ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
CATHOLIC CHURCH

4000 W. Tidewater Lane • Madison, MS 39110 • 601-856-5556 • Fax: 601-856-2849 • stfrancismadison.org

February 5, 2023 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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MASSES:
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 5:00 PM
10:30 am Sunday and daily Masses are live-streamed on our YouTube channel and our Facebook page.

WEEKDAY MASSES:
Monday-Friday: 7:00 AM
Holy Day: 7:00 AM, 6:30 PM

R.C.I.A.
Wednesday: 6:30 - 8:00 PM
New inquirers welcome year round.

ROSARY:
Thursday: 6:40 AM

ADORATION:
Thursday: 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed at 6:30 PM

RECONCILIATION:
Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 PM & by request

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, Feb 5, 2023

From the Desk of Msgr. Sunds

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE: The prophet Isaiah inspires us with these words: "Light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday." All celebrating the liturgy today praise God for these words of encouragement. Surely each of us knows the gloomy side of life, but today's readings propose a brilliant antidote to misery: the light of service. Isaiah focuses on physical suffering, telling us to provide food, clothing, housing, and equal opportunity to those with limited resources. Moving beyond material needs, Saint Paul demonstrates how to proceed humbly when attending to people's spiritual needs. Saint Matthew's Gospel stirs us to bold action: whatever gifts we have, we must put them at the service of our communities. As Christians, we must engage with one another without holding back, letting our light shine before all.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. FRANCIS

Sunday, February 5
9:00 am Sunday School for Pre-K4—6th.
9:00 am Bible Buddies in St. Thomas Hall.
9:00 am Coffee & Creed in St. Clare Hall.
6:00 pm Life Teen for 7-12th in the FLC.

Tuesday, February 7
6:15 pm **Sharing Christ Series** in St. Clare Hall.

Wednesday, February 8
6:00 pm WOW (Worship On Wednesday) it's Sports Night.
6:30 am RCIA Inquiring sessions in the St. Clare Hall.

Thursday, February 9
5:00 pm Adoration in the Daily Chapel.
6:30 pm Divine Chaplet Prayer.

Friday, February 10
6:00 am TMIY (That Man Is You)

OUR DAILY BREAD

St Francis participates in serving meals the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Our Daily Bread in Canton (313 Franklin St) from 11:45 am - 12:45 pm.

If interested in volunteering on February 21, please contact Catherine Graham 601-291-8637.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

It is important that all our volunteers are compliant with their Virtus Bulletins online at https://virtus.org. After reading the outstanding bulletin, answer the multiple choice question and submit to update your compliance with the parish and the Diocese of Jackson. We hope that you find each bulletin informative. If you have issues with your log in, please contact Sallie Ann in the parish office.

Thank you for your continued service and assistance in our youth programs and keeping our children in a safe environment.

We encourage any victim to contact Valerie McClellan, Victims Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Jackson at 601-326-3728.

Support our advertisers!
They are located on the last page

Events & Religious Education for our Kiddos

"Behold, children are a gift from the Lord."
Psalm 127:3

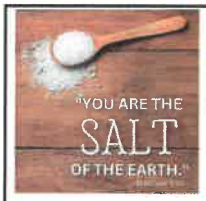
Nursery for 2 month-olds -2 year-olds will be made available during 10:30 a.m. Mass if enough parents volunteer to help on a rotating basis. Please sign up at https://stfrancismadison.org/3-years-old-and-under

7th-12th Grade *Life Teen* and Youth Ministry:

Life Teen for 7-12th graders, including Confirmation prep, is held each Sunday night, 6-7:30 p.m., beginning with supper in the FLC. We will *not* meet next Sunday, February 12.

WOW! (**W**orship **O**n **W**ednesday) for all 7th-12th graders is this Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. in the FLC.

Save the date for our 11th/ 12th grade **Confirmation Retreat**, Sunday, March 26, 10 a.m. -5:00 p.m.



