# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
## CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**March 1, 2026 – Second 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

It may seem odd to hear the Gospel of the Transfiguration of Jesus during Lent. Wouldn't it fit better after Easter? An answer is found a few verses after our Gospel selection. Jesus tells the disciples that he will suffer (Matthew 17:12). The vision of Jesus' glory shared by Peter, James, and John was meant to help them not to become discouraged by Jesus' death on the cross. Some of the details in the Gospel can help us understand how Lent leads to Easter. First, we hear about Jesus' appearance, that "his face shone like the sun" (Matthew 17:2). If the disciples didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God before, they surely did now. For us this can be a reminder that God is with us during this season of Lent, helping our faith to grow. Next, the three disciples see Moses and Elijah, symbols of the Old Testament. Peter wants them to stay, but the voice of God interrupts and tells them that now they should listen to Jesus. The Gospel tells us to keep our eyes on Jesus throughout Lent. Do I grumble about Lent, seeing it is as another set of laws to be obeyed? Perhaps I'm forgetting that Lent is not about how much I do for God, but a time to reflect on what God has done for me.

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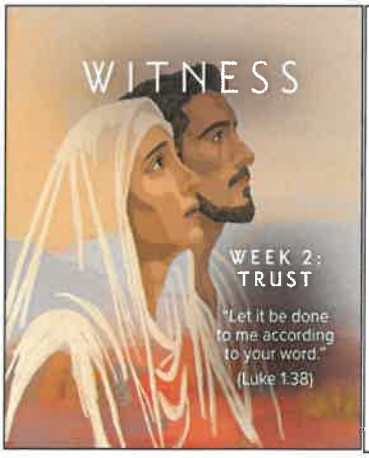
## FRIDAYS OF LENT

| | |
|---|---|
| 6:00 PM | ROSARY - CHURCH |
| 6:30 PM | STATIONS OF THE CROSS - CHURCH |
| 7:00 PM | LENTEN MEAL - FAMILY LIFE CENTER (Crawfish & Potato Soup) |

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




## *Witness* - Parish Lent Study Meets Every Thursday During Lent

*Witness,* the parish-wide Lent study continues this Thursday night, March 5th, in the Family Life Center at 6 p.m. A virtual option is also available from 6–7 p.m. for those who cannot meet in person. See Flocknote for details or call the parish office.

## ANNUAL EASTER SUNDAY EGG HUNT

***Needed:*** **Many pre-filled plastic eggs for our annual Easter Sunday Egg Hunt!** Please bring candy or toy-filled plastic eggs to the collection boxes in the FLC foyer by Palm Sunday. (No nuts / peanut butter, no hard candy, please)

ASSISI EARLY LEARNING CENTER

## 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.

**Join the adventure *TRUE NORTH* VBS 2026** June 15-18, 9 am-noon! Contact Mary Catherine at mc.george@stfrancismadison.org if you can join our volunteer team in pointing our children toward Jesus!

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

**Please sign up now to lead Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 6 at 6:00 pm.** Both teens and parents are invited to read a station reflection or 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 10th-12th grade candidates, is ***this*** Sunday, March 1, 6-7:45 pm.

**Middle School Bible Study *this*** Wednesday, March 4th! All 7th & 8th graders are invited to come 6:00-7:30 pm for supper, scripture, and sharing faith!

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.

**Middle School Lock-In** is scheduled on March 6, 2026. Register by Wednesday, March 4.

**Alive in You Summer Camp** will be on June 23–28, 2026 for current middle school and high school students. Extended registration deadline: Sunday, March 22.

**Steubenville Catholic Youth Conference** – Atlanta on July 10–12, 2026 for rising freshmen through graduating seniors. Extended registration deadline: Sunday, March 22.

