

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

167 St. Francis Place, P.O. Box 634,
Jefferson, North Carolina 28640



Domine, fac me servum pacis tuae

Office Phone:(336) 246-9151

Email: stfrancis@skybest.com

Website: <http://stfrancisofofassisi-jefferson.org/>

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Friday: 10:00am - 1:00pm

10:00am—5:00pm

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Sign-up only

Sunday Sign-up only

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30pm - 4:15pm & 6:30pm - 7:15pm

Sunday 8:00am - 8:30am

Or by appointment

*Sunday, November 29, 2020
The First Sunday of Advent*



*Take heed, watch;
for you do not
know when the
time will come.
Mark 13:33*

WELCOME

Father Cory Catron, Pastor
Deacon Lee Levenson, Deacon

Administrative Assistant:

Chris Gailey

wk: 336-246-9151

Pastoral Council:

Joanne Kuszaj—Chairperson

336-982-3054

Finance Council:

Rick LaBonte - Chairperson

336-877-2300

Choir Director:

Randy Revis

336-384-2835

Faith Formation:

Isabel Spencer (Coordinator)

336-877-0883

Home Bound Ministers:

Brings the Eucharist to the Homebound

Please call the church office

336-246-9151

For anointing of the sick, receiving the Eucharist while home-bound/in the hospital, hearing of your confession, or special prayers and/or visit from Father please call the church office.

St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery: Plots are available for purchase during office hours. Payment in full is required at purchase. Prices are: \$750/per full size plot; \$250/per urn size plot.

Weekend Masses: Due to the regulations of limited seating we are requiring that attendees to the Sunday Masses sign up prior to attending. Attendance will be limited to the current requirements of social distancing. To sign up for Mass please contact **Joanne at 336-982-3054 or jkuszaj@gmail.com**. Attendees are asked to wear a mask. Those not able to attend Mass are granted a dispensation.

Live Streaming the 9:00am Sunday Mass on the Parish YouTube Channel. You can find the channel by searching YouTube for “St. Francis of Assisi, Jefferson, NC”. The Live Stream will begin approximately 1 minute before Mass. You do not need a Google or YouTube account to simply watch the video. At the conclusion of the Live Stream, the video will be archived and available on the parish YouTube channel within 12- 24 hours.

Weekday Masses: In accordance with CDC guidelines and direction of Bishop Jugis attendance is limited to within social distancing recommendations in the worship area.

Parish Commissions & Committees

Commission Chairperson:

Liturgy/Worship—Vickie Herman

336-877-5656

Parish Life—

Volunteer Needed

Community Life—Diane LaBonte

336-877-2300

Prison Ministry —

Knights of Columbus

Ecumenism-- Bernadette Zimmerman

336-846-4518

Building/Facilities—Mike Gailey

336-338-2488

Prayer Chain (prayer request):

Chairperson—Mary Rodgers

336-877-5399

Vicariate Hispanic Ministry Coordinator:

Sergio Lopez

336-529-3748

Baptism Prep Class, Spanish:

Jose Juan Robles

336-977-4612

Bulletin Deadline: Items for the bulletin must be submitted to the Church Office before 12:00pm on Wednesday.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, November 29

6:30pm - Spanish Leadership Meeting

Tuesday, December 1

6:00pm - Parish Council Meeting

8:00pm - Spanish Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 2

6:00pm - Knights of Columbus Meeting

Thursday, December 3

6:00pm - Adult Formation Class

Saturday, December 5

1:00pm - Presentation

Christmas decorations for the sanctuary: During this Advent and Christmas Season, the parish has placed out envelopes for parishioners to donate money for flowers to decorate the church. If you would like to make a donation in “honor of” or “memory of” your loved ones, please pick up an envelope on the table in the Church entryway. Please place the envelopes in the black box located on the office door by **Sunday, December 20th** as the names will be placed in the bulletin for Christmas. Thank you.



Decoraciones Navideñas para el Santuario

Durante este Adviento y Estación Navideña, la parroquia ha puesto sobres para que los parroquianos que deseen donar dinero hacia las flores para decorar la iglesia. Si usted desea hacer una donación en “honor de” o “en memoria de” sus seres queridos, favor de recoger o tomar un sobre en la mesa de la entrada de la Iglesia. Por favor, coloque los sobres en la caja negra ubicada en la puerta de la oficina para el **domingo 20 de diciembre**, ya que los nombres se colocarán en el boletín para Navidad. Gracias.

