



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

August 3, 2025 – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Albeenreddy Vatti, Pastor
Albeen.Vatti@stfrancismadison.org

Msgr. Elvin Sands, Priest in Residence
Elvin.Sands@stfrancismadison.org

Sallie Ann Inman, Office Manager
SallieAnn.Inman@stfrancismadison.org

Martha McLean, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Martha.McLean@stfrancismadison.org

Mary Catherine George, Director
Religious Education
MC.George@stfrancismadison.org

Melissa Smalley, Life Teen / Confirmation
Melissa.Smalley@stfrancismadison.org

Maggie Spence, Youth Activities Coordinator
Maggie.Spence@stfrancismadison.org

Julie Clayton, Director of O.C.I.A.
Julie.Clayton@stfrancismadison.org

Leo Moreira, Music Ministries
Leo.Moreira@stfrancismadison.org

Bill Dean, Social Concerns
Bill.Dean@stfrancismadison.org

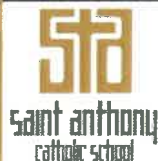


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MASSES:

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 Fr. Albeen

In the gospel, Jesus responds to the man asking him to arbitrate an inheritance dispute with his brother by pointing beyond the immediate disagreement: "one's life does not consist of possessions," and telling a parable to remind us of the shortness of this life, and the poverty of earthly "riches."

We all find it easier to focus on the things before us, the things that demand our immediate attention, the things by which we measure our effectiveness and fruitfulness. We all find it easier to store up some kind of treasure right here – it may be money, experiences, knowledge, influence, order, good causes, or even some spiritual treasure, like religious art or prayer books or devotions. These give us a sense of satisfaction and security because they are tangible in some way. But Scripture calls us to surrender our own ideas of what constitutes real treasure, reminding us that what is of true value is hidden.

We must work to "think of what is above, not of what is on earth" because our "life is hidden with Christ in God" (Col 3). In another place, Jesus tells us to store up treasures in heaven (Matt 6:20), where moth and rust do not destroy; and at the end of his life, he tells Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world" (Jn 18:36).

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. FRANCIS

Sunday, August 3

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION WEEKEND.

9:00 am Coffee & Creed in St. Clare Hall.

Wednesday, August 6

6:15 pm Choir rehearsal in the Daily Chapel.

Sunday, August 17

11:30 am Sunday School Catechist lunch and orientation.

6:00 pm Life Teen Core Team gathering with dinner.

Wednesday, August 20

5:15 pm **Parish Dinner** returns in the FLC.

Sunday, August 24

6:30 pm Parent-Teen Kickoff at Cypress Lake Pool.



BAPTISM CLASS

A Baptism class is scheduled Sunday, August 10th 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
Mary Paquette

by her daughter Joan Parsons and Family

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



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Labor Day Pork Butt Sale



It's that time of year again!! Your very own Savory Smoky avg 8-10 lb. pork butt slow cooked to perfection so you don't have to for \$40 ea. Order yours now! Deadline to order is August 25th. Butts will be available to pick up Friday, August 29th @ 3 pm near St. Thomas Hall. Place your order with Tunney Vandevender via text @ 601.622.4145 or email tunneyv1@icloud.com.

Events & Religious Education

Children's Ministry: Sunday School

Children's Sunday School Catechists and Life Teen Core Team Members needed!

If you are a practicing Catholic and value your faith, please prayerfully consider becoming a catechist for our parish children or teens! **Sunday School catechists** are needed for all grade levels, Pre-K-6th grade children, and *especially for 2nd grade First Communion prep*. Sunday School Catechist Lunch and Orientation will be held **Sunday, August 17, 11:30 am-1:30 pm.**

Life Teen Core Team members are needed to lead sessions for teens. Teaching guides and materials are provided for all grades, and you may schedule when teaching with your team or a teaching partner. A Core Team gathering with dinner will be held on **Sunday, August 17, 6:00-8:15 pm.**

Children's Church leaders are needed to lead Liturgy of the Word for 3-5-year-olds during 10:30 am Mass.

