



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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December 7, 2025 – Second Sunday of Advent



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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 today's Gospel, we see that John the Baptist knew that Jesus' ministry was coming, saying "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the ONE who is coming after me is mightier than I." "I am not worthy to carry his sandals." He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire." He was helping people repent so they could be ready for Jesus' world changing ministry. As ridiculous as he might've sounded, the people who listened were able to repent and prepare. This can also apply to modern-day society. While we are preparing for the Christmas parties and all the gift giving, we sometimes forget, me included, what we are truly preparing for. One thing that helps is remembering to fit in the Sacrament of Reconciliation to repent of my sins and be fully present to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, and looking forward to His coming in glory, let's take a look at gifts of the Holy Spirit and see how we can use them.

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2025 December Special Masses**Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**Monday, December 8th - 7:00 am & 6:00 pm**Advent Parish Reconciliation Service**Thursday, December 11th - 6:00 pm**Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass in Spanish**Friday, December 12th - 6:00 pm**UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. FRANCIS****Sunday, December 7****FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND COLLECTION.**

9:00 am Pre-K4-6th grade Sunday School.
9:00 am Coffee & Creed in St. Clare Hall.
6:00 pm Life Teen for 7th-12th grade.
6:00 pm Confirmation Session for 10th-12th graders.

Tuesday, December 9

6:30 pm TMIY evening session in OCIA Room.

Wednesday, December 10

10:00 am Martha and Mary Group in St. Clare Hall.
5:30 pm Children Choir Rehearsal.
6:00 pm WOW! 7th to 12th grade.
6:15 pm Adult Choir rehearsal in the Daily Chapel.
6:30 pm OCA in St. Clare Hall.

Thursday, December 11

6:00 pm Advent Parish Reconciliation Service.

Friday, December 12

6:00 am TMIY morning session in St. Clare Hall.

Saturday, December 13

3:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal.

Sunday, December 14

6:15 pm Youth Christmas Outing visit "The Southern Lights".

Children's Christmas Choir

We invite children ages 7-14 to sing at our Children's Choir Christmas Eve Mass on December 24th at 4 pm. We will start singing Christmas carols 30 minutes before the Mass begins.

Rehearsal Schedule:

10-Dec Wednesday at 5:30 pm
13-Dec Saturday at 3 pm
17-Dec Wednesday at 5:30 pm
20-Dec Saturday at 3 pm

**Events & Religious Education****Children's Ministry: Sunday School**

Children of all ages are invited to bring a fresh flower for the procession of flowers for the Blessed Mother at the Immaculate Conception Mass this Monday at 6:00 pm. Children participating in the procession are to line up with flowers at 5:50 pm in the gathering space.

Pre-K4 – 6th grade Sunday School: Join us *this Sunday, December 7, at 9:00 am!*

3rd-6th graders and parents will continue their Journey to Bethlehem and another decade of the rosary at 9:15 am!

We must have another catechist for Pre-K/Kindergarten Sunday School beginning in January! Please contact Mary Catherine if you are interested in teaching on a rotating basis.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be received for the first time for around 40 children this Tuesday at 6:00pm in the church.

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

Life Teen for 7th-12th graders resumes *this Sunday, Dec 7, 6-7:45 pm for a special Advent session!*

Confirmation prep for *ALL* candidates in 10th-12th grades, will be held *this Sunday, Dec 7, 6-7:45 pm.*

WOW (Worship On Wednesday): All 7th-12th graders, please join us this Wednesday for food, fellowship, and faith-sharing, 6-7:30 pm!

Christ in Christmas Youth Service Project: Check your Flocknote emails for the link to sign up to make Christmas merry and bright for our adopted family by providing a new gift for one of the 4 children! Wrapped gifts are due by Sunday, Dec 14. Please make sure you attach a removable tag with the child's name and your name so that we can make sure that child gets your gift!

Youth Christmas Outing: All 7th-12th grade, and their families are invited on Sunday Dec 14 to visit "The Southern Lights". Meet at 6:15 pm in FLC parking lot to carpool to Trustmark Park in Pearl. Admission is \$15 per person, which includes skating, lighted maze, and a soft drink. Bring extra \$ for food and parent-signed Indemnity Forms (A if not turned in already or B yearly update, all need event form E). Parents can pick up their child from Southern Lights before 8:45 pm or from the FLC at 9:15 pm. Parents, please contact Maggie if you can carpool youth to and from the venue.

Save the date for the annual **Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference** for 9th-12th graders, March 20-22, 2026! Registration info will be sent soon!

**Christmas Cards**

The Knights of Columbus are selling religious Christmas cards after all masses.

**Weekly Goal: \$30,000.00**

Collection Basket \$22,799.50

Children's Offering \$ 43.00

Online \$ 7,843.76

Total \$30,686.26

FINANCIAL GIVING**December: Capital Campaign.**

December 6 & 7: Christmas Flower Offering. Please write the names of your loved clearly. Deadline December 15.

