



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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February 22, 2026 – First Sunday of Lent



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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

Today, we hear a practical teaching for each of us to combat the temptations we experience in our daily lives. Jesus relies on the word of God to refute Satan. Three times he is tempted and three times he responds with "it is written." Jesus knows the power of God's Word - He *is* God's Word - and we do too.

The Bible is filled with God's Word and it helps us in our own challenges and temptations. We have the Ten Commandments as a skeleton to hold us up. We have the Beatitudes to show us how to live. There are all kinds of parables to aid us in understanding what God desires of us. We also have recourse to Him - Jesus, the Living Word - when we need help. We know we can call on Him and He will be there. We know the power of His name. Sometimes that may be all we can muster, but it is sufficient. The name of Jesus has authority and power.

Throughout the New Testament, Jesus models for us how to live. He demonstrates compassion, truth, and forgiveness and expects us to do the same. He truly is the fulfillment of the old covenant, tying up the loose ends, and bringing us all to salvation.

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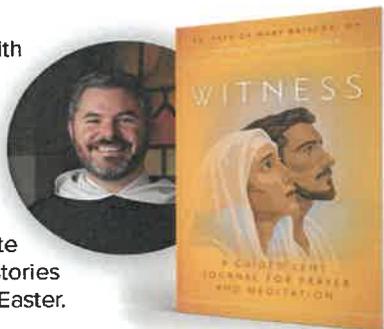
FRIDAYS OF LENT

- 6:00 PM ROSARY - CHURCH
- 6:30 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS - CHURCH
- 7:00 PM LENTEN MEAL - FAMILY LIFE CENTER (Seafood Gumbo)

ABSTINENCE: The law (Cannon 1252) of abstinence binds those who have completed 14 years of age. Abstinence prohibits Catholics from consuming meat.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Join our parish this Lent with Fr. Patrick Mary Briscoe's daily devotional *Witness*. Walk the road to Calvary alongside biblical figures who encountered Christ in his Passion—from Mary Magdalene to Pontius Pilate—and discover how their stories mirror our own journey to Easter.



Witness - Parish Lent Study Meets Every Thursday During Lent

Witness, the parish-wide Lent study continues this Thursday night, February 26th, in the Family Life Center at 6 p.m. A virtual option is available for those who cannot meet in person. See Flocknote for details.

Assisi Early Learning Center Registration

- St. Francis Parishioners Tuesday, March 10
- Other Catholics Wednesday, March 11
- Public registration Thursday, March 12

For additional information or to schedule a tour call 601-856-9494.

Events & Religious Education

Pre-K4-6th grade Children's Ministry and Sunday School

Children's Sunday School: All Pre-K-6th grade children are invited to join us every Sunday, 9-10:15 am. **We must have another catechist for Pre-K/ Kindergarten and a catechist for 2nd grade First Holy Communion preparation.** Please contact Mary Catherine if you can help with this ministry!

Save the date: TRUE NORTHVBS 2026: June 15-18, 9am-noon! Contact Mary Catherine at mc.george@stfrancismadison.org if you can join our volunteer leadership team!

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

Please sign up to lead Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 6 at 6:00 pm. Both teens and parents are needed to read a reflection or to lead a decade of the rosary. All leaders are asked to meet at 5:30 pm in the church to prepare. Please sign up at the link provided in Flocknote emails.

Life Teen: Edge and Life Night sessions, including Confirmation prep for ALL 10th/11th grade Pre-Confirmation candidates, meet this Sunday, February 22, 6-7:45 pm. 11th/12th grade Confirmation candidates will be on retreat this Sunday and will NOT meet Sunday night.

Confirmation Retreat for all 11th/12th grade candidates will be this Sunday, February 22, 9:30 am check-in till about 5:00 pm, at Camp Garaywa!

WOW (Worship On Wednesday)! Join us for Lenten fellowship, faith sharing, and food, 6-7:30 pm.

All 7th-12th graders are invited to join the **Teen Table** for **WITNESS**, the Parish Lenten Bible Study, Thursdays, 6:00- about 7:45 pm in the FLC! Bring a Bible, and a friend if you wish. Please RSVP weekly for supper via the Flocknote link or contact Laura Catherine.



FINANCIAL GIVING



Weekly Goal:	\$30,000.00
Collection Basket	\$21,995.00
Children's Offering	\$ 258.00
Online	\$ 3,721.00
Total	\$25,974.60

February: Capital Campaign.

Please make checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi.

February: Catholic Service Appeal Pledge continous.

Please make checks payable to CSA.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the Catholic Service Appeal last weekend. If you haven't had the chance to make your gift yet, please consider doing so today. Your support of the CSA helps our Young Adult Ministries, enabling young adults to encounter Jesus and grow in their faith. Every contribution, no matter the size, plays a vital role in supporting the ministries of our Church.

