

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1501 W. Boughton Road, Bolingbrook, IL 60490 /630-759-7588 /Fax 630-759-5257 /www.stfrancisbb.org

February 5, 2023



## 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.” - Mt 5:14

## Daily Mass & Facility Schedule

### Monday, February 6, 2023

St. Paul Miki and Companions

Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c/

Mk 6:53-56

9:00 AM Special Intention

9:30-10:30 AM Adoration—Church

6:30 PM RCIA—Bride's Room

### Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 7:1-13

9:00 AM Purgatorial Society

9:30-10:30 AM Adoration—Church

### Wednesday, February 8, 2023

St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita

Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/

Mk 7:14-23

9:00 AM Fr. Joseph L. Villa  
(Greg & Beverly Peck)

9:30-10:30 AM Adoration—Church

7:00 PM Music Ministry Rehearsal

7:15 PM Legion of Mary—Grade 5

### Thursday, February 9, 2023

Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mk 7:24-30

9:00 AM Veronica Puishis (*Diane Maezes*)

9:30-10:30 AM Adoration—Church

6:00 PM Music Ministry Rehearsal—Church

6:30 PM Commission Meetings—SFR

7:00 PM SVDP—Grade 5

7:00 PM Bible Study—Grade 6

7:15 PM Parish Council—SFR

### Friday, February 10, 2023

St. Scholastica

Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 7:31-37

9:00 AM Special Intention

9:30-10:30 AM Adoration—Church

9:30-11:00 AM Sunday Scripture Discussion—Grade 6

7:00 PM Guadalupano Group—Grade 6

### Saturday, February 11, 2023

Our Lady of Lourdes; BVM

Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10

5:00 PM Parishioners

11:00 AM Mass of Anointing—Church

12:00 PM Reception—Mass of Anointing—SFR

### Sunday, February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 (1b)/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 3

8:00 AM Lawrence Hill (*KC Council #11092*)  
Donald DeBall (*KC Council #11092*)

10:00 AM Wladyslaw Sendeki (*Wolny Family*)

12:00 PM Robert Serrano Jr. (*Serrano Family*)

1:30 PM Baptisms—Church

2:00 PM Missionary Family of Christ—SFR



All bulletin articles must be submitted by the deadline date to ensure inclusion in the bulletin. Articles received after the deadline date will not be accepted. Placement, size and formatting of the articles will be determined by the bulletin editor.

**E-mail to:** [bulletin@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:bulletin@stfrancisbb.org). Articles should be attached as Word or Publisher documents.

### BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Bulletin Date	Deadline Date
February 12	February 1
February 19	February 8
February 26	February 15

## Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday, 5:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M. & 12:00 P.M.

## *From the Pastor*



Dear Parishioners,

Today would be the Feast of St. Agatha however, Sunday takes precedence. Agatha was martyred around 251 during the persecution by the Roman emperor. Legend has it she was arrested as a Christian. She was tortured and mistreated. Her breasts were cut off. She is the Patroness of All Those with Breast Cancer. Agatha is mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer I.

February 6th is the Feast of St. Paul Miki & Companions. In 1597 twenty-six martyrs of Japan were crucified on a hill now known as the Holy Mountain, overlooking Nagasaki, Japan. The best known is Brother Paul Miki, a Jesuit and native of Japan. Among other martyred were priests, brothers, and lay people. Missionaries did return to Japan in the 1860's and found that thousands of Christians lived around Nagasaki and secretly preserved the Faith.

February 7th we remember Servant of God Francis Parater (1897—1920). Known as Frank after his birth in Richmond, Virginia, he was intelligent, amiable, and a holy young man who enrolled in the seminary after high school. Eventually he went to study in Rome. He contracted rheumatic fever and died on February 6, 1920. He wrote in a sealed envelope a letter which stated, "I have nothing to leave or give but my life and this I consecrated to the Sacred Heart. I shall be of more service to my diocese in Heaven than I can ever be on earth."

Also on February 7th is the Feast of St. Moses, an Arab Christian who went to the desert on the border of Syria and Egypt. It was home to nomadic tribes that raided Roman troops. A peace treaty was made. The tribesmen agreed to receive baptism and requested Moses as Bishop. Moses devoted his life to the nomads, traveling constantly to administer the sacraments to his wandering flock. Eventually the Arab tribes were dubbed the Saracens. He died in 389. Moses is remembered as the "Apostle to the Saracens."

February 7th is also the start of National Marriage Week. We thank God for the blessing of Marriage and pray for all marriages. As Pope Francis has said in his letter *On Love In The Family*, "The joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church."

February 8th is the Feast of St. Jerome Emiliani (1481—1537). He was a careless and irreligious soldier for the city of Venice. He was captured and chained in a dungeon. While in prison he had time to think and pray. After he escaped he studied for the priesthood. During the plague and famine that swept Northern Italy, he began caring for the sick and the poor. He founded three orphanages and a hospital. In 1532 he established a congregation dedicated to the sick and education of the youth. Jerome died in 1537.

