



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

July 6, 2025 – Fourteenth 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

O.C.I.A. (formerly 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

From the Desk of Msgr. Elvin Sunds

Imagine being one of these seventy-two disciples. The twelve Apostles had been sent out on a similar mission (Luke 9:1-6.) Their lives had already changed dramatically. Each had given up everything to follow Jesus. They saw in Christ the fulfillment of the promise made to their people, and they longed to be with Him. Then, things changed when the Twelve were called to go out into the world and show the power and authority that Christ had given to them. The students became teachers, and word of the Messiah spread.

In today's Gospel, things are changing again. The call of the Twelve is becoming the call of the seventy-two because "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Though these disciples are not given the full authority that the Twelve received in their mission, Jesus appoints dozens of those who have come to believe in Him to go and get other places ready to receive Him. His instructions echo those he had given His Apostles. He essentially instructed them, "Go into towns with nothing, stay with whoever welcomes you, eat whatever they feed you. Tell them about Me, so they are ready to receive Me."

What must they have felt? Unsure, incapable, unworthy? But like the Twelve, they went. Humbly, they trusted in Jesus, and they went on their mission. And they were successful.

While he was still with them, Jesus, the perfect teacher, had given the Twelve, and then the Seventy-Two, a taste of what they would be called to do with the Holy Spirit when He was gone. They were understandably amazed and delighted by what they had been able to do in Jesus' name, but we hear Christ's call again to humility: "Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

As you heard the Gospel, you may come to know the Messiah more and more. Your heart has been touched, and your life has been changed. Now, humbly trusting in the One who called you, you are asked to go out into the world and make the way for Jesus to reach new hearts. How? Speak up, invite, and love completely, remembering that any heart touched is done *through* you, not *by* you. What a privilege it is to be that instrument. Doing so, you won't have to imagine being one of the seventy-two anymore; you will be among them.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. FRANCIS

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION WEEKEND.

Wednesday, July 9

No Choir rehearsal.



Use QR code to Donate or for more information

BISHOP'S BALL

Saturday, July 19, 2025
The Two Mississippi Museums
Jackson, MS

Ticket Price: \$125
Cocktail Hour: 6:00 pm
Auction: 7:00 pm

Proceeds go to various programs.
Catholic Charities serves over 10,000 children across the state of Mississippi.

Events & Religious Education

Children's Ministry: Sunday School



We want to say a special **THANK YOU** to the **coordinators of this year's VBS**, especially to our "safari guides" (teachers and assistants):

Kimberly Burns, Louise Barbour, Ashley Garavelli, Jess Brown, Bridget Rideaux, Christina Vanderloo, Casey Morris, Lori Flood,

Courtney Terrell, Marcia Steinbach; to our **nursery leaders**, Golie Renfro and Andi Barbrey, to our **program and music coordinators**: Katie Todd and Kay Flood; to our **safari snacks coordinator**, Jennifer Dukes; to our **registration coordinator**, Pat Haffey; and to our **overall VBS assistant**, Pat Ross. A big shoutout to our **Creative Arts Camp coordinator**, Rachael Kenyon! Also, we thank Vickie Moorehead for making our day with her fascinating pet Madagascar roaches!

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

Bowling Night at Fannin Lanes: All 7th-12th graders are invited to join us for a fun night of bowling at Fannin Lanes on **Wednesday, July 9, from 6:00-8:00 PM**. Please bring \$15 and a **parent-signed Indemnity Form**. (See attached flyer in Flocknote)

Open Gym at the Family Life Center: Come hang out and shoot some hoops! All 7th-12th graders are welcome for Open Gym on **Friday, July 11, from 6:00-8:00 PM**.

"Why Not Now of Mississippi" Serve Lunch to the Homeless: Youth, parents, and parishioners are invited to help serve lunch to those in need at **Poindexter/Pittman Park on Sunday, July 13**. (Details and indemnity forms are available in Flocknote)

Youth Summer Pool Party: Cool off at the Cypress Lake Pool with us on **Sunday, July 13, from 5:30-7:30 PM**! All 7th-12th graders are welcome. Don't forget your **parent-signed Indemnity Form**. (See attached flyer in Flocknote)

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.



