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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 06/07, 2024



"Adoration of the Magi" in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Conception Abbey in Conception, Mo. Painted by Benedictine monks in the late 1800s

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Weekly Readings

Readings for the week of January 7, 2024:

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Mon: Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
Tue: 1Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
Wed: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
Thu: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
Fri: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
Sat: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10
(8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

FROM POPE FRANCIS' 2023 HOMILY

The Epiphany of the Lord

Like a rising star (cf. Num 24:17), Jesus comes to enlighten all peoples and to brighten the nights of humanity. Today, with the Magi, let us lift our eyes to heaven and ask: "Where is the child who has been born?" (Mt 2:2). Where can we find and encounter our Lord?

Brothers and sisters, the journey of faith begins whenever, by God's grace, we make room for the restlessness that keeps us awake and alert. It begins when we are willing to ask questions, when we are dissatisfied with our daily routine and take seriously the challenges of each new day. When we step out of our comfort zone and decide to confront the uncomfortable aspects of life: our relationships with others, unexpected events, projects needing to be undertaken, dreams to be realized, fears to be faced, physical and mental sufferings.

The second place is in the risk of journeying. Questioning, including spiritual questioning, can lead to frustrations and desolations unless we embark upon a journey, unless we turn ourselves, in the depths of our being, to the face of God and the beauty of his word. Benedict XVI said of the Magi: "Their outward pilgrimage was the expression of their inward journey, the inner pilgrimage of their hearts" (Homily for Epiphany, 6 January 2013). The Magi in fact did not simply study the heavens and contemplate the light of the star; they set out on a journey full of risks, without safe roads and clear maps.

Finally, after restless questioning and the risk of journeying, the third place where we encounter the Lord is in the wonder of worship. At the end of their long journey and tiring quest, the Magi entered the house, where "they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage" (v. 11).

Brothers and sisters, let us open our hearts to restlessness, let us ask for the courage to continue our journey, and let us finish in worship! Let us not be afraid, for this is the path of the Magi, the path of all the saints throughout history: to welcome our restlessness, to set out and to worship.

Edited for length. You can see the entire homily at bit.ly/48irMPe

Act of Spiritual Communion



My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into
my soul. Since I cannot at this
moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my
heart. I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite myself wholly
to You. Never permit me to be
separated from You. Amen.

Peace Prayer of St. Francis



While this prayer has always been attributed to St. Francis, the author is actually unknown. The prayer does wonderfully represent the spirit of St. Francis and the Franciscan Orders.

Lord, make me an
instrument of your **peace**;
where there is hatred,
let me sow **love**;
where there is injury, **pardon**;
where there is doubt, **faith**;
where there is despair, **hope**;
where there is darkness, **light**;
and where there is sadness, **joy**.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not
so much seek
to be consoled, as to **console**;
to be understood, as to **understand**;
to be loved, as to **love**;
for it is in giving that we **receive**,
it is in pardoning that we are **pardoned**,
and it is in dying that we are
born to eternal life.

Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Women in Conversation



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE DATES!

—March 9th —May 11th
—July 20th —September 28th
—November 16th



2024 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE!

Pick up a 2024 calendar after any Mass in the front of the church, or stop by the Parish Center 9am-12pm M-F.
Available while supply lasts.



VOLUNTEER SCHOOL COUNSELOR NEEDED

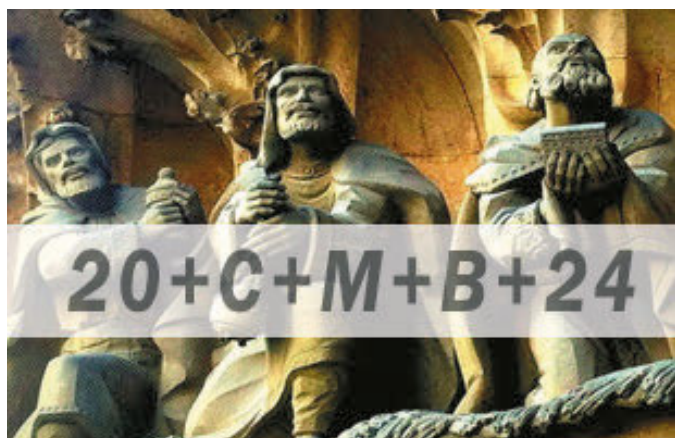
In 1990, a statement entitled *“In Support of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools”* was released by the Catholic Bishops of the United States. This statement affirmed a strong conviction that catholic schools *“are of great value to our church and nation”* and *“the entire ecclesial community...Is called to value ever more deeply the importance of this task and mission, and continue to give it full and enthusiastic support”* (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005).