February 8th is the Feast of St. Bakita, which means "Lucky One." In 1877 when she was nine years old she was kidnapped in South Sudan and sold into slavery. Over a period of years she was transferred from one master to another and mistreated. Eventually she was sold to an Italian family who brought her to Italy to be a servant and a nurse maid to their child. Their child went to a boarding school run by the Canossian Daughters of Charity. There she heard about Jesus. The family was going back to Sudan, but Bakita refused to go until it was proven in court that slavery was illegal in Italy, and she had been free all the time she was in Italy. Bakita heard the call to consecrate her life to God and she joined the Canossian Daughters of Charity. She was mostly engaged in tasks such as cooking, sewing, and serving a doorkeeper. No work was unimportant when done for "the Master," her favorite word for God. She earned a growing reputation for holiness. She lived to the age of 78 and died on February 8, 1947. In her honor this day is dedicated as a "Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking."

On February 9th we remember St. Apollonia. She lived in the city of Alexandria in Egypt. A mob seized her and battered her until they knocked out all her teeth. They built a pyre of fire and threatened to burn her alive. Released for a moment to consider her options, she startled the crowd by jumping into the fire. She died a martyr in 249. She is considered the Patroness of Those with Dental Disease as well as Dentists.

February 10th is the Feast of St. Scholastica. She is the twin sister of St. Benedict, born in 480 to wealthy Italian parents. She founded a monastery five miles from where her brother founded the Monastery of Monte Cassino. Scholastica and Benedict both gave their life totally to God and deepening their friendship with prayer and work offered to God.

*(cont. on next page)*



February 11th is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On February 11, 1858 Mary appeared to a young St. Bernadette Soubirous for the first time in a grotto of Massabielle in Lourdes, France. One day she went to the rocky area to collect firewood. Near a big rock she heard a loud noise and saw a very beautiful Lady clothed in white with a rosary hanging on her arm standing in the grotto on the rock. The Lady summoned her to pray the rosary. Bernadette had eighteen apparitions of our Lady starting in February and ending July 1858. On the eighteenth apparition, she asked the Lady who she was. The Lady replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception." She told Bernadette to tell her pastor to have a chapel built on the spot and processions to be held. In previous apparitions she asked that the Rosary and penances be done for the conversion of sinners. At another apparition the Lady ordered Bernadette to dig in the ground, and a healing spring came forth which people bathed in and were cured of illness. That is why St. John Paul II designated this day as the "World Day of the Sick" and why we celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick on February 11th.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Herb



### *Our Lady of Lourdes Prayer for Healing*

Oh ever-Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Heal of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Look with mercy on me.

By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, where you dispense your favors; and where many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal.



I come therefore, with unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession.

Obtain, O Loving Mother, the grant of my requests (*mention your petition*). Through gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory. Amen.

[amm.org](http://amm.org)

### *2023 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal*

As the Diocese of Joliet launches the 2023 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we are asking all parishioners to pledge their support to this important effort for our community of faith.

This year's CMAA theme is "We Belong to God." Through our support, we ensure that the mission and ministries of Christ's Church are available to everyone. Together, we help the poor and vulnerable, increase vocations and educate people of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities in the faith. Our parish could not accomplish all of this on its own.

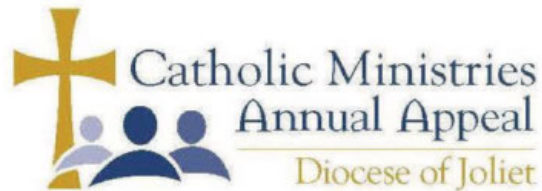
Our parish's goal for the 2023 CMAA is **\$80,800**, and 70 percent of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us. Please review the materials you receive in the mail from the Diocese of Joliet this month and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's annual appeal.

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the Parish Office at 630-759-7588.



### **Parish Mission Statement**

*St. Francis of Assisi, a welcoming, friendly and culturally diverse Catholic faith community, celebrates and shares the love of Jesus Christ.*



January 2023

Dear Parishioner,

Many people spend their whole lives searching for a sense of belonging. As baptized missionary disciples, we need only to look to the Bible to know exactly Who we belong to: "I have called you by name: you are mine" (Is 43:1).

What a comfort — a joy — to know, without doubt, that *we belong to God!*

We cannot keep this joy to ourselves. We must put our joy — our faith — into action and help further God's Kingdom here on earth. In the Diocese of Joliet, the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) allows us to demonstrate our faith and bring greater assistance to those in need. Together, we invest in our future priests, catechize through Catholic education, promote social justice, and reduce the suffering of those in need.

Because of your generosity to the CMAA, you truly live out the Gospel as well as the theme for this year's CMAA, *We Belong to God*.

