



St. Francis Borgia

Roman Catholic Church

Feast of the Holy Family

December 29, 2019



Parish Information

Administrator: Rev. Damien Wee
Email: father.damien@stfrancisborgia.org

Deacon: Jeff Zurek
Email: jzurek5@gmail.com

Office Manager: Kelly Petersen
Email: office@stfrancisborgia.org

Director of Religious Ed: Sinead Chaffee
Email: sinead.pre@outlook.com

Sacramental Ministries: Yeny Martinez
Email: yeny.martinez@stfrancisborgia.org

Maintenance Manager: Scott Breitreutz

Youth Ministry: Deacon Jeff & Darla Zurek
Email: jzurek5@gmail.com

Sunday School: Shawna Adams

Address: 2005 Davis Drive, Blair, NE 68008

Phone: 402.426.3823

Web: www.stfrancisborgia.org

Email: office@stfrancisborgia.org

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-Noon

Sacramental Emergencies Only: Please call the Parish Office and press "2"

Mass Schedule

Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Monday-Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

Friday at 7:00 a.m.

First Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

Parish Mission Statement

As the Parish families of St. Francis Borgia of Blair, Nebraska, we are a faith community united in Christ by a common bond to the Roman Catholic Church. Our words and actions are a reflection of Christ's presence among us. We manifest God's work through our active participation in spiritual, educational, liturgical and service acts directed at bringing Christ to all.

John 15: Jesus says "love one another as I have loved you."

Dear Friends in Christ,
Happy Feast of the Holy Family!

1. **CHRISTMAS**

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas Day with your family members and loved ones. The celebration of Jesus' birthday is too big a celebration to be contained in a single day. The Good News of a newborn infant born in a humble manger to bring us salvation needs to be proclaimed far and wide, and needs to be celebrated for more than a single day. As such, the Church, in her wisdom, has given us this beautiful season of Christmas.

This season of Christmas begins on Christmas Day. During the first eight days from Christmas Day, we celebrate the Octave of Christmas - it is like each day is Christmas Day itself! After that, we continue with the Christmas season all the way to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12).

So continue to keep your Christmas decorations up, continue to say, "Merry Christmas", and continue to sing Christmas carols.

2. **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a Holy Day of Obligation. Three Masses are scheduled for our parish: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., and Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. What a beautiful way to begin the new year!

3. **THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who helped, in one way or another, to make Christmas special for us here at St. Francis! Thank you to all those who decorated the church and the sanctuary, and to our musicians, choirs, EMHCs, lectors, altar servers, sacristans and everyone else.

4. **PERSONAL**

Thank you for all your Christmas cards, gifts and kind words. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are much appreciated.

5. **PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE (meh-ju-go-ria)**

I would like to personally invite you to join me on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje from **November 27 to December 5, 2020**. I have been to Medjugorje four times. Each time, it has been a powerful and moving experience. Medjugorje has given me a deeper love for Jesus and our Mother Mary. It has also positively impacted my priesthood in many ways.

The Vatican has given permission for dioceses and parishes to organize pilgrimages to Medjugorje. We already have a few parishioners signed up! We will be going with Stella Mar Pilgrimages. They produced the movies *Apparition Hill* and *Where There Is Darkness*. (You might remember the latter movie being promoted in our parish this past summer). The cost is around \$2,735 per person, and includes airfare, lodging, breakfasts and lunches.

If you are interested, please call the Parish Office and give your name to Kelly. Also, if you would like to watch the movie *Apparition Hill*, a powerful movie on Medjugorje, two copies are available for loan from the Parish Office.

Provided on the next page is a brief history of Medjugorje.

May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph dwell within your family and make their home with you, and may your new year be abundantly blessed!

