

# *Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church*

1046 West Cedar Street - Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102  
(610) 433-6102

[www.stfrancisallentown.org](http://www.stfrancisallentown.org)

facebook: @stfrancisallentown

## *Pastor*

Reverend Monsignor Victor F. Finelli, Th. M., J.C.L.

## *Permanent Deacons*

Deacon Robert Young  
Deacon Ricardo Reyes



## *Mass Schedule*

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Daily: see Mass Schedule

Holy Day: (Vigil 7:00 PM) 8:00 AM & 12:05 PM



## *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

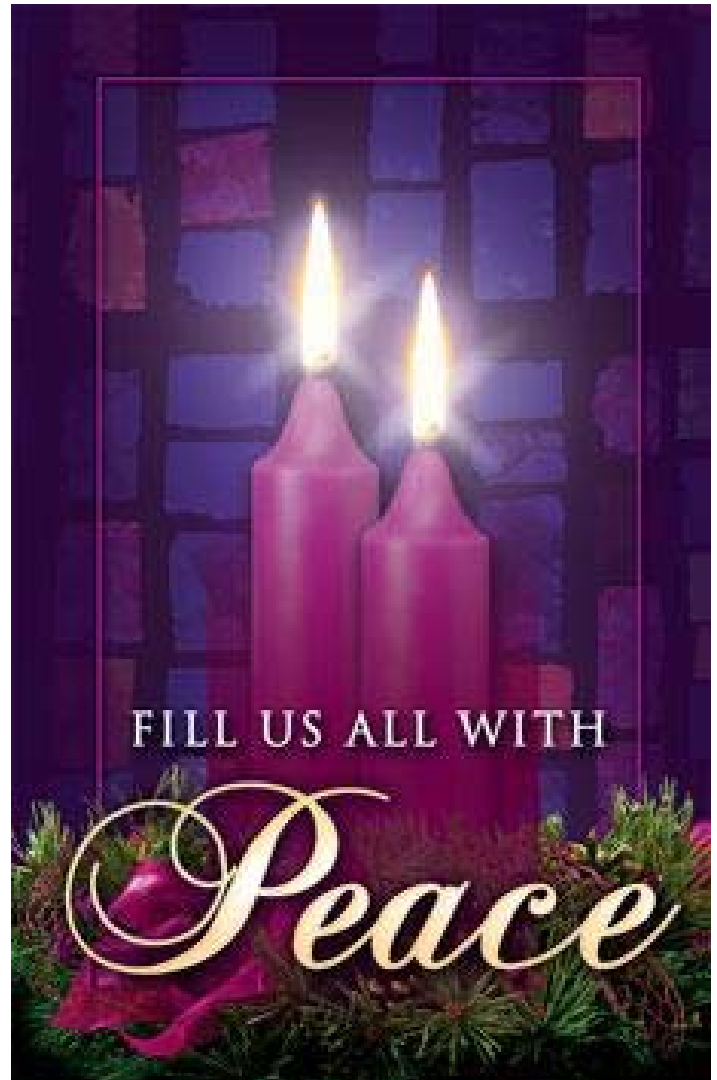
Saturday: 3:15-4:00 PM

Anytime by appointment



## *Adoration Chapel*

Please consider spending some time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Adoration Chapel is open daily from 6:00 AM—9:00 PM.



*December 8, 2019*

*Second Sunday of Advent*

We, the people of Saint Francis of Assisi Church, a Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Allentown, a faith-filled people, united in the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist, strive to be the Body of Christ. We manifest our unity through the joyful celebration of the Sacraments. We pledge to use our gifts and resources to live the Faith, preach the Word, and Service others as we welcome all into our faith community.



## SACRAMENTAL AND PARISH INFORMATION

### **New Members**

Welcome to Saint Francis Parish. Please call the Parish Center Office in order to register in our parish, or stop in during office hours or on the weekend after all Masses. One needs to be a member of our parish three months in order to receive a certificate of eligibility. Please notify the office if you change your address or move away.

### **Religious Education (PREP)**

All children of the parish should be receiving religious instruction through our parish school or through our Parish Religious Education Program offered on a Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:15 AM. Please contact Mrs. Camille Stockdale, our Director of Religious Education, for more information regarding our PREP (610-435-0364).

### **Marriage**

We look forward to celebrating God's gift of love in the sacrament of marriage for any registered and practicing parishioner. Diocesan policy states that contact should be made one year, but no later than six months, prior to the proposed date of marriage in order to begin pre-nuptial instructions. Call the Parish Center Office for further information.

