

## Liturgies and Mass Intentions ~ Week of December 31, 2017

### Sunday, December 31

9:00 am – Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi  
11:00 am – Juanita Walker (Kevin Dunleavy)

### Monday, January 1

10:00 am – For a Safe and Prosperous New Year

### Tuesday, January 2

6:00 pm – For the Success of the Capital Campaign

### Wednesday, January 3

6:00 pm - For the Success of the Capital Campaign

### Thursday, January 4

6:00 pm - For the Success of the Capital Campaign

### Friday, January 5

6:00 pm - For the Success of the Capital Campaign

## Schedule of Sunday Liturgical Ministries

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

### Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

**December 31** – 9 am –Jeanna Diederich, Craig Kowalinski

11 am – OPEN, Andy Randel

**January 1** – 10 am – OPEN, Sandy Glasner

**January 7** – 9 am – Mary Jo and Sam Hulett

11 am – Andy Randel, Megan Murphy

### Servers

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

**January 1** – 10 am – Gaetan O'Brien

**January 7** – 9 am – Steve Hillyer, 11 am – Nolan Rothrock

### Crucifers (Cross Bearers)

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

**January 1** – 10 am – Frank Conway

**January 7** – 9 am – Susan Kyanko, 11 am – Julie Byrne

### Lectors

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

11 am – Gary Snyder, Emily Wu

**January 1** – 10 am – Sue Cruickshank, Renee Morkassel

**January 7** – 9 am – Sr. Sharen Baldy, Cecilia McAdams

11 am – Jon Murphy, Emily Wu

### Eucharistic Ministers

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

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

**January 1** – 10 am –Mark Coleman, Pat Visel, Chris Paisley

**January 7** – 9 am – K. Kriedermann, C. Paisley, F. Conway

11 am – Renee Morkassel, Joanna Nunn, Louisa Celebrezze

**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.

## Calendar of Events at St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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

### Monday, January 1

- ▶ 10:00 am - Mass
- ▶ Happy New Year – Parish Office Closed

### Tuesday, January 2

- ▶ 7:00 pm – Pastoral Council Meeting

### Wednesday, January 3

- ▶ 7:00 pm - RCIA

### Thursday, January 4

- ▶ 10:00 am – Westminster Thurber Bible Study

### Friday, January 5

- ▶ 6:30 pm – Parish Epiphany Party

### Saturday, January 6

- ▶ 8:30 am – Men's Coffee and Prayer Group

## 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](mailto:joycemckownschneider@gmail.com) or the church office 614-299-5781 or [office@sfacolumbus.org](mailto:office@sfacolumbus.org)



**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](mailto: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.



# Happy New Year!

## Gospel Reflection ~ December 31, 2017

From the opening words of this account of the Presentation of the Lord, we are in a first-century Jewish milieu. Mary and Joseph act "according to the law of Moses." They travel from Galilee to the holy city Jerusalem to fulfill the requirements of sacrifice dictated in the Law. They bring the offering expected of their social class: two turtle doves and young pigeons.

In the Temple, they meet two other Jewish figures: the righteous and devout Simeon, and the prophetess Anna, who worshiped God night and day with fasting and prayer. The Spirit of God who filled Israel's prophets is present with Simeon, as is noted three times, thereby emphasizing the prophetic character of Simeon's words. As were so many Jews of the first century, Simeon was "awaiting the consolation of the Israel," most likely referring to the Messiah, since the Holy Spirit had revealed that Simeon wouldn't die before he had seen the Christ (Messiah). Simeon's blessing is a canticle, filled with echoes of the Old Testament, such as Psalm 98:2: "The Lord has made his victory known; has revealed his triumph in the sight of the nations." When Simeon, inspired by the Spirit, proclaims that the child is "salvation, . . . light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel," he is announcing that God's promises made through the prophet Isaiah are now fulfilled in the child (for example, see Isaiah 42:6, 4:6). After blessing Mary, Simeon adds a prophecy about future controversy, the division over Jesus that will divide his own people, and that will be a source of sorrow for his mother. The scene then shifts to Anna. Live Simeon, she plays a prophetic role when she announces the advent of "the redemption of Jerusalem" to all who were awaiting it, as was Anna herself.

The account that began with the humble family faithful to their Jewish traditions, concludes on a similar note. Mary and Joseph have fulfilled everything that the Lord required of them. Jesus himself will grow to maturity in their home in the insignificant town of Nazareth, learning from his Jewish parents, filled with wisdom and God's favor or grace (charis). God's favor, manifest in the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, extends far beyond their home, becoming a grace for Jews and Gentiles alike.

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 have begun.

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

## Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12



## A Note of Thanks

To The Community of St. Francis of Assisi Church, On behalf of JOIN staff, volunteers and community we serve, I thank you for the wonderful gifts you have provided for us to share! The teens are often left out of the Christmas groups. Your generosity is going to bring lots of joy to the teens and their parents! God Bless you all, always! We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Peace, Lisa Keita

## BREAD

### BREAD Issue Research Kicks Off

The BREAD 2018 research issue kick off took place on Dec. 11 at Christ United Methodist in Columbus. Social justice champions from many faith traditions in Franklin County came together to hear about progress on multiple issues in our community (Welcome Columbus' Municipal ID, Restorative Justice, and Youth and Family Concerns), and to learn about the BREAD research process.

For the 2018 issue, **Youth and Family Concerns**, the initial work will be focused on research related to four subjects: 1) foster care/custody; 2) housing/homelessness; 3) drug abuse; and 4) mental health. The goal of the issue committee (made up of individuals from all congregations including St. Francis) and the steering committee will be to see what emerges from the research and the many meetings Dec.-March that can best support tangible action(s) to constructively address one of these areas of need. What emerges as a sustainable action will be presented at the **BREAD Nehemiah Action on May 7, 2018**. Stay tuned for more!

## Around the Diocese

### Happy New Year from the Catholic Men's Ministry!

As part of your New Year's resolutions, Cast Your Nets and take the time to register for the upcoming Catholic Men's Conference, Saturday, February 24, 2018 – and enjoy early bird discounts. Convention schedule and registration can be found at [www.CatholicMensMinistry.com](http://www.CatholicMensMinistry.com)

**World Day of Peace – January 1.** The theme for Pope Francis' annual World Day of Peace message for 2018 is Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace. In his message, Pope Francis urges us to turn a "contemplative gaze" toward our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters and to respond to their plight with four "mileposts for action." To read the message, visit [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace.cfm).

## Confirmation Prep

Confirmation Preparation will begin on January 7 and run through the end of April. Class will be from 7:00 – 8:00 in the Parish Hall. Please contact Joyce Schneider with any questions. [joycemckownschneider@gmail.com](mailto:joycemckownschneider@gmail.com) or 614-557-6428.