SUNDAY OFFERING

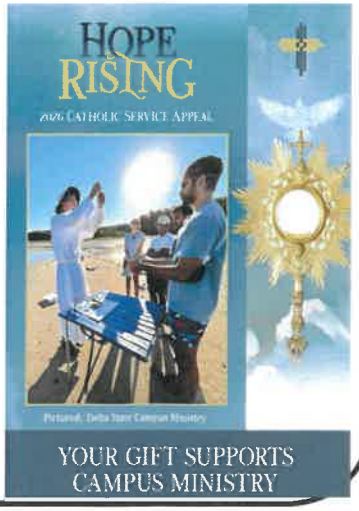
## FINANCIAL GIVING

| | |
|---|---|
| Weekly Goal: | $30,000.00 |
| Collection Basket | $17,886.16 |
| Children's Offering | $ 165.02 |
| Online | $ 3,529.03 |
| Total | $21,580.21 |

DIRECT DEPOSIT. Our **February** monthly stewardship amount by Bank Draft is **$26,307.00.**

**March:** Capital Campaign.
*Please make checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi.*
**February:** Catholic Service Appeal Pledge continuous.
*Please make checks **payable to CSA**.*

Today, we pray for all of our **Campus Ministry programs** and college students, that they may connect with their local parishes and live out their Catholic faith through this vital ministry. Your support of the Appeal makes it possible for us to sustain these 14 ministries that are essential to our Catholic faith. To date, our parish has raised $90,893.43 in pledges, and your continued generosity will help us reach our goal. Thank you for your on going support.



## OCIA — ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Prayer is a living relationship with God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Prayer is both God's gift to us and our response of trust, humility, and love. Jesus Himself shows us how to pray and invites us into His own communion with the Father. The Church recognizes several types of prayer: blessing and adoration, petition and intercession, thanksgiving, and praise. Through vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplation, our hearts are formed and drawn closer to God. A faithful life is sustained by prayer, which strengthens discipleship and leads us to live and love as Christ does. Fran Patterson and Kimberly Harkins lead the OCIA this week in our discussion of the different types of prayer. OCIA meets at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays in St. Clare Hall. 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, March 1**
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.
6:00 pm Life Teen, Confirmation Preparation in the Family Life Center.

**Tuesday, March 3**
7:00 pm TMIY evening session in St. Clare Hall.

**Wednesday, March 4**
10:00 am Martha and Mary Group in St. Clare Hall.
6:00 pm **Middle School Bible Study** in the FLC.
6:30 pm OCIA session in St. Clare Hall.

**Thursday, March 5**
6:00 pm Parish Lenten Study Book in the Family Life Center.

**Friday, March 6**
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.

Adults 21 and Older are Invited to the

### THEOLOGY ON TAP

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

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sunday** | Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9 |
| **Monday** | Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Lk 6:36-38 |
| **Tuesday** | Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-21 and 23; Mt 23:1-12 |
| **Wednesday** | Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28 |
| **Thursday** | Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 16:19-31 |
| **Friday** | Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46 |
| **Saturday** | Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11- |

## MASS INTENTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sat., Feb. 28** | **VIGIL MASS** |
| 5:00 PM | Mass ♥ **Sr. Michele Doyle** |
| **Sun., Mar. 1** | **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT** |
| 8:00 AM | Mass † **Mike Burke Sr.** |
| 9:10 AM | Mass - St. Catherine † **Joseph Sullivan** |
| 10:30 AM | Mass - Missa Pro Populo |
| 5:00 PM | Mass ♥ **Pha Hall** |
| **Mon., Mar. 2** | **WEEKDAY OF LENT** |
| 7:00 AM | Mass ♥ **John Lacourrege Jr.** |
| **Tue., Mar. 3** | **ST. KATHARINE DREXEL** |
| 7:00 AM | Mass † **Allyn Brown** |
| 8:30 AM | Mass - St. Catherine † **Chris Russo** |
| **Wed., Mar. 4** | **ST. CASIMIR** |
| 7:00 AM | Mass † **Rita Barrau** |
| **Thurs., Mar. 5** | **WEEKDAY OF LENT** |
| 7:00 AM | Mass † **Mike Burke Sr.** |
| 8:30 AM | Mass - St. Catherine † **Christine Dunning** |
| 5:00-7:00 PM | **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** |
| **Fri., Mar. 6** | **WEEKDAY OF LENT** |
| 7:00 AM | Mass † **Mary & Ken Brown** |
| 8:30 AM | Mass - St. Catherine ♥ **Sr. Michele Doyle** |

† 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

*Lord, Hear Our Prayer*

***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, Emily Fairchild, and Wes Williams.

***Family:*** 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, 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, Paul Bolus, Betty Ann Giliberto, and Heather Griffin.

***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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