SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ONE MIGHTIER THAN I IS COMING.

MARK 1:7A

December 10, 2023
**Sunday Gospel in everyday English**
John the Baptist appeared in the wild, preaching a Baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey. As he preached he said, “The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will change your life. I’m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His Baptism—a holy Baptism by the Holy Spirit—will change you from the inside out” (from Mark 1).

**Notes on the Scripture**
The Second Sunday of Advent is here. Everything scripture says this week is fresh and budding with possibility. Do we feel it? Are we prepared to be renewed? Some of us are. For some this season poised between two great American holidays is reason enough to revive our spirits. Jingle those bells and sing those carols! Deck the halls and decorate that tree! Send cards! Go ahead: Bake something you shouldn’t be eating; buy gifts that stretch your budget to the brink. Attend every party. In a thousand ways tell all the world the good news that all of us are loved, cared for, remembered, included. Spread the warmth and cheer.

Of course the nonstop, wall-to-wall environment of celebration we call December is only one aspect of Advent. There’s also an internal side, and John the Baptist is the master of ceremonies for that. Preparing the way of the Lord is not about stringing up the lights and putting an angel at the top of the evergreen. It’s not about listening to holiday songs. Those are external signs of an inward reality we don’t want to overlook or neglect. In preparing for the reign of God, the kingdom of heaven, there is one thing John says we simply must do: Love, Care, Forgive!

**Advent Reconciliation**
Part of the preparation for Christmas is to experience God’s love and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Just like in years past, I invite you to our Communal Reconciliation Services on Saturday, Dec. 16th at 9am and Monday, Dec. 18th at 7:30pm.

**St Agatha Christmas Tree Tags**
Every year around the holidays we try to share our blessings with St. Agatha Parish (our sharing parish). Thank you so much for doing it again this year. Please bring back your gifts to the church this weekend. Thank you for sharing your blessings.

**Grand Raffle**
I just want to take this time to express my gratitude to all parishioners who supported our Grand Raffle this year. This is an important fundraiser for our parish and I am truly grateful for your generosity. I also want to announce and congratulate our winners: Thomas Ward, Lisa Kacerovskis, John Oliver, Eric Eiers, Robert Pinkos, Mike Bosky, Jose Bryles, Michael Lesnet, Richard Egan, Ralph Morandi.
Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend (Please visit the Ministry Scheduler for the most up to date schedule or to volunteer)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Saturday, 5:00 PM</th>
<th>Sunday, 8:00 AM</th>
<th>Sunday, 10:00 AM</th>
<th>Sunday, 12:00 PM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deacon</td>
<td>Mike Kiley</td>
<td>Timothy McCormick</td>
<td>Michael Pindalski</td>
<td>Brian Whiteford</td>
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<td>Sacristan</td>
<td>Susan Vari</td>
<td>Olga Bartell</td>
<td>Cindy Lucio</td>
<td>Adriean Wiezorek</td>
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<td>Lector</td>
<td>Kim Reid (1)</td>
<td>Martha Jaquez (1)</td>
<td>Lee Trimble (1)</td>
<td>Sheila Pacholshi (1)</td>
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<td>Elena Reklaitis (2)</td>
<td>Patricia Flynn (2)</td>
<td>Marilyn Nelson (2)</td>
<td>Gerald Saletta (2)</td>
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<td>Eucharistic Minister</td>
<td>Lisa Kacerovsik</td>
<td>Olga Bartell</td>
<td>Rosemary Januszysz</td>
<td>Gerardo L. Garcia</td>
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<td>Mike Kiley</td>
<td>Mark Freisleben</td>
<td>Regina Knapp</td>
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<td>Rose Leiteit</td>
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<td>Martin Terpstra</td>
<td>Lisa Freisleben</td>
<td>Cindy Lucio</td>
<td>Rev. Artur Sowa</td>
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<td>Rev. Ed. Upton</td>
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<td>Susan Vari</td>
<td>James Pederson</td>
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<td>Maria Weber</td>
<td>Rev. Rich Young</td>
<td>Fr. Jay Suero</td>
<td>Thomas Wiezorek</td>
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We are grateful for the generosity of our parishioners. At the beginning of the pandemic, we made the decision to stop passing the collection basket and instead placing a basket at both entrances. We have decided to continue that practice.