Parishioners, Family Members and Friends in need of Special Prayer: Lynn Marie Gregor, Marilyn Reihle, Kevin Gouge, Patrick Fulkerson, Logan Tyler Hollars, Refugio Calvillo, Penny Hession, TC Huntsinger, Felicitas Bugarin Santos, Lynn Miller, Jane Faber, Meaghen Price, Paul Hughes, Arjean Miller, Ron Carriero, Peggy Bieber, Martha Esser, Carol Phillips, Andy Stuhrenberg, John Moran, Peggy Schaffer, Frank Turnmire, Kristina Hoekstra. May God bless you!

2021 Calendars that have been graciously donated to us from Boone Family Funeral Home are now available in the vestibule. Please limit 1 per household.



Mass Schedule and Readings

Monday, November 30, No Mass

Scripture: Rom 10:9-18, Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11, Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday, December 1, 12:00pm

Scripture: Is 11:1-10, Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17, Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 2, 12:00pm

Mass Intention: Arturo Rivera+

Scripture: Is 25:6-10a, Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6, Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 3, No Mass

Scripture: Is 26:1-6, Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a, Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 4, 9:00am

Scripture: Is 29:17-24, Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14, Mt 9:27-31

Saturday, December 5, 4:30pm (Sign up only)

Mass Intention: James O’Hanlon+

Scripture: Is 30:19-21, 23-26, Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Spanish Mass, December 5, 7:30pm (Sign-up only)

Sunday, December 6, 9:00am (Sign-up only)

Mass Intention: Parish Community

Scripture: Is 30:19-21, 23-26, Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Ministry Schedule

Saturday Mass, December 5, 4:30pm

Lector: *Tassanee W. **James W.

Greeter: Linda S.

Usher: John E.

Sunday, December 6, 9:00am

Lector: *Evelyn R. **Patrick H.

Greeter: Kryn H.

Usher: Rick L.

Altar Linens for December

December 4: Evelyn R.

December 11: Kryn H.

December 20: Evelyn R.

December 29: Kryn H.

Inclement Weather Policy: In the event of severe weather it is advised that common sense prevail. If the weather and road conditions are dangerous to travel please stay home.



Closure of the office and cancellation announcements of Mass are set up to be announced on Ray’s Weather.com and WSOC. Please note that WSOC does not allow messages to be typed in, but instead are limited to generic options to choose from when posting weather notices. Due to this WSOC will only be used for weather notifications when cancellation of all activities—functions and Mass—are necessary. **The advice throughout is safety first and to not travel if conditions are hazardous.**

**Pastor's Note
Confession I**

As the season of Advent begins and we take part once again in this season of watchful expectation of the coming of Christ, it is opportune for us to step back and prepare our hearts to receive him. This is the tenor of the whole of the Advent season, and the reason why it is a season of penitence. Purple vestments are worn, the Gloria is not sung at Mass, music and decoration become more restrained. While it is not as strict a season of penance as Lent, it is still necessary for us to make sacrifices so as to become more attentive to the coming of the Lord, so that as we celebrate his birth at Christmas, we will be better able to receive him with joy.

Advent was once a season of fasting at nearly the same level as Lent, and though it is not anymore, we can still observe a penitential spirit. St. John Chrysostom wrote "when you begin to fast, first fast from sin!" And so, Advent is a good time for us to deepen our experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which we might also call Penance or Confession. Perhaps we are not in the habit of going very often, or perhaps we have not been in a very long time. I understand there are many reasons for this. In some cases, it's simply that getting out of practice, we've forgotten how to go. Perhaps there is some hurt in your past that, regrettably, occurred in the confessional. Hear the Lord inviting you back to this Sacrament now, and let this Advent season be a time of renewal for you.

To assist you in making Advent a fruitful time of preparation, my homilies will focus on the forgiveness of sins and the mercy of God, and my Pastor's Notes will focus on the practical and technical aspects of Confession itself. Then, the third week of Advent, I will add extended hours for Confession each day, so that there is a greater opportunity to avail yourself of this sacrament before we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord.

To begin with, it is helpful to look at the origins of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We can see its beginnings in Sacred Scripture. In the Gospel of John, Jesus breathes upon the Apostles and tells them "**Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you forgive are forgiven, whose sins you retain are retained**" (John 20:23). It is remarkable that there are only two times in all of the Bible that God breathes on man—the first is when he gives life to Adam, the second is when he gives this power to forgive sins to the Apostles. It would not be fitting for Jesus to only give this power to one generation of followers, and then let it die out with them. We know that the Apostles lay hands on others to hand on their ministry (Acts 13:3; 1 Timothy 4:14), and with that the power to forgive sins, what St. Paul calls "the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18). St. James also exhorts us to "**confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed**" (James 5:16). It would be of little benefit for the Apostles and their successors to have the power to forgive sins if they did not know what the sins were in the first place.

