



# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

4000 W. Tidewater Lane • Madison, MS 39110 • 601-856-5556 • Fax: 601-856-2849 • [stfrancismadison.org](http://stfrancismadison.org)

December 21, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Advent



### PARISH STAFF:

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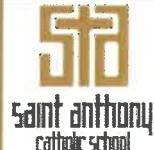
**Bill Dean**, Social Concerns  
[Bill.Dean@stfrancismadison.org](mailto:Bill.Dean@stfrancismadison.org)



Infant - 4 year olds  
HOURS 7 AM - 6 PM

**601-856-9494**

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**SAINT ANTHONY**  
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**Anne Cowger**, Principal

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with nationally recognized teachers

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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 get a glimpse into the heart of Joseph, the righteous and honorable man chosen to help raise the Son of God. We see his holiness, his desire to respect others, and his obedience to God.

St. Joseph, as a descendent of King David understood that God is with us. Looking at his example, we can also have faith that we will prevail despite any earthly struggle. From family uncertainty to having to flee from his homeland, he trusted God with a steadfastness, and we hope to emulate his example. Faithful and virtuous, his commitment to others came before his own needs.

St. Joseph, patron saint of families, help us to be like you. Help us to be humble, to be at peace within our heart. Teach us that love is above all, sacrificing in order to place other's needs before our own. Show us how to be meek, poor in spirit, a peacemaker - as your beloved Child taught - as this is true richness. Help us to be quiet, to reflect, to listen - not cry out - to be reflective rather than reactive. Create in us a spirit of contentment and soften our heart so that I can make room for our Lord Jesus to have a home.

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**2025 December Special Schedule****Tuesday, December 23**

3:00 pm Children Choir Rehearsal

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 24-26****Christmas Masses****Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Vigil**

4:00 pm (Children) &amp; 8:00 pm

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Day Mass 10:30 am

**Mary, Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation**Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 - Vigil - 6:00 pmThursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 - 10:30 am**Ring in Your Faith 10K/5K**

Join us at St. Francis of Assisi Church at 8 am on New Year's Day for a fun morning of fresh air and fellowship, and enjoy a yummy New Year's Day-themed meal (with a Southern twist) prepared by the Knights of Columbus Council 9543!

Only \$30 for the 10K run, 5K run, or 5K walk. The first 150 registrants are guaranteed an attractive dry-fit shirt. Awards to be given out after all runners and walkers have completed the 10K course (on the beautiful multi-purpose trail) and the 5K course (in the Tidewater neighborhood).

Your support helps our Knights assist Sunnybrook Children's Home, Habitat for Humanity/Metro Capital Area, Canopy Children's home, and priest education.

Register with this QR code, or visit [msracetiming.com](http://msracetiming.com) A fundraiser for KC 9543 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 4000 W. Tidewater Lane Madison, MS [stfrancismadison.org](http://stfrancismadison.org) Email race director Joe Lee with questions at [jlee@dogwoodpress.com](mailto:jlee@dogwoodpress.com).

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

Christmas Break for Sunday School **Pre-K4 - 6<sup>th</sup> grade**. All classes resume on January 11, 9-10:15 am.

**7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Teen and Youth Ministry:**

Christmas Break for **Life Teen** No Life Night, Edge, or Confirmation sessions until January 11. 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, including ALL 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation candidates will meet, 6-7:45 pm.

Save the Date for helping with our annual **Mexican Fiesta**, Saltillo Mission fundraising dinner on January 21!



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

**WORLD MARRIAGE DAY**

WMD is celebrated with a Mass, followed by a reception to honor all married couples who will be celebrating their 25th, 50th, 60th+ years or any significant anniversary. The Mass is celebrated by Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz on **February 7th at 1 pm in St. Peter's Cathedral in Jackson**. Contact Sallie Ann at the parish office 601-856-5556 to register. Deadline January 12, 2026.

**Congratulations on the Baptism of**  
**Atlas Elijah Karki**

he is the son of Teresa &amp; Sachin

**Jackson José Montes Romero**

he is the son of Cinthia &amp; José

**In one Spirit all of us are baptized into one body of Christ. 2 Corinthians 12:13****2026 Stewardship Campaign**

Currently, we have only received 65 stewardship cards, please return yours and place it in the basket in the gathering area, mail to the parish office or complete online.

*Building the Kingdom of God  
Give, and it will be given to you...a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over" (Luke 6:38)*

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

Collection Basket \$22,107.63

Children's Offering \$ 59.50

Online \$ 5,366.39

Total \$27,533.52



December: Capital Campaign.

December 20 &amp; 21: St. Anthony School Tuition Assistance.

December 25: Christmas Offering.