Jesus didn't just tell us to go and try to be the salt of the earth. He spoke it as an identifying label. *"You are the salt of the earth."* You were created to affect the world around you in a variety of salty ways on God's behalf. If we fail to make a difference in the lives of others, we are missing the point and are failing to be the salt of the earth. As **faithful stewards**, commit yourselves to being the salt of the earth, so that this world of ours will be a better place, filled with the flavor of the Kingdom of God. So, go forth, love people, and add some flavor to your world today!

Financial Giving

Weekly Goal:	$30,000.00
Collection Basket	$15,372.00
Children's Offering	$ 27.00
Online	$ 1,942.14
Total	$17,341.14

Additional Collections this weekend:

- **February 4th/5th:** "Black and Indian Collection" the generosity of many allows the Commission to give helpful grants to dioceses across the country to operate schools, parishes, and other missionary services that build the Body of Christ in Native American, Alaska Native, and Black Catholic communities. ***Checks payable to St. Francis.***

February 11th/12th Catholic Service Appeal Weekend: Next weekend our parish will conduct Commitment Weekend for our Catholic Service Appeal. This is when we will be asking each member of St. Francis to consider a generous gift to the CSA. Our parish goal of **$81,445.00** can only be reached if each one of us shares a portion of the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. Please prayerfully consider how you or your family will respond to this call to carry on Christ's work in our community. It is through your gifts of hope that we in the Diocese of Jackson are always working better and stronger to build up the Kingdom of God. ***Checks payable to Catholic Service Appeal.***

RCIA — RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

This week Deacon Denzil Lobo leads our discussion of Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick and Dying, and a brief discussion of Lent. In Catholicism, holy orders is the sacrament by which men are ordained as priests or deacons. It is a sacrament carried out by a bishop, who must lay his hands on the candidate. Deacon Denzil will discuss with us the three states of Holy Orders: deacon, priest, and bishop. He will also talk with us about the effects of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and how the sacrament has a very important community dimension. RCIA will meet at 6:30pm in St. Clare Hall. More information about the RCIA program can be obtained by calling the church office at 601-856-5556 or by visiting the church website at www.stfrancismadison.org.

BAPTISM CLASS

A Baptism class is scheduled on Sunday, February 12 at 3:30 pm in St. Clare Hall for all parents who want to Baptize their child.

NOTE: Please register in advance, parish office 601-856-5556.

Altar Flowers this weekend are in memory of

Edith Lockard Fairbank

by Amanda & Chris and Lockard Williams

In life and death we belong to the Lord.
Romans 8:38-39

Hospital Visits

Due to the Privacy Act, hospitals cannot release a patient's name or provide any information. Please let us know if you are planning surgery, or other procedures. In emergencies, a relative or friend should call us or ask the hospital staff to notify us at 601-856-5556. In addition, we need your approval to list your name in the church bulletin.

PRAY FOR OUR SOLDIERS

Revell Patterson, Mark Vincent, Christopher Hanneke, Brian Flaherty, Will Walenta, Garrett Kennedy, Caroline Grace Smith, and Greg Weatherford.

Thank you for protecting our country.
May the Lord keep you safe.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday:	Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday:	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23
Thursday:	Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10
Sunday:	Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Feb. 4	**VIGIL MASS**
5:00 PM	Mass **(+) Mary Manley**
Sun., Feb. 5	**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
8:00 AM	Mass **(+) Tom Sagar**
9:10 AM	Mass - St. Catherine **(+) Patricia Anne Muller**
10:30 AM	Mass
5:00 PM	Mass **(+) Ronald St. Pierre**
Mon., Feb. 6	**ST. PAUL MIKI**
7:00 AM	Mass **(+) Mary Jane Zito**
Tue., Feb. 7	**WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
7:00 AM	Mass **(+) Ronald St. Pierre**
8:30 AM	Mass - St. Catherine **(+) Etta Marie Daniels**
Wed., Feb. 8	**ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA**
7:00 AM	Mass **SI - Mary Frances Palmer**
Thurs., Feb. 9	**WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
7:00 AM	Mass **(+) Carmel Mullen Fuchs**
8:30 AM	Mass - St. Catherine **(+) Patricia Anne Muller**
5:00 PM	Adoration in the Daily Chapel
6:30 PM	Prayer of the Divine Mercy
Fri., Feb. 10	**ST. SCHOLASTICA**
7:00 AM	Mass **(+) Frank Zito**
8:30 AM	Mass - St. Catherine **(+) Mary Martin**

