

St. Francis of Assisi Church

883 Moscow Street
Munjoy, Kansas 67601

785-625-5314

office@stfrancis-church.com

www.stfrancis-church.com

*Lord make me an
instrument of peace...*



PASTOR

Fr. Damian Richards 628-1446
Emergency Contact 621-2699

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Lilly Binder 623-8000

FINANCE/PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON

Ernie Binder 639-5314

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Joseph Pfannenstiel 259-2762

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Peggy Richmeier 656-0033

ART & ENVIRONMENT

Ann Pfannenstiel 628-8458
Jerry & Sylvia Gross 342-4183

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

GRAND KNIGHT

Kevin Stramel 623-7107

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS PRESIDENT

Michelle Werth 623-3003

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday - 8:00 am
Wednesday - 7:30 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sunday - 7:30 am

BAPTISMS - Preparation class
required for first time parents
and inactive Catholics.
Contact Lilly to schedule.

MARRIAGES - Couples anticipating
marriage must contact Lilly at least
6 months prior to wedding date.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Holy Family Elementary 625-3131

www/hfehays.org

Thomas More Prep-Marian 625-6577

www.tmp-m.org



Love

MASS INTENTIONS

- Sun. Dec. 20 8:00 am +Norbert & Betty Leiker
- Wed. Dec. 23 7:30 am +Nick & Almeda Stecklein
- Christmas Eve 7:00 pm +Paul & Ruby Binder
- Sun. Dec. 27 8:00 am +Henry & Loretta Stecklein
- Wed. Dec. 30 7:30 am L/D Walter & Martina Younger family
- Friday Jan. 1 8:00 am +Gilbert & Gloria Leiker

SERVERS

- Sunday, Dec. 20 Cali Richmeier & Rafe Richmeier
- Christmas Eve Braydon B., Logan L., Rexton L., Joe P.
- Sunday, Dec. 27 Valerie Dome & Ahnaly Leiker
- New Year's Day Benjamin Dome & Alec Gerstner

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

- Sunday, Dec. 20 Lauren Moeder & Peggy Richmeier
- Christmas Eve Mark Leiker & Rhonda Stramel
- Sunday, Dec. 27 Lilly Binder & Michelle Werth
- New Year's Day Glenn Stramel & Bea Suppes

LECTORS

- Sunday, Dec. 20 John Moeder
- Christmas Eve Brian Pfannenstiel
- Sunday, Dec. 27 Natalie Oborny
- New Year's Day Jeanette Pfannenstiel

COLLECTION TEAM

Sunday, December 20

Kenny Pfannenstiel, Donovan Richmeier, Glenn Stramel, Darold Younker

Christmas Eve

Jason Carter, John Oborny, Tony Rohr, Randy Werth

Sunday, December 27

Wilbert Gross, Mark Leiker, Brian Pfannenstiel, Sid Steinert

New Year's Day ~ Volunteers

TRAVELING CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS

- Sunday, Dec. 20 Ken & Peggy Richmeier
- Sunday, Dec. 27 Glenn & Rhonda Stramel
- Sunday, Jan. 3 Randy & Michelle Werth
- Sunday, Jan. 10 Mark & Dora Leiker

REFLECTION FROM DEACON STEVE URBAN:

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Woman" sung at Mass, the last line of the refrain says, "Teach us wisdom...teach us love". Mary, our Mother, can teach us wisdom and love because she was total virgin not only in her body but her whole being. To become virgin is to do what Fr. Richard Rohr says, "Stop idolizing the illusion of our control over the events of life and recognizes our poverty". Fr. Rohr says in the Annunciation account, which is today's Gospel, that Mary recognizes God's love for her. In this same passage, Fr. Rohr says Mary gives her total commitment without knowing all the details of how God would take birth in her womb. We too must be totally open, totally virginal, to God's plan for our lives even when the road ahead seems uncertain.

Our first reading from Second Samuel is a testament that our God is a God of surprises. In this passage, we hear how King David wants to build an elaborate temple to be God's dwelling place. David recognizes the irony of the situation for he is living in a gorgeous palace while the ark of the covenant sits in a lowly tent. To rectify the matter, David tells his prophet Nathan of his intentions to build God a beautiful temple. Nathan returns to King David, and tells him that it is God who will build David a house or dynasty which will last forever. God has turned everything upside down and is surprising David with a lasting kingship. God continues to turn things topsy turvy in the birth announcement to Mary in Luke's Gospel. In Jesus the long-awaited fulfillment of the prophecy spoken to David is realized. Jesus, to take flesh in this humble virgin, is both son of David and more importantly Son of God. What is more surprising and amazing is that this woman will conceive by the power of God's Spirit, but only because of her openness and receptivity to God's plan!

So, while King David wants to build a suitable dwelling for the ark of the covenant, Mary, in Luke's Gospel, becomes the ark of the covenant. Mary, this young teenage girl, is now the supreme dwelling place for God. Mary becomes the pure vessel for the Almighty God to come to dwell with humankind. And it happens because Mary is virgin in body, mind, and heart. Without understanding God's plan and all its ramifications, Mary voices her response with a simple fiat, "Let it be done to me". Like Mary, we too have to allow God to come to birth in our total being. We must allow God to take flesh in our daily lives. The key for this miracle to happen is for all of us to be virginal in our stance before God. We need to recognize that we are broken and cannot fix our lives without God breaking in and becoming our savior and Lord.