To Jesus through Mary,
Father Damien



Pray for one another

If there are any additions to, or removals from the prayer chain, please call Jane

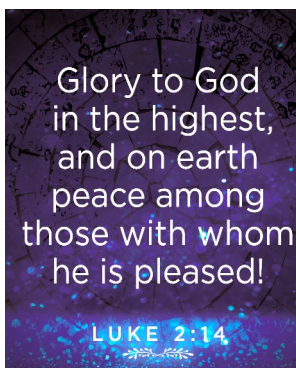
Gramke Stevens
402.278.2652

Megan Sorensen
Sharon Allen
Amy Murray
Viola Michrina
Gavin McCoy
Mike Kult
Angela Howard
Clair Kneiff
Mary Nelson
Sherry McBride
G. & F. Marek family
Troy McCandless
Mary Ann Wenzl
Helan Johnson
Eric Sorensen
Mike Hoefler
Kiley Kastrup
Grace Sorsoli
Helen Herman
Vince Kavanaugh
Jason Smith
Judy Quest
Kevin Mann
Nathan Kocmik
Sherry Pruss
Mary C Beckman
Jerry Wilke
Barbara Rican
Luke Kollars
Phil Thomas
Gordon C Gladdon
Andrea Dickerson
Shitra Mickerjee
Jack Comstock
Kasey Comstock
Kevin Clarke



Adoration

First Friday Adoration will be held on Friday, January 3 from 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Brief History of Medjugorje

Since 1981, in a small village named Medjugorje in the country of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Blessed Virgin Mary, has been allegedly appearing and giving messages to the world. She tells us that God has sent her to us as an act of grace. In her own words she tells us, "I have come to tell the world that God exists. He is the fullness of life, and to enjoy this fullness and peace, you must return to God".

The Blessed Virgin's mission is one of peace and love. She has come to earth to reeducate us and to help us convert and center our lives back to God. She continues to give daily messages to three of the original six visionaries. The Blessed Virgin invites us to urgent conversion and reconciliation.

Since the apparitions began in 1981, approximately 50 million people from all over the world have visited Medjugorje and have left spiritually strengthened and renewed. Many bring back stories of miracles in the form of healings (of mind, body and spirit), supernatural visual signs, and deep conversions back to God.

May 2018. Pope Francis permanently assigned retired archbishop Henryk Hoser to Medjugorje to help oversee all aspects of pastoral ministries there. This essentially places Medjugorje under Vatican control.

May 2019. The following announcement was made by archbishop Henryk Hoser, and the Apostolic Nuncio, authorizing official parish and diocesan organized pilgrimages to Medjugorje.

"Considering the considerable flow of people who go to Medjugorje and the abundant fruits of grace that have sprung from it, this authorization is part of the particular pastoral attention that the Holy Father intended to give to that reality, aimed at encouraging and promoting the fruits of good".

Pope Francis has decided to authorize pilgrimages to Medjugorje, which can now be officially organized by dioceses and parishes and will no longer take place only in a private capacity, which so far has been the case.

Parish Pictures Completed

Our parish directory will be shipped off this week. It took an army of help to make this happen. Thank you to our schedulers: Darla Zurek, Beth Clarke, Annette Ott, Mary Boesiger, Tony Bretey, Peter Clarke, Leo Clarke, Maria Tonn, Brad Tonn, and Steve Tonn. Thank you to our hosts: Beth Holdridge, Vivian Kelley, Mary Larsen, Cathy Comstock, Mike Pearson, JoAnne Jones, Ann Wade, Jan Brunnert, Lynne Ondracek, Jeanne Dawson, and Ann Sedlacek. Thanks to Bridget Aschoff for telephone work. Thanks to Tammi Burbach for the cover design. Thanks to Fr. Damien for providing the cover photo. Thanks to Kelly Petersen, Yeny Martinez, and Fr. Damien for being our promoters and the office fulcrum. And especially, thanks to everyone who made the effort to get their picture taken or submitted to make our directory an amazing community building tool. It was our family's pleasure to serve our parish. Cece Tonn

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass times for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation, are as follows:

Tuesday, December 31 6:30 p.m. Anticipatory Mass
Wednesday, January 1 8:00 a.m. Mass
Wednesday, January 1 10:00 a.m. Mass

Organ concert

In Dulci Jubilo, a pipe organ concert in celebration of the Christmas octave, will be performed by St. Francis Borgia's organist, Ambrose Terneus.