FINANCIAL GIVING



Weekly Goal:	\$30,000.00
Collection Basket	\$14,266.19
Children's Offering	\$ 32.00
Online	\$ 3,395.86
Total	\$17,694.05

July: Capital Campaign.

July 20: St. Anthony School Tuition Assistance.

Please make checks payable to *St. Francis of Assisi*.



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

The Ministry of the OCIA Sponsor

- * The ministry of the sponsor is a ministry of *accompaniment*
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- * A sponsor supports the candidate through the gift of his or her presence, consistently and intentionally
- * A sponsor is a witness of the candidate's spiritual journey into the Catholic Church
- * A sponsor helps the candidate discover the church as a living, practical, day to day reality

To be a sponsor you must:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- Be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the church
- Attend OCIA sessions with your candidate

If you're interested in becoming a sponsor or in finding out more about sponsoring, please contact Julie Clayton, OCIA Director, or any OCIA Team member. More information about the OCIA program can be obtained by calling the church office at 601-856-5556 or by visiting the church website at www.stfrancismadison.org.

MILLIONS OF MONICAS – PRAYING WITH CONFIDENCE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Many people have children who are struggling to embrace their Catholic faith or have left the Church entirely. The Millions of Monicas prayer ministry supports mothers in this situation. Following the example of St. Monica, these mothers come together weekly to persevere in prayer for their children's joyful return to full unity with the Catholic Church. Meetings every Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 127 Church Road, Madison. For more information call the parish office at 601.856.2054, email millionsofmonicas@stjosephgluckstadt.com or visit www.millionsofmonicas.com.



Altar Flowers this weekend are in memory of
Dr. Jay Tice

by his wife Dr. Liz Tice and son JJ

The love you shared with the one you miss so much, live on
in the light of Christ's great love. 1 Corinthians 13:8



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	Is 66: 10-14c; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; Gal 6: 14-18; Lk 10: 1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9
Monday	Gn 28: 10-22a; Ps 91: 1-2, 3-4, 14-15ab; Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday	Gn 32:23-33; Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b and 15; Mt 9: 32-38
Wednesday	Gn 41: 55-57; 42: 5-7a, 17-24a; Ps 33: 2-3, 10-11, 18-19, Mt 10:1-7
Thursday	Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 10:7-15
Friday	Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mt 10: 16-23
Saturday	Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7; Mt 10:24-33

MASS INTENTIONS



Sat., Jul. 5 5:00 PM	VIGIL MASS Mass † Sylvia Mills
Sun., Jul. 6 8:00 AM 9:10 AM 10:30 AM 5:00 PM	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mass † Mary Jane Zito Mass - St. Catherine † Margaret Wetzel Mass Mass † Barbara Clowers
Mon., Jul. 7 7:00 AM	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mass † Víctor García
Tue., Jul. 8 7:00 AM 8:30 AM	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mass † Joseph Gandolini Mass - St. Catherine † Matthew Hearn Sr.
Wed., Jul. 9 7:00 AM	ST. AUGUSTINE ZHAO RONG Mass † Tony Palomo
Thurs., Jul. 10 7:00 AM 8:30 AM 5:00 PM	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mass † Henry Buck Jr. Mass - St. Catherine † Edward Rustowicz Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Fri., Jul. 11 7:00 AM 8:30 AM	ST. BENEDICT Mass ♥ Fr. Albeen Vatti Mass - St. Catherine † Elizabeth Davis

† Praying for Deceased ♥ Praying for Special Intention



PRAY FOR OUR SOLDIERS

Revell Patterson, Mark Vincent, John Logan,
Christopher Hanneke, Brian Flaherty,
Garrett Kennedy, Caroline Grace Smith,
Greg Weatherford, James Kaiser,
Dagan Nations, Lee Greco,
Liam Nethery, and Tristan Nethery.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING



Parishioners: Rick Mills, Amanda Williams, Bill Smith, Dora Thomas, Ann George, Michael Schenk, Tina Coats, Kathleen Hood, Elvie Clement, Chris Smith, Terry Grabiak, Louis Pellegrine, Ethan George, Betty Ravenstein, Leslie Philipp, Sieger Sims, Tom Miller, Brandy Tucker, Kregg Jones, Pat Rogers, Shannon Moody, Davis Oltremari, Marilyn Hansen, Chuck Bergin, and Michelle Harrison.