The confession of sins and the forgiveness of them by the Apostles and their successors was well-attested in the writings of the Fathers of the Early Church. The *Didache*, a teaching document from around the year AD 70, says "**Confess your sins in church, and do not go up to your prayer with an evil conscience. This is the way of life. . . . On the Lord's Day gather together, break bread, and give thanks, after confessing your transgressions so that your sacrifice may be pure**".

Tertullian, writing in the year 203, says "[Regarding confession, some] flee from this work as being an exposure of themselves, or they put it off from day to day. I presume they are more mindful of modesty than of salvation, like those who contract a disease in the more shameful parts of the body and shun making themselves known to the physicians; and thus they perish along with their own bashfulness".

St. Basil the Great, in 374, says "**It is necessary to confess our sins to those to whom the dispensation of God's mysteries is entrusted. Those doing penance of old are found to have done it before the saints. It is written in the Gospel that they confessed their sins to John the Baptist [Matt. 3:6], but in Acts [19:18] they confessed to the apostles**".

And St. John Chrysostom says, very powerfully: "**Priests have received a power which God has given neither to angels nor to archangels. It was said to them: 'Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever you shall loose, shall be loosed.' Temporal rulers have indeed the power of binding; but they can only bind the body. Priests, in contrast, can bind with a bond which pertains to the soul itself and transcends the very heavens. Did [God] not give them all the powers of heaven? 'Whose sins you shall forgive,' he says, 'they are forgiven them; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.' What greater power is there than this? The Father has given all judgment to the Son. And now I see the Son placing all this power in the hands of men [Matt. 10:40; John 20:21–23]. They are raised to this dignity as if they were already gathered up to heaven**"

Having seen the historical origins of the sacrament and its importance, next we will consider how to prepare for confession by looking at the nature of sin itself, what is and isn't a sin, and some practical suggestions for examining one's conscience.

Financial Figures		The 2020 Diocesan Support Appeal	
Offertory November 15:	\$ 2,024.00	Our Fair Share:	\$ 18,937.00
Offertory received this month:	\$ 10,326.00	Amount Given:	\$ 13,771.88
Offertory needed in November:	\$ 12,305.00	Amount Pledged:	\$ 818.15
		Amount Needed:	\$ 4,346.97
Human Development Collection:	\$ 65.00	Number of Donors:	48
Building Fund November 15:	\$ 956.00	<i>Parishioners are strongly encouraged to mail in their offertory as bills still need to be paid. Checks can be mailed to the following address:</i>	
Building Fund received this month:	\$ 4,851.00	<i>P.O. Box 634, Jefferson, NC 28640</i>	
Loan Payment needed each month:	\$ 5,203.00	<i>Your support is greatly appreciated.</i>	
Building Debt (as of November 5, 2020):			
Total owed	\$ 409,685.00		

Iglesia Católica San Francisco de Asís
Primer Domingo de Adviento
Noviembre 29, 2020

Pastor: Padre Cory Catron, 336-246-9151

Ministerio Diocesano Hispano: Sergio López, 336-529-3748

Email: stfrancis@skybest.com

Horario de la oficina: De Lunes a Jueves 10:00am—5:00pm y Viernes 10:00am - 1:00pm

Misas de fin de semana: Contacto Isabel López, 336-620-3557.

Horarios de misa entre semana: Martes y Miércoles 12:00pm, Viernes 9:00am

Confesiones: Sábado 6:30pm - 7:15pm



Domine, fac me servum pacis tuae

Nota del párroco ~ Confesión I

Ahora que comienza el tiempo de Adviento y volvemos a participar en este tiempo de vigilante expectativa de la venida de Cristo, es oportuno que demos un paso atrás y preparemos nuestro corazón para recibirlo. Este es el tenor de todo el tiempo de Adviento y la razón por la que es un tiempo de penitencia. Se usan vestimentas moradas, la Gloria no se canta en la Misa, la música y la decoración se vuelven más sobrias. Si bien no es un tiempo de penitencia tan estricto como la Cuaresma, todavía es necesario que hagamos sacrificios para estar más atentos a la venida del Señor, para que al celebrar su nacimiento en Navidad, seamos más capaces para recibirlo con alegría.

El Adviento fue una vez una temporada de ayuno casi al mismo nivel que la Cuaresma, y aunque ya no lo es, todavía podemos observar un espíritu penitencial. San Juan Crisóstomo escribió "cuando empieces a ayunar, primero ayuna del pecado". Entonces, el Adviento es un buen momento para que profundicemos nuestra experiencia del Sacramento de la Reconciliación, que también podríamos llamar Penitencia o Confesión. Quizás no tengamos la costumbre de ir muy a menudo, o quizás no lo hemos hecho en mucho tiempo. Entiendo que hay muchas razones para esto. En algunos casos, es simplemente que, al salir de la práctica, nos hemos olvidado de cómo hacerlo. Quizás haya alguna herida en su pasado que, lamentablemente, ocurrió en el confesionario. Escuche al Señor invitándolo a regresar a este Sacramento ahora, y permita que esta temporada de Adviento sea un tiempo de renovación para usted.