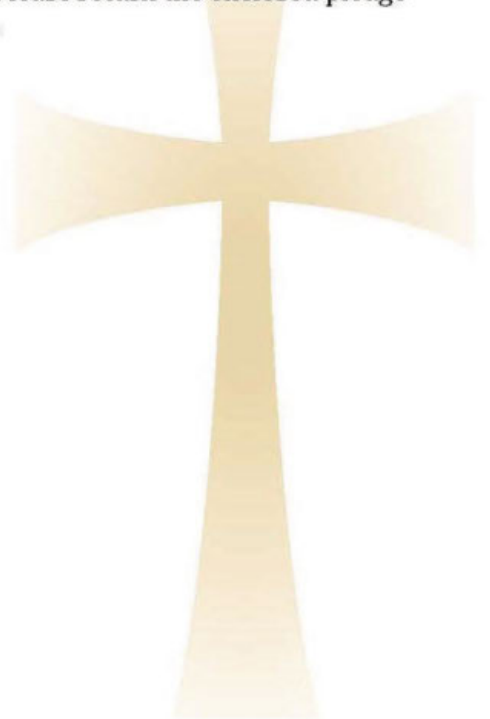
As we launch the 2023 annual appeal, I ask that you prayerfully reflect on the love God has for you, as well as Christ's Church, by making a gift or pledge this year. And if you are able, please consider increasing your gift this year. You may find inspiration in the stories in the enclosed brochure, which shares how the CMAA impacts your brothers and sisters in Christ. Please return the enclosed pledge card by February 20 or go to [jolietdioceseappeal.org](http://jolietdioceseappeal.org) to give online.

As always, thank you for your generosity.

Peace,



Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks  
Bishop of Joliet



### ***Baptism Schedule:***

February 12, 19, 26                      Open

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on Sunday at 1:30pm.

Please call Jo Ann at 630-759-7588 x108, to request a baptismal date. \*Infant" includes all children up to age 7.

If your child is older than 7, and has not been baptized, please contact Liz Wagner, DRE, 630-759-7588 x109.

### ***World Apostolate of Fatima***

Please join us for First Saturday Devotion in the Church from 8:00—9:00am. For more information call Marcelina R. Paet at 630-226-0560, Leonila Desamito at 630-863-9117 or Estela Trevino at 630-679-9878.



After the Saturday 5:00pm and the Sunday 8:00am Mass, join the Knights of Columbus as they lead the Pro-Life and Vocation Rosary by the Tabernacle.

The Legion of Mary warmly welcomes all to pray the Holy Rosary, Monday -

Friday 8:30am prior to the 9:00am Mass, and every Sunday immediately following the 10:00am Mass by the Tabernacle. Please join us as we pray for the conversion and salvation of all of us, the end of all forms of war and for the peace that only Jesus can give us, as requested by our Blessed Mother.

### ***Guadalupano Ministry***

Please join the Guadalupano Ministry on the second Friday of the month as they pray the Rosary to Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Church at 7:00pm. For more information or questions, please call Angelo Pastrana at 630-988-9665.



The Legion of Mary meets on Wednesdays at 7:15pm in grade room 5. Please join us. For more information please call Gayle Moravec at 630-988-5985 or [gaylescats@comcast.net](mailto:gaylescats@comcast.net).

The **Sanctuary Presence Lamp**, that burns to let us know of Jesus' Presence in the Tabernacle, will be lit for the intentions of any parishioner or in memory of any of our deceased. The offering is \$10.00 for one week, Monday through Sunday.



**The Lamp will burn in Memory of Stephanie Rybka and the Adamiec Family the week of February 6th thru February 12th.**

*Requested by Deacon John & Deb Blumenstein*

### ***For All Those in Need of Prayer***

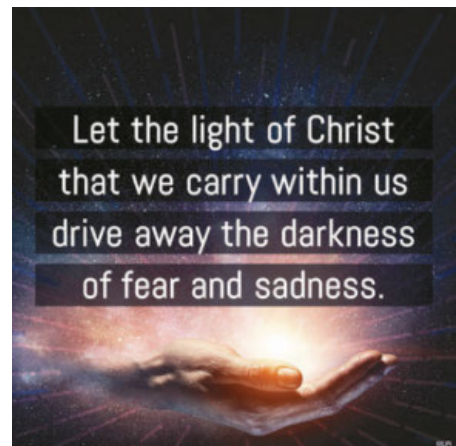
Prayer is a powerful gift from God. Prayer can be used to give praise, in thanksgiving, for forgiveness, for guidance or when in need. If you would like to add a family member who needs prayer, or yourself, please call the Parish Office at 630-759-7588.

Susan Allen  
Cec Basta  
Joseph Bourand  
Lisa Blazeovich  
Leon Buchanan  
Bob Cantu  
Bill Dore  
Marleen Falagan  
Mary Groberski  
Linda Hardin  
Emily Jaramillo  
Suzette King  
James Kolbek  
Chloe Labine  
Diane Longmire  
Margarita Macias  
Chito Manuel  
Deacon Mike McGuire

Stephanie Munoz  
Austin Murphy  
Frank Reyes  
Peter Reyes  
Connie Rielley  
Marlene Salagan  
Graciela Sanchez  
Bernard Schultz  
Barbara Stamps  
Pat Sweeney  
Jim Sylvester  
Vincent Tormos  
Estela Trevino  
Cristina Tsui  
Keith Whitmore  
Gloria Winter  
Joseph Yuska

### ***Prayer for Our Troops***

Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they do for us.



### ***USCCB Word of Life: Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time***

For those suffering after abortion:  
May they know that the Lord desires to bring healing,  
and turn to Him for His mercy and peace.





