony and peace. When are we going to learn that always striving to be the best and first is an empty pursuit in our struggle for happiness? While satisfying our ego with this momentary boost of esteem may feel good for a moment, is it what we really desire?

If we can break from the world's noise and create a space of sacred silence in our lives, we can begin to listen and see that we are being called in another direction. What we really desire is not the bolstering of our egos but the innocence we lost somewhere along the way. When we can be playful, joyful, and even somewhat carefree, life is good. We want our relationships to work, a place to call home, and to live peaceful lives with our sisters and

brothers. Only a servant can do this. The servant's prayer seeks to detach from self-concern in order to be used by God. Rather than worrying about being first and coming out on top, we can be inspired, guided, empowered, and led to do good works. Stop worrying about being first and put greater energy into feeling joy. ©LPI

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### The View from the Back of the Line

Have you known that person? The one who leaves every person they encounter feeling a little more blessed for having met them? They're the friend you can count on when nothing is going well. They're the one who's always "doing" for others. They're never gossiping or sniping or complaining.

We wonder how they do it, how they have it in them. We're a little envious, even if we don't let ourselves acknowledge it.

That, folks, is what the view is like from the front of the line, gazing at those suckers in the way back and wondering why they're smiling so much.

We've all been at the front of a line and felt no shame about it. We show up early, we put in the time and the legwork, and we "earn" whatever it is we came for — sports tickets, the latest Apple product, whatever. That's how it works here on Earth, where the fastest win the race, the fittest survive and the first shall be first, always.

It's exactly why stewardship is such a tall order. Stewardship calls us to play by the rules of another kingdom — one where the richest have the least amount in their bank accounts and the happiest don't seem to have anything to show for it, at least materially.

If you have a person in your life who always seems happy "doing" for others, it's because by a boatload of God's grace, they play by the rules of the other place.

Watch and take notes — and don't be afraid to join them at the back of the line.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI



Tim Deskins, cancer

Tina Dawahare Fields, cousin of Frank Dawahare, cancer

Nancy Goss

Vanessa Jarvis

Sandy Lowe, cancer

Jerry and Ann Bilicek

Gloria Wagner (Mother of Linda Justice and Susan Chafin)

Steve McCoy, stroke, Lisa Scalp's Cousin

Ron Saros

Cindy and Christy Hedinger

Rita Scheuer

Kenny Blackburn

Alpha Carroll, Signature Health Care

Dr. Harry Altman

Carol Rashella

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

**VOTIVE CANDLES:**  
Suggested donation: Large votives \$3.00 and small votives \$0.50

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER - An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle - We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.**





## The Price of Goodness

**W**e all know genuinely good people. Somehow they are able to live the virtues of their religious tradition. It might even appear that it is easy for them to do so. One would think that such good people would be valued. Well, yes and no. While we might truly value the goodness of others, that goodness can also shame us. And there is the rub. People are uncomfortable with the realization that they are not as good as they think—or not as good as others might view them. Today’s readings underscore the price we might have to pay for such goodness.

The first reading describes a plot being devised to get rid of a righteous person whose goodness has become “annoying” (Wisdom 2:12). This is not someone who flaunts goodness; it is a genuinely good person, one who is referred to as “the righteous one” (2:18). (Here “son of God” simply means someone belonging to the people of God.) The plotters insist

that God will come to the rescue if the righteous one is truly good. The petitions in the psalm response are placed on the lips of that righteous one. Like many good Bible stories, this story is open-ended. We do not know what happens. The price paid for righteousness is found in the Gospel passage as well. Here the righteous one is Jesus. Though we know how his story ends, here the disciples did not.

Today we are faced with the starkness of these stories. Are we willing to pay the price of goodness?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ *Where in your life do your religious values conflict with social norms?*
- ✦ *Do you ever resent the goodness of others? If so, what might you do about it?*

*[Jesus said,] “If anyone wishes to be first,  
he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”*

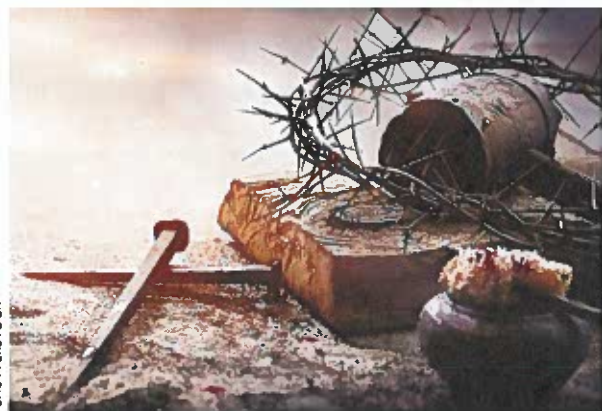
MARK 9:35



# Dear Padre,

## In Bible times why did people sacrifice animals, children, and other living beings for their own sins?

**T**he practice of human and animal sacrifice is at least as old as written history, including in our own Scripture. Few stories are more chilling than when God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son, or when Jephthah sacrifices his daughter (Genesis 22; Judges 11). In scriptural theology, one's sins merited punishment and even death, but an animal or other person could be chosen to take one's place. God, in his mercy, instituted this animal sacrificial system as a symbol, foreshadowing Jesus' sacrifice for our sins (Genesis 8:20; Hebrews 10:1–18). In the New Testament, Jesus understood his mission as sacrificing his own life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). His fidelity to that mission was at the cost of death. However, to say that Jesus' death was payment for



our sins is not to say that a vengeful God was appeased by the sacrifice of his own innocent Son. Rather, Christ was willing to liberate us when he “bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that... by his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

Thus, “it is love ‘to the end (John 13:1)’ that confers on

Christ's sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 616). It is in this sense that Jesus' death was a payment—not one to be exacted—but a unique sacrifice that “completes and surpasses all other sacrifices” (CCC 614).

Fr. Byron Miller, 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.



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The Catechism firmly states that human power has limits and that “it is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly.” All such use and experimentation “requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation.”

ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME (LAUDATO SI'), MAY 24, 2015

## Calendar

### Monday

SEPTEMBER 20

Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Priest, and Paul Chông Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

Ezr 1:1–6

Lk 8:16–18

### Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 21

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Eph 4:1–7, 11–13

Mt 9:9–13

### Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 22

Weekday

Ezr 9:5–9

Lk 9:1–6

### Thursday

SEPTEMBER 23

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Hg 1:1–8

Lk 9:7–9

### Friday

SEPTEMBER 24

Weekday

Hg 2:1–9

Lk 9:18–22

### Saturday

SEPTEMBER 25

Weekday

Zec 2:5–9, 14–15a

Lk 9:43b–45

### Sunday

SEPTEMBER 26

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nm 11:25–29

Jas 5:1–6

Mk 9:38–43,

45, 47–48