

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor Fr. Roger Abadano

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

Our Mission Statement: St. Francis of Assisi is a Roman Catholic church striving to be an instrument of peace and love through the sacramental life of Jesus Christ and service to others.

Reading 1: Isaiah 2:1-5

Lector 1: Midge England (Saturday)

Lector 1: Genna Cockerham (Sunday)

Psalm: Psalm 122

Response: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Reading 2: Romans 13:11-14

Lector 2: Marilyn Gilbert (Saturday)

Lector 2: Maureen Chesney (Sunday)

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Eucharistic Minister: Jeff Hansen (Saturday)

Larry Lamanna (Sunday)



Mass Intentions

Saturday, Nov. 26 Repose of the soul of +Kathleen Carson req: Butch Carson and Gail Smith

Wednesday, Nov. 30 Repose of the souls of +Francis, +Caroline and +Frank Vroman req: Ginger Graffeo

WE PRAY TO THE LORD...Becky Baudaillier, Chris Bogdewic, Maria Brabo, Donna Brewster, Dr. George Gray, Brandon Greaves, Carolyn Greaves, Gary Greaves, Gary Greaves, Sr., Jordan Greaves, Bob Green & Family, Phil Greenwood, Janet Hollingsworth, Christine Horwege, Sue & Tom Hunnicutt, Alex Infante, Beverly Infante, Leonardo Infante, Wayne Mundy, Gene Onestinghel, Pat Onestinghel, Donald & Rae Pfaff, Lori Ann Pompie, Marti Sanita, Peggy Sexton, Rick Shoman, Joyce Spiaggi, Laurence Spiaggi, Jim Stella, Cochise Suarez, Claudia Szarnicki, Mildred Szarnicki, Meghan Thomas, Angus Topfer, Jane West, Reggie Wilkerson, Kevin Williams, George Winfield, Harry Winfield and Debbie Wyman. **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS.**

Gospel: In today's lesson it is Christ himself who is asking each one of us so to live our lives that no matter when we are called to judgment we shall not be found wanting. This does not mean that we must always be praying. Nor does it mean that we must take no interest in the affairs of this life. Of the two men working in the field and the two women grinding corn, one of each was found unworthy, not because of the work he or she was doing, but because that work had for them wrongly excluded God and his purpose in life. The two found worthy had room for God and their own eternal welfare in their hearts—their work was part of their loyal service to God and was a means towards their salvation.

Christmas comes but once a year but its meaning, its lesson, must remain in our hearts and minds all the year round. God wants us in heaven forever. He sent his Son on earth to bring us there. Aided by God's grace we resolve today so to live our lives that when death claims us we shall meet Christ, not as condemning judge, but as a loving brother.—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

St. Francis News and Notes...

- Don't forget to join your neighbors this Sunday afternoon for Singing in the Season. This annual community sing begins at 3 pm at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (401 North Main St.) and continues to five other churches concluding at Second Stage.
- Now some Christmas News! Jesse tree gift tags are ready to be picked up. The gifts are for eight children at Central Elementary School. Return date for gifts is Dec. 10th & 11th. In addition, we will be collecting food for food boxes for the children. Return food items will be Dec. 10th & 11th. If you have any questions please see Peggy McFadden. A big thank you to Peggy for organizing the Thanksgiving baskets and the Jesse tree gifts and food baskets.
- Prepare your heart for Christmas! On the table in the narthex are Advent Daily Meditation blue booklets and Advent calendars for the young and young at heart. We also have Advent candles available and would appreciate a donation of \$5 for each candle set.

November Birthdays

Tom Simonetti	2
Rebecca Grey	2
Madison Luther	2
Jackie Faria	3
Regina Rice	8
Marilyn Gilbert	11
Tim McGarry	14
Matthew McGarry	16
Deborah Walker	19
Emily Hubbard	20
Garold Cockerham	21
Gail Curtin	24
Elizabeth Douthat	28
John McFadden	29
Sharon Simonetti	30

Jesse Tree Overview

The Jesse Tree dates back to Europe during the Middle Ages. Ancient cathedrals have Jesse Tree designs in their stained glass windows. The "tree" is usually a branch or sapling and is decorated with various symbols that remind us of the purpose and promises of God from Creation to the Birth of Jesus Christ.



Jesse was the father of King David and God promised David that his Kingdom would last forever. Two centuries after the death of King David, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah and said:

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge, and of the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:1-2)

Each Jesse Tree ornament usually consists of a handmade symbol or drawing that represents one of the major stories of the Old Testament along with a brief verse of Scripture from that story.

Mass Times: Wed., 1 pm and Sat., 5 pm & Sun. 8 am (except the 1st Sunday of the month)

Reconciliation: Sat., 4:30 pm –4:50 pm & by appt.

Office Hours: Tues. 11:00-3 pm; Wed. 11:00-3:00 pm; Sat. 2:30-4:30 **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