Please contact Mary Catherine at mc.george@stfrancismadison.org for more info on any of our programs or if interested in volunteering to be a catechist for children or a Core Team member for teens.

Please register all 4-year-old children-12th grade youth using the QR Code or at <https://stfrancismadison.org/registration-for-youth-religious-education> by **August 12.** All grade levels begin on **Sunday, August 24!**



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

No Wow on August 6th!

All 7th-12th graders are invited to join us for **Life Teen**, our youth faith formation program, on Sunday nights, 6:00-7:45 pm! **Life Teen** includes Edge for 7th & 8th graders, Life Nights and pre-Confirmation for 9th-12th graders, and Purpose 2nd year Confirmation prep for 11th-12th graders.

Join us for **"UnWAVering Hope" Life Teen Parent-Teen Kickoff, Sunday, August 24, 6:30-8:30 pm** after 5:00 pm Mass at Cypress Lake Pool!



The Assumption
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Masses
Friday, August 15, 2025
7:00 AM & 6:30 PM



FINANCIAL GIVING

Weekly Goal:	\$30,000.00
Collection Basket	\$17,390.00
Children's Offering	\$ 64.00
Online	\$ 2,798.03
Total	\$20,252.03



August: Capital Campaign.

August 15: The Assumption of Mary Offering will support Habitat for Humanity.

Please make checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi.



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

How does our parish attract inquirers each year who consider becoming Catholic? The short answer is you! When any parish has many inquirers year after year, it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit as parish members open their hearts to welcome others. Members of a welcoming and evangelizing community take seriously their call to share the Divine message of salvation. It happens in parish families, in the workplace, in gatherings with friends and neighbors, and in daily contacts. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic Church we invite you to join the OCIA program. OCIA classes will resume **August 20th**. Sessions are held from 6:30-8:00pm in the OCIA room. 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.



Teresa & Sachin Karki and their son Elijah
Candace & Mark Durrett
Denisa & Michael Parsons, and their children Gus & Jacob

BROWN BAG WITH THOSE ON THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD

Wednesday's Grace Small Church Community invites you to join them next Wednesday, August 13th to watch a movie or documentary about Servant of God Sister Clare Theresa Crockett. The diocesan phase of the cause of beatification of Servant of God Sister Clare Crockett opened on January 12, 2025. Come learn more about her and how we can become saints too. Bring your supper and a drink at 6 pm to begin with prayer, dinner, and fellowship in St. Clare Hall. The movie will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Well-Read Mom Catholic based ladies' book club will meet monthly from September through June on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. on the church campus. Each year a theme is chosen. This year is the "Year of the Teacher." Yearly membership includes a study guide. Go to wellreadmom.com for more information and to register. Or call Mary Brantley at 601.940.0715. Childcare is not provided.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21
Monday	Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday	Nm 12:1-13; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13, Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Lk 9:28b-36
Thursday	Nm 20: 1-13; Ps 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9, Mt 16:13-23
Friday	Dt 4:32-40; Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 and 21; Mt 16:24-28
Saturday	Dt 6: 4-13; Ps 18: 2-3a, 3bc-4, 47 and 51; Mt 17:14-20

MASS INTENTIONS



Sat., Aug. 2	VIGIL MASS
5:00 PM	Mass † Roger Vincent
Sun., Aug. 3	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8:00 AM	Mass † Marybelle Brolick
9:10 AM	Mass - St. Catherine ♥ Fr. Tom Lalor
10:30 AM	Mass
5:00 PM	Mass ♥ Betty Ravenstein
Mon., Aug. 4	ST. JOHN VIANNEY
7:00 AM	Mass ♥ Donna Orkin
Tue., Aug. 5	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
7:00 AM	Mass † Barbara Clowers
8:30 AM	Mass - St. Catherine † Bettie Salmon Rooks
Wed., Aug. 6	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
7:00 AM	Mass † Shaughn Loper
Thurs., Aug. 7	ST. CAJETAN
7:00 AM	Mass ♥ Leslie Philipp
8:30 AM	Mass - St. Catherine † Michele Dasinger
5:00 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Fri., Aug. 8	ST. DOMINIC
7:00 AM	Mass † June McGovern
8:30 AM	Mass - St. Catherine † Brooke Wineland

† 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, Tristan Nethery, and Kelly Yonko.

