

Liturgies and Mass Intentions ~ Week of December 24, 2017

Sunday, December 24

10:00 am – Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi
5:00 pm – For All Those Preparing Their Hearts for Jesus' Arrival

Monday, December 25

10:00 am – Dorothy Spiva (Steven Hillyer)

Tuesday, December 26 – Friday, December 29

No Mass

Schedule of Sunday Liturgical Ministries

Thank you for your willingness to serve to make our Mass Successful

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

December 24 – 10 am – Jeanna Diederich, Lorri Kuczynski

5:00 pm – Andy Randel, John Nunn

December 25 – 10 am – Andy Randel, Bob Ariss

December 31 – 9 am – Jeanna Diederich, Craig Kowalinski

11 am – OPEN, Andy Randel

Servers

December 24 – 10 am – Frank Schneider

5 pm – Gaetan O'Brien, Nolan Rothrock

December 25 – 10 am - OPEN

December 31 – 9 am – Steve Hillyer, 11 am – OPEN

Crucifers (Cross Bearers)

December 24 – 10 am – Julie Byrne, 5 pm – Bob Geoghegan

December 25 – 10 am – OPEN

December 31 – 9 am – Frank Schneider, 11 am – Julie Byrne

Lectors

December 24 – 10 am – Cecilia McAdams, ME O'Shaughnessy

5 pm – Sam Schulz, Elizabeth Maite, Charlotte Maite

December 25 – 10 am – OPEN, Sue Cruickshank

December 31 – 9 am – Sr. Sharen Baldy, Cecilia McAdams

11 am – Gary Snyder, Emily Wu

Eucharistic Ministers

December 24 – 10 am – S Cruickshank, S Hillyer, R Morkassel

5 pm – Joanna Nunn, Marilyn Smith, Joyce Schneider

December 25 – 10 am – L Celebrezze, MA Kerscher, K Porter

December 31 – 9 am – J Capestany, L Clebrezze, MA Kerscher

11 am – Sandy Glasner, ME O'Shaughnessy, Marilyn Smith

Gluten "Free"/Low Gluten Hosts...are available for those who wish to receive them. If you would like to receive a low-gluten host at Communion, please notify one of the greeters before Mass. This will allow us to observe and maintain safety protocols for those who are sensitive or allergic to gluten.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Calendar of Events at St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Please check the St. Francis website for the full calendar of events

Sunday, December 24

▶ 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Mass

Monday, December 25

▶ Merry Christmas! Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

▶ Parish Office Closed

▶ 12:00 pm – Flytown Women

Wednesday, December 27

▶ 7:00 pm - RCIA

Thursday, December 28

▶ 10:00 am – Westminster Thurber Bible Study

Parish News and Information

Christmas Flowers – Every year at Christmas, the church looks so lovely due to all the gorgeous flowers. It's not too late to make a donation to the Christmas Flowers. Envelopes are provided in the pews for your convenience. Flowers can be made in honor and/or memory of a loved one.

Gourd Nativity – Amy Knight has her Nativity Scene made from gourds set up in the Parish Hall. Amy's art has been featured in a Broad & High PBS video: <http://www.pbs.org/video/broad-and-high-nativity-gourds/>. All

pieces were hand-made with wood-burned details over a period of six years - one camel took two weeks to make. Be sure to stop in the hall sometime before Epiphany to see the amazing talent of Amy.



Potluck Parish Epiphany Party - St. Francis will host a potluck Party following the 6 pm Mass for the Epiphany on Friday, January 5, 2018, in the parish hall. .

Please bring a dish to share according to your last name:

A-I -- Appetizer

J-Q -- Side Dish

R-Z -- Dessert

The parish will provide fried chicken, coffee, lemonade and water. **Be sure to bring a White Elephant gift for a fun (and funny) gift exchange.** You won't want to miss this fun evening of fellowship and laughter!



First Holy Communion information: Our parish celebration of First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, April 22, 2018, at the 11:00 Mass. Preparation sessions for children will be held in the parish hall Ocean Room (Atrium) from 12:30-2:00 pm each Sunday from January 7– March 18 (**except Feb. 25**). We strongly encourage children to participate each week in this time of shared reflection and prayerful work.

Please call the parish office at 614.299.5781 if your child will celebrate First Communion with our parish family. Contact Therese Terndrup at terndru@kent.edu or stop by the Atrium on Sunday morning between Masses if you have any questions. Registration forms and schedule will be available at the first session on Jan. 7, 2018.



Christmas Eve Mass - Music will begin 20 minutes prior to the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. The children and adult choirs will sing during this time and we'll also sing some Christmas Carols.



