

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor Fr. Roger Abadano

Deacon Robert Kruse

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

Our Mission Statement: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community strives to be an instrument of peace and love in Amherst County through fellowship in the Eucharist and service to the poor, the youth, the stranger and the un-churched, in cooperation with other Christian churches.

Readings

Reading I: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/11

Psalm: 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

Response: "For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

Reading II: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38



Mass Intentions

Wed., Dec. 23 +Santina Stramondo req. Marilyn Gilbert

Sat., Dec. 26 +Marvin Gilbert—2nd anniversary of his death req. Marilyn Gilbert

Prayer List

WE PRAY TO THE LORD...Becky Baudaillier, Maria Brabo, Cindy Burns, Honey Furfaro, Jennifer Furfaro, Carolyn Greaves, Jerry Harambasic, Christine Horwege, Tom Hunnicutt, Shirley Kanthack, Brian Miles, Danielle Onestinghel, Gene Onestinghel, Parker Onestinghel, Pat Onestinghel, Lori Ann Pompie, Marti Sanita, Rick Shoman, Cochise Suarez, Claudia Szarnicki, Angus Topfer, Kevin Williams, and Tillie & George Winfield.

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS.

Stewardship: Dec. 12 & 13: \$1442 Immaculate Conception: \$85 Parish Partnership: \$5

Gospel Message

The Gospel is from Luke 1:26-38. At the moment our Lady said: "be it done to me according to thy word" the most stupendous event that ever happened, or ever could happen on earth, took place on this planet of ours. The Son of God took on human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. We are familiar with this story from childhood. We often say the Angelus in which this tremendous act of God's love is described. Although familiarity, in this case, does not breed contempt, it does help to blunt the real impact on our minds of such an extraordinary occurrence. If God had created a very special child, and made him into an outstanding saint, so that he could intercede with God for us, this would be a great act of love for us on God's part. Or, if he had sent an angel from heaven in human form, to teach us all about God and to help us to lead holy lives, this would deserve our deepest gratitude. But neither a saintly man nor a holy angel could do for us all that God wanted. No man or angel could make us adopted sons of God and heirs of heaven. It was necessary, in God's plan for us, that his divine Son should become man, should share our humanity so that we could share his divinity. Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

St. Francis News and Notes

- ♥ Advent Reconciliation will be on Tues., Dec. 22. There will be no mass on Tuesday.
- ♥ Christmas Eve services—the Social Hall will be set up for additional seating.
- ♥ For those of you sensitive to smoke, incense will be used Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- ♥ Our condolences to Marilyn Gilbert upon the death of her mother.
- ♥ If St. Francis is closed due to unsafe weather conditions, you will be emailed and a notice will be on our Facebook page. We will also have our closing information on WSET, ABC 13.

Holiday and Holy Day Masse

Dec. 24 (Thurs.) 4 pm-Christmas Eve Mass

Dec. 25 (Fri.) **8 am**-Christmas Day Mass

Jan. 1 (Fri.) 12 pm-Motherhood of Mary Mass

These masses are **in addition** to our Wed., Sat., & Sunday masses.

Ministry Schedule

12/19 Saturday

Altar Server-Patti Highley
Camera-Karen Baxter
Lector-Jim Clarke
Advent Wreath Lighting-Regina Rice

12/20 Sunday

Altar Server-Marlene Swift
Camera-Patti Highley
Lector-Jim Meade
Advent Wreath Lighting-Maureen Chesney

12/24 Thursday—Christmas Eve—4 pm

Altar Server-Marlene Swift/Patti Highley
Camera-Karen Baxter
Lectors-Midge England & Maureen Chesney
Advent Wreath Lighting & Baby Jesus-Furlong Family

12/25 Friday—Christmas—8 am

Altar Server-Patti Highley
Lector-Jim Clarke
Advent Wreath Lighting & Baby Jesus-Smith Family



December Birthdays

Luke Cockerham	19
Genna Cockerham	23
Pat Onestinghel	26
Sue Hunnicutt	29
Cindy Burns	29
Kathryn Cockerham	29



Mass Times: Sat., 5:00 pm; Sunday 8:00 am; Wed. 1:05 pm **Reconciliation:** Sat., 4:30pm –4:50pm

Office Hours: Tues. 11:00-3 pm; Wed. 1:00-3:30 pm; Fri. 11:00-3 pm **Office phone:** 434-946-2053

Email: parish@stfrancisamherst.org **Website:** http://www.stfrancisamherst.org **Facebook:** stfrancis/amherst/va

Parish mailing address: POB 663, Amherst, VA 24521