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, Gregg Jones, Pat Rogers, Shannon Moody, Davis Oltremari, Marilyn Hansen, Chuck Bergin, Michelle Harrison, Joe Ellis, Barbara Willis, and Mary Conner.

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, 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, Ellen Joiner, Jim Stewart, and Chrissy Parks.

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, Ethan Parker, and Linda Parish.



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

August 2025

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Clare of Assisi

Born to a noble family in Assisi, St. Clare was eighteen when St. Francis was invited to preach at the church of San Giorgio. She was so inspired, she renounced everything to serve God in poverty, penance, and simplicity. Others joined, forming the first Order of Poor Ladies (Poor Clares). St. Clare is most famous for protecting Assisi from invasion by displaying the Blessed Sacrament on the fortress walls, causing the enemy to flee in terror.

The promise of the Assumption

This month, we celebrate Mary's Assumption, body and soul, into Heaven. What is often thought of as a "privilege" unique to Mary is actually a "preview" of what we are made for: endless joy, dwelling in the life and love of the Trinity, souls and bodies. It's another reminder that Catholicism isn't just about spiritual truths but concrete, physical, and tangible realities.

"I want to stress what I think that we...need more; the joy and delight in God which meet us in the Psalms...[The Jews] did not know that He offered them eternal joy; still less that He would die to win it for them. Yet they express a longing for Him, for His mere presence, which comes only to the best Christians" C.S. Lewis.

The Saints and the secret to true happiness

The saints understood that real happiness is about knowing where to find peace, perspective, and joy—no matter what life brings. This month, we look at four saints who show us what it takes to live with true happiness.

Simplicity – St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis gave up wealth and comfort to follow Christ completely. In doing so, he made space in his heart to receive everything from God with peace and joy. While most of us aren't called to material poverty, we can imitate his spiritual poverty—letting go of sin and distractions to focus more fully on our relationship with God.

Trust and Love – St. Thérèse of Lisieux. St. Thérèse's "Little Way" was built on doing small things with great love. Her "humble confidence" in God's mercy gave her strength through illness, loss, and interior suffering. Her path invites us to respond to life's challenges not with fear or striving, but with trust and consistent, simple acts of love.

Holy Humor – St. Philip Neri. St.

Philip Neri understood the spiritual power of joy. Known for his deep prayer life and playful spirit, he used humor to lift others out of gloom, deflate pride, and open hearts to God. He once shaved half his beard just to make

"Thou dost show me the path of life; in thy presence there is fulness of joy, in thy right hand are pleasures evermore."

Psalm 16:11

people laugh. His life reminds us that holiness isn't dour—joy, laughter, and reverence can all go hand-in-hand.

Faithful Friendship – Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Blessed Pier Giorgio balanced an active social life with a deep love for the poor and for Christ. He surrounded himself with friends who shared his love for the faith, frequently inviting them to Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. Whether hiking mountains or visiting the sick, he lived with joy rooted in friendship—with others, and above all, with Jesus.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe in miracles?

The Gospels contain many well-attested accounts of miracles, often witnessed by large crowds. It makes sense that the Creator of the natural order would occasionally suspend it to reveal His power. At the heart of our faith stands the greatest miracle of all—the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

St. Paul wrote, *"If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:14). God continues to work miracles today to bless those who experience them directly and to strengthen our trust in His providence, love, and divine presence.

The Queen who leads us home

When Jesus entrusted Mary to St. John at the foot of the Cross (John 19:27), He gave us one of His greatest gifts: His own mother. In that moment, we were welcomed into His family. As Queen of Heaven, Mary blesses us in many ways. We look to her as:

As Mother: Jesus gave us the person closest to Him on earth to help draw us even closer to Him. He was not content simply to be our Savior—He wanted to be our Brother. Mary is not a barrier to Christ but a window into His heart. Through her, we come to know Him more intimately.