December 8: Immaculate Conception Offering Habitat for Humanity.

December 13 & 14: Retirement Fund for Religious.

Please make checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi.



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Christ's gift of mercy and healing, restoring us to grace and strengthening us to live as faithful disciples. Preparing for Confession begins with an examination of conscience, prayerfully reflecting on our thoughts, words, and actions in light of the Gospel and the Ten Commandments. In Confession, we express sorrow, receive absolution through the ministry of the priest, and are renewed by God's forgiveness. May this sacrament draw us closer to Christ and help us grow in holiness. Josiah Normand leads us this week in our discussion of the sacrament of Reconciliation. OCIA meets at 6:30 pm on Wednesday nights in St. Clare Hall. Inquirers are welcome to join us at any time. More information about the OCIA program can be obtained by calling the church office or by visiting the church website at www.stfrancismadison.org.



Congratulations on the Baptism of Olivia Fleming Scott

she is the daughter of Courtney & Greg

Callum Joseph Johnson

he is the son of Julia & Justin

*In one Spirit all of us are baptized into
one body of Christ. 2 Corinthians 12:13*

BAPTISM SESSION

A Baptism session is scheduled
Sunday, December 14th 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.

St. Anthony Catholic School

Starry Night Gala
December 12, 2025
Bill Waller Craft Center

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Scan the QR Code to view auction items:

Questions? Please email:
starrynight@stanthonyeagles.org



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rm 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12
Monday	Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday	Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Zech 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12-1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec. 6	ST. NICHOLAS
5:00 PM	Mass † Rob Parsons
Sun., Dec. 7	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:00 AM	Mass † Natalia & Francisco Quiambao
9:10 AM	Mass - St. Catherine † Laura Pinkley
10:30 AM	Mass
5:00 PM	Mass † Markus Swing
Mon., Dec. 8	THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
7:00 AM	Mass † Pat Crotty Palmer
6:00 PM	Mass
Tue., Dec. 9	ST. JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN
7:00 AM	Mass † Billy Clements Jr.
8:30 AM	Mass - St. Catherine † Matthew Hearn, Sr.
Wed., Dec. 10	OUR LADY OF LORETO
7:00 AM	Mass † Erwin & Ellie Liebl
Thurs., Dec. 11	ST. DAMASUS I
7:00 AM	Mass † Mike Atkinson
8:30 AM	Mass St. Catherine † Carolyn Robinson
5:00 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Fri., Dec. 12	THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
7:00 AM	Mass † Peggy & Tally McGraw
8:30 AM	Mass - St. Catherine † Thelma Herron
6:00 PM	Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass in Spanish

† 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, 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, Michelle Harrison, Joe Ellis, Barbara Willis, Mary Conner, Bernard Dreiling, Lucy Hilton, Molly Hoke, Lauren Kalka, and Elizabeth Winter.

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, 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, Margaret Barber, Shirley Burns, Ellen Joiner, Jim Stewart, Chrissy Parks, Willie Crotty, Dane Taylor, and Paul Bolus.

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, Linda Parish, Fr. Michael O'Brien, and Robert Blount.



Growing in FAITH™

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

December 2025

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Lucy

St. Lucy was born into 4th century pagan Syracuse, Sicily, and is one of the most famous martyrs of the early Church. Her family arranged for her to marry a pagan, but since she had consecrated her virginity to Christ, St. Lucy refused him. Offended, he betrayed her to the authorities for her Faith. She was questioned and tortured, but all attempts to discourage her failed. She was finally executed. She is the patron saint against eye problems.

The three comings of Christ

This season of Advent, we celebrate the three comings of Christ: in glory at the end of time, in time when He was born in Bethlehem, and His coming in our own lives and hearts. Advent is a time of "busy stillness," of preparing and waiting, like Mary certainly did, for the arrival of the Savior. This Christmas, let's renew our "Yes" to God's request to dwell in our hearts and be "born" in the daily living of our lives.

"The King comes as a helpless infant, born of insignificant parents in a small town of a distant outpost of the Roman Empire. He will conquer through the finally irresistible power of love, the same power with which he made the universe." Most Reverend Robert E. Barron

Find peace before Christmas by slowing down

The busyness leading up to Christmas can be exhausting, but the Advent season ~~should be a time to~~ ^{is a time to} breathe, reset, and prepare our hearts for the coming of the King. Advent is a built-in gift, a chance to slow the pace and lift our eyes to what matters most.

Renew a sense of the holy: Advent is a chance to wake up the soul. When we lean into our Faith with intention, the season stops feeling rushed and starts feeling radiant. Light the Advent Wreath and let its glow steady your heart. Go to Confession and feel the weight lift as mercy takes over. Spend a few quiet minutes before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and let His presence ground you. Pray the Joyful Mysteries, the "Christmas mysteries" that still speak powerfully to our lives today.