January 1, 2026: Solemnity of Mary Offering.

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



## ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

At Christmas we celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation: God becoming man in Jesus Christ. The Son of God is born of the Virgin Mary, entering our world to save us from sin and death. More than a single day, Christmas is a season of joy that reminds us God is with us—Emmanuel—inviting us to receive His love and share it with others. OCIA will not meet this week. We will resume classes on Wednesday, January 14. 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](http://www.stfrancismadison.org).

### Theology on Tap

Young Adults 21 and older are invited to Blaylock Photography on 117 N. Wheatley, Ridgeland, MS 39157 Tuesday, January 6th at 7 pm for the Theology on Tap with Dr. Edgar Meyer. If you have questions, contact Amelia Rizor 601-949-6931.

### Carmelite Gift Shop and Bookstore

2155 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39204  
601-373-1460

Support the Carmelites this season by visiting their beautiful gift shop. They have raisin bread and rum cake for sale too. Holiday Hours: Open House Weekends & Bake Sale November 14 to December 23 Monday to Saturday 10 am to 4 pm Sunday 11 am to 3 pm

### Christ in Christmas



With **gratitude** to our parishioners who purchase gifts and made donations to our Christ in Christmas service project. Gifts were delivered last Wednesday for the 22 families that St. Francis adopted from MadCAAP. May this Christmas be filled with joy and blessings!!!

In your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust

**Rita Rose Barrau**

mother of our parishioner Gayle Gandolini.

Please keep the family in your prayers.

Let perpetual light shine upon her. May the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen



### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Sunday</b>	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24
<b>Monday</b>	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
<b>Tuesday</b>	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66
<b>Wednesday</b>	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b> Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
<b>Friday</b>	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist</b> 1 Jn 1:14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Sat., Dec. 20**

5:00 PM

**Sun., Dec. 21**

8:00 AM

9:10 AM

10:30 AM

5:00 PM

**Mon., Dec. 22** **WEEKDAY OF ADVENT**

7:00 AM

**Tue., Dec. 23**

7:00 AM

8:30 AM

**Wed., Dec. 24** **CHRISTMAS EVE**

7:00 AM

4:00 PM

8:00 PM

**Thurs., Dec. 25** **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

7:00 AM

10:30 AM

**NO Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Fri., Dec. 26** **ST. STEPHEN**

7:00 AM

8:30 AM

† 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, Kelly Yonko, and Willy Gabriel Cardona.

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



**A very special thanks to all who made donations for the Christmas  
Flowers and Trees for all to enjoy during our Christmas Season 2025.**

**IN MEMORY OF...**

Jeannie & Harold Early Adcock by their daughter Hannah Adcock  
Mina & Frank Carollo by Mr. & Mrs. Terry Addy  
Lolita Valera by Mr. & Mrs. Reynaldo Alimot  
Deceased members of Bernice & Fritz Anklam Family by Nancy Anklam  
Cristina Benn, Mr. & Mrs. Miguel Fierro, Maybelle Brolick and George Agnew  
by Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Benn  
Ruth & Lawrence Bergin and Doris & Brewer Williamson by Mr. & Mrs. Joanne & Chuck Bergin  
Patsy & Marion Brown and Laura & Will Booth by Mr. & Mrs. James Brown  
R. Keith Butler, Lammel Family and Butler Family by Ms. Hiltrud Butler  
Ibrahim Choufani by Dr. & Mrs. Dani Choufani  
Barbara J. Clowers, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Konieczny and Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Clowers by Mr. Roy Clowers  
Sarah & Nick Ellis, Phillip Ellis, Bobbie & Buck Coats, Peggy & Michael Rhodes and Phyllis Ellis  
by Mr. & Mrs. Buck Coats  
Marianne Blair by Mr. & Mrs. Matt Colbert  
William Henry Jackson, Dorothy Hall Jackson and James Arthur Cooper Sr.  
by Mr. & Mrs. James Cooper  
Dorothy & William Jackson, Joanne, Rodney & Kevin Jackson, Lula & James Cooper Sr. and Shirley,  
Michael Sr. & Michael Jr. Mallett by Ms. Rhonda Cooper  
Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Crandall and Mr. & Mrs. Everett Bates by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Crandall  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Sitarz, Mr. & Mrs. George Cricenti Sr. and Anna Banana  
by Mr. & Mrs. George Cricenti  
Mike Dangelo by Mrs. Gerri Dangelo  
Ann Louise Marquez and JW Davidson by Mr. & Mrs. Roderick Davidson  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Vermealen and Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Dean by Mr. & Mrs. William Dean  
Bill Dickson by Ms. Sue Dickson  
Margee & Charles Farris and Carolyn Crossley by Mr. & Mrs. Woody Farris  
Philomena & Salvatore Greco and Ruth & Victor McDearman by Mr. & Mrs. Sam Greco  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. DiStefano Sr., Nolan Shackelford and Mr. William Grissett Sr.  
by Laura & Alan Grissett  
Steve Harrison and Willie LeBlanc by Ms. Michele Harrison  
Benella Albinder by Ms. Debra Hayes  
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Alice Herrington by Timothy Herrington  
The King Family by Tutti & Allen Herrington  
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by Mr. & Mrs. John Hornback  
Marty Houck Jr and Carol Ann McAllister by Ms. Ann Marie Houck  
Sara Elizabeth Ignal, Pat Crotty Palmer and Helen Lee Crotty by Mr. & Mrs. Ken Ignal  
Bobbie J. Willey, John L. Willey, Diab M. Jwainat and Mary Alice Colton by Mr. & Mrs. KJ Jwainat  
Emmett H. Krause Jr. by Ms. Sheri Krause  
Bessie Joy Langston, Mary Louise Johnson, Vivian & Kenneth Johnson and Katie & Carlos Langston  
by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Langston

