

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Aviston, IL

Pastor - Fr. Dan Friedman

December 27, 2020

Deacon - Charles Litteken

Deacon - Stephen AuBuchon

Director of Religious Education - Milissa Faust

Administrative Assistant - Amber Griesbaum

Custodian - Steven Leaders

Telephone: 618-228-7219

E-mail: parish@stfrancisav.org

Web page: www.stfrancisav.org

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Mon. Dec. 28		NO MASS
Tue. Dec. 29	7:30am	Fr. Donald A. Blaes
Wed. Dec. 30	7:30am	Deacon Michael Rowland
NEW YEAR'S EVE	7:30am	Wilhemine Ratermann
NEW YEAR'S DAY	9:00am	Special Intention
Sat. Jan. 02		NO MASS
Sun. Jan. 03	7:30am 9:30am	William Ratermann L/D Frank & Joann Dall Family Carla Knackstedt <i>(also Live-streamed)</i>

OFFERINGS DECEMBER 20th:

Sunday Envelopes: (57)	\$ 3,000.00
Loose:	\$ 30.00
Improvement: (6)	\$ 100.00
Retired Religious: (8)	\$ 120.00
Christmas for the Needy: (11)	\$ 180.00
Christmas Offering: (14)	\$ 840.00
Online Giving:	
General:	\$ 2,094.25
Improvement:	\$ 45.00
St. Francis Picnic	\$ 150.00



SICK & HOSPITALIZED:

Terry Becherer	Lorraine Boeser	Charlene Erlinger
Dan Feldmann	Maggie Fix	Fr. Gary Gummersheimer
Kim Hegger	Dennis Kuper	Jim Markus
Mark Moss	Darleen Nelson	Alan Netemeyer
Brenda Nobles	David Nobles	Linda Nobles
Bernice Poettker	Maren Poettker	Fr. Joe Rascher
Patricia Rollings	Dayceon Spihlmann	Mary Strieker
RaeAnne Toennies	Betty Usselmann	Khara Vanderhyden
Scott Voyles	Pauline Wilke	

WEEKLY ROSARY:

Sun. Morning at 7:10am (before mass)



**CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 31ST & JANUARY 1ST!!**



SUNDAY MASSES: Advance reservation is required by *each individual household* (indicate # attending) to ensure you will be able to attend! Seating will be assigned. Masks, social distancing, etc. are required! **Occupancy is limited to 100.** *Cancel or change your reservation if your plans change!* Make reservations on www.stfrancisav.org or www.facebook.com page by clicking on the registration link to reach our www.signupgenius.com link. **Be sure to indicate the number of people in your household that will attending.** For assistance or if you do not have access call (618) 228-7219.

PASTORS NOTE: Today's Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that being a family is a journey of changes and challenges (what Simeon calls "piercings" in today's Gospel). It's the love of our spouses and children, brothers and sisters that enables us to negotiate and survive those challenges, to move on from those difficult situations wiser and more loving. Our belonging to a family means that every one of us - parent and child - reflects for one another the selfless, limitless and unconditional love of Christ, both in good times and bad. The Holy Family is a model for our own families as we struggle together to adapt and change and cope with the many tensions and crises that challenge the stability, peace and unity that are the joys of being a family. As we struggle with the tensions, challenges, restrictions, and the disruption of our current world, let us remember the peace, love and harmony that the Feast of the Holy Family calls to embrace and reflect. It is our time to focus on God call and challenges to embrace his love for all. We are to reflect his presence in the world around us.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for all the cards and gifts, for letting me be a part of your families, and for being family to me. **Thanks Also** to everyone (decorators, choir, lectors, servers, ushers, deacons, parish staff and you the parishioners) who made our Christmas Liturgies memorable. We owe a special thanks to our Covid staff of Ushers, Greeters, Sensitizers, Videographers and reservation staff. They have spent hours and work hard over the past months to keep us safe and open, which makes it possible for us to continue to gather for Mass. I apologize for having to be so ridged in restricting attendance to 100 occupant, but if we violate the protocols we risk being totally closed as we were in the beginning of the pandemic. I want to commend you, our parishioners and guests, for your patience and cooperation during these trying times.

FYI...ST. FRANCIS CONTRIBUTIONS: *All Contributions for 2020 payable to St. Francis Church must be received by Sunday, December 27th in order to be included in your 2020 statement for tax purposes. Everything received after that date will be reported in 2021.*



SYMPATHY: Remember *Martha A. Altgilbers* who died. Keep *Martha and her family* in your prayers.



CONGRATULATIONS to *Caden Dane Emig & Caleb Dane Emig* (sons of Bradley & Nicole Emig) who were baptized last weekend. We welcome *Caden, Caleb and their family* to our faith family.

