

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Aviston, IL

Pastor - Fr. Dan Friedman
 Deacon - Charles Litteken
 Deacon - Stephen AuBuchon
 Administrative Assistant - Carolyn Kampwerth
 Director of Religious Education - Milissa Faust
 Custodian - David Lohman

April 19, 2020

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Mon. April 20		NO MASS
Tue. April 21		NO MASS
Wed. April 22		NO MASS
Thu. April 23		NO MASS
Fri. April 24		NO MASS
Sat. April 25		NO MASS
Sun. April 26	9:30am	<i>St. Francis Parish Family</i> Live-streaming

Church & Parish Facilities Are All CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC because of the COVID-19 virus!

OFFERINGS APRIL 11th & 12th:

Sunday Envelopes: (30)	\$ 2,575.06
Easter Envelopes: (23)	\$ 2,540.00
Holy Land/Good Friday: (11)	\$ 285.00
Catholic Home Mission: (2)	\$ 20.00
Improvement: (12)	\$ 749.81
Online Giving:	
General:	\$ 2,384.25
Easter:	\$ 285.00
Holy Land:	\$ 75.00
Improvement:	\$ 265.00

SICK & HOSPITALIZED:

Lorraine Boeser	Maggie Fix	Kim Hegger
Steve Kleiboeker	Dennis Kuper	Jim Markus
Alan Netemeyer	Maren Poettker	Rosie Rakers
Fr. Joe Rascher	Patricia Rollings	Dcn. Mike Rowland
Fr. Ken Schaefer	Dayceon Spihlmann	Mary Strieker
RaeAnne Toennies	Khara Vanderhyden	Scott Voyles

PASTORS NOTE: Novelist Alice McDermott (The Ninth Hour) recently recounted a story from years ago in the Washington Post: a boy was on a family outing at a park. During a sudden thunderstorm, the little boy was struck by a tree limb. The boy's father reached his son first, and he realize immediately that although the boy was moving, the blow was fatal. As his wife called 911, the father held the dying, struggling child in his arms. There was nothing more he could do, the father told the reporter, but whisper, "go to Jesus, son, go to Jesus."

Alice McDermott commented remarked that nothing in our lives, nothing in these difficult times in our history "can diminish the value, the grace, the immeasurable beauty of the words spoken by the father as he held his dying child. 'Go to Jesus, son.' Words hurled against the meaninglessness, the suffering, the sudden and terrible transformation of that ordinary afternoon."

Jesus' blessings of Easter peace is a reality not just in times of joyful wonder but especially in times of heartache, despair, grief, and fear. We can understand Thomas' skepticism: the death and hopelessness around us can swallow us up in cynicism and despair – but the outrageous news of Easter calls us to see beyond our own fears, sorrows and anger to recognize the blessings we have received and the blessings we have to give. The light of the Christ breaks through the darkness of fear. God's Easter grace enables us to trust when we are lost, to continue on when we are exhausted. Like Thomas, Jesus is with us in these days of the corona virus (as well as in the midst of all our trials) to guide, lift up, and comfort us through it all. Go to Jesus when you are lost, afraid, at your wit's end.

SPECIAL THANKS: I would like to thank everyone who has helped us during lent and Easter decorating the church, live streaming our Masses, assisting at the liturgies, etc. It has been an interesting and challenging experience. I also want to thank all of you who have been faithfully attending our live-streamed Masses every Sunday. Your comments and support of this new (temporary) way of being a worshiping faith family is very heart warming and inspirational to me!

I also want to thank all of you who have faithfully continued with you Sunday Contributions! The Finance Council and I are most grateful. We are still getting calls from individuals asking how to get their donations to us. You can mail them, drop them off at the rectory (please ring the door bell or call so we know to pick them up), or take advantage of our "On-line Giving" program. The latter may be the most convenient for you. Access to that program can be found on our web site, www.stfrancisav.org. If you have trouble with it give us a call.

Thanks again to all of you for all you do. If you need help in some way or just need to talk, please, please give me a call. I will do all I can. Fr. Dan

LIVE-STREAMING MASS will continue every Sunday at 9:30am at St. Francis Parish, Aviston until we can again gather as one family in church. You can access the Live-stream via our FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/embracing.ourfaith>. This link is also available on our web site www.stfrancisav.org. I encourage you to join together at 9:30am on Sunday via FaceBook. While we can not come together as one community in prayer in our church building, we can do so via technology. Live-streaming begins 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass.



SYMPATHY: Remember *Eugene J. "Gene" Kuhl* (father of Jeff [Michelle] Kuhl and brother of Pauline Wilke) who died. Keep *Gene* and his family in your prayers.



CONGRATULATIONS to *Deacon Charles Litteken* who is celebrating his 23rd Anniversary of Ordination today, Sunday, April 19th!



St. Francis parishioners, wish a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to *Deacon Steve AuBuchon* on Tuesday, April 21st!!



If you have scheduled a **MASS INTENTION** for any of the days that we do not have Mass, I will reschedule with you once COVID-19 pandemic is over. **Thank You!**

MOTHER'S ROSES: Clinton County Citizens for Life as *cancelled* the sale of roses on Mother's Day weekend because of the coronavirus pandemic. We are grateful and thankful for your past participation in selling roses and honoring our Mother's and may God bless you and your churches for promoting the Culture of Life, especially life in the womb. May the Holy Spirit, the "Giver of Life" ignite a fire of Love and envelop the whole world with His Divine Mercy, Grace, Peace, Joy and Healing of Jesus.

Mrs. Marilyn Athmer
President, Clinton County Citizens for Life

Roger Foppe
Chairman, Mother's Day Roses Tribute and Fundraiser

The **PICNIC MEETING** scheduled for Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00pm has been cancelled. We will reschedule the meeting when the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

PRAIRIE FARMS' "OUR CAPS - YOUR CAUSE" UPDATE.



Are you drinking more milk during these stay-at-home days? If it happens to be Prairie Farms brand, give your restless kids a project. Let them enter the cap numbers. We just received our fourth \$50 check from Prairie Farms for our youth programs, and are currently 1/4 of the way (249 caps) toward our 5th 1,000-cap goal. Thanks to all who are participating. As a reminder, here's how it works. **Please, make it a routine in your house. It's easy.** If you already buy Prairie Farms milk or iced coffee: (1) peel the *outer* label from the cap to reveal the number; (2) enter the number in your computer; and (3) click on "Donate." That's it. You don't have to save the caps. Computer entry point is at <https://www.prairiefarms.com/ocyc-redeemcodes/> (bookmark this!). Our category is "Faith-Based and Religious." Our organization is "St. Francis Youth Programs, Aviston, IL."

PICNIC KITCHEN COORDINATOR/S NEEDED: St. Francis Parish is looking for an individual or group of individuals to assist and learn the role of the kitchen coordinator. Interested individual needs to be available during the week leading up to the picnic, picnic day and the morning after the picnic. Contact Donna Mondt at 304-4955 or Kevin Litteken at 779-9938 with questions.

The **SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** Night-time Drop in Center opened in December and has operated at full capacity almost every night, helping the homeless survive freezing temperatures and dangers of the city streets. We humbly ask for your prayers for the Center and if you are able, help us provide sack lunch items for their clients. Drop off individually packaged items of food and bottled water at the SVDP office in East St. Louis. For information, contact Joe Hubbard (394-0126) or Pat Hoglebe (799-8505).



ST. FRANCIS MISSION STATEMENT

"We, the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Family, are a welcoming faith community that believes in and proclaims the powerful and loving presence of Jesus Christ."