Tune out the noise: Advent becomes richer when we clear space for God to speak. The world buzzes with distractions, but your soul needs room to breathe. Build small pockets of

silence into your day and let stillness sharpen your awareness of God's presence. Reach for a spiritual book instead of a scroll through your feed. Cut back on the constant stream of news that crowds the mind. When the noise quiets, the Holy Spirit has space

"Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

to guide, steady, and renew you.

Streamline and prioritize: Choose what draws you closer to Christ. When your heart is ordered toward what matters, even the cooking, decorating, singing, and gift-giving gain a deeper beauty. You may decide to attend fewer events, keep the décor simple, or choose more modest gifts. Far from taking away joy, this clears space for it. You move through the season with more peace, more purpose, and a heart in step with Jesus.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe Jesus is God?

Every Christmas, we remember that Jesus, the Son of God, took on our humanity without losing His divinity. It is a mystery, yet we hold it with confidence because God, who is Truth, has revealed it.

During His earthly life, Jesus spoke and acted with divine authority. He

said, "The Father and I are one" (John 10:30). He forgave sins, clarified the Law, and worked miracles. His Resurrection stands as the clearest confirmation of His identity, showing that His claim to be God was real. As man, He could suffer and die. As God, He rose and conquered death.

The most meaningful gifts of Christmas aren't wrapped

We know that the most valuable gifts are often the ones we cannot wrap. Alongside whatever you give your loved ones this year, do not let Christmas pass without offering these gifts as well:

Your time: Being present with the people we love is one of the simplest and strongest ways to show care. A short visit, an unhurried coffee, or an evening without phones can mean more than any item we put under a tree. When we give someone our attention, we affirm their worth.

Your forgiveness: Forgiveness does not excuse the hurt. It frees you from the weight of anger and resentment. It

also gives the other person room to grow and seek healing. Letting go is often the first step toward real peace. In many ways, forgiveness is a gift you give yourself.

Your gratitude: Giving thanks to God at Christmas is more than a warm sentiment. It is a heartfelt response to the depth of His love.

Look at the Crucifix, the Nativity, or the Eucharist and consider the humility behind such a gift. Our gratitude matters to God (see Luke 17:17–18). So after attending Mass on Christmas Day, take a moment to say, "Thank you." It is a small act that carries real meaning.

from Scripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Obedience is trust in action

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, Saint Joseph had already formed a habit of steady obedience to God. So when the angel spoke to him in a dream and instructed him to flee to Egypt, Joseph acted without delay. He trusted that God would care for him and for the family entrusted to him.

This trust is even more striking when we consider the circumstances of Jesus' birth. Mary and Joseph had traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem during the final stages of her pregnancy. Whether by foot or by donkey, the trip would have been long, uncomfortable, and

exhausting. When they finally arrived, they found no suitable place to stay and settled among animals. Soon after, they faced the threat against Jesus' life and fled to Egypt, living for years in a foreign land without the support of relatives or friends. Through every hardship, Joseph relied on God to protect his family.

The Holy Family was perfect in love, yet not spared from difficulty. Mary and Joseph met each challenge with faith and allowed God's Word to guide them. We can follow the same path.

**Q
&
A**

Why is it said that Mass brings us closer to God than anything else?

At every Mass, Jesus is really and truly present in the Eucharist in His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1374). In this moment, the Sacrifice of Christ is made present to us in a mysterious but real way. His self-giving is the greatest act of love, and our participation at Mass is our strongest response, our way of saying, "I love you, too."

Worshipping together also strengthens our faith in the God who is everywhere yet unseen. Faith grows in community. It grows through the physical actions of the Mass as well. When we sit, stand, bow, and kneel, we express with our bodies what we believe in our hearts.

Finally, the Real Presence of Jesus on the altar draws us into a closeness to God that we cannot find anywhere else in this life. Nowhere do we meet Him more directly than when He feeds us with His very life. In the Eucharist, He is as present to us as He was to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and to His apostles in the Upper Room.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 6 – St. Nicholas of Myra (4th century). St. Nicholas had a very generous heart and always gave to the poor. He is credited with saving three girls from being sold to pay their father's debt. St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of children.

December 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin, preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. Though given to Mary, this special grace was for our sake. Pope Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854. This year, it's considered a holy day of obligation.

December 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by Our Lady at Tepeyac Hill, Mexico. She requested a chapel be built and sent him with roses to the bishop as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 29 – St. Thomas Becket (1170). Thomas enjoyed power and riches as a close friend of England's King Henry II, who appointed him chancellor of England. In 1162, King Henry had St. Thomas named Archbishop of Canterbury. St. Thomas refused to allow the King to regulate Church matters and was exiled. He fled to France for safety. Thomas returned to England and was martyred.

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