Our parish school is in need of a volunteer school counselor to support the spiritual, intellectual, social, and psychological development of our TK - 8th grade students.

About the Volunteer Position:

Seeking one (1) volunteer school counselor with an LMFT or LCSW professional designation. The time commitment would be any weekday(s) with no minimum or maximum time requirement.

IF INTERESTED IN SERVING OUR PARISH SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT: mmccrimons@stfranciselem.org or ihrga@stfranciselem.org



Five (5) Month Report to the Parish

July 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023

Operational Income

Offeratory Collections	\$178,157.04
Sacramental Services	\$ 3,680.00
Assistance to the Needy	\$ 5,905.00
Building Fund	\$ 11,685.00
Covenant of Sharing	\$ 1,119.95
Donations & Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 3,187.88
Parish Programs	\$ 195.00
Parish Fundraising Activities	\$ 4,929.32
Religious Education	\$ (1,500.00)
Other Receipts	\$ 9,511.32

Total Operational Income \$216,880.51

Operation Expenses

Salaries, Wages, and related expenses	\$ 90,834.24
Assistance to the Needy	\$ 298.32
Parish Programs	\$ 321.00
Parish Fundraising Activities	\$ --
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 59,674.06
Parish Center-Office Supplies	\$ 4,738.66
Building Maintenance	\$ 7,947.82
Property & Liability Insurance and	
Propert Taxes & Assessments	\$ 71,042.12
Religious Education	\$ --
Other Expenses	
Church Utilities	\$ 2,685.56
Church Supplies	\$ --
Parish Center Utilities	\$ 4,810.39
Rectory Utilities	\$ 2,298.46
Friary Utilities	\$ 2,425.26

Total Operational Expenses \$247,075.89

Net Income/Loss from Operations \$ (30,195.38)

Note: Beginning in 2024, this Financial Report will be published on a quarterly basis.



Church Pyx

Can anyone who borrowed a Church pyx return it? We have a number of them, and for the past few weeks there have not been any in the sacristy.

Thank You!



OPEN HOUSE

St. Francis of Assisi Elementary



**SUNDAY, JANUARY
28, 2024**

8:00am *Pancake Breakfast*
Enjoy a yummy pancake breakfast surrounded by the St. Francis community.

9:30am *Mass & Choir*
Mass will be held at 9:30am with Father Rey in St. Francis Parish. You can enjoy first hand the Parish and School community and the joyful singing from our choir.

**11:00am -
12:30pm** *School & Tours*
Check out everything that St. Francis has to offer through a self-guided tour or take a tour with our students. You will get a chance to visit every classroom, and chat to faculty and staff.



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Youth Ministry Coordinator	Faith Formation Team	DFF@stfrancisparish.com	
Membership Coordinator	Myrna Rodriguez	Membership@stfrancisparish.com	x101
Communion Visitation Ministry Coordinator	tbd	sfcommunionvisitation@stfrancisparish.com	
Parish Pastoral Council Chair	Darrin Greer	ParishCouncil@stfrancisparish.com	
Finance Council Chair	tbd	FinanceCouncil@stfrancisparish.com	

The Epiphany of The Lord

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
January 6-7, 2024

We adore you Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all your churches in the world,
And we bless you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. Amen.

Gathering

Come to Bethlehem Manger

Tony Alonso

Cantor/Choir: Brightest star in starry sky

All: Come to Bethlehem manger!

Cantor/Choir: Seekers, seek both low and high

All: Come to Bethlehem manger!

REFRAIN

Come one, come all! Come to Beth - le - hem man - ger!
Christ be the food of all cre - a - tion. Come to Beth - le - hem man - ger!

Cantor/Choir: Night to night shall bring the news

All: Come to Bethlehem manger!

Cantor/Choir: Day to day proclaims it true

All: Come to Bethlehem manger! (Refrain)

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Kyrie:

Mass of Creation

Marty Haugen

Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

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Gloria:

Mass of Remembrance

Marty Hauger.

REFRAIN

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and on earth peace to peo - ple of good will.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est and on earth peace to peo - ple of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father. **(Refrain)**

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. **(Refrain)**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. **(Refrain)**

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Psalm: Psalm 72 "Every Nation on Earth"

Michael Jonca.

Ev-'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you; ev-'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you.

