

### December 24, 2023 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church aspires to be a vibrant and welcoming community of disciples committed to worship, grow, and serve. We invite all to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ to accompany them on their journey and send them forth to be His witnesses.

# Sunday Masses\* (All Masses are at the 27th St. Church during the Historic Church Restoration)

ST. FRATICIS OF ASSISI

CATHOLIC CHURCH

05:00 p.m. (Saturday Vigil) 07:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. (Spanish) 04:30 p.m.

\*All Masses Are Livestreamed on the Parish Website

### **Daily Masses:**

M–F: 7:00 a.m. (27th St. Church in the St. Clare Chapel) Adoration follows until noon.

M–F: 12:15 p.m. (27th St. Church in the St. Clare Chapel) Adoration follows until 6:00 p.m. Saturday: 8:00 a.m. (27th St. Church)

### Reconciliation 🕆 Confessions:

Saturday: 27th St. Church 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.<sup>+</sup> Tuesday: 27th St. Church 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. Saturday: 27th St. Church 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. \*Except on Holy Saturday—No Confessions

#### Serving Our Parish:

Salesian Sisters of John Bosco Sr. Ignacia: icarrillo@saintfrancisschool.net

Sisters of Mary of Kakamega Sr. Beatrice Ataku: beatriceataku7@gmail.com

Funerals: Alyson Annunziata / (541) 508-9321

#### ONLINE GIVING



Easy to Set up. Specify recurring or one-time gift and fund or funds to

support. Contact Deacon Phil for help with online giving

with online giving.

BAPTISMS / MARRIAGE PREP WEDDINGS / RCIA QUINCEAÑERAS / PRAYER CHAIN: PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

To reserve Parish facilities, Call the Parish Office. **Senior Leadership Team** 

Fr. Jose Thomas Mudakodiyil / frjose@stfrancisbend.org

Fr. Rogatian Urassa / parochialvicar@stfrancisbend.org

Stewardship/Liturgy Office: Dcn. Phil McCarty / liturgy@stfrancisbend.org

Parish Office Coordinator: Teresa Mikkelson / officecoordinator@stfrancisbend.org

> School Principal: Julie Manion / jmanion@saintfrancisschool.net

Evangelization and Catechesis Director: Janet Deppmeier / faithformation@stfrancisbend.org

> Finance Director: Jane Rude / finance@stfrancisbend.org

Music Director: Stephanie Mowery / music@stfrancisbend.org

Submit BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT REQUESTS BY 5 P.M. ON FRIDAY—8 DAYS PRIOR TO THE NEXT PUBLICATION. Email Tina / bulletin@stfrancisbend.org

#### Grief Ministry: Mary McGlone (253) 232-6789

#### PARISH REGISTRATION

Quick and easy registration form.

Can be used to update existing registration. We are glad you're here!



Catholic School 2450 NE 27th Street, Bend, OR 97701 (541) 382-4701 saintfrancisschool.net 27th St. Church 🕆 St. Clare Chapel 🕆 Parish Offices

2450 NE 27th Street, Bend, OR 97701 (541) 382-3631 stfrancisbend.org Historic Church 450 Lava Road, Bend, OR 97701 (Corner of Franklin & Lava in Downtown Bend)



# **The Birth of the Prince of Peace**

66 Do not be afraid; for I proclaim to you the Good News of great joy that a Savior has been born for you" (Lk. 2:10-11). We have been celebrating our Savior's birth for over two thousand years—for good reasons. The birth of Christ changed world history as no other event ever did. This was not an ordinary birth. It was God becoming man. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us," says John the Evangelist (Jn. 1:14). Can any other event in history be greater than this?

Liturgically, the real celebration of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve (Sunday at 3, 5:30, 8, and 10 p.m.) and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The first Sunday after Christmas is the feast of The Holy Family. On January 1st, we celebrate the solemnity of the feast of Mary, Mother of God.

On the second Sunday after Christmas, we will celebrate the Epiphany, and the day after that is the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. Unfortunately, the secular celebration of Christmas ends when we begin the liturgical celebration of Christmas.

A special word of thanks to all who helped us with the celebrations of Advent and Christmas, coordinated by Deacon Phil McCarthy. Sincere thanks to those who worked behind the scenes doing decorations, led by Lupita and Rick Wessler and Judy Kennedy, the choirs, musicians, extraordinary ministers, lectors, sacristans, greeters, ushers, those who prepared the liturgy, and everyone else who helped us in some way. Special thanks to the Knights who prepared an amazing display of the Nativity at the driveway entrance to the 27th St. Church.