(+) Praying for Deceased **SI** Praying for Special Intention

PLEASE PRAY FOR Healing

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Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

February 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Madison, MS

Rev. Albeenreddy Vatti, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Flee temptation

Christians are meant for Heaven. Yet, the world can work against our efforts for holiness. St. Peter tells us to *"escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires"* (2 Peter 1:4). Ask God often to protect you from sin, to give you the wisdom and courage to make good choices and, become sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. God will reveal when you've messed up, and rejoice with you when you get it right.

Serve without complaint

Every job has aspects about it that are tedious, messy, and unrewarding, yet they are necessary. However, they can be opportunities to grow in virtue: humility, patience, self-discipline, etc. When you dread doing your work, smile and say a prayer, *"and your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you"* (Matthew 6:4).

"The works of God are all of them good; in its own time every need is supplied" (Sirach 39:16).

Take steps to share your faith during Lent

Jesus didn't intend for the Great Commission – *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19) – to be a heavy burden. He meant witnessing to His love to come through the natural course of living a Christ-inspired life. Consider making more disciples this Lent:

Live a Catholic life. Non-believers may hear what we say about Jesus, but they are persuaded by seeing how our love for Him shapes our lives. It is critical that worship – Sunday Mass, Confession, Scripture – informs our life choices. When we spend time in Jesus' presence, His character rubs off on us.

Bring Christ out into the world. Jesus asked that we care for the poor and needy, thus acting as His hands and feet in the world. We may not be able to solve all of their problems, but we can show them the reality of Christ's love in their lives.

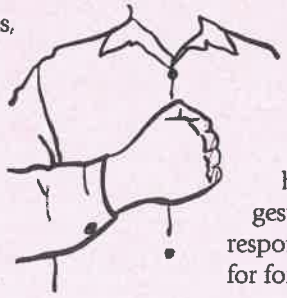
Talk about God's plan. God wants us each to experience the peace He offers. Help others know that God's love is personal and He has a specific plan for each of us.

Invite. Some people will be ready to "come and see," so consider inviting seekers to Mass. Others might be ready to "take up and read." Share your favorite inspirational reading. If you need other suggestions, ask your pastor or favorite religious.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics strike their chests?

When we use our voices, our minds, and even our bodies during prayer, we pray with deeper meaning and enthusiasm. During the Confiteor at Mass, for example, we strike our chest three times, saying,



"through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." It's an ancient symbol of sorrow and repentance for having offended God or hurting our neighbor. Such a gesture reminds us to take responsibility for our actions and pray for forgiveness and grace to change.

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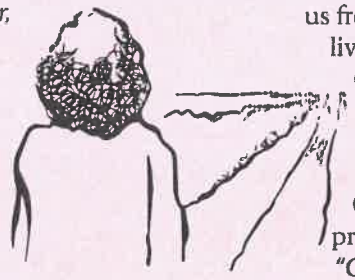
Lent leads us back to God



"For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment" (Joel 2:13). Lent may be a penitential season, but it is also a wonderful reminder that no matter how we let sin interfere in our relationship with God, He always wants us back. Gracious and merciful is He.

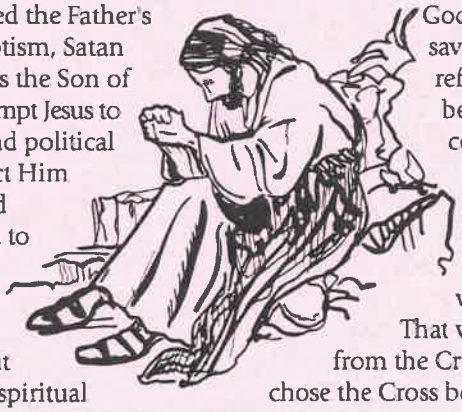
"Return to me with your whole heart." Throughout the year, sin creeps into our daily lives almost without our noticing. A bad habit such as using bad language or gossiping can keep us from loving God fully. Lent is a time to examine our lives and sweep aside whatever keeps us from giving God our whole heart.

