

# SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

## First Sunday of Lent - February 26, 2023



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Back in January when Father Mark made his decision about his transition from Saint Francis and I was contacted by the Archdiocese about

filling in until a new pastor was assigned, I made a point of naming one of my regular commitments. I have lived at Applewood Pointe senior cooperative in New Brighton since June, 2021. Last year, starting in February, I agreed to celebrate Mass on the first Saturday of the month at 4pm. That is a commitment I want to continue to honor. The folks at the Archdiocese were okay with that as long as I could arrange for someone to take that Mass once a month. With next weekend being that first Saturday of the month, I am happy to report that Father Jerry Keiser, our former pastor here at Saint Francis who now lives in Stillwater at Boutwell's Landing has agreed to come for Confessions and Mass next Saturday. I'll be here as usual on Sunday.

I mentioned a few weeks ago that we would like to have more folks involved at the weekend Masses as Cross Bearers, Ushers, and Gift Bearers. To make that easier, we have posted a sign-up sheet on the door of the usher's room at the back of the church. All four weekends of March are on the list, so if you would like to volunteer, just sign up on the door. Thanks.

On Tuesday this week we had to make the difficult decision of what to do about Ash Wednesday. We were all set to go - the church environment was ready, the palms were burned and ashes in place, the readings, music, and prayers prepared, Lenten materials out in Berg Hall ready to be picked up, and we even had the Confirmation candidates set to be the ones to give the ashes at the evening Mass. As Tuesday rolled along, not only did the warnings about the storm become more dire, but then the closings started to mount up. The Synod School of Discipleship was the first to send out the word that Tuesday evening was cancelled. (For us it meant not having to drive to Forest Lake.) Schools which could probably get students into the classrooms on Wednesday morning realized that they might not be able to get the students home in the afternoon. I

checked with a parish that announced that it's Catholic school would be closed and asked what they intended to do about Ash Wednesday. The answer was morning Mass would be held but without the school, and the evening Mass was cancelled. That information, plus when we found out that Stillwater schools would be closed, helped to make the decision. We would have morning Mass and forego the evening Mass. We put out the word to as much of the parish as possible and hoped it would spread to those we could not reach. (If we don't have your email for future last minute announcements, please contact Cindy to get on the list.) It is always difficult to lose such an important day, especially the one that signals the beginning of Lent, but better that all be safe for the remainder of the season.

Lent gets into full swing this weekend, not only with the First Sunday Masses, but also with the first opportunities to sign up for the Parish Mission, parish retreat, on March 26, 27, & 28. I am looking forward to meeting Fr Ed Shea and hearing his presentations on the Lenten Gospels. I hope you plan to be here as well.

God Love You!  
Fr Fitz



### LENTEN MATERIALS AVAILABLE

- **The Word Among Us** - Scriptures and reflections for every day of Lent
- **The Little Black Book** - Reflections on the Passion according to Saint Matthew
- **Rice Bowls** - for your Lenten sacrifices and donations for the poor
- **Booklets for Children**

All available in Berg Hall today.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays, 3pm

Church



## SYNOD NOTES

Each week at the Synod School of Discipleship we are invited to follow a theme to help us become Activated Disciples. We invite you to participate in this commitment.

### WEEK 3

#### Act Chosen

Discipleship begins in the heart of God. Since the moment of our conception, God has been calling us into relationship for which we were created.

#### —CHALLENGE—

Each day through the Examen Prayer, focus on gratitude, grace forgiveness, and looking forward. Write down any points of growth and those things you want to focus on tomorrow.



**MN Food Share MARCH CAMPAIGN**

**A drive benefiting Valley Outreach**

**Donate Online**



**Donate most needed items**

- Canned Meats
- Grains
- Spices & Oil
- Household Paper Items
- Shelf Stable Foods
- Hygiene Products

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Financial donations go further due to access to food banks and discount purchasing programs, allowing food shelves to purchase items most needed in their community.

  
**Valley Outreach**  
40 YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY

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

## PARISH INFORMATION

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi  
16770 13th Street South  
Lake Saint Croix Beach, MN 55043-9756

WWW.STFRANCISLSCBMN.ORG  
651-436-7817

### SCHEDULE

<b>Weekend Masses:</b>	Saturday, 5:00pm
<b>In Church</b>	Sunday, 9:30am
<b>Confessions:</b>	Saturday, 4-4:30pm And by appointment
<b>Weekday Masses:</b>	Tuesday, 9:00am
<b>In Chapel</b>	Wednesday, 9:00am
<b>Adoration:</b>	First Tuesday,
<b>In Chapel</b>	After Mass to 3pm

### OFFICE HOURS

<b>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,</b>	8am - 3pm
<b>Thursday</b>	8am - Noon
<b>Friday</b>	Office Closed

### STAFF

#### Parochial Administrator

Fr Robert Fitzpatrick 651-436-7817, ext 1  
Emergency Cell 651-491-8659

#### Faith Formation Director

Cindy Buckland 651-436-7817, ext 2

#### Office Manager

Julie Terwey 651-436-7817, ext 3

#### Building Engineer

Steve Allen 651-436-7817, ext 5

#### Music Director

Lynn DeWall 651-436-7817

## LENTE PARISH MISSION

"We Come to Share Our Story: Reflections on the  
Three Classic Gospel Texts for Lent 2023"  
Presented by Father Ed Shea, OFM

Sunday, March 26, 4-5:30pm - The Woman at the Well  
Monday, March 27, 6:30-8pm - The Man Born Blind  
Tuesday, March 28, 6:30-8pm - The Raising of Lazarus  
Social Reception following each Session

\$10 at the door - \$25 all three nights  
Advance ticket sales begin February 26-27