

# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

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**SANDRA MACIAS**

Secretary Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00p.m.

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www.stfrancisofassisi-parish.org

www.facebook.com/franklincatholic



THE SANCTUARY LIGHT  
IS OFFERED  
IN  
LOVING  
MEMORY  
OF  
+OLIVIA  
EBEL

## LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

5:00 PM

MISSA PRO POPULO

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30 AM

FOR THOSE WHO FEEL ALONE THIS DAY

8:00 PM

FOR FAMILY UNITY

Monday, December 25, at 9:30 AM

Christmas Mass

Tuesday, December 26, at 9:30 AM

For the conversion of sinners

Tuesday, December 26, 10:00 AM – 11 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 27, at 9:30 AM

For youth ministries

Thursday, December 28, at 9:30 AM

For the newborn and unborn

Friday, December 29, at 9:30 AM

For all souls in purgatory

Saturday, December 30, at 5:00 PM

Missa Pro Populo

Sunday, December 31, at 9:30 AM

+Jimmy and Theresa Dorr



### MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 30 AND DECEMBER 31

#### Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday: Cup: Mary McNair and Hope Zeig  
Bread: Kathy Russell

Sunday: Cup: Eddie Trevino and Marie Gumienny

Monday, January 1: Cup: Kathy Russell and Donna Manthei

#### Altar Servers:

Saturday: Mitchell Phan, Eli and Wyatt Green

Sunday: Julia and Bryan Tran

#### Commentators/Lectors:

Saturday: Kathy Russell

Sunday: Jayne Longley

Monday, January 1: Kathy Russell

#### Music:

Saturday: Molly Hedrick

Sunday: Julie Wolfenden

### YOUR GIFTS TO GOD



Church: \$3081.00

Children: \$7.00

Building Fund: \$25.00

*"For it is in giving that we receive"*

*- St. Francis of Assisi*

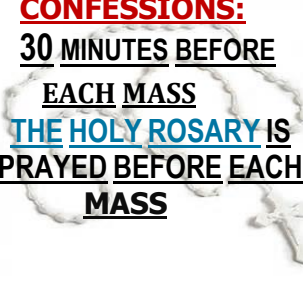
**Eucharistic Adoration**  
**EVERY TUESDAY**  
**10 AM – 11 AM**



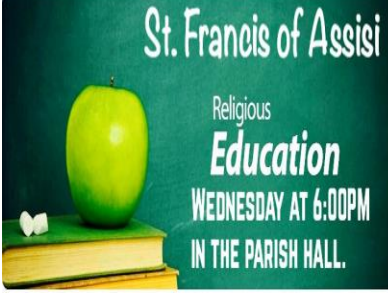
**FIRST FRIDAY AT 9:00 AM**  
**FIRST SATURDAY AT 4:30 PM**  
**ROSARY, HOLY MASS**  
**DEVOTION PRAYER**



**CONFESSIONS:**  
**30 MINUTES BEFORE**  
**EACH MASS**  
**THE HOLY ROSARY IS**  
**PRAYED BEFORE EACH**  
**MASS**



**St. Francis of Assisi**  
 Religious **Education**  
**WEDNESDAY AT 6:00PM**  
**IN THE PARISH HALL.**

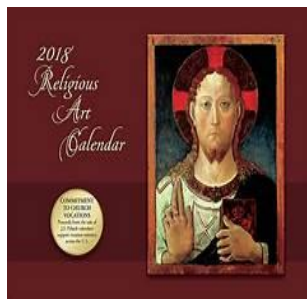



**Sanctuary Light for 2018:**

The Sanctuary light is available to purchase for the months of **July, August, September and November.** If you would like to sponsor a month in memory or honor of a loved one please contact Sandra in the office during open hours.



Poinsettias flowers were donated by Steve and Lorine Corn – In memory of Bert and Albena Neugebauer; John and Jayne Longley – for the Self-Longley family intentions; Sara Dutch – for The Hedrick-Dutch family intentions; Ryan and Daisy Nguyen – In thanksgiving for received blessings; Cliff and Benita Ebel – for the Ebel family intentions; Huyen Nguyen – for the Nguyen family intentions.  
 Thank you for your generosity.



**2018 calendars:**

The 2018 Religious Art Calendars were sponsored by the Ken and Sharon Elliott Family. The calendars are located in the narthex. Take one per family.



The beautiful Christmas Tree adorning the narthex was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Knezek  
 Thank you! for your generosity.

***"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." (Lk 2:15)***



**ST. FRANCIS' DEVOTION TO THE BABY JESUS.**

St. Francis of Assisi had a special Devotion to the Child Jesus, and he is credited with Creating the first nativity Scene on Christmas Eve of the year 1223.

It is believed that St. Francis was first inspired by this idea after

visiting the historical place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land – the humble stable in a Bethlehem cave. It is likely this event which deepened his devotion to the Child Jesus, who was born into the world in such poverty, humility, and simplicity. In fact, St. Francis founded his new religious Order to imitate these very virtues.

**THE FIRST NATIVITY SCENE**

St. Francis created the scene of Christ's birth in a special ritual and Mass he held inside of a cave in Greccio, Italy, inviting both his fellow friars and the townspeople to join in the celebration. Later he told a friend why he desired to create the first nativity scene in his town:

"I want to do something special that will recall the memory of that Child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of His infancy, how He lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by."

He set up an empty manger (the feeding trough of farm animals which served as Jesus' crib) inside a cave and even included a live ox and donkey beside the manger just as it was believed to have happened on that first Christmas night. Through these visual aids he wanted everyone to impress more deeply into their understanding how Christ came into the world in such poverty and simplicity. This was a typical perspective of St. Francis' unique charism of simple, poverty-centered spirituality

It is also said that St. Francis—who was radically devoted to the virtue of evangelical poverty—was inspired to recreate the original nativity scene to overcome the rampant greed and materialism prevalent at that time in Italy.

**THE SPREAD OF THE DEVOTION**

St. Francis' recreation of that first Christmas night was so popular that soon every church in Italy had its own nativity scene. The devotion also spread to private homes, and in modern times even to secular institutions, so much so that it's now impossible to imagine Christmas without a nativity scene to behold.