## *Diocese of Joliet Vocation Calendar*

**Feb. 6:** Sr. Maria Catherine Rethwisch, Sr. Marie Isaac Staub OP

**Feb. 7:** Dcns. Ronald Brown, Rocco Busato, Michael Butz, Bruce Carlson, Robert Cassey

**Feb. 8:** Fr. Shaun C. Cieslik

**Feb. 9:** Fr. Robert Coleman, Fr. William J. Conway

**Feb. 10:** Dcns. Dominic Cerrato, Arturo Chacon, Lorenzo Chaidez, John Chan, Gerald Christensen, Arnulfo Cisneros

**Feb. 11:** Dcns. William Ciston, Raymond Clark, Anthony Clishem, Gregory Clodi, Christopher Cochran

**Feb. 12:** Sr. Patricia Francis, Sr. Linette Howard, Sr. Mary Carr OP

Contact the Diocese of Joliet Vocations Director, Fr. Steven Borello at 815-221-6100.



OSV Talks is a series of topics from prominent Catholic leaders to spark discussion, explore new, or re-explore old approaches, and inspire creative thinking, all from the heart of the Church.

Over 100 years ago, Archbishop Noll founded OSV using new methods to communicate the Gospel. Innovative thinking is at the core of OSV and OSV Talks is part of a larger effort to be a catalyst for Catholic innovation.

OSV Institute for Catholic Innovation is excited to bring you this groundbreaking series harnessing some of the most forward-thinking minds in the Church today.

OSV Talks are available now on the parish website. Just scroll down on the home page.

## *Vision Statement*

Empowering our collective hearts, our faith community becomes the answer to what people are seeking. We envision youthful energy, happiness, belonging and vibrant celebrations.

## *Mass of Anointing*

St. Francis Parish is offering a special healing Mass of Anointing of the Sick on Saturday, February 11, 2023. The Mass will begin at 11:00 AM. The anointing is in conjunction with the World Day of the Sick and the healing nature of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Mass of Anointing is offered for the sick and for seniors. The anointing at Mass is a "conferral of special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of...illness...or age" (Catechism). A secondary conditional effect is healing of the body "when it is expedient for the soul's salvation" (Council of Trent). This Mass is an opportunity for the sick, seniors, caregivers and families to experience sacramental grace and comfort through anointing in the parish community setting. The ancient tradition is meant to be a community celebration for the parish uniting with its anointed members. A period of fellowship with a light luncheon will follow.



To obtain a count for the free luncheon, please RSVP to the Parish Office at 630-759-7588 or to [pastoralcare@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:pastoralcare@stfrancisbb.org).

## *Altar Server Training Students in Grades 4—12*

We are looking for students who would like to be trained to be Altar Servers for our weekend Masses. Altar Servers assist our Priests and Deacons during the Mass and help enhance our workshop at Church.

**WHO:** Girls and boys in grades 4—12 who have already received their First Communion (for both new and previously trained Altar Servers)

**When:** Monday, February 20th 6:00—7:00pm  
Parents are required to stay for the first 15 minutes

**Where:** After training, serve at least 1 time per month at any of our Masses (Saturday at 5:00pm or Sunday at 8:00am, 10:00am or Noon)

If you are interested in being an Altar Server and cannot make this training date or if you have more questions, please contact: April Johnson, Director of Music & Liturgy at 630-759-7588, ext. 120 or [ajohnson@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:ajohnson@stfrancisbb.org)



Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden."

- Mt 5:13a, 14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading

The prophet Isaiah spoke of God's desire for us to not only feed the hungry and take care of the afflicted but also to rid ourselves of malicious and accusatory speech. Which of these directives might you be able to do this week?

### Second Reading

Paul teaches the Corinthians to place their faith in the power of God more so than in human wisdom. What could be some good ways to make sure this becomes a regular spiritual exercise?