"Rend your hearts, not your garments." God doesn't just want outward acts of repentance. Our Father wants a change of heart. Start with Confession and then practice virtues such as prudence, temperance, and fortitude.

"Gather the people, notify the congregation." Become more active in your parish to build it up. Consider attending Mass more often than just once a week.

from Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11, Victory in the wilderness



In this passage, Jesus is tempted by the devil. Having witnessed the Father's declaration at His baptism, Satan tested Jesus' identity as the Son of God. His goal was to tempt Jesus to embrace an earthly and political mission and to distract Him from the suffering and death that would lead to the world's salvation.

Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His hunger with a miracle – to put physical needs above spiritual needs. In His response, Jesus taught us to put spiritual needs first and to entrust both body and soul to God's care. Next, Satan commanded Jesus to jump from the temple roof in an effort to force God to miraculously save Him. Again, Jesus refused. God is not to be forced or controlled.

Finally, Satan offered to surrender all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. That would save Jesus from the Cross. Instead, Jesus chose the Cross because it was the only way to save us. When tempted to do what's "easy" versus what's morally right, ask for the strength to choose what's right.

Q & A

What's a simple way to explain the Faith, if asked?

St. Peter says to be ready to *"account for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15). Consider using this simple, five-point explanation, inspired by Bishop Michael Jackels:

Pinky: The smallest finger recalls our weakness and need for a Savior.

Although Jesus redeemed us, we're still weak and must pray for God's graces daily.

Ring finger: To save us, Jesus took on our human nature, "wedding" Himself to us. At Sunday Mass, we worship God and become one with Him in Holy Communion.

Middle finger: Jesus was raised up on the Cross for sins, then raised from the dead. We attend Confession monthly and receive the saving graces. We hope to be raised to eternal life.

Pointer: Jesus' call is universal, yet personal. He singled you out and chose you to follow Him; only you can give Jesus your "Yes" – in word and deed.

Thumb: Lastly, hitchhikers point their thumbs to ask, "Are you on my way?" Likewise, we're called to ask, "Are you going His Way?" (John 14:6).

Feasts & Celebrations

Lent begins February 22, and is devoted to the Passion of Our Lord. One form of observance is to pray the Stations of the Cross and meditate on Jesus' walk to Calvary.

February 1 – St. Brigid of Ireland (525). Born to an Irish chieftain and an enslaved mother in Ireland, St. Brigid founded a monastery for monks and nuns at Kildare and served as abbess until her death.

February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858). A heavenly "lady" appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl from a village in France and a miraculous spring emerged from a nearby cave. The "lady" revealed herself as the "Immaculate Conception," the Blessed Virgin Mary.

February 22 – Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent. Ashes are placed on the foreheads as a sign of penance.

February 27 – St. Gregory of Narek (1003). Born in Armenia to a devout Christian family, St. Gregory entered the Narek Monastery and was ordained in 977. He wrote treatises, letters, mystical poems, and Scripture commentaries.

Our Mission
To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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Lent 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Madison, MS
Rev. Albeenreddy Vatti, Pastor