**Parish Stewardship**

**Month of November, 2023**

- **Electronic Giveings**: $38,502.65
- **Envelopes & Loose**: $48,859.00
- **Total for November, 2023**: $87,361.65

We would ask that you consider electronic giving. It is safe, flexible, convenient and consistent. Simply scan the qrcode or complete the yellow sheet in your monthly envelope packet or call the parish office.

We thank you for your continued support.

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This Week at St. Francis

**Sunday, December 10th** Second Sunday of Advent
Helping Hands Outreach Gifts Due

**Monday, December 11th**
- Grief Support, 3:30PM (GR)
- Women's CRHP 25, 7:00PM (GR)

**Tuesday, December 12th**
- Prayer Shawl Mtg., 12:30PM (SFR)
- Continuation Committee, 6:30PM (GR)
- Knights of Columbus, 7:30PM (UH)

**Wednesday, December 13th**
- OA Mtg., 9:30AM (GR)
- Wed (A) RE Grades 1-8, 4:30PM-6:00PM (SFC-FR)

**Thursday, December 14th**
- Thurs RE Grades 1-8, 4:30PM-6:00PM (SFC-FR)
- Men's CRHP 25, 7:00PM (GR)

**Friday, December 15th**
- AA Mtg., 7:00PM (NR)

**Saturday, December 16th**
- Sat. RE Grades 1-8, 8:30AM-10:00AM (SFC-FR)
- Communal Reconciliation, 9:00AM
- Simbang Gabi, 7:00PM
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Communal Celebration
Saturday, December 16th 9:00AM
Monday, December 18th 7:30PM

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE
Sunday, December 24th
2:00PM*, 4:00PM*
9:00PM Carols
10:00PM Mass
*Mass will also be celebrated in Upton Hall (lower level)

CHRISTMAS DAY
Monday, December 25th
8:00AM 10:00AM 12:00PM

NEW YEAR’S DAY
Monday, January 1st
10:00AM

*Please note: there will not be a 12:00 Mass on Sunday, December 24th

MINISTRY OF CARE TRAINING
Tuesdays, January 23, 30 and February 6, 2023
Starting with light meal 4:45 – 8:00 pm
Our Lady of the Woods, 10731 W 131st St, Orland Park, IL 60462
Come to the Hospitality Room on the main floor of the church
Participation in these sessions meets the Office for Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Chicago, requirements to be eligible for mandating as a parish Minister of Care, ministering to the sick and homebound members of the parish. Participants must be approved and sent by a member of their parish Pastoral Team. The session will include such topics as spirituality of ministry, ministry to the aged, the experience of suffering, dying and death, pastoral listening skills, prayer and Eucharist, and the theological and practical dimensions of ministry. This seminar provides fresh theology and insights into the pastoral practice of the Ministry of Care.
Our presenter is Sr. Gael Gensler, presently the pastoral associate at St. Francis of Assisi parish. She has been involved in parish ministry for over twenty-five years. She currently co-coordinates the ministry of care for the parish.
To register go to https://ministrycommissionv5.com

We joyfully welcomed the following children into our Christian Community on November 19, 2023

Maggie Ann Andrews
Daughter of Brian & Haley (Andrews) Andrews

Madelyn Denise Murphy
Daughter of Patrick & Tiffany (Rehak) Murphy

We joyfully welcomed the following children into our Christian Community on December 3, 2023

Oliver Michael Laska
Son of Michael & Kristen (Barrett) Laska

Jackson Mark Thompson
Son of Corey & Leslie (Walker) Thompson

Lucas Matthew Yaeger
Son of Matthew & Amanda (Sadler) Yaeger

With joy, we announce the marriage of

Joel Montemayor, Jr. & Claribel Rocha
December 1, 2023

May your lives always be blessed with God’s love!
Have You Heard?

WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL!

The Church needs healing, and the world needs Jesus. The Holy Spirit is inviting us to return to the source and summit of our faith—the Eucharist.

eucharisticrevival.org

“Take; this is my body”
—Mark 14:22

The presence of Christ in the Eucharist is real, true, and substantial.

“Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love.” (St. John Paul II, Dominici cenae, no. 3)

“It is called: Eucharist, because it is an action of thanksgiving to God.” (CCC, no. 1328)

Eucharist “makes present the one sacrifice of Christ the Savior.” (CCC, no. 1330)

“This humble signs of bread and wine, changed into his body and blood, Christ walks beside us as our strength and our food for the journey, and he enables us to become, for everyone, witnesses of hope.”
— Ecclesia de Eucharistia, April 17, 2003

Eucharistic Revival Opportunities
First Friday Devotion
January 5th

Attend Mass and receive Communion in honor of The Sacred Heart of Jesus on the First Friday of each month for nine (9) consecutive months.

Come to our 8:30 AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi. A brief time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (adoration) will follow Mass. It will include the Litany of the Sacred Heart.

Sr. Margaret Mary Alacoque received this promise the Lord: “I promise you, in the excessive mercy of my Heart that My all powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving the sacraments; My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in that last moment.”
We warmly welcome our new parishioners (November 2023) to St. Francis of Assisi:

Marifran (Alessi) Drymiller
Frank & Carole (Sinise) Solatka
Anthony & Carol (Maffei) Sabbia
Alan Holloway
Mark & Sharon (Banach) Fulla and granddaughter, Julia
Robert E. Brown
Frank Plechsmid and children: Isabell & Laura

PARISH LIFE COMMISSION
Thank you to all our 7th graders for making blankets for young children in hospitals! Works of Mercy in action!

32nd Annual Christmas Outreach Appeal 2023

The SFA Helping Hands committee is thrilled to announce that this year we are returning to our traditional Christmas tags and gifts collection for the Christmas outreach program.

Christmas Outreach Program supports:
- St. Agatha Sharing Tree - purchasing Christmas gifts for over 400 people.
- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Charities Committee programs
- Dinners at Bishop Goedert Residence to honor US Veterans and Seniors
- Women Crisis Center and Courage Program supporting life
- Hunger Relief Programs
- St. Vincent de Paul directly assisting parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi

“For it is in giving that we receive”

Final Weekend
RETURN WRAPPED GIFT WITH TAG
TODAY
December 9 & 10
Helping Hands Committee of Saint Francis of Assisi
Monday, December 11th, 3:30-5pm in the Great Room.
Preparing for the Holidays with a Grieving Heart

The holiday season is a difficult time for those who have lost a loved one. If you are grieving a recent death, or even years later, the memories of joyous times can feel overwhelming in their absence.

Please consider joining other ‘grieving hearts’ to explore ways to plan for the upcoming holiday season.

For those who have already walked this path, consider sharing ideas and rituals that have brought comfort to you and those closest to you in past years. You are not alone.

Facilitated by Valerie Piazza LCPC

A heartfelt thank you to all who donated to the Thanksgiving Day Mass Food Drive. A whopping 600 lbs. of food and other items were donated to the Orland Township Food Pantry. $984 was also collected, which will be split between St. Blase in Summit and St. Philip Neri in Chicago. Thanks also to Bill Carroll, Tom Kulbida and Jan Paglia who worked fast and furious to box everything up before and after Mass!

Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Competition

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School/Gymnasium
9250 W 167th Street, Orland Hills

Sunday, January 7
4-6 PM
NO FEE TO PARTICIPATE
Open to boys and girls ages 9-14 to give it a shot!
A boy and girl winner from each age group will advance to the next round to compete for the State Championship

Please PRE-REGISTER by January 4th to: pat.mckernan@att.net
When pre-registering, email your child's first name, last name, and age.
We look forward to seeing you on January 7th!