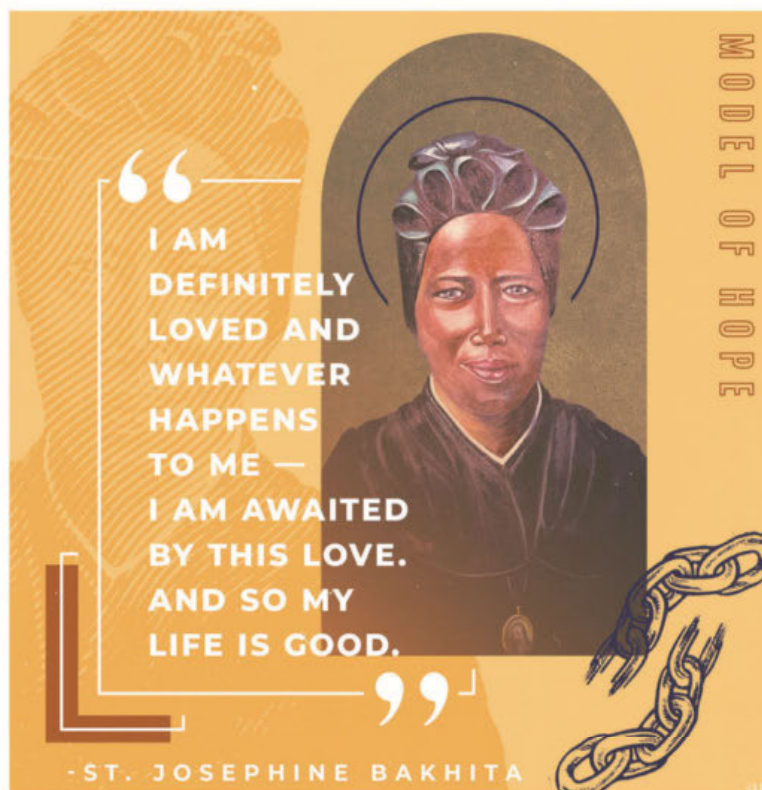
### Gospel Reading

Jesus calls his followers to be salt of the earth and light of the world. In other words, Jesus is calling his followers to have a positive influence on the world. In what ways can believers today do good in the world?



### Support our local advertisers

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local.







### **Parishioner Registration**

Have you been attending Mass regularly? Are you new to the neighborhood?

If so, please register with our parish! To register, visit our website at [stfrancisbb.org](http://stfrancisbb.org), or call our Parish Office at 630-759-7588.

By registering with St. Francis, you are declaring your desire to be part of our vibrant Catholic faith community. Your registration also helps us to know and serve you better.



## **DIOCESAN FORTY HOURS DEVOTION NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL**

In celebration of the National Eucharistic Revival year of the Diocese, everyone in Diocese is invited to spend some time in prayer at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet on February 8, 9, 10. There will be silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day and scheduled communal Prayer Services led by various Diocesan Parishes and Groups. Mass times and celebrants are listed below.

### **Wednesday, February 8**

6:30am Very Rev. William Dewan, Celebrant

11am Led by Rev. Jeff Rath, OSA, St. Jude Church, New Lenox

2pm Led by the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders, Cathedral of St. Raymond School, Joliet

5pm Filipino Communities led by Deacon Gerrie Mepin, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Bolingbrook

8pm Hispanic Communities led by St. Andrew, Romeoville, Rev. Eduardo Flores, Celebrant

### **Thursday, February 9**

8am Rev. John Abulag, Celebrant

11am Led by Rev. Steven Borello, Diocesan Director of Vocations, St. Raphael Parish, Naperville

2pm Led by Very Rev. Christopher Groh, St. Bernard Parish & St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Joliet

5pm Special Needs Communities, led by Rev. John Abulag, Celebrant

8pm Polish Communities, led by Rev. Andrzej Maslejak, S. Chr. Divine Mercy Parish, Lombard and Rev. Tomasz Sielicki, S. Chr., Holy Cross, Joliet, Celebrants

### **Friday, February 10**

8am Most Reverend Ronald Hicks, Celebrant

11am Led by Diocesan Department of Catechesis & Evangelization, Blanchette Catholic Center, Crest Hill

2pm Led by Rev. Burke Masters, St. Isaac Jogues Parish, Hinsdale

5pm African American Community led by Sacred Heart Parish, Joliet Very Rev. William Dewan, Celebrant

8pm Closing of Forty Hours Devotion led by Most Reverend Ronald Hicks, Celebrant, prepared by Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Darien

EVERYONE IN THE DIOCESE IS ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER COMING TO THE CATHEDRAL DURING THESE THREE DAYS TO JOIN WITH OUR DIOCESAN CHURCH TO CELEBRATE A TIME OF SPIRITUAL DEVOTION BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AS WE CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL. WHEN YOU COME TO THE CATHEDRAL PLEASE ENTER BY WAY OF THE FRONT AND NORTH DOORS.

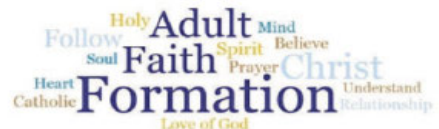
### **Bible Study**

Plan to join us on Thursdays at 7:00pm in Grade 6.

### **Scripture Discussion Group**

Meets every Friday after the morning Mass, at 9:45am to read and discuss the upcoming Sunday scripture readings. All are welcome!

For any information on the above programs, please contact the Parish Office at 630-759-7588.



### ***Prayer Intention Book***



Each of us has something special for which we are praying. You may be praying for a particular need or for the sick or deceased members of family or friends, or in thanksgiving. Whatever your prayer, you may write it in the Book of Intentions in the back of church. At Mass in the Prayers of the Faithful on Sunday, we include all these prayers in one of the petitions.

Jesus said, "Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father." Matthew 18:19

## *Gospel Meditation - Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture*

February 5, 2023  
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I recently decided to learn to cook. As I sit at the feet of various YouTube cooking masters, I notice how much of cooking is adding ingredients that don't provide any more nourishment, like herbs and other seasonings. But man! They make all the difference because they make the meal delightful to eat and share.