Family: Joseph Edge, Jerry Thomas, Austin Stewart, Isabella Saab, Robert Smith, Kay Wittenberg, Donna Stanley, Keely Ramshur, Desiree Savoie, Angela Gaither, Martha Hall, Marinella Davis, Amy McManus, Dan Nguyen, Rebecca McManus, Porter Antici, Mary Ann Williams, Allen Tolbert, Selema Rookis, Marie Chipley, Troy Plaisance, Rita Barrau, Robin Ballough, Fred Delahoussay, Hap Post, Nancy Watts, Wells Heier, Caroline Duckworth, Dr. Sherrill Evans, Raymond Sahut, Abby George, Ann Porcello, Celia Bustillos, Dorothy Lacourrege, Margaret Barber, Shirley Burns, and Ellen Joiner.

Friends: Lorene David, Lynn Goodman, Genesis Moore, Carrie Maniscalco, Lindsay McCollum, Consha Sims, Tommy Chifoln, Laura Higgins, Ruby Joblin, Travis Griffin, Shirley Jones, Patsy Meyer, Kay Beggerly, Gene Fox, Phil Cook, Brenda Dehm, Shannon Gilmer, Zayden Washington, Adele Brown, Carl Fields, Elizabeth Albertson, Jimmy Haltam, Mary Bradley, Gail Madden, and Ethan Parker.



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

July 2025

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Madison, MS

Rev. Albeenreddy Vatti, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Elizabeth of Portugal

St. Elizabeth followed the footsteps of her great-aunt and namesake, St. Elizabeth of Hungary: she was born to royal parents, practiced fervent spirituality, great generosity and penances. She married King Denis of Portugal. Despite a difficult marriage and family conflicts, she remained patient and charitable. She is known for her care for the poor and sick, and for resolving political conflicts peacefully. After her husband's death, St. Elizabeth entered the Third Order of St. Francis.

Prayer is a response to Love

God wants a relationship with us. This is a central truth of our faith. "The living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer, the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2567). So, next time you feel called to pray, say, like Samuel, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

"By mercy you have washed us in the Blood, and by mercy you desire to converse with your creatures... Loving Madman! ...Your mercy constrains you to give even more to mortals, namely, to leave yourself to them in food."

St. Catherine of Siena

Step out and let Christ meet you where you are

"Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water" (Matthew 14:28). St. Peter showed remarkable courage when he stepped out of the boat in the middle of a storm. While God may sometimes call us to follow Him in dramatic or difficult moments, more often He invites us in the quiet, ordinary circumstances of daily life — to step out of what's comfortable and meet Him in our prayer, our relationships, and our service.

Prayer: The greatest challenge in deepening your prayer life is often just beginning. Start with a Gospel passage, read slowly, reflect, respond, and rest in God's presence. Light a candle. Sit in front of an icon. Play sacred music. Let beauty draw your heart to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to renew your desire, focus, and love for God. Step out of the boat — and you'll find Christ waiting.

Relationships: The virtues — patience, self-control, fidelity, honesty — aren't just about personal growth; they're about

loving others well. Show kindness to someone who frustrates you. Have a real conversation with someone with whom you disagree. Forgive, even if it's undeserved. These small choices shape us into Christ's likeness.

Service: "...the Son of Man came ... to

"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27).

serve" (Matthew 20:28). Loving service doesn't require grand gestures. True holiness is forged in everyday acts: give away a piece of clothing you love but don't need. Help with the dishes, even when it's not your turn. Offer a break to a tired parent by watching their children. When service flows from love, it transforms both the giver and the receiver — and conforms our hearts to Christ's.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

The Church teaches that many souls, though destined for Heaven, undergo purification after death, a process called Purgatory. Purgatory prepares us to see God clearly.

Scripture supports this: Judas Maccabee offered prayers for the dead (2 Maccabees 12:43-46), and Jesus mentioned sins forgiven in the next life (Matthew 12:32). St. Paul described a

Why Do Catholics Believe in Purgatory?

judgment in which a person is saved, but their works are tested by fire. This fire isn't Hell (since they are saved), but a purifying fire, which aligns with the idea of Purgatory (1 Corinthians 3:13-15).