### **Baptisms**

Baptisms are held for our registered and practicing parishioners normally the first Sunday of the month immediately after the 10:30 Mass. Parents are to register for a Baptismal Preparation Class held normally on the Wednesday before each baptism in the Parish Center. At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic for the valid reception of baptism. That person must also be able to receive a certificate of eligibility from their Catholic parish. A Non-Catholic Christian is permitted to act as a witness. Parents should begin to make arrangements for a baptism during pregnancy.

### **Ministry to the Sick**

Visits to the hospital are made on a regular basis. Please notify the Parish Center Office when a parishioner is in the hospital or home and would like to receive communion or the anointing of the sick. Visits can also be made to those parishioners who are homebound and would like to receive communion.

### **Saint John Vianney Regional School**

We encourage all our parents to consider sending their children to our parish school, Saint John Vianney Regional School. Our school is located at 210 North 18th Street in Allentown. Please contact our school principal, Dr. Emily Kleintop (610-435-8981), to register your child for a faith based, middle-states accredited, Catholic education.

### **Allentown Central Catholic High School**

We encourage our high school students to consider attending our local Catholic high school - Allentown Central Catholic. Please contact Cara Meskill, the Director of Admissions, at (610) 437-4601 for more information.

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

We welcome and support all whose faith journey brings them to seek full communion with the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Center Office for further information.

### **Wills and Memorials**

As a lasting remembrance or final gift to your parish, all parishioners are encouraged to include St. Francis of Assisi in their wills or as a beneficiary on an insurance policy. At the time of passing of a relative or friend, consider enrolling them in the Sanctuary Memorial Fund. Memorials are available in the Parish Center Office and are often used in lieu of flowers.

### **Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator**

Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT  
610-332-0442, ext. 2019

### **Victim Assistance Coordinator**

Wendy Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC  
Direct Telephone Number (800)791-9209

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church. To learn more about the Diocese of Allentown's Youth Protection Programs, Sexual Abuse Policy, and Code of Conduct, please visit [www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org) and click on "Youth Protection" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

# Mass Schedule

**Monday, December 9th** Immaculate Conception  
*Gn 3:9-15; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38* of the Blessed Virgin Mary

12:05 PM Mary Lee Schibel  
 7:00 PM Theresa M. Bult

**Tuesday, December 10th**  
*Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14*

8:00 AM Sesto A. Ferretti  
 Joseph Marzilli & Marshall Silverstein

**Wednesday, December 11th** Saint Damasus I  
*Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30*

8:00 AM Theodore Volack

**Thursday, December 12th** Our Lady of Guadalupe  
*Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38*

8:00 AM Joseph Pavkovich

**Friday, December 13th** Saint Lucy  
*Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19*

8:00 AM Lucy Maruscak

**December 14th & 15th**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

*Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11*

4:30 PM John Fignar

8:30 AM Joseph & Joseph Francis Philapavage  
 People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

10:30 AM Edward J. Kloiber

Immaculate Conception Holyday

Although it is not a Holyday of Obligation this year, please note that there is a 12:05 PM and a 7:00 PM Mass for the feast of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Monday, December 8th.



Sanctuary Lamp Memorials  
 The Sanctuary Lamp Memorial for the week of  
 December 8th is:

***In Memory of Lucy Maruscak  
 by the Maruscak Family***

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

***Sophia "Sunny" Gergel***

by: Barbara Hanks & Joyce Kohler, Wayne Miller &  
 Bob Pacific, Steven Carson & Bradley Kerstetter,  
 Eugene Horn, Gina Karess, Dino & Theresa Carfara,  
 James & Lynne Schaffer

*Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord*

Recently Deceased

Please pray for the soul of Norman Cimerol,  
 brother of parishioner Nanette Lamparella, who  
 recently passed away. Grant him eternal rest, O  
 Lord, and may his family know your peace and comfort.



St. Francis Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizens group will hold their Christmas Party  
 on Monday, December 9th at the Parkland Restaurant. For  
 more information, call Madeline Klotz at 610-395-7386.

"Joyfully Living, Gratefully Giving" Program

Thank you to all our parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card to the church. As a reminder, all commitments need to be submitted to the church no later than Sunday, December 8th in order to be accounted for in the final Summary Report. Please complete and submit your card to the church even if you are unable to make a change to your current level of giving. For those registered parishioners not currently supporting the church with regular offertory gifts, please consider a monthly gift to support the needs of our parish.



**Online Giving**

Thank you for using  
 Online Giving. Parish-  
 ioners who use the  
 service are pleased

with how easy it is to set up and manage. If you have not yet signed up for Online Giving, then please consider this option. This is a perfect tool for anyone who shops online! By using Online Giving, you are helping the parish to improve our operational efficiency. See our parish bulletin or visit our parish website at [www.stfrancisallentown.org](http://www.stfrancisallentown.org) and select Online Giving.