Jesus calls his disciples "salt of the world." No one eats just salt. So, Christians are not meant to replace or do away with the world. They are meant to be agents of preservation and glorification. Notice how often these days the Church seeks to preserve what is threatened: the goodness of marital and family love, the desires of young people for greatness, the value of honest work, healthy economics, and altruistic political engagement, the dignity of the poor and vulnerable. Over and over, we say to a world who wants to throw things out, "It's worth saving! We'll preserve it! We'll show you it's wonderful." If we can't engage the world like that, Jesus says we are the ones who get thrown out, because salt alone is worthless.

Jesus only asks us to do for others what he does for us. He is the "salt" of everything in our lives. Is there something in your life starting to rot a bit? Something tasting bland and boring? Let Jesus salt it and see if you like it better.

— Father John Muir

©LPI



**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**  
*Navigating Our Faith: Follow Me!*

**2023 JDCCS Winter Day of Recollection**  
February 25, 2023  
Our Lady of Peace Darien  
9am - 12 pm  
for Scouts grade K-12  
Learn more at [jolietdiocesecatholicscouts.org](http://jolietdiocesecatholicscouts.org)

### *Attention All Catholic Youth In Scouts - BSA, Girls Scouts, AHG or Other Groups!*

You are invited to attend the Joliet Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting (JDCCS) Navigating Our Faith Winter Day of Recollection. This Day of Recollection is made especially for the scouts and will be held place Saturday, February 25, 2023 at Our Lady of Peace Church in Darien from 9am – 12pm. The theme is "Follow Me," and we will learn to walk more closely with Jesus. Scouts from all organizations, ages K-12 are invited. There will be a children's program for youth K-5 and they must be accompanied by an adult. Register by February 20th at the JDCCS website at [jolietdiocesecatholicscouts.org](http://jolietdiocesecatholicscouts.org).

### *Six-Week Study Series for Single Catholics*

Starting the week of February 6th, NCSC will also be hosting a **6-week study series - "Relationship Ready: A Single Catholic's Roadmap to Marriage"** that will cover topics such as the **meaning of love, communication, conflict resolution, male/female complementarity** and much more. To sign up for these programs, visit [NationalCatholicSingles.com](http://NationalCatholicSingles.com).

## *Ministry Schedule*

### February 11 - February 12: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Lector	EM	Deacon	Presider
<b>Saturday, 5:00 PM</b>	Philip Crookham Felix Mendoza	Cheryl Clare Stephanie Lipscomb Carol Milhous Dolores Wikierak	John Blumenstein	Fr. Herb Essig
<b>Sunday, 8:00 AM</b>	Nora Damian Nick Behm	Leonila Desamito Alvin M. Manuel Linda Charnevsky Eileen Schedel	Marco Lovero	Fr. Herb Essig
<b>Sunday, 10:00 AM</b>	Ava Monsalud Ashley Qualls	Julie Guida Michelle Smith Gladys Kessie Gloria Gati	Anthony Osei	Fr. Pat Murphy
<b>Sunday, 12:00 PM</b>	Eunice DeLeon Remu DeLeon	Christiana Williams-Kanatey Cristina Maria Gary Cadungon Marqarita Alvarez	Gerrie Mepin	Fr. Pat Murphy



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



**Catholic Climate Covenant™**  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

# CATHOLIC YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

**Sunday, February 26, 2023**  
**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**St. Viator High School**

Join Catholic youth from the Chicago area for a day of activities, conversations and action planning focused on Care for Our Common Home.

## **Students will gain**

- Knowledge and information from professionals in Church and environmental leadership
- Opportunities to develop action plans to better care for our common home
- Skills to become more effective environmental stewards, leaders and advocates



Register by February 15, 2023 at **[forms.office.com/r/GQrDSge4rX](https://forms.office.com/r/GQrDSge4rX)**.



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

February 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Church

Rev. Herb Essig, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### Flee temptation

Christians are meant for Heaven.

Yet, the world can work against our efforts for holiness. St. Peter tells us to "escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" (2 Peter 1:4). Ask God often to protect you from sin, to give you the wisdom and courage to make good choices and, become sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. God will reveal when you've messed up, and rejoice with you when you get it right.

### Serve without complaint

Every job has aspects about it that are tedious, messy, and unrewarding, yet they are necessary. However, they can be opportunities to grow in virtue: humility, patience, self-discipline, etc. When you dread doing your work, smile and say a prayer, "and your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you" (Matthew 6:4).

"The works of God are all of them good; in its own time every need is supplied" (Sirach 39:16).



## Take steps to share your faith during Lent

Jesus didn't intend for the Great Commission – "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19) – to be a heavy burden.

He meant witnessing to His love to come through the natural course of living a Christ-inspired life. Consider making more disciples this Lent:

**Live a Catholic life.** Non-believers may hear what we say about Jesus, but they are persuaded by seeing how our love for Him shapes our lives. It is critical that worship – Sunday Mass, Confession, Scripture – informs our life choices. When we spend time in Jesus' presence, His character rubs off on us.

**Bring Christ out into the world.** Jesus asked that we care for the poor and needy, thus acting as

His hands and feet in the world. We may not be able to solve all of their problems, but we can show them the reality of Christ's love in their lives.