As model: Mary is also a model of faithful discipleship.

Though sinless, she had no supernatural powers or hidden knowledge. She rejoiced and suffered, worked and traveled, just as we do. Her life shows us how to remain faithful in the face of sorrow, uncertainty, and loss—and that perseverance in faith is always rewarded.

As intercessor: God does not need Mary's prayers or assistance to act on our behalf, yet He chooses to involve her in His work. Her intercession—like ours—finds its power in Christ's perfect prayer to the Father. As Queen, Mary is not passive in heaven; she actively cares for us, her children, with a mother's love.

from Scripture

Luke 14:1, 7-14, Humility is holy "self-forgetfulness"

Fewer things are more awkward than accepting an honor publicly—only to discover it wasn't meant for you. In this Gospel passage, Jesus offers a clear lesson: the safest way to "move up" in God's Kingdom is through humility.

In Jesus' time, a person's status at a banquet was reflected in how close they sat to the host. Like today, not everyone knew who had been invited. If you mistakenly sat too close, you could be asked—publicly—to move down. It was wiser to take a lower seat and be invited higher, if appropriate.

Humility is often misunderstood. It's

not weakness, self-doubt, or putting yourself down.

True humility is honest self-awareness—recognizing your flaws and limitations, but also your gifts, strengths, and constant need for God's grace. The humble person doesn't seek to be the center of attention. Instead, they reflect God's goodness and elevate others.

Jesus isn't giving us etiquette tips. He's showing us the posture of the heart that honors God, protects our soul, and prepares us for the only banquet that matters—the eternal one.

Q & A What is a "rule of life" and why should I make one?

A rule of life is simply a structured way to integrate regular prayer into your day. It's a long-standing practice among priests, monks, and nuns—but it's not just for the consecrated. Everyone needs time each day to be with the One who loves us most. Your personal rule can be as simple or as detailed as you need; what matters is remaining faithful to the time you commit.

At first, the idea of a rule of life might seem intimidating. But in reality, most of us already follow one. Maybe we always wake up at the same time or never skip a morning jog. Prayer can—and should—become part of that rhythm. It's not just a duty; it's an investment that transforms us and blesses those around us.

In the *Introduction to the Devout Life*, St. Francis de Sales encourages us to "begin all prayers... in the presence of God." He emphasized the value of consistency—staying faithful to a few well-chosen prayers is more effective than rushing through many. If, during prayer, you feel God inviting you simply to rest in His love, don't worry about finishing every word. The goal is not to check boxes, but to draw close to Him.

Feasts & Celebrations

August 8 – St. Dominic de Guzman (1221). Born to a noble family in Spain, St. Dominic studied to become an Augustinian canon regular, but left to preach against the widely popular but dangerous Albigensian heresy. He founded the Order of Preachers, or "Dominicans," who successfully defeated this heresy. He's also credited with receiving the Rosary from Our Lady and teaching it to others.

August 15 - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1950). Declared a dogma of our faith by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption celebrates Mary being taken up into Heaven body and soul at

the end of her life. It is a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

August 27 – St. Monica of Hippo (387). St. Monica is best known for converting her wayward son and pagan husband by her patience, piety, and prayers. Her son, St. Augustine, became a great saint and Doctor of the Church.

August 29 – The Beheading of St. John the Baptist (1st Century). Today we recall the martyrdom of St. John the Baptist, whose mission was to prepare the Jews for Jesus' coming by calling them to repentance. He was arrested and executed for preaching the truth to powerful enemies. Caving into the pressure of his courtiers, King Herod permitted his niece's request – the head of John the Baptist on a platter.

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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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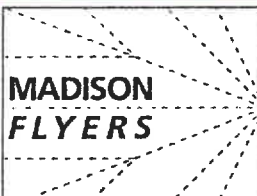
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