**Giving Tree**

Our annual Giving Tree is up and decorated in the vestibule. We will be helping Catholic Charities Children, Manor Care, and Allentown Head Start. Gifts should be wrapped and returned no later than **Sunday, December 15th.**

*Please support our advertisers on the back of the  
 bulletin who make this publication possible.*

Outreach Committee Meeting

The Outreach Committee meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, December 9th at 6:30 PM in Heritage Hall. Please enter through the Cedar Street ramp. New members are welcomed!

**SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO  
 OUR PARISH BREAKFAST!**



This Sunday, December 8th, breakfast will be served from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Church Hall. Enjoy a great breakfast and a visit with Santa. Breakfast: \$6.00 adults & \$4.00 for children. Pictures with Santa: \$3.00. The Men of St. Francis, and Santa Claus, look forward to seeing you there.



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 Phone: 610-435-8981 Email: altlsjv@ptd.net

**Call us today to schedule a tour at your convenience!**  
**SJVRs: Educating a child's character, mind and spirit!**

St. John Vianney Regional School is looking for a few good people!

- We are seeking an Instructional Assistant for the Middle School Aquinas classroom. Under the supervision of the Aquinas teacher, the assistant would help monitor students, deliver scripted lessons, and assist students in studies.
- Substitute teachers needed. Work on a day by day basis as desired.

Please contact Dr. Kleintop in the Main School office to submit your application for any of these positions.

[www.StJohnVianneySchool.org](http://www.StJohnVianneySchool.org)



**Book Fair at St. John Vianney School**  
 A book fair will be open in the PAC of St. Catharine's after Saturday 4:15 PM Mass and Sunday 9, 10:30 and noon Masses on December 14th & 15th, and also on Wednesday, December 18th from 3:30 to 7:00 PM. All are welcome.



**PREP News**  
 Welcome back, PREP Students!

After a perfect Sunday "break" on December 1st for Thanksgiving we are back to work! We have a very busy December schedule!

- We will be discussing Advent, continue our Mission of the Month Club and going to Confession!
- December 8th Class and Youth Mass
- December 9th Holy Day
- December 12th PREP Penance Service 6:00
- December 15th Class
- December 22nd Class
- December 29th NO CLASS - Christmas Holiday

**Christmas Tableau**

December 24th at 3:45 PM.  
 Please join us to enjoy a "retelling" of the Nativity Story re-enacted by our Parish Children. The congregation will join us in prayer and song and truly get in the Christmas spirit before the 4:30 Mass. All are welcome.



**Youth Ministry Meetings**

**Sunday, December 15th** - Regular Youth Group Meeting 11:30 AM-1 PM  
 For information call or text Ms. Jenn: 484-433-0265 or email [jreasinger@stfrancisallentown.org](mailto:jreasinger@stfrancisallentown.org).  
 Follow us on Instagram@sfayouthgroup. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StFrancisAssisiYouthGroup/>



**Congratulations, Monsignor Finelli**

We extend our congratulations to Monsignor Finelli who recently graduated from the "Good Leaders, Good Shepherds" year-long course of study in effective and Christ-centered leadership in the Church today. Monsignor has been attending a weeklong class every month this calendar year and on November 21st he, along with eleven other diocesan Priests, graduated from the program.

Using Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd as the ultimate model of leadership, Good Leaders, Good Shepherds is a world-class curriculum that celebrates and supports the ministry of Catholic Priests. Given the demands of ministry and the complexity of running parishes, effective leadership is paramount to creating and building authentic, vibrant Catholic communities. Good Leaders, Good Shepherds is designed to help Priests overcome today's challenges of a diminishing number of clergy and more complex circumstances for Priestly ministry.

Through Good Leaders, Good Shepherds, Priests can minimize the frustration and energy that they spend on their administrative roles, and instead, maximize the joy and time spent on the pastoral duties for which they were uniquely ordained. Ultimately, the impact of this formation is more holy, healthy, and happy shepherds of vibrant parish communities, leading more people to a deeper relationship with Christ. Good Leaders, Good Shepherds is designed just for Priests, so each learning module includes ample time for prayer, liturgy, and building Priestly fraternity. All sessions are highly interactive, pastoral, and relevant to the vocation of Priestly life and day-to-day pastoring. Using Priest/parish-based examples, and the best of our Catholic tradition, the curriculum provides the skills and practices that will allow a Priest to be a happy, holy, and healthy shepherd in any leadership circumstance.