Presented by the Knights of Columbus Father C.C. Boyle Council #4698, Tinley Park
THANK YOU!
Your prayers, care and support help to make it through these difficult days. My Sister, Linda and her family, have always been a special part of my life. She will be missed, but your presence makes it easier to carry this burden.

God bless you and keep you safe.
Sr. Gael

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Please keep those listed below in your daily prayers

Saturday, December 9th
5:00PM Joan Eckel rq. by John Eckel, Joseph Janachowski rq. by Bobbi Mangan, Eleanor Borschel rq. by Millie & Rick Klucheneck, Michael Clavio rq. by Bill & Ann Carroll, Benito Bonoan rq. by The Bonoan Family

Sunday, December 10th
8:00AM The People of St. Francis

10:00AM Virginia O’Farrell rq. by Family, Margaret Kulovitz rq. by The Curran Family, Jerry Wold rq. by The Januszky Family, Philip & Bernadette Cederstrom rq. by Family, Connor Christian rq. by Family

12:00PM Maria Perovich rq. by Sylvia & Jim Hilger, Dennis Prohaska rq. by Chuck & Maria Steffens, Zofia Slizowska rq. by Friends, Zbigniew Gacek rq. by Family, Stanislaw Gacek rq. by Family

Monday, December 11th
8:30AM Susan Cava rq. by Joseph March, Vicki Sopcak rq. by Jackie Guilbeau, Linda Huckabee rq. by Bill & Ann Carroll

Tuesday, December 12th
8:30AM Genevieve Riccordino rq. by Rosemary Zielinski, Gary & David Catalanello rq. by Marilyn Catalanello, Jimmy & Hieu Phan (healing)

Wednesday, December 13th
8:30AM Danuta Sowa (healing) rq. by Jan Ota, Anna Deliowska rq. by Jan Ota

Thursday, December 14th
8:30AM Armand Bonaguro rq. by Eileen & Steve Kositzky, James Brick rq. Family

Friday, December 15th
8:30AM Josephine Zbos rq. by John & Virginia Zbos, Linda Huckabee rq. by John & Virginia Zbos

Saturday, December 16th
5:00PM Joan Eckel rq. by John Eckel, Frank Ross rq. by debi, Karen, Frank Jr., Frank III & Renee Ross, Carol Anderson rq. by The Rittmeyer Family, Bernie Jarski rq. by The Jarski Family, Joseph Janachowski rq. by Sara Vettraino

Sunday, December 17th
8:00AM Schweiger & Norris Families rq. by The Schweiger Family, Biernat, Waszak & Wrubel Families rq. by Family, Michael Grekowicz rq. by The Grekowicz Family, Bernadette Tomasek rq. by Rita Kiloren, Armand Bonaguro rq. by The Bonaguro Family

10:00AM The People of St. Francis

12:00PM Stanley Pytel rq. by The Pytel Family, Marko Paljetak rq. by John & Carmel Gutzwiller & family, Bob Klein rq. by Teri Sankey, Florence Gath rq. by Brian & Carolyn Whiteford, Robert Morgan rq. by Mary Calhoun

SICK RELATIVES & FRIENDS

Names of sick relatives and friends normally appear in the bulletin for six weeks. After six weeks, the names are written into our parish book of prayers for continued remembrance. At the request of the family, Names will appear in the bulletin for a longer period.

Jerry Baldwin
Leslie Bartosz
Chris Becker
Sr Dolores Blahaus
Janice Blouin
John Blouin
Rich Bonetti
Len Cerrentano
Michael Craig
Pam England
Ray Farinella
Desirea Fetkenheuer
Marilyn Gallagher
Sandy Gibson
Gerald & Elizabeth Gill
Tori Goytia
Carol Grunow