Para ayudarlo a hacer del Adviento un tiempo fructífero de preparación, mis homilias se centrarán en el perdón de los pecados y la misericordia de Dios, y mis notas del párroco se centrarán en los aspectos prácticos y técnicos de la confesión misma. Luego, la tercera semana de Adviento, añadiré horas extendidas para la Confesión cada día, de modo que haya una mayor oportunidad de aprovechar este sacramento antes de que celebremos la Natividad del Señor.

Para empezar, es útil mirar los orígenes del Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Podemos ver sus inicios en la Sagrada Escritura. En el Evangelio de Juan, Jesús sopla sobre los Apóstoles y les dice: **"Reciban el Espíritu Santo; a quienes descarguen sus pecados, serán liberados; y a quienes se los retengan, les serán retinidos"**. (Juan 20:23). Es notable que solo hay dos momentos en toda la Biblia en los que Dios sopla sobre el hombre: el primero es cuando da vida a Adán, el segundo es cuando da este poder para perdonar los pecados a los Apóstoles. No sería apropiado que Jesús le diera este poder solo a una generación de seguidores y luego lo dejara morir con ellos. Sabemos que los Apóstoles imponen sus manos sobre otros para llevar a cabo su ministerio (Hch 13: 3; 1 Timoteo 4:14), y con eso el poder de perdonar los pecados, lo que San Pablo llama "el ministerio de la reconciliación" (2 Corintios 5:18). Santiago también nos exhorta a **"confesarse los pecados unos a otros y orar unos por otros para que sean sanos"** (Santiago 5:16). Sería de poco beneficio para los Apóstoles y sus sucesores tener el poder de perdonar pecados si no supieran cuáles eran los pecados en primer lugar.

La confesión de los pecados y el perdón de los mismos por parte de los Apóstoles y sus sucesores fue bien atestiguado en los escritos de los Padres de la Iglesia Primitiva. La Didache, un documento de enseñanza de alrededor del año 70 d.C., dice: **"Confiesen sus pecados en la iglesia y no suben a su oración con mala conciencia. Este es el camino de la vida... En el día del Señor, reúnanse, partan el pan y den gracias, después de confesar sus transgresiones para que su sacrificio sea puro"**.

Tertuliano, escribiendo en el año 203, dice "[Sobre la confesión, algunos] huyen de esta obra como una exposición de sí mismos, o la postergan día a día. Presumo que están más atentos al pudor que a la salvación, como los que contraen una enfermedad en las partes más vergonzosas del cuerpo y evitan darse a conocer a los médicos, y así mueren junto con su propia timidez".

San Basilio el Grande, en 374, dice: **"Es necesario confesar nuestros pecados a aquellos a quienes se confía la dispensación de los misterios de Dios. Se encuentra que los que hicieron penitencia en el pasado lo hicieron ante los santos. Está escrito en el Evangelio que confesaron sus pecados a Juan el Bautista [Mateo 3: 6], pero en Hechos [19:18] confesaron a los apóstoles"**. Y San Juan Crisóstomo dice muy enfáticamente: **"Los sacerdotes han recibido un poder que Dios no ha dado ni a los ángeles ni a los arcángeles. Se les dijo: 'Todo lo que ates en la tierra, será atado en el cielo; y todo lo que hagas desatado, será desatado. 'Los gobernantes temporales tienen ciertamente el poder de atar, pero sólo pueden atar el cuerpo. Los sacerdotes, en cambio, pueden atar con un vínculo que pertenece al alma misma y trasciende los mismos cielos. ¿No les darás todos los poderes del cielo? 'A quienes perdonarás los pecados', dice, 'les son perdonados; a cuyos pecados retendrás, se les retiene.' ¿Qué poder mayor hay que este? El Padre ha dado todo juicio al Hijo. Y ahora veo al Hijo poniendo todo este poder en manos de los hombres [Mat. 10:40; Juan 20: 21-23]. Son elevados a esta dignidad como si ya estuvieran reunidos en el cielo"**

Habiendo visto los orígenes históricos del sacramento y su importancia, a continuación consideraremos cómo prepararse para la confesión observando la naturaleza del pecado en sí, qué es y qué no es pecado, y algunas sugerencias prácticas para examinar la conciencia.