It is very sad that there will be no celebration of Christmas in Bethlehem—where Christ was born. There is no peace in the land where Christ, the Prince of Peace, was born. The Municipality of Bethlehem, in Palestine, has suspended Christmas celebrations and removed the light decorations in Nativity Square and other areas of the town. The colored lights in front of the Nativity Basilica in Bethlehem have also been removed because of the war. The Nativity Basilica is deserted. Rare are the pilgrims in the Nativity Grotto. In a Statement on November 10th, the Patriarchs of the Churches in Jerusalem asked the faithful for prayers ". . . to remain firm with those faced with afflictions this year, giving up any unnecessary festive activity . . . , focusing ourselves more on the spiritual meaning of Christmas, keeping in our thoughts our brothers and sisters affected by this war and its consequences, and with fervent prayers for a just and lasting peace in our beloved Holy Land."

However, as per the existing status quo in force since the time of the Ottoman Empire, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, will arrive on Christmas Eve, December 24th, and Father Francis Patton, Custos of the Holy Land (Franciscans), will make his solemn entrance in Bethlehem. The procession on the Street of Stars, which marks the route of the Wise Men, will be celebrated without music and with a reduced presence of people.

Although far from the conflict zone, let us remember the people caught in the crossfires of war in our celebrations. What will their Christmas look like this year? Let us pray for lasting peace.

The feast of Christmas offers convincing proof of God's infinite love for us. For Jesus is God's greatest gift to all mankind in a long line of precious blessings bestowed on each of us. Indeed, we have much to be thankful for as the St. Francis of Assisi Parish family.

A special word of appreciation to all of you who joined us to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Know that God loves each of you. May you carry away with you the fruits of this celebration.

Thanks a lot to all who have supported St. Francis Parish this year by prayers, volunteer services, and financial sacrifices. Your love and support are much appreciated. May God repay your graciousness and sacrifices this Christmas season and in the New Year with an abundance of spiritual and material blessings.

Have a blessed Christmas season and a gracefilled New Year!

-Fr. Jose Thomas Mudakodiyil



#### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

#### MASS INTENTIONS / SCRIPTURE READINGS

DATESaturday, December 23rd (4th Sunday of Advent)(Vigil Mass)2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16(Spanish Vigil Mass)Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38	<u>TIME</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>REQUESTED BY</u>
	5:00 p.m.	The Barnes Families (D)	Margaret & Ernie Barnes
	7:00 p.m.	Griselda Gochez (L)	Gochez Family
<b>Sunday, December 24th (4th Sunday of Advent)</b> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38	7:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	St. Francis Parish (L) Catherine (Brick) Logan (D)	Fr. Jose & Fr. Roga Greg & Sandy Thornton
Sunday December 24th (Christmas Eve) Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14	3:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	Frank Jungers (D) Patricia Mary Cappy (L) Sandra O'Herron (D) William Wertman (D)	St. Francis Parish Pamela Van Eikeren Anne & Mike O'Herron Michele Watters
Monday, December 25th (Christmas Day)	10:00 a.m.	Mike Morgen (L)	Cheryl Morgen
Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 (Spanish Mass)	12:30 p.m.	Griselda Gochez (L)	Gochez Family
<b>Tuesday, December 26th</b>	7:00 a.m.	Thomas Edward Hynes (L)	Christine D. & David K.
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22	12:15 p.m.	Jim Dalrymple (D)	Gloria Dalrymple
<b>Wednesday, December 27th</b>	7:00 a.m.	Fr. Shaji Thomas (L)	Patricia Cappy
1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8	12:15 p.m.	Honey Canney (D)	St. Francis Parish
<b>Thursday, December 28th</b>	7:00 a.m.	Fr. Cornelius Kiely (D)	St. Francis Parish
1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2: 13-18	12:15 p.m.	William Hiblar (D)	Michele Watters
<b>Friday, December 29th</b>	7:00 a.m.	Pam Cheeney (L)	Ed Cheeney
1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35	12:15 p.m.	Dwayne Kinsey (D)	Gloria Dalrymple
<b>Saturday, December 30th</b> 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40	8:00 a.m.	Tom O'Neal (D)	Amable O'Neal

(D) = Deceased  $\blacklozenge$  (L) = Living

To schedule a Mass Intention, call the Parish Office at (541) 382-3631 by 5 p.m. on Friday—8 days prior to the next bulletin.

# "Knights Corner"

ow about that Nativity Scene out in front of the Church? Most of you know (but not all) that the Knights of Columbus are responsible for putting that together every year. There was a team of about 8 to 10 Knights who volunteered their time, and the project was completed in two days! (See page 7 for photos.)