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The Epiphany of The Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Marty Haugen



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APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. AMEN+

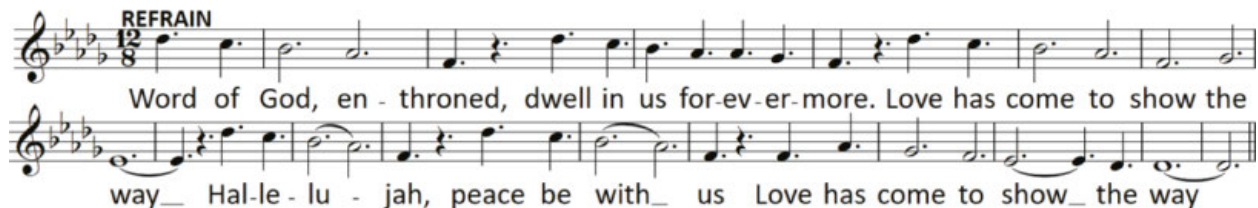
Preparation of Gifts:

Love Has Come

Matt Maher

1. With one voice the angels sing songs that make creation ring.
Prophets hear and call us to live in spirit and in truth. **(to Verse 2)**

2. God the Father, Elohim, voice of thunder, spirit, wind:
breathe on me your very life; grace will make the darkness bright.



3. God of Covenant, divine, lead us to the end of time,
beyond sorrow, beyond fear, beyond pride and earthen tears. **(to Refrain and Bridge)**

Bridge Keeper of the sacrifice manifest in Jesus Christ,
born to die and wake the dead, as we hunger keep us fed. **(to Verse 4)**

4. Now salvation has come in the New Jerusalem.
Dancers dance and singers roar; proclaiming Jesus Christ is Lord! **(to Refrain)**

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Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Mass of Creation

Marty Haugen

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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The Epiphany of The Lord

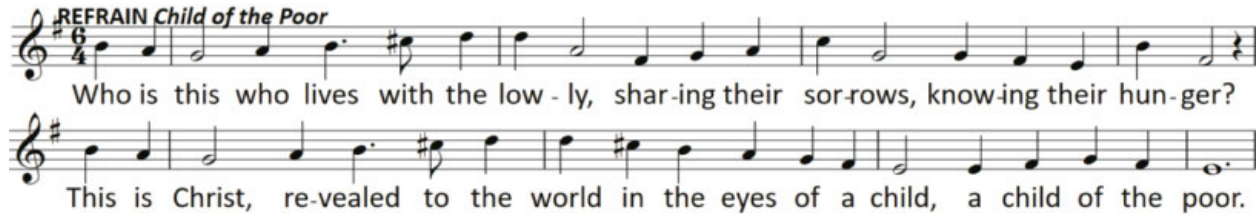
Communion:

Child of the Poor/What Child is This?

Scott Soper

Helpless and hungry, lowly he lies, wrapped in the chill of midwinter;
comes now among us, born into poverty's embrace, new life for the world.

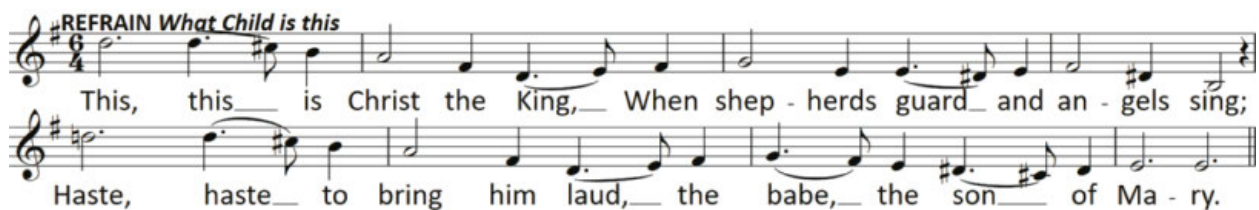
REFRAIN *Child of the Poor*



Who is this who lives with the low - ly, shar-ing their sor-rows, know-ing their hun-ger?
This is Christ, re-vealed to the world in the eyes of a child, a child of the poor.

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping? **(Refrain)**

REFRAIN *What Child is this*



This, this is Christ the King, When shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Who is the stranger here in our midst, looking for shelter among us?
Who is the outcast? Who do we see amid the poor, the children of God? **(to Refrain 1)**

Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. **(to Refrain 2)**

Bring all the thirsty, all who seek peace; bring those with nothing to offer.
Strengthen the feeble, say to the frightened heart: "Fear not: here is your God!" **(to Refrain 1)**

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone him. **(to Refrain 2)**

What Child is This? Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, Tune: GREENSLEEVES, 8 7 8 7 with refrain; English melody, 16th C.; harm. by John Stainer, 1840–1901
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Sending Forth:

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

African-American Spiritual

REFRAIN



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **(Refrain)**

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our savior's birth. **(Refrain)**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **(Refrain)**

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