"Feed Your Faith"

### Our Parish Gift Card Program

The final gift card order to Great Lakes Scrip Center before Christmas will go in on **Monday, December 16th**. Orders must be prepaid and in the parish office by Monday noon on December 16th. Pick up by Friday or on the weekend after Mass. (Lists of available stores in the Parish Office.)



### Oplatki Available

Oplatki is available in the Parish Office for \$3 per pack of 3 wafers. A Christmas tradition from the Polish-Slovak-Lithuanian cultures, Oplatki is a wafer shared by the family around the dinner table, often at the Christmas Eve Wigilia (Vi-geel-ya). Each family member breaks off a piece and wishes each other good luck and blessings in the coming year.



### Youth Ministry

On Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 12:00 PM, members of the Youth Ministry will be participating in Wreaths Across America at Cedar Hill Memorial Park. This program remembers and honors our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Ms. Jenn: [jreasinger@stfrancisallentown.org](mailto:jreasinger@stfrancisallentown.org) or 484-433-0265 call/text



### ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Please mark your calendars with this year's Advent Confession Schedule:

- **Thursday, December 12th:** 6:30 - 7:30 PM  
*(extra priests will be available)*
- **Saturday, December 14th:** 3:15 - 4:00 PM
- **Monday, December 16th:** 4:00 - 4:30 PM and 7:00 - 7:30 PM

### Saint Joseph Sunday Missal

We still have some of the new Saint Joseph Sunday Missal for 2020 for sale in the Parish Office. The cost is still only \$5.00.



**Christmas Tableau**  
Our parish children are working incredibly hard to bring you the best Christmas Tableau ever. Please plan to join us at 3:45 PM for the performance on Christmas Eve. We will ask everyone to join us in song and prayer! Musical prelude begins at 3:15 PM, featuring soloist Lexi Hannis.

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

We hope to see your children in December at 10:30 AM Mass for Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Our schedule is:

December 15th

December 22nd

The children will light their "own" Advent Wreath during the Word. Children's Liturgy is a great way for your children to truly understand the readings during the Season of Advent.



### Movie Club - Charting Christmas



December 15th, 1:30 doors open/2:00 movie. Take a break from holiday parties, shopping and gift wrapping and enjoy an afternoon with your parish family watching Charting Christmas! We will learn all about our Christmas Traditions and how they developed! We will provide hot cocoa for everyone and YOU bring toppings of your liking to enjoy and share!!! Soda, popcorn, candy and door prizes - always available, always FREE!

All are welcome!

### ALSO, PLEASE NOTE:

Come to the Stable - has been rescheduled to Wednesday, December 18th at 5:30/6:00~We hope to see you there!



### Catechism Classes For Men

Every first and third Tuesday of the month (December 17th) at 7:00 PM, The Catholic Men of Good News are showing videos to deepen our knowledge of the faith in our Franciscan Center. For info call the Parish Office.

### Liturgical Ministers Schedule - Saturday and Sunday, December 14th & 15th

|   | <u>4:30 PM</u>           | <u>8:30 AM</u>            | <u>10:30 AM</u>           |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                 | G. Rodriguez             | V. Falcone                | C. Stockdale              |
| <b>Eucharistic Minister</b>                   | L. Eberly, L. Stofko     | T. Fallon, R. Reichenbach | H. & A. Moyer             |
| <b>Cantor</b>                                 | S. Kuczynski             | D. Lamparella             | S. Kuczynski              |
| <b>Organist</b>                               | C. Hageman               | J. DeMatto                | D. Badesso                |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                          | J. Fittipaldi, V. Herman | C. Koccon                 | D. Koury, B. Miller       |
| <b>Sacristan</b>                              | L. Hannis                | T. Bartman                |                           |
| <b>Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders</b> |                          |                           | R. Granitz, M. Florentino |



## WEEKEND OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Weekend of November 30th & December 1st

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| # of envelopes mailed:    | 725        |
| # of envelopes received:  | 180        |
| % of envelopes used:      | 25%        |
| Total of First Collection | \$6,134.88 |

*Thank you for your continued financial support through our "Joyfully Living, Gratefully Giving" campaign. Your donation is so greatly appreciated.*

### Part-Time Position Available

St. Mary's Church, 122 Union Street, Catasauqua is looking for a part-time maintenance/groundskeeper/cleaning person approximately 15 hours per week. Background checks, Protecting God's Children Class, and Mandated Reporter Training required. Please send an email of interest to kim.stmarys122@gmail.com.