Last chance to sign up for the blood drive at the end of this month, **Friday, December 29th from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the Community Center.** Give Something That Means Something! There is no substitution for donated blood. Blood donation is all about having the blood on the shelf today when it is needed to be there for accidents tomorrow. What better way to give something of yourself to someone who really needs it. Blood is needed all the time, especially now, and this is a wonderful opportunity.

Keep those Oregon redeemable bottles and cans coming. This is our #1 fundraiser, and it does not cost you anything; you made that donation when you purchased the beverage!



Men, if you have an interest in becoming a Knight, contact **Pat Burrus** at (435) 659-4623 or **Matt Deppmeier** at (541) 904-5548 for more information.

Be Bold! Be Catholic! Be a Knight! —Pat Burrus, Grand Knight



### Newman Club

**Meets every Sunday.** We have plans for BBQs, evenings with the Salesian Sisters, preparing and serving dinners at the Bethlehem Inn, watching "The Chosen," and snow adventures.

For details or to get on the communication list, contact **Benjamin** at <u>bcowan@ stfrancisbend.org</u>. The Newman Club is open to all young adults (about age 18 to24).

# St. Athanasius Group

All men are invited to attend a weekly men's group that **meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.** The focus is to be the men we are called to be by deepening our spiritual lives and by having a brotherhood to support us.

For more information, please contact **Benjamin** at: <u>bcowan@stfrancisbend.org</u>.

### **Family Holy Hour**

All families are invited to join us for Adoration in the St. Clare Chapel on the **1st Friday of every month**, from 6 to 7 p.m.

For more information, please call **Natasha** at (541) 213-8399.

# **Pro-Life Rosary**

The Respect for Life Ministry invites you to **pray the Rosary on the 1st Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m.**, in the St. Clare Chapel. Please join us in prayer for our vulnerable brothers and sisters in the womb.

# **Hearts on Fire Prayer Group**

This charismatic prayer group **meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:30 p.m.** in the RCIA Room. Join us for praise, worship, and listening to the Lord. For more information, contact **Deacon Steve** at (253) 222-0582.

# **Pray for Vocations**

Join us for the **Holy Hour on the 1st Tuesday of the month after the 12:15 p.m. Mass** in the St. Clare Chapel, to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

# St. Clare's Helpers

Meetings are held on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at 2 p.m.** in the RICA Room. All women of the Parish are invited. Join us!

For more information, please contact **Sherry Rice** at: <u>srice@bendbroadband.com</u>.

#### Come and See ...

Would you like to live the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi? Then, visit our parish Secular Franciscans. We meet on the **3rd Sunday of each month from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Parish Office.



For more information, contact Mary McGlone at: (253) 232-6789 or <u>mlhmcglone@gmail.com</u>.

### **Faith Formation**

- Middle School / High School Youth Ministries meet every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Register online using the Faith Formation Registration.
- Sacramental Preparation for 1st Communion and Confirmation: Children as young as 2nd Grade may receive 1st Communion. Youth as young as 6th Grade may be Confirmed.

# Parent-Child Sacrament Workshops

- Sunday, January 21st, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., or Monday, January 22nd, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- Sunday, February 4th, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., or Monday, February 5th, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Two catechists are needed: one for the Wednesday afternoon Faith Formation class and one for the Wednesday evening session. Please contact **Janet** at: <u>faithformation@stfrancisbend.org</u> for more details.

# **High School Youth Ministry**

Idaho Catholic Youth Conference (ICYC) is from Friday to Sunday, March 8–10, 2024. The cost is \$240 per youth. Visit the Youth Ministry page of the Parish Website to register online or for more information.

### RCIA

RCIA is for all who are unbaptized or baptized non-Catholic Christians and seeking to enter the Catholic Church. If you have not registered for RCIA, contact **Carl** at: <u>rcia@stfrancisbend.org</u>.

# **Marriage Preparation**

If you are engaged or looking to have your marriage validated, please do not schedule anything for your wedding until you have spoken to one of the parish wedding coordinators and met with a priest. Contact weddings@stfrancisbend.org.

# Miscarriage Ministry

This ministry helps support parents who have experienced (or are currently experiencing) a miscarriage. You can reach out to either **Megan Medley** at (818) 461-2591 or **Natasha Rider** at (541) 213-8399.

4

#### **Raffle Winner**



Zacarias Angeles was the winner of the raffle for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Picture. The amount raised for the Historic Church Restoration was \$1,987.00. Many thanks to the Hispanic Community for all their work!

### Parish Offices Closed

From Monday, December 25th, through Monday, January 1st, the Parish Offices will be closed for Christmas. The Offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd.

#### **Respect for Life Ministry**



Each year during Advent, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ, our Savior, at Christmas. Today,

women in our own communities are pregnant, poor, perhaps without a home, and in great need. They may feel alone, scared, and overwhelmed, not knowing where to turn. In challenging circumstances, expectant mothers need a refuge of their own.