Gospel Reflection ~ December 24, 2017

One of the most beautiful and frequently illustrated religious scenes is that of the angel Gabriel's Annunciation to Mary. Sometimes we see Mary elegantly clothed, seated as if on a royal throne in a beautifully frescoed room. Although such artistic renderings present a profound insight into Mary's glory in eternity, other artists draw her as a young maiden who lived in simplicity, even poverty. In Mary's village of Nazareth, there were no magnificent buildings, mosaics, or frescoes. Mary's clothing would have been homespun. Mary would have gone with other women to the town's single well to draw water. In her home, she would have been engaged in cleaning, gardening, cooking and sewing. The angel Gabriel brought the announcement to Mary in this humble setting.

Gabriel's announcement to Mary is the second of angelic messages of pending birth. The first was given to the priestly Zechariah in the Jerusalem Temple: to an important person, in the city of kings, at the house of God's dwelling. By juxtaposing the Annunciation to Mary with that to Zechariah, the evangelist Luke highlights the insignificance of the young woman and her village. A second juxtaposition, the child to be born of Zechariah and Elizabeth and the son to be born of Mary, reverses the expected status. In every way, Jesus will be greater than John the Baptist. John is filled with the Holy Spirit in his mother's womb, while Jesus' very conception is by the power of the Spirit. John will be prophet of the Most High, and Jesus is Son of the Most High. John will give knowledge of salvation, while Jesus is the Savior who brings salvation. At the birth of his son, Zechariah proclaims "you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways." John's role is to prepare the path for the son of Mary, Jesus, who will rule over the house of Jacob, and his kingdom will have no end. The two annunciations in Luke's Gospel prepare us for the celebration of the birth of God's Son who will bring salvation to the waiting world.

Source: Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word.

Capital Campaign

Letters were mailed a couple weeks ago, announcing the official campaign with its theme – **Honoring the Past, Serving the Present, Preserving God's Gifts for the Future.** If you did not receive a letter, please contact the parish office.

You should have received your invitation to one of the receptions planned for January. At the reception we will share all the details of the campaign and exactly how you can get involved. The Diocese believes that a capital campaign for St. Francis of Assisi Church, involving individuals and leaders shepherded by Father Fritzner Valcin, could raise \$292,000, over a three-year period to address the needs of the parish. This is a very exciting time in the life of our parish, and you will not want to miss being a part of this great adventure. Receptions are planned for January 7 after the 9:00 Mass, and January 14 after the 11:00 Mass. Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly. Reminder phone calls will begin on December 28, so please RSVP as soon as possible.

Because of these receptions, there will be no regularly scheduled hospitality in January.

Next Sunday's Readings

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40



Parish News and Information

Prayer Cards, Prayer Chain – Have you noticed the big prayer board in the church hall? Do you know we have a group of people who are ready to pray for any need? Please complete a prayer card, attach it to the board and the prayer chain will begin praying. When your prayers are answered, let us know and we will join you in praising God. If you can't complete a card, you can call or email your request. Within just a few minutes prayers will begin. Don't carry your burdens along...let us help you. Contact Joyce Schneider at 614-557-6428 or joycemckownschneider@gmail.com or the church office 614-299-5781 or office@sfacolombus.org



Online Giving – You asked for it and we listened. We're pleased to announce that St. Francis of Assisi will be launching online giving through a software called ConnectNow Giving. This is a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. When you participate, your gift will transfer directly into the parish bank account. And you won't have to remember to write a check or stop by the ATM on Sundays! This will also keep your credit card information safe and in your hands only. We are excited to be launching this new program soon. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.



New Parish Website – The new parish website is almost ready! We have been working very hard to get our website updated, easier to use and more relevant. We hope to make the new website live before the end of the year! Keep watching for updates.



Parish Office Hours – The Parish Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26 and will reopen on Wednesday, December 27 at 10:00 am.

Congratulations!

A huge congratulations goes out to Libby Vasey, our most talented cantor, who graduated from Ohio State University last Sunday. Libby was selected to sing the National Anthem and Carmen Ohio during the graduation ceremony. What an amazing honor! We are very blessed to have Libby leading us in song every Sunday morning. Congratulations Libby, and may you always find joy in singing.



Prayer and Praise

We have so much to be thankful for this Holiday Season. A roof over our heads, a warm place to lay our bodies, and food in our bellies. We also have positive reports from doctors, friends we consider family, and that first cup of coffee on a cold morning. Let us remember all our many blessings as we travel roads we have not planned. So many in our family need prayers for their health, their living situation, financial and other needs. Let's remember to pray for our brothers and sisters now and all throughout the year.