



Family Mass Newsletter



FEAST OF ST FRANCIS

*Remember that when you leave this earth,
you can take with you nothing
that you have received,
only what you have given:
a full heart, enriched by honest service,
love, sacrifice, and courage.*

*And remember—
preach the gospel—
and if you must, use words.*

—Francis of Assisi



FAMILY MASS

Today we celebrate the life of St Francis of Assisi, a man of peace who saw God's face in every living thing. We hear Francis' story told through words of people who knew him: the leper, the holy woman and the sultan. Thanks to our actors, **JP Fitzgibbons, Maddie Lenarz-Hooyman & Riley Moynihan!**



WHAT IS YOUR WORK... YOUR GIFT TO THE WORLD?



Our fall theme is an invitation to think about the importance of our work and to reflect on our actions in the world as a spiritual practice.

Dedicate a space to use together for reflection, centering a small vase with some found natural item as the heart of your gathering. Talk about the work God has left unfinished for you to do.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

On October 11th, the Family and Gym Mass communities join members of Gichitwaa Kateri parish to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day. Join us in the Gym at 9 or 11am to experience this unique Mass, a blend of our spiritual traditions. No Masses in the church on this day.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Today at 2pm, join us in the Memorial Garden to celebrate our beloved pets. Bring your critters great and small for a fun, lively and short blessing.



SERVICE SUNDAY

On October 18th, come to Hospitality Hall between the Masses for a fun Service Sunday. **Learn about Youth Group's project: Swap Squad.** See how you can take part as a family. Create signature cloth bags. Think about ways to love our planet. Share some cookies and your ideas while having fun together!



THE GIFT OF READING

Through October, we are collecting new or very gently used books without overtly religious themes for kids 12 and under to be delivered by the folks at Mobile Loaves Twin Cities. Kids can pick a book when receiving a meal. Please bring in books any Sunday in October.



TRUNK OR TREAT

On October 25th from 2-3pm, come to our annual parish-wide fall festival, Trunk or Treat. Carnival games. Prizes. Face painting. Trick-or-Treating. Hot cider. Join with neighbors to celebrate the season.

We also need some fun spirits to hand out candy from their cars. If that's you, contact Gabrielle!



JOIN US!

Check the table in the vestibule for many ways you can share your gifts both near and far.



FAMILY MASS ROLES

KIDS, we need you as our weekly Guest Musicians, Readers and Projectionists.

FAMILIES, we need you as our Host Families, Petitioners and Cookie Ministers.

Be part of making Family Mass soar. Sign up in the vestibule today!



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

On Oct 10th from noon-1:45pm, join other SJA families to pack food for kids in need at FMSC. We meet at the Eagan site. Sign up today!



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We invite all children in grades 2-7 to join our Children's Choir, directed by choral director, Seth Boyd. No audition or experience required! **Rehearsals begin on Oct 24th with Choir Camp including a pizza lunch** from 11am-4pm in the Arc, to get started learning the music and building a community of singers. Camp will be followed by rehearsals on Oct 25th, Nov 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and Dec 13th in the Arc from 12:15-1:30pm.

The Choir has six performances

Dec 6th: Family Masses

Dec 12th: 5:00 Mass

Dec 20th: Family Masses

Dec 24th: Cmas Eve Gym Mass (4:00pm)

Learn about music. Give back to your faith community. Make friends while making music. Invite a friend to join the group. Bring the Spirit of Advent and Christmas to our liturgies.



Sign up today! Questions?
Ask Gabrielle
(gdane@stjoan.com)



Family Mass Good News



Jesus said to them,
"Remember what it says in the Psalms,
'The stone which the builders did not want
has become the cornerstone.'"

- Matthew 21: 42



THE WORD

Both our readings use the image of a vineyard to remind us that we are called to work for God. In the first reading (Isaiah 5: 1-7), the great prophet describes God as the owner of a vineyard, who did everything possible to care for his vines. Still, the vines gave only bitter grapes.

In the Gospel (Matthew 21: 33-43), Jesus echoes the prophet's vineyard image. Although Jesus is speaking to a crowd, he is directing his words to the chief priests and elders who questioned his authority. They would recognize themselves as the tenants who were charged to take care of the vineyard while the owner was away. The owner's son represents Jesus, who would be put to death because of the jealousy and fear of the religious leaders.

Our readings show that each time God sent a prophet, first Isaiah then Jesus, the people rejected him and his message. Even When God became human and was born among us, he was rejected and killed. What more could God have done? We are God's beloved vineyard, and God asks us to bear good fruit by living lives of love.



ST FRANCIS

Francis of Assisi believed that all God's creation is holy. If God is the Creator, the parent of every living thing, then earth and water are our sisters, and fire and air are our brothers. Born to wealthy parents, Francis gave away all his riches and devoted himself to all those in need, especially the poor and the sick. He reached out to the "stranger," across the divide of faith, trying to make peace. He wrote many prayers to glorify God in the words of the people instead of the church because he thought that all should be able to pray in their own words. Francis lived a life of the Spirit, listening to God and opening his heart completely to all of creation.

PUZZLER

PUZZLE FROM WWW.SERMONS4KIDS.COM

The Parable of the Tenants

Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. Matthew 21:37 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



the stone that the builders
rejected has become the
corner stone ...
Matthew 21:42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	L	H	N	R	Q	A	W	B	D	J	Z	G	F	U	C	O	V	K	E	M	I	X	T	P	Y

- 2-22-1-24-20-4 _____
- 1-17-4 _____
- 25-7-5-7-9-2-20 _____
- 14-5-15-22-24 _____
- 19-22-2-2-20-10 _____
- 3-7-5-18-20-1-24 _____
- 1-20-5-18-7-4-24-1 _____
- 14-7-5-21-20-5-1 _____

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