HOPE RISING
CLERGY HEALTHCARE AND ASSISTANCE

"I sincerely thank you for your generous donations to the Catholic Service Appeal, which provides essential support for my health care insurance and long term care. Your kindness ensures I can meet my retirement needs with peace of mind."
- Fr. Bill Green

WAYS TO GIVE

- GIVE ONLINE: www.stfrancismadison.org
- TEXT: 601-856-9494
- U.S. MAIL: 2026-02-22
- COLLECTION: 2026-02-22

OCIA

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Sunday afternoon at 2pm, we will join with other parishes from our diocese to celebrate the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at St. Francis. In this liturgy, catechumen preparing for Baptism are formally "elected" by the Church to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter, while candidates already baptized are called to continue their conversion of heart. Celebrated at the beginning of Lent, this rite marks a pivotal moment of commitment and prayer as the Church accompanies them through this final period of preparation toward the Easter sacraments. We meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. FRANCIS

Sunday, February 22

- 9:00 am Sunday School for Pre-K4-6th grades.
- 9:00 am Coffee & Creed in St. Clare Hall.
- 9:00 am Bible Buddies in the Family Life Center Lounge.
- 2:00 pm OCIA Rite of Election in the Church.
- 6:00 pm Life Teen in the Family Life Center.

Tuesday, February 24

- 7:00 pm TMIY evening session in St. Clare Hall.

Wednesday, February 25

- 10:00 am Martha and Mary Group in St. Clare Hall.
- 6:00 pm Wednesday's Grace in St. Thomas Hall.
- 6:00 pm WOW for 7th-12th grades in the FLC.
- 6:30 pm OCIA session in St. Clare Hall.

Thursday, February 26

- 6:00 pm Parish Lenten Study Book in the Family Life Center.

Friday, February 27

- 6:30 am TMIY morning session in St. Clare Hall.
- 6:00 pm Rosary in the Church.
- 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross in the Church.
- 7:00 pm Lenten Meal in the Family Life Center.

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. Meetings every Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at St. Joseph Catholic Church. For more information call the parish office at 601.856.2054, email millionsofmonicas@stjosephgluckstadt.com or visit www.millionsofmonicas.com.

2026 Black History Month:

The Rev. Msgr. James E. White (1947-2019)

Msgr. White was a member of the Congregation of Christian Brothers before being ordained a priest in 1983. He served as Parochial Vicar at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, making him the first Black priest assigned to St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1989. St. Patrick's Cathedral, known as "America's Parish Church," is the largest Roman Catholic Church in the United States.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday** Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rm 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11
- Monday** Lev 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
- Tuesday** Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday** Jonah 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
- Friday** Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26

MASS INTENTIONS

- Sat., Feb. 21** VIGIL MASS
5:00 PM Mass † Diana Joseph
 - Sun., Feb. 22** FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
8:00 AM Mass ♥ Mary Louise & Woody Middleton
9:10 AM Mass - St. Catherine † Mary Pooley
10:30 AM Mass - Missa Pro Populo
5:00 PM Mass † Gloria Lacourrege
 - Mon., Feb. 23** ST. POLYCARP
7:00 AM Mass † Rita Barrau
 - Tue., Feb. 24** WEEKDAY OF LENT
7:00 AM Mass † Mary Jane Zito
8:30 AM Mass - St. Catherine † Nicholas Blaumuller
 - Wed., Feb. 25** WEEKDAY OF LENT
7:00 AM Mass † Frank Zito
 - Thurs., Feb. 26** WEEKDAY OF LENT
7:00 AM Mass † Mike Burke Sr.
8:30 AM Mass - St. Catherine † Craig Stamm
5:00-7:00 PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 - Fri., Feb. 27** ST. GREGORY OF NAREK
7:00 AM Mass † Allyn Brown
8:30 AM Mass - St. Catherine † Barbara & John Cesare
- † Praying for Deceased ♥ Praying for Special Intention



Adults 21 and Older are Invited to the

THEOLOGY ON TAP

March 3, 2026 -Mary Woodward
Blaylock Photography 117 N. Wheatley, Ridgeland, MS 39157

PRAY FOR OUR SOLDIERS



Revell Patterson, Mark Vincent, John Logan, Christopher Hammeke, 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.

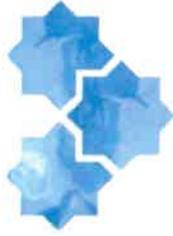
PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING

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, Elizabeth Winter, Mike Robinson, Christine School, Edgardo Quiambao, and Emily Fairchild.

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 Antci, Selema Rookis, Marie Chipley, Troy Plaisance, Robin Ballough, Fred Delahoussay, Hap Post, Nancy Watts, Wells Heier, Caroline Duckworth, Dr. Sherrill Evans, Raymond Sahut, Ann Porcello, Margaret Barber, Shirley Burns, Ellen Joiner, Jim Stewart, 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.





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St. Francis of Assisi's Sunday Bulletin



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