**Talk about God's plan.** God wants us each to experience the peace He offers.

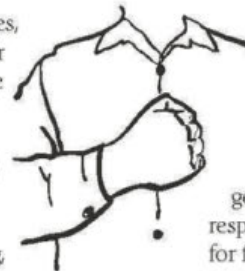
**Help others know that** God's love is personal and He has a specific plan for each of us.

**Invite.** Some people will be ready to "come and see," so consider inviting seekers to Mass. Others might be ready to "take up and read." Share your favorite inspirational reading. If you need other suggestions, ask your pastor or favorite religious.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

When we use our voices, our minds, and even our bodies during prayer, we pray with deeper meaning and enthusiasm. During the Confiteor at Mass, for example, we strike our chest three times, saying



## Why do Catholics strike their chests?

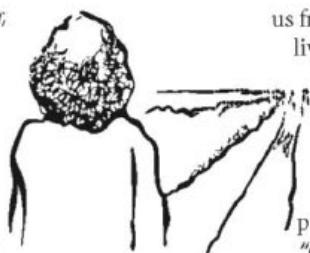
"through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." It's an ancient symbol of sorrow and repentance for having offended God or hurting our neighbor. Such a gesture reminds us to take responsibility for our actions and pray for forgiveness and grace to change.

## Lent leads us back to God

*"For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment"* (Joel 2:13). Lent may be a penitential season, but it is also a wonderful reminder that no matter how we let sin interfere in our relationship with God, He always wants us back. Gracious and merciful is He.

*"Return to me with your whole heart."*

Throughout the year, sin creeps into our daily lives almost without our noticing. A bad habit such as using bad language or gossiping can keep



us from loving God fully. Lent is a time to examine our lives and sweep aside whatever keeps us from giving God our whole heart.

*"Rend your hearts, not your garments."* God doesn't just want outward acts of repentance.

Our Father wants a change of heart. Start with Confession and then practice virtues such as prudence, temperance, and fortitude.

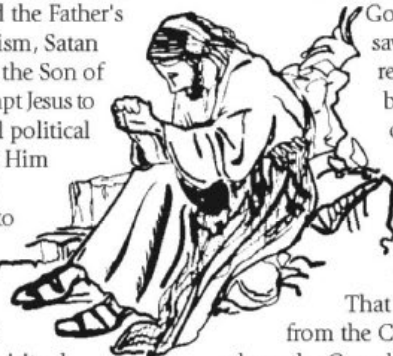
*"Gather the people, notify the congregation."* Become more active in your parish to build it up. Consider attending Mass more often than just once a week.

### from Scripture

#### Matthew 4:1-11, Victory in the wilderness

In this passage, Jesus is tempted by the devil. Having witnessed the Father's declaration at His baptism, Satan tested Jesus' identity as the Son of God. His goal was to tempt Jesus to embrace an earthly and political mission and to distract Him from the suffering and death that would lead to the world's salvation.

Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His hunger with a miracle – to put physical needs above spiritual needs. In His response, Jesus taught us to put spiritual needs first and to entrust both body and soul to God's care. Next, Satan commanded Jesus to jump from



the temple roof in an effort to force

God to miraculously save Him. Again, Jesus refused. God is not to be forced or controlled.

Finally, Satan offered to surrender all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him.

That would save Jesus from the Cross. Instead, Jesus chose the Cross because it was the only way to save us. When tempted to do what's "easy" versus what's morally right, ask for the strength to choose what's right.

### Q & A What's a simple way to explain the Faith, if asked?

St. Peter says to be ready to *"account for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15). Consider using this simple, five-point explanation, inspired by Bishop Michael Jackels:

**Pinky:** The smallest finger recalls our weakness and need for a Savior.

Although Jesus redeemed us, we're still weak and must pray for God's graces daily.

**Ring finger:** To save us, Jesus took on our human nature, "wedding"

Himself to us. At Sunday Mass, we worship God and become one with Him in Holy Communion.

**Middle finger:** Jesus was raised up on the Cross for sins, then raised from the dead. We attend Confession monthly and receive the saving graces. We hope to be raised to eternal life.

**Pointer:** Jesus' call is universal, yet personal. He singled you out and chose you to follow Him; only you can give Jesus your "Yes" – in word and deed.

**Thumb:** Lastly, hitchhikers point their thumbs to ask, "Are you on my way?" Likewise, we're called to ask, "Are you going His Way?" (John 14:6).



### Feasts & Celebrations

Lent begins February 22, and is devoted to the Passion of Our Lord. One form of observance is to pray the Stations of the Cross and meditate on Jesus' walk to Calvary.

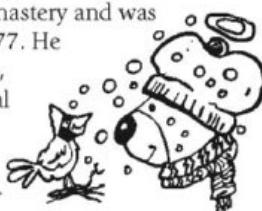
**February 1 – St. Brigid of Ireland (525).** Born to an Irish chieftain and an enslaved mother in Ireland, St. Brigid founded a monastery for monks and nuns at Kildare and served as abbess until her death.

**February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858).** A heavenly "lady" appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl

from a village in France and a miraculous spring emerged from a nearby cave. The "lady" revealed herself as the "Immaculate Conception," the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**February 22 – Ash Wednesday.** The first day of Lent. Ashes are placed on the foreheads as a sign of penance.