Monday, December 30 7:00 p.m.
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
14330 Eagle Run Drive, Omaha

* This free concert will feature treasured works by Bach, Gigout, Mendelssohn, and more. Families are invited!

Visiting Missionary

Fr. Joseph J. Arackal V.C., a Vincentian Missionary Priest from India, will be at our parish the weekend of January 11 & 12 to participate in our Annual Missionary Cooperation Plan. He will preach at all Masses that weekend, and will make an appeal on behalf of the Vincentian Missions.

The Vincentian Congregation (V.C.), a Missionary Sending Religious Congregation, was founded in Kerala, India, modeled after the Congregation of the Mission founded by St. Vincent de Paul. Members of this flourishing Religious Congregation, all natives of India, are engaged in Mission Work in all parts of India and in Nepal and Sri Lanka and in other parts of the world.

There will be a special mission collection to help Vincentian Missionaries. We urge you to be very generous in your mission offering since these Missionaries need our help. Please keep Fr. Joseph and all the Vincentian Missionaries and seminarians in your prayers.

First Saturday Mass

Please note that there will be **NO First Saturday 9:00 a.m. Mass on January 4, 2020.**

Weekday Masses

Please note that there will be **NO weekday Mass on the following dates:**

Thursday, January 2
Monday - Friday, January 6 - 10
Monday - Friday, January 13 - 17

Office closed

In observance of the New Year, the Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 and Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

Pastoral Care

MASS FOR SHUT INS

First Friday at Crowell Nursing Home - 10:00 a.m.

Second Friday at Good Shepherd - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday:

Archdiocesan Mass: Channel 6 at 10:30 a.m.

PARISH ROSARY

Saturday 4:35 p.m. & Sunday 7:35 a.m. & 9:35 a.m.

First Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Saturdays: 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.

Sundays: 9:15 - 9:45 a.m.

Confessions may also be heard by appointment.

Marriage

Contact the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance.

Baptisms

Contact the Parish Office at least one month in advance to schedule. All parents are expected to attend a short Baptism preparation meeting.

Sacrament of the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office.

Holy Orders

Please contact the Archdiocesan Vocation Director, Rev. Andrew Roza, at 402-558-3100.

Hospital Calls

Please contact the Parish Office.

Funeral Rites

Please contact the Parish Office.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

For General Operations

Budgeted Weekly	\$ 5,385.00
Collected December 21/22	\$ 6,569.83
Budget YTD	\$ 140,010.00
Collected YTD	\$ 143,604.96

Monday, December 30 <i>Don Conrad †</i>	8 a.m. Mass
Tuesday, December 31 <i>Hyland Family</i> <i>Kristi Coughlin †</i>	8 a.m. Mass 6:30 p.m. Mass
Wednesday, January 1 <i>Pricilla Low †</i> <i>Dave Stephenson †</i>	8 a.m. Mass 10 a.m. Mass
Thursday, January 2	NO MASS
Friday, January 3 <i>Communion Service</i> <i>First Friday Eucharistic Adoration</i>	7:00 a.m. 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 4 <i>Nick Kuncl †</i>	5 p.m. Mass
Sunday, January 5 <i>Robert Beckman †</i> <i>Bishop Paul Sirba †</i>	8 a.m. Mass 10 a.m. Mass



For the Weekend
Of Jan. 4&5

5:00 P.M. SATURDAY	8:00 A.M. SUNDAY	10:00 A.M. SUNDAY
EMHC (Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion) * Denotes Distribution of Precious Blood		
J Adams K Adams Boesiger* Bretey* Brown*	Burbach M. Comstock* C. Comstock* Camelin* J. Hall*	Bray Dawson Ortmeier* Petersen* Mencke* Mullen*
Lectors		
Lager	Hall	Dawson
Altar Servers		
G. Zurek J. Zurek C. O'Neil	K. Adams E. Adams A. Korth	E. Bray L. Bray A. Czapla
Rosary Leaders		
Zurek	Hall	McKeon