What changes in our lives will we need to make to be like Mary, pure virgin? Pure virgin implies that we give ourselves totally to God and no one else. Nothing hinders our relationship with God. Yet, if we're honest we must admit that there are many things or possessions, people, and mostly our ego that stand in our way. We must be willing to let go of these before we can stand naked before our God. The first step in letting these things go is an awareness of the power they have



*Are you part of the INN CROWD,
Or are you one of the STABLE FEW?*



over our lives. We must recognize their control over our lives, and admit that these things cannot bring us happiness. We must be totally honest and admit that things and people possess us more than we possess them. Let's pray that our Mother Mary be our model, advocate, and inspiration in desiring to be virginal before our God.

Deacon Steve...

Tithe ~ Stewardship of Treasure

Envelopes	\$2,080.00	Ret. Rel.	\$265.00
Loose	\$470.00	Poinsettias	\$75.00
Candles	\$13.00		

Total \$2,903.00

Contributions can also be mailed to the Parish Office:
St. Francis Church
883 Moscow St.
Munjor, KS 67601



We will practice Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Religious Formation: No Class, Christmas Break.



24th Christmas Eve Mass: 7:00 p.m.

25th Christmas Day: *NO MASS*



UPDATE: 2021 Mass Intentions. Currently there has been less than normal Mass intention requests. If you have already scheduled some, we would allow for a few additional requests through June. Stipends are \$10 per Mass.

Contact Lilly to schedule ~ 623-8000.

The "Little Town of Bethlehem" Nativity at St. Boniface Church in Vincent will be open for visitation on Sunday, December 20, and on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25. Viewing times are 1-5 p.m.

*JESUS is the gift
that perfectly fits the size of every heart.*



ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE:

St. Boniface was a teacher, monk and missionary in Germany in the 700s. He converted many and established Benedictine monasteries, schools, and churches.

But while people would be baptized, they still kept up their old religion. They would go to Mass on Sunday and then sacrifice to Thor on Thor's day. They did this from fear of being different from their pagan neighbors, or because they were afraid of how their old gods would react.

Knowing that the people needed a reason to let go of worshipping their old gods, Boniface called the tribes to a display of power. As the people watched, Boniface approached a giant oak, a sacred tree dedicated to Thor, with an axe and began to chop it down.

Some of the people must have trembled with each stroke of his axe, but nothing happened. Finally, with a crack, the tree split in four parts that, according to legend, fell to the ground in the shape of a cross. There stood Boniface, axe in hand, unharmed by their old gods, strong in the power of the one God.

The Germans were astounded. The holy bishop preached the Gospel to the people and used a little fir tree that was behind the now felled oak tree as a tool of evangelization. Pointing to it he said, "This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree tonight. It is the wood of peace... It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are ever green. See how it points upward to heaven. Let this be called the tree of the Christ-child; gather about it, not in the wild wood, but in your own homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and rites of kindness."

In the centuries that followed, the Catholic tradition of using an evergreen tree to celebrate the birth of Jesus spread throughout Germany, and German immigrants in the eighteenth century brought the custom to the New World.



As Christmas approaches, over 272 Ellis Co. families rely on the Community Assistance Center for Christmas dinner. \$50.00 sponsors one family for a Christmas food basket. If you would like to help, mail donations to: Community Assistance Center 12th & Oak St. Hays. We also accept items for donation daily. For more info call Laurie at 625-9110.

The end of the calendar year is fast approaching. If you are considering a year-end donation, please keep St. Francis of Assisi Parish in mind. These unexpected donations and your ongoing support are greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless you abundantly for your generosity.

DECEMBER –A gift to U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT) can make a difference in our efforts to confront the Human Trafficking pandemic. (www.sistersagainstrafficking.org). a 501© 3 organization. 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131.

St. Joseph's Food Pantry Distribution Day: January 2nd.



Adam, Stacy Dittmer, Special Intentions, Ramona Weigel, Curt Brungardt, Carole Carter, Stan Herrmann, Jerry Barnes, Parishioners in Health Care Facilities.

Drop requests in the collection basket or let Lilly know.
Let Lilly know when the intention can be removed.

HEARTLAND PARISHES CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 24th - Thursday, Christmas Eve

IHM - No Morning Mass or Confessions
IHM - 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm (Spanish), 10:00pm
Antonino - 4:00pm
St. Joseph - 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm
St. Joseph - 11:30pm Choir Christmas Music, Mass at 12am
St. Nicholas of Myra - 5:00pm, 9:00pm
Schoenchen - 5:00pm
** Munjor - 7:00pm

December 25th - Friday, Christmas Day

St. Joseph - 7:30am, 10:30am
IHM - 8:00am, 10:00am
IHM - No 12pm or 6pm Masses or Confessions
Catharine - 9:00am
St. Nicholas of Myra - 9:30am
Catholic Campus Center - No 6:00pm Mass

Marian Grotto Lighting! The Marian Grotto located on the campus of TMP-Marian is beautifully lit through the Christmas season. Please enjoy this reverent space and we hope it will make your Advent prayerful and special. Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this possible.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS



HOLY FAMILY ELEMENTARY

Rachel Wentling, Principal
625-3131

Dec. 21st - Jan. 4th -NO SCHOOL! CHRISTMAS BREAK!



THOMAS MORE PREP- MARIAN

Chad Meitner, Principal
Bob Leikam, Jr. High Assistant Principal
625-6577

Kitchen Help Needed! TMP-M is currently looking for a food service employee to assist in the kitchen, particularly with dish washing during the serving times. The position is 3 hours per day (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) five days a week when school is in session. Interested candidates should contact Carol Feauto, Kitchen Manager, by email at feautoc@tmpmarian.org or by phone at 785-625-6577.



*O Come let us
Adore Him*

*Merry
Christmas!*

Shells Partially Donated by Northwestern Printers.

Mission Statement:

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is built on a foundation of faith. We continue that spirit by welcoming all people to participate in our spiritual growth. As we are called to love God and and be examples of his teachings, we strive for unity through fellowship and participation in all areas of the Catholic faith.