May we proactively seek to offer loving support and encouragement as they prepare to welcome their children. By answering this call, may we help mothers experience the joy, hope, and peace brought by the infant Jesus. And may we, too, share in and bear witness to the miracle of new life.

Please see the "Pray for Moms" handout in the narthex this month for ways to help. It includes contacting your local pregnancy resource center or diocesan/parish pregnancy support ministry.

> -Christine Simone. Parish Pro-Life Coordinator

#### **Christmas Faire Proceeds**

Thanks to the hard work of the members of the Faire Committee and the many volunteers—as well as the generosity and support of the St. Francis of Assisi's parishioners-this year's "Christmas Faire 2023" proceeds came to \$10,083.80, all of which was donated to the Historic Church Restoration Fund! Thank you to evervone!

> -Kim Jacobson & Lezlie Matsuvama, Christmas Faire Committee

#### St. Clare's Helpers "Do Lunch"



Suzy Rosa graciously opened her beautiful home for a delicious luncheon on Wednesday, December 13th. (Photo submitted by Suzanne Callahan)

#### **Adoration Needs**

If you can commit to one of these hours, please email Judy Kennedy at: judyekennedy@icloud.com:

- ► Mondays:
- 9-10 a.m., 1-2 p.m., and 3-4 p.m. ▶ Wednesdays: 9–10 a.m., 1–2 p.m., and 5–6 p.m.
- ► Thursdays: 10-11 a.m., 3-4 p.m., and 5-6 p.m. 9-10 a.m. and 11-12 a.m.
- ► Fridays:

#### Taize

The Taize Choir of Central Oregon invites you to participate in an hour of meditative, non-denominational Taize music, prayer, and silence at our monthly ecumenical service, at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 4th, at Trinity Episcopal Church (St. Helens Hall), 231 NW Idaho, Bend. The theme for this service is "Gratitude."

You are welcome to participate in or listen to our rehearsal starting at 6:15 p.m.

For more information call (541) 815-5574, or email taizebend@gmail.com.



#### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The mission of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is to educate the whole child in a Christ-centered community that values service, leadership, and academic excellence.

Our vision is to inspire academic scholars, motivated to serve with faith and moral character.



# *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!* — From the Students and Staff at St. Francis School -





Dignity for the Elderly / 24-hour care Cardinal Otunga House Sisters of Mary of Kakamega www.otungahouse.com Sr. Consolata Mogoa • (541) 312-5765 www.somkakamega.org Licensed by State of Oregon DHS

> *St. Clare's Helpers Open to all women of the parish.* Contact Sherry Rice at: <u>srice@bendbroadband.com</u>

Knights of Columbus Fr. Luke Sheehan Council #1872 Find Us on Facebook at: Knights of Columbus Bend Council



#### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH



A Lifeline for Marriage—Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track, the opportunity to rediscover each other, and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples. Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.
Visit www.helpourmarriage.org for program information and emotional testimonials. For confidential information or to register for the January 26–28, 2024 weekend at Our Lady of Peace Retreat Center in Beaverton, OR, call (503) 225-9191. For confidential information about or to register for the program call (503) 225-9191, or send an email to: portland@retrouvaille.org or visit www.helpourmarriage.org.

#### **Inviting All Young Adults:**

Diocesan Lenten Retreat on Saturday/Sunday—February 17th/18th, 2024 "Sacrificial Love: The Redemption of Suffering" Featuring Bishop Liam Cary Registration Fees: \$85/Single Person – \$125/Married Couple / Registration Deadline: February 11, 2024 Cascade View Retreat Center, Powell Butte, OR. For more information and to register: DioceseofBaker.org

(Supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.)

Date	Weekly Offering	Weekly Needed	Difference	YTD Offering
December 16–17, 2023	\$27,808	\$22,756	\$ 5,052	\$1,201,853
December 9–10, 2023	\$35,351	\$22,756	\$12,595	\$1,174,045
December 2–3, 2023	\$32,566	\$22,756	\$9,810	\$1,138,694
November 25–26, 2023	\$31,055	\$22,756	\$8,299	\$1,106,128

#### 2023 Stewardship of Giving

The Scholarship Fund Balance is: \$325,638 Historic Church Renovation Funds Raised to Date: \$1,998,534 ◆ Funds Spent: \$1,219,358 2023 YTD Budget: \$1,166,234 ◆ YTD Actual: \$1,201,853 ◆ Variance: \$35,619

#### Sunday Bulletins are provided by Our Advertisers Please thank them for their support.

#### For advertising information, please contact Jane Rude at the St. Francis Parish Office: (541) 382-3631, ext. 110