**February 27 – St. Gregory of Narek (1003).** Born in Armenia to a devout Christian family, St. Gregory entered the Narek Monastery and was ordained in 977. He wrote treatises, letters, mystical poems, and Scripture commentaries.



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## **Parish Office**

630-759-7588  
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Monday—Thursday 8:30 AM—4:30 PM  
Friday 8:30 AM—12:30 PM

## **Pastoral Staff**

Rev. Herb Essig, Pastor, x105  
Rev. Patrick Murphy, Parochial Vicar, x103

## **Permanent Deacons**

John Blumenstein, [jblumenstein@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:jblumenstein@stfrancisbb.org)  
Ray Hamilton, [rhilton@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:rhilton@stfrancisbb.org)  
Marco Lovero, [mlovero@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:mlovero@stfrancisbb.org)  
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Tony Osei, [tosei@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:tosei@stfrancisbb.org)

## **Parish Staff**

Liz Wagner, Director of Faith Formation &  
Safe Environment Coordinator, x109  
[lwagner@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:lwagner@stfrancisbb.org)  
April Johnson, Director of Liturgical Music & Liturgy, x120  
[ajohnson@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:ajohnson@stfrancisbb.org)  
Gerrie Mempo, Business Manager, x107  
[gmempo@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:gmempo@stfrancisbb.org)  
Jo Ann Chamberlain, Parish Secretary, x108  
[jchamberlain@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:jchamberlain@stfrancisbb.org)  
Deborah Blumenstein, Secretary/Bookkeeper, x101  
[dblumenstein@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:dblumenstein@stfrancisbb.org)  
Melissa Paz, Sunday Nursery Director  
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The **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** is located in the Narthex on the wall next to the St. Anne statue.

## **Reporting Sexual Abuse**

Anyone with reason to believe that a child has been abused or is being abused should report their suspicions to civil authorities. Contact: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services: 1-800-252-2873 or local police.

The Diocese of Joliet Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to help victims/survivors of child sexual abuse by a cleric, employee or volunteer of the Catholic Church. The Victim Assistance Coordinator will report to Bishop Hicks and coordinate efforts of pastoral support and outreach to assist in the healing process. The Victim Assistance Coordinator can also assist in making a report to civil authorities. Contact the Diocese of Joliet Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-815-263-6467.

*Please remember St. Francis of Assisi Parish in your estate planning.*

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday, 3:30 PM—4:30 PM, after weekday Mass, or by appointment.

## **Sacrament of Marriage**

Arrangements must be made with Father Herb or Father Pat at least six months in advance.

## **New Parishioners**

Welcome to our Parish Family! Please register at St. Francis of Assisi Parish by: stopping at the parish office to pick up a form, registering at the parish website, or calling (630) 759-7588 to request a registration form. Thank you!

## **Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick**

Please call Fr. Herb or Fr. Pat if you want anointing at home or after Mass. Because of HIPAA Privacy regulations, hospitals can no longer contact the parish without family consent. When you are in the hospital and want someone from St. Francis to visit you or would like your name added to the Prayers of the Faithful, your family should notify the Parish Office.

## **Communion for the Homebound**

We are pleased to resume Sunday In-Home Communion Calls! We ask to be assured that anyone coming in contact with the visiting Pastoral Care Minister have no recent COVID infection. Anyone in the household who comes in contact with the Pastoral Care Minister must wear a mask. Holy Communion will be given only in the hand, not in the mouth.

Because of scheduling, the time of calls may vary from week-to-week. Thank you for your understanding. Please direct your questions to: [pastoralcare@stfrancisbb.org](mailto:pastoralcare@stfrancisbb.org) or 630-759-7588

## **RCIA**

### **(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)**

All Catholics needing to complete their Sacraments and those interested in finding out about the Catholic Faith are welcome to join. Please call the Parish Office and speak to Fr. Pat Murphy for details.

## **Prayer Connection**

If you have a serious Prayer request or if you need some extra prayers said for your Special Intention, contact Elaine Klimek at 630-754-7331 or at [elaineklimek@yahoo.com](mailto:elaineklimek@yahoo.com), or Lourdes Singson at 630-853-5894.

## **Mass for the Shut-Ins**

The St. Francis of Assisi televised Mass can be seen live on Saturdays at 5:00pm via the St. Francis Facebook Live page. Saturday evening Mass will be available for viewing on Sunday on YouTube by searching for *St. Francis of Assisi 5 pm mass*.

## **St. Vincent de Paul**

Our St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) conference supports both St. Francis and St. Dominic's parishes. We provide limited financial assistance to those in need. If you are in need of help, please contact the church for more information.

SVdP is also seeking donations of clothing and small household items, which can be placed in the blue bin in the St. Francis Room during normal office hours or before and after weekend masses. Furniture donations are accepted at all SVdP Store locations, the closest resale shop is in Joliet. Proceeds from sales help fund our charity activities. We are always in need of cars. If you have a car to donate, please call 630-393-9755.

If you are interested in learning more about our work, please leave your contact information with the church. We welcome new members.