## IN MEMORY OF...

Theresa Lie Lin Khui and Francikus Su Lip Sen by Mr. & Mrs. Christianto Lie  
Mr. & Mrs. William Lockhart Sr., Mr. & Mrs. R.J. St. Pierre, Ray Beil & Boyd Charles and  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Walker by Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lockhart  
Bill Heller, Bill Kuriger, Tom Sagar, Chuck Snapka, Paul V. Canonici, Ola Mae Bernard and All the  
Faithful Departed by Mary & Chris Manning  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank McAllister Sr., Steve McAllister and Mr. & Mrs. F.R. McAllister Sr.  
by Mr. Marc McAllister  
Charles McElroy and Catherine Plesce by Gerrie & Michael McElroy  
Woody McKnight and Lisa Hardester by Ms. Margaret McKnight  
Sylvia S. Mills, Carlo S. Spadini, Ron Mills and Gary Mills by Mr. Richard Mills Sr.  
Anna Sang Thi Nguyen, Joseph Tho Van Lang, John Phat Cong Nguyen and Anton Loc Cong Nguyen  
by Mr. & Mrs. Thinh Nguyen  
Leona & Russell Nicosia, Joan & Bob Berg, Pam & Charles Burrage, Terry Webb and Dan Ackeret  
by Mr. & Mrs. John Nicosia  
Florinda Pahang, Hedy Dadula, Brenda Dadula, Cornelio Pahang and Rosario Lo  
by Ms. Cherry Linda Pahang  
Mary Paquette, Ron Parsons and Rob Parsons by Mrs. Joan Parsons  
Tena Pellegrine, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Pellegrine and Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Burney by Mr. Louis Pellegrine  
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Betty Poientot and Frances & Chester Robinson by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Robinson  
Chuck Snapka by Ms. Margie Snapka  
Juan Manuel Jop-Calixto by Dr. & Mrs. Jorge Vidal  
Roger C. Vincent, Helen & Clifton Vincent and Anita & Edmund Anger by Ms. Lynn Vincent  
Valerie & Hubert Williams and Barbara Hutchisson by Mr. & Mrs. Wes Williams  
Celeste Trantham and Fr. Al Camp by The Staff of St. Francis

## IN HONOR OF...

Rose Mary & Frank Collins and Omar González by Terry Collins  
Omar González by Mr. & Mrs. Alfredo Reyna  
Katherine Grace and Blade Jenkins by Ms. Courtney Terrell  
Betty Ann Crotty Giliberto by Mr. & Mrs. Ken Ignal

## IN HONOR/MEMORY OF...

Manning & Mosby Families by Mary & Chris Manning

## IN THANKSGIVING...

Priests: Fr. Albeen Vatti, Msgr. Elvin Sunds, Msgr. Michael Flannery,  
Fr. Frank Cosgrove and all our seminarians by Drs. Kim & Doug Harkins  
Knights of Columbus #9543 and Priests: Fr. Albeen Vatti, Fr. Joseph Golamari, Msgr. Elvin Sunds,  
Msgr. Michael Flannery, Fr. Frank Cosgrove, and Sister Paula Marie Blouin by Mary & Chris Manning

## THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF...

Mr. & Mrs. Clement Addo	Mr. & Mrs. Alaundro Conerly	Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCullough
Mr. & Mrs. Arnoldo Ambriz	Ms. Donna Delahoussaye	Mr. & Mrs. Luong Nguyen
Ms. Liz Barber	Ms. Mary Clare Hogan	Mr. & Mrs. John Papale
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