Rich Hayes
Thomas Hickey
David Hyland
Henry Kielbowicz
Laura Kopp
John & Mary Lejawa
George Lopuszynski
Danilo Martinez
Peter Montovani
John Moritti
Wanda Murawski
Gwen Norvillas
Randy Pope
John Prohaska
Danuta Sowa
Chuck Steffens
Kimbery Trochuck
St. Francis of Assisi Parish Community
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
15050 South Wolf Road, Orland Park, Illinois 60467 - 708-460-0042
Website: http://www.sfaorland.org
Parish office e-mail: parishoffice@sfaorland.org
Parish phone: 708-460-0042

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday - 5:00 PM; Sunday - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM
WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE: Monday-Friday at 8:30 AM

REV. ARTUR SOWA, Pastor
(asowa@sfaorland.org)

SR. GAEL GENSLER, OSF, Pastoral Associate
(ggensler@sfaorland.org)

REV. JAY SUERO, Associate Pastor
(jsuero@sfaorland.org)

REV. EDWARD F. UPTON, Pastor Emeritus
(edfupton@aol.com)

REV. RICH YOUNG, OSA, Weekend Presider

DEACON DANIEL CARROLL, Permanent Deacon
(mkiley@sfaorland.org)

DEACON JOHN DONAHUE, Permanent Deacon
(jdonahue@sfaorland.org)

DEACON MICHAEL KILEY, Permanent Deacon
(mkiley@sfaorland.org)

DEACON TIM MCCORMICK, Permanent Deacon
(tmccormick@sfaorland.org)

DEACON MICHAEL PINDELSKI, Permanent Deacon
(mpindelski@sfaorland.org)

DEACON BRIAN WHITEFORD, Permanent Deacon
(bwhiteford@sfaorland.org)

ADMINISTRATION Phone: 460-0042, Fax: 460-0136
Office Manager: Paula Belski (pbelski@sfaorland.org)
Director of Facilities: Jim Hahn (jhahn@...)
Parish Accountant: Kathleen Biederman (kbiederman@...)
Receptionists: Ann Carroll (acarroll@...), Teri Sankey (tsankey@...)
Comm. Coordinator: Allison Domenick (adomenick@...)
Liturgy Coordinator: Gina Vitucci (gvitucci@...)
Facilities Maintenance: Monika Czajczyk, Tony Candelaria

MUSIC MINISTRY
Phone: 708-460-9831
Director: Leanne Stoterau (music@sfaorland.org)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
15010 Wolf Rd., Orland Park, IL 60467
Phone: 708-460-0155; FAX: 708-460-5086
Dir: Mary Kay Burberry, ext. 240 (mkburberry@sfaorland.org)
Coordinator: Jackie O’Malley, ext. 242 (jomalley@...)
Office Manager: Maureen Krzyminski, ext. 244 (mkrzyminski@...)

The Religious Ed Offices are located in the St. Francis Center, up the hill, west of the church. Religious Ed office hours are Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM. The Religious Ed offices are closed on Fridays.

CARDINAL JOSEPH BERNARDIN (CJB) SCHOOL
9250 W. 167th St., Orland Hills, IL 60487
Phone: 708-403-6525
Principal: Jeanne Pagliaro
Web page: www.cjbschool.org

Our elementary Catholic Regional school is located on the campus of St. Elizabeth Seton parish at 167th & 94th Ave.

REGISTRATION Become a registered member of the parish by completing a registration form which is found in Church.

BECOME A CATHOLIC - R.C.I.A. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, please contact the parish office at 708-460-0042

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Baptisms can be arranged by appointment. A baptismal conference will be set up with the parents.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Communal celebration of the Sacrament will be held during Advent and Lent. Individual confessions are heard on Saturdays at 9:00 - 9:30 AM to allow time for sanitizing the church before Funerals and Weddings.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Weddings need to be scheduled at least 4-6 months in advance upon approval of a priest. Couples are reminded to secure the church date before the reception hall. Please check our website for more details.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK Those of advanced age or suffering from a chronic or serious illness are invited to be anointed. A priest is available to offer the Sacrament whether the ill person is at home or in the hospital. Please call 708-460-0042. Anointing will also be offered on Mondays after Morning Mass.