= a day of fasting and abstinence from meat

= a day of abstinence from meat

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*).			22 *Ash Wednesday* Wear ashes today as a sign that you are seeking both forgiveness and eternal life from Christ.	23 Start a prayer book and record those for whom you pray or for what you pray. Also keep track of how God answers your prayers.	24 Catholics are required to abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent as a form of penance.	25 The Bible teaches us to deny ourselves and give instead to those in need. Read Matthew 6:1-4 to learn more about sacrificial almsgiving.
26 Imagine being responsible for all the souls in the world. Offer a Rosary for the intentions of the pope.	27 Ask God to show you what is keeping you from experiencing His love fully-worry, fears, sin. Resolve to deal with it by Easter.	28 Offer an extra small sacrifice for God, just for today - coffee without cream, lukewarm shower, no snacking, etc.	1 **March** Enjoy pretzels -- a traditional Lenten snack. The "crossed" arms of the pretzel recalled monks at prayer.	2 Today, look for opportunities to practice the virtues humility, patience, and kindness.	3 *First Friday* Attend Mass or visit the Blessed Sacrament (find the red candle). Be present to Him who is present to you.	4 Set up an empty box or bin. Throughout Lent, fill it with gently used clothes. Bring it to a local charity at the end of Lent.
5 After Mass today, go out to eat with other parishioners from church.	6 Dive deeper into your faith. Skim the glossary in the Catechism for an unfamiliar term and learn the Church's teaching about it.	7 Pick an issue in the news and pray over it today.	8 Figure out on which luxuries you spend the most money. Take a tenth of that amount and put it in the poor box at church.	9 Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for those who have no one to pray for them. Look here: https://www.usccb.org/prayers/divine-mercy-chaplet.	10 Resist "idle curiosity." Don't research trivial questions or follow every browser thread. Unless it's important, it's okay not knowing.	11 Pray for pregnant mothers and their babies. Consider donating to pro-life charities that help women in crisis.
12 Reread John 4:5-30. How is Christ calling you closer to Him? What "jug" would you leave behind?	13 Refuse to gossip, either in person or on screen. Affirm every person or keep silent.	14 Write down your worries. Place the list under a statue or image of Jesus. Pray, "Jesus, I surrender this to You. Take care of everything."	15 Attend Confession and experience God's mercy. Resolve to make amends where you can.	16 Check out Catholic Relief Services to see how you can support their projects. Look here: https://www.crs.org.	17 *St. Patrick's Day* In honor of St. Patrick, evangelize silently by wearing a symbol of your faith (e.g. a cross, medal).	18 Contact local shelters and soup kitchens and ask if they need volunteers.
19 *Laetare Sunday* Unless it's sinful, enjoy something you gave up for Lent in joyful anticipation of Easter!	20 *St. Joseph's Day* St. Joseph silently, selflessly cared for Mary and Jesus. Pray for fathers and entrust them to St. Joseph's care.	21 Do an act of kindness. Whether openly or secretly, do it for God's glory. It's really Him you're serving.	22 Take the box of clothes you set up on March 4 to a clothing drive.	23 Pray for an increased faith throughout the Church in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.	24 Practice patience... patiently. "Be patient with everyone, but first of all with yourself" (St. Francis de Sales).	25 *Annunication of the Lord* Mary said "Yes!" to God's plan. Pray three Hail Marys, for the grace to give your "Yes" to Him, too.
26 Fast from unnecessary screen use today. Use the time to read a book, walk outside, pray.	27 This week, get up when the alarm goes off and offer your day to God's service.	28 Send your parish priests a "spiritual bouquet" — listing the prayers you'll offer for them (e.g. three Hail Marys, an Our Father).	29 Today, complete an errand or chore you've been putting off.	30 The Our Father is the prayer given to us by Jesus. Pray each line slowly. Really think about what you are saying.	31 Today, fast from complaining. Culviate gratitude instead.	1 **April** Declutter, dust, and clean the house in preparation for Holy Week — the holiest time of the year.
2 *Palm Sunday* Display blessed palms around your home, *"that the King of Glory may come in!"* (Psalm 24:7)	3 Holy Week is a busy time for parishes. Stop by your parish office and ask how you can help.	4 Pray for those who are coming into the Church at the Easter Vigil.	5 Judas betrayed Christ. Consider how our sins betray Jesus and make a sincere Act of Contrition.	6 *Holy Thursday* Visit the Blessed Sacrament. Offer Him your love for the "lost hour" of Gethsemane (Mathew 26:40).	7 *Good Friday* Read the Passion Narrative, John 18, 19. See Jesus' offering of love for you. How will you respond?	8 *Holy Saturday* Renew your baptismal vows and commit to living your faith more fully this year.

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