

Liturgies and Mass Intentions ~ Week of December 17, 2017

Sunday, December 17

9:00 am – Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi
11:00 am – Patricia Pace Randolph (Jack Randolph)

Monday, December 18

No Mass

Tuesday, December 19

11:00 am – For the Residents of Westminster Thurber

Wednesday, December 20

6:00 pm – Joan Randolph (Jack Randolph)

Thursday, December 21

6:00 pm – Thomas R. Feran (Maryellen O'Shaughnessy & Tim Feran)

Friday, December 22

6:00 pm – Gary Hillyer (Steven Hillyer)

Schedule of Sunday Liturgical Ministries

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

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

December 17 – 9 am –Skip Camerucci, Stephanie Good

11 am – Megan Murphy, Bob Ariss

December 24 – 10 am – Jeanna Diederich, OPEN

5:00 pm – Andy Randel, John Nunn

Servers

December 17 – 9 am – Frank Conway, 11 am – Gaetan O'Brien

December 24 – 10 am – Frank Schneider

5 pm – Gaetan O'Brien, Nolan Rothrock

Crucifers (Cross Bearers)

December 17 – 9 am – Susan Kyanko, 11 am – Dan O'Brien

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

Lectors

December 17 – 9 am – Renee Morkassel, Will Brenner

11 am – Jon Murphy, Tim Feran

December 24 – 9 am – Cecilia McAdams, ME O'Shaughnessy

5 pm – Sam Schulz, Elizabeth Maite, Charlotte Maite

Eucharistic Ministers

December 17 – 9 am – MA Kerscher, K Kriednermann, L Celebrezze

11 am – Joanna Nunn, Marilyn Smith, Maryellen O'Shaughnessy

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

5 pm – Joanna Nunn, Marilyn Smith, Linda Wolfe

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.



THIRD 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 17

- ▶ 12:00 pm – Book Club
- ▶ 2:00 pm – Secular Franciscan Order

Monday, December 18

- ▶ 5:00 pm – SVDP Restored Citizens

Tuesday, December 19

- ▶ 11:00 am – Mass at Westminster Thurber

Wednesday, December 20

- ▶ 7:00 pm - RCIA

Thursday, December 21

- ▶ 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!



Newsletter – The Saint Francis Newsletter is available! If you did not receive the newsletter by email, please be sure to pick up a copy in the back of the church.

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.



Gospel Reflection ~ December 17, 2017

Again we see John the Baptist as one who leads us to Jesus. Today's portrait of John the Baptist is taken from the opening chapter of the Fourth Gospel, where major themes are images of John the Evangelist's account are introduced. John the Baptist himself becomes the means of introducing Jesus. His role is clear: he came for testimony, to testify to the light. He is to give witness (martyria), stating unambiguously pointing away from himself towards the light. An image closely associated with life and God's presence, light radiates to bring knowledge and belief. Its opposite, darkness, can neither understand nor overcome light (John 1:5). The priests and Levites give John the opening he needs, first to clarify his own identity, and then to turn their attention toward Jesus, the light of the world.

Although John himself does not say it, the first way he is described is as one "sent from God." His status is given to us, who hear the Gospel, although it is not known by John's interrogators. Even before they ask him, John states that he is not the Christ, leading them to question him further. He is not Elijah, nor "the" prophet, properly referring to the prophet like Moses whom God promised to raise up (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18). Each of these denials shows that John is not the one the Jews have been waiting for. With mounting impatience, the priests and Levites ask directly, "What do you have to say for yourself?" John's answer, like the description in last week's Gospel, is taken from the prophet Isaiah. John is only the voice, the one who cries out: "Make straight the way of the Lord." The level path through the desert foretold by Isaiah is the background for the path of the Lord that John announces. He prepares this roadway not only for the people, but also so that the Lord may now come to them.

Widely known as "the Baptist," in fact John's primary role is not baptizing. All his words and his actions, including baptism, are to prepare the people for one whose sandals he is unworthy to untie. But they do not recognize him; they are still lacking the light needed for understanding and faith.

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.

Plans are underway for Campaign receptions and you should receive your invitation this week. 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.

Next Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 62:1-5
Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25
Matthew 1:1-25



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



Special Prayer Request – Please keep Linda Wolfe in your prayers. Linda is in the hospital recovering from surgery and she would be grateful for any and all prayers.

Special Collection Update – Last Sunday we took up a collection to support Retirement of Religious. You so generously gave \$680. Thank you for your support.

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 – You asked for it, and we are listening.

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.



Parishioner Highlight

Butch Goffos is an icon at St. Francis of Assisi. Butch has been a member here for over 35 years. And although he is no longer our Maintenance Man, he is still very active. Butch always helps with the Pasta Dinner. He goes with a group of guys to help make the sauce, and then you can find him working the ticket table the day of the event. Butch was very instrumental in getting our conference of Saint Vincent DePaul started, and still active with the group. Every month he is a part of making sandwiches for St. Lawrence Haven. You can also find Butch at the Parish Garage Sale. Butch works in the kitchen selling hotdogs and snacks during the sale. When you don't see Butch around the parish, you can almost always find him in the back pew at the 9:00 Mass. Butch always has a positive word for everyone and his love for the St. Francis family runs deep. Thank you, Butch, for all you have done and still do for SFA! You are a true pillar in our community.