LOTS OF LOOT RAFFLE

LAST CHANCE @ \$20,000! The St. Francis Parish Lots of



Loot Raffle drawing is near! \$30,000 in total prizes!
Tickets are \$50 each. The drawing will be held via FB Live Stream on the St.Francis Aviston FB page Jan 1, 2021 @ 11:00am Contact Steve Maue 618-314-3189, Mike Dall 618-973-5804, or Phil Pingsterhaus 618-407-7392 to get tickets today. Thank You for your support to St. Francis Parish!

PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS:



Congratulations to the newly elected Pastoral Council Members: **Megan (Brandon) Holtmann, Dr. Jim (Peg) Millard, and Alexis Voyles.** A *special thanks* to all who accepted their nomination and to all who participated in the election.

Thanks to Ryan Faust, Marvin Ratermann, Amy Strubhart and Carrie Trame whose terms have expired, and for their years of service on the Pastoral Council. Your advice to the council has been greatly appreciated!

GREETERS SCHEDULE for 9:30AM MASS

- Jan. 3 - Diane Maue and Theresa Richards
- Jan. 10 - Connie Robben and Donna Peek
- Jan. 17 - Duane and Lisa Niemeyer
- Jan. 25 - Dennis and Joanna Rakers
- Jan. 31 - Diane Maue and Theresa Richards

VOCATION CORNER

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Each of them was called to in a unique way to love and serve their family, but the power of their love within also *went out* to the world. The Gospel story tells of Jesus being presented in the temple as per the law. They are already “sharing” their Son with the world as acknowledged by Simeon and Anna. Can we, as family, support one of our family members who might be discerning a call to the religious life? Joseph and Mary made that ultimate sacrifice.

K OF C NEWS: The winners of our "**Best Nativity Scene**" contest are **Tom Beckmann** of 6219 Old State Road, and **Ken Biermann** of 802 Adams St(Lin-rose Hgts). They each received \$25 for their efforts from the Michael J. Haukap Knights of Columbus.



Congratulations and Thanks to the almost 60 Nativity displays in the St. Francis Area. Special mention to the Village of Aviston for their displays at the Park.

WAY OF LIGHTS: Open now through Thursday, December 31.



Please wear a mask & follow social distancing. Journey through Bethlehem and experience the beauty of over one million white lights, Camel Rides, Petting Zoo and Carriage Rides for reservation call 314-621-3334. (Outdoor light display will remain open.)

BISHOP MCGOVERN invites everyone in the diocese to follow him and share his pages.



The bishop's Facebook address is:
www.facebook.com/BishopMichaelMcGovern

The bishop's Instagram page is:
www.instagram.com/bishopmichaelmcgovern/

The bishop's YouTube page address is:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCXgMqXBYIM4r0_AbDQH2_8A

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI RATERMANN SCHOLARSHIPS



St. Francis Parish is happy to announce that scholarships are available for high school seniors enrolling as full-time students in an accredited institution of higher education (College, Vocational or Technical). The funds have been made available via the Dorothy and Wilhelmine Ratermann Trusts for higher education scholarships and are awarded in their memory. Scholarships are intended to benefit students in "financial limbo". By this we mean students whose families have mid-level incomes and thus earn too little to pay for college outright, but earn too much to qualify for need-based grants or scholarships. Amounts are variable, but a scholarship of \$2,000 is not an unreasonable expectation. Scholarships are based on need, satisfactory academic performance, community and Church involvement, letters of recommendation, a short essay and an interview. Are you up for the challenge? Find more information and application forms on the parish web site at <http://www.stfrancisav.org/> Click on "YOUTH".

Deadline is March 1, 2021.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH,

FEAST: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3. Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9. Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 7-19. Luke 2:22-40.

This Child. Every parent knows a child is a blessing who is filled with innocence and wonder and grace. Grandparents know this, too, perhaps in renewed and deeper ways. It is their hope that every child will grow strong, be wise, and be favored.

How will I care for a child today even if not related to me?

How can I help children be holy?

How will I be holy because of the blessedness of children?

ST. ANDREW DINNERS

An opportunity for young men and their parents to meet Bishop McGovern and priests in the diocese to enjoy a meal, pray, discuss priestly vocations and whatever else is on your mind!

January 31st | 4 p.m.

The Undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville



For more information or to RSVP, contact Rev. Nicholas Junker
618-722-5035 | njunker08@hotmail.com

FATHER MCCULLOUGH SAID: *Candy Canes* - serve as



reminders of the crooked staffs of the shepherds who “on the sacred night when Jesus was born in a stable near the hill sides of Bethlehem,” were invited by the angel “to go and see the newborn Messiah of Isreal.”

The Christmas Tree - is an ‘evergreen’.. For this reason it is a symbol of everlasting life, the precious gift from Jesus to all believers.



Ornaments - came from “an old European custom” of hanging ornaments made from cookies and bread on the tree in thanks for “our daily bread”.

Christmas Candles - are reminders of Baptism and “symbolize Christ who is our light in the darkness.”