Purgatory is mercy. The souls there benefit from our prayers — and they pray for us in return. It's part of God's loving plan to make us truly ready for His presence.

Outsmart temptation with grace in action

When temptation strikes, the first line of defense is often simple: say “no” or avoid the situation entirely. But when that’s not enough, there are deeper, proven strategies that can help us respond with grace and strength.

First, think of temptation as an opportunity for holiness. God always gives us a choice, and when we say “yes” to Him and “no” to sin, He responds with even more grace. If another person is involved, pray for him or her. That small act of charity not only pleases God but disarms the enemy. As Scripture says, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

Second, don’t just resist temptation—replace it. Trying

not to think about sin often leads us right back to it. Instead, follow the advice of Philippians 4:8: focus on what is true, honorable, and good. For example, swap out gossip for words that build others up, or replace a bad habit with a holy one.

Finally, don’t overlook small victories. Faithfulness in little things strengthens us for bigger battles. Telling the truth in a pressure situation, showing patience in traffic, or keeping a promise all train the soul for harder moments. “Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities” (Matthew 25:23). Grace builds on effort. Use every moment well.

from Scripture

Luke 11:1-13, The Our Father is a school of prayer

If you’ve ever found yourself thinking, “I want to pray better,” this Scripture reading is for you. In it, Jesus teaches His disciples the Our Father — a masterclass in prayer, compact and profound. It’s not just one prayer, but four in one.

First, it’s a prayer of praise and thanksgiving, placing God above all. Second, it’s a petition, where we ask for our daily needs — spiritual and material. Third, it’s a plea for mercy, as we ask for forgiveness and the grace to forgive others. And finally, it’s a declaration of trust in God’s providence, a surrender of our will to His.

Praying the Our Father well means acknowledging that God knows what’s best for us — even when His will challenges ours. It’s an invitation to deeper faith.

God always answers prayer — but not always how or when we expect. Sometimes the answer is “Yes.” Other times, it’s “No” or “Wait — I have something better.” Jesus also makes it clear that persistence matters. Like the neighbor in the parable who keeps knocking at the door, we’re called to ask, seek, and knock with confidence. Prayer isn’t just about getting what we want — it’s about drawing closer to the One who loves us most.

Q & A

Can we console Jesus?

If you saw a close friend in deep pain, you wouldn’t walk by thinking, “She will get over it — I’m busy.” You’d drop everything, run to her, and ask, “What can I do?” This is the logic — and the love — behind consoling the Heart of Jesus. It’s not just a pious tradition; it reaches into the very core of our faith.

Jesus is fully human. He felt real emotions — joy, grief, betrayal, and sorrow. He understands our pain, and we can share in His, since He is also fully God, He stands outside of time. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He saw not only every sin but also every act of love, repentance, and faith. That means your love today can truly console His Heart in His Passion.

Words like “consolation” or “reparation” might sound outdated, but they mean something simple and powerful: to love Jesus where He has been wounded, to bring gratitude where there was ingratitude, and to respond with compassion where He was abandoned. Even small acts of love — a kind word, a prayer, a moment of sincere repentance — touch Him deeply.

Feasts & Celebrations

July 9 – St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions (1648-1930). This feast honors St. Augustine Zhao Rong, a soldier-turned-Catholic priest, and his martyred companions, forming a group of 120 Chinese Christians and Catholic missionaries. They were canonized by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000.

July 16 – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (1251). The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Simon Stock in England, carrying the brown scapular, a sign of her favor of the Carmelite Order, and promised whoever wore the scapular until death would avoid the fires of Hell.

July 18 – St. Camillus de Lellis (1614). Born in Italy, St. Camillus aimed for holiness despite battling a gambling addiction and a hot temper. After gambling away his possessions, including his shirt, Franciscan brothers gave him a job. He was ordained a priest, and later founded the Order of the Camellians, caring for the grievously sick, prisoners, and the plague victims.

July 31 – St. Ignatius of Loyola (1556). Ignatius spent several years defending Spain and suffered serious injuries. While recovering, he began a religious conversion and a lifelong dedication to education. He wrote spiritual exercises and started a community of priests now known as the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

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