### Sight and Sound Bus Trip

St. Francis of Assisi Church will travel to Sight & Sound's new show, "Queen Esther" on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. \$113 per person includes transportation, lunch at Shady

Maple, show, and bus driver tip. We'll depart church at 10:00 AM for Shady Maple, then on to Sight and Sound Theatre for the 3:00 PM show, and leave for home immediately following the show. Call Stephanie at the Parish Office, 610-433-6102 to sign up or for more information.

### Helpers of God's Precious Infants

Saturday December 14, 2019 Helper's Pilgrimage: Please join Fr. John Pendzick and the Helpers of God's Precious Infants at a Prayer Pilgrimage for the unborn and all those involved in abortion. The pilgrimage begins with Mass at 8:00 AM at Notre Dame Church of Bethlehem, 1861 Catasauqua Road and continues with The Rosary at the abortion facility located at 31 South Commerce Way in the Bethlehem Industrial Park. The Mission: That through prayer, peaceful presence, and fasting we may be God's instruments in the salvation of souls, so that innocent lives will be saved from abortion. Be part of the call to bring God's everlasting, unconditional love to those involved in abortion that their hearts may be converted and receive God's gift of life with joy. Contact Info: <https://m.facebook.com/Helpers-of-Gods-Precious-Infants-of-Allentown>



### New Parishioners

As a parish community, we always welcome new members with open arms and hearts. At this time we would like to welcome

Tyler Bauer, George Dziados, Cassandra Gomez, and Jesus Orozco.

## "Feed Your Faith" Gift Card Program

"Feed Your Faith" is the Parish's easiest fundraising program. It costs you nothing extra, but it benefits the Parish immensely! Each gift card you buy has a return of 1.5% to 10% profit to the parish. Please consider buying the gift cards to do your grocery shopping, give as gifts, or just to purchase instead of using cash at the retailers. Please see the list below for our participating retailers. *These gift cards are usually available every day in the Parish Office!*

**A.C. Moore: \$25 *limited quantity***

**Amazon.com: \$25, \$100**

**Applebees: \$10, \$25**

**Banana Republic: \$25**

**Barnes and Nobles: \$10, \$25**

**Bath and Body Works: \$10, \$25**

**Bed, Bath & Beyond: \$25**

**Buy Buy Baby: \$25**

**Bethlehem Gallery of Floors: *mention St. Francis***

**Bonefish Grill: \$25**

**Boscov's: \$25**

**Carrabbas: \$25**

**Christmas Tree Shops: \$25**

**Dunkin Donuts: \$10**

**Gap: \$25**

**Giant: \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100**

**Home Depot: \$25, \$100**

**Kohl's: \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100**

**Longhorn Steakhouse: \$25**

**Lowe's: \$25, \$100**

**Macy's: \$25**

**Old Navy: \$25**

**Olive Garden: \$25**

**Outback Steakhouse: \$25**

**Panera Bread: \$10**

**Red Robin: \$25**

**Red Lobster: \$25**

**Redner's Warehouse: \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100**

**Ruby Tuesday: \$25**

**Sam's Club: \$25, \$100**

**Target: \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100**

**Texas Roadhouse: \$25**

**Visa: \$50, \$100**

**Wal-Mart: \$10, \$25, \$100**

**Wegman's: \$25, \$50, \$100**

**Weis: \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100**

**Wendy's: \$10**



# CHRISTMAS NUT ROLL SALE

Want a perfect treat for Christmas? Homemade nut rolls baked by Country Cottage Bake Shop are the perfect snack with a cup of coffee or tea. These nut rolls freeze wonderfully, making them easy to save for Christmas! Consider buying a nut roll or two and supporting your Parish. *(We need to sell 100 nut rolls to place our order.)*

*All orders are due today, Sunday, December 8th. NO ORDERS will be accepted after that date. All payments are due with order. Please make checks payable to Saint Francis Church.*



**Price:** \$16 per roll

**Size:** 15" long - 1.5 lbs

**Flavors:** Nut (English Walnut), Poppyseed, Apricot, Prune (Levkar), Red Raspberry (seedless), & Pumpkin Cheese

**Pick-up Date:** December 21st & 22nd in the Parish Office

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## NUT ROLL ORDER FORM

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quantity (per flavor):** \_\_\_\_\_ Nut \_\_\_\_\_ Poppyseed \_\_\_\_\_ Prune

\_\_\_\_\_ Apricot \_\_\_\_\_ Red Raspberry \_\_\_\_\_ Pumpkin Cheese

**Total Nut Rolls:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All orders MUST be in by December 8th. No orders will be accepted after that date. Please make checks payable to Saint Francis Church.**