



# St. Francis Borgia

## Roman Catholic Church

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

January 19, 2020



### Parish Information

**Administrator:** Rev. Damien Wee  
Email: [father.damien@stfrancisborgia.org](mailto:father.damien@stfrancisborgia.org)

**Deacon:** Jeff Zurek  
Email: [jzurek5@gmail.com](mailto:jzurek5@gmail.com)

**Office Manager:** Kelly Petersen  
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**Director of Religious Ed:** Sinead Chaffee  
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**Sacramental Ministries:** Yeny Martinez  
Email: [yeny.martinez@stfrancisborgia.org](mailto:yeny.martinez@stfrancisborgia.org)

**Maintenance Manager:** Scott Breitreutz

**Youth Ministry:** Deacon Jeff & Darla Zurek  
Email: [jzurek5@gmail.com](mailto:jzurek5@gmail.com)

**Sunday School:** Shawna Adams

**Address:** 2005 Davis Drive, Blair, NE 68008

**Phone:** 402.426.3823

**Web:** [www.stfrancisborgia.org](http://www.stfrancisborgia.org)

**Email:** [office@stfrancisborgia.org](mailto: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,

### **1. SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY**

Today, we celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. This third Sunday of January is chosen for this celebration because it is the closest day to a dark day in the history of our country: the tragic day of January 22, 1973, when abortion was legalized in all 50 states.

It is not sufficient for us as Catholic Christians and as disciples of Jesus to simply say, "I oppose abortion. But every person can choose for themselves." This looking away and ignoring the horrific killing of the innocent pre-born has, in part, led to more than 61 million abortions that have taken place in the United States alone since 1973.

Here are some questions for us to reflect on:

Have we persevered in our prayers, fasting and sacrifices for conversion of hearts and minds? Are we willing to take the time to go to the Nebraska Walk for Life in Lincoln? Have we supported organizations like Essential Pregnancy Services, that invite pregnant mothers to see an ultrasound of their unborn child? Have we donated to local organizations like Mater Filius or Bethlehem House, who support mothers in choosing life for the baby, and who house both mothers and their new born children? Have we invited others who are dealing with the trauma of an abortion to find healing, forgiveness, hope and new life through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Project Rachel? Do we elect politicians who not only say that they are pro-life, but have a track record for voting for life? Are we willing to witness for life in our conversations with family members, relatives, friends, co-workers and others? Have we made time to pray peacefully outside abortion mills?

We have to do all we can, with love and charity, to witness to the sanctity of human life. At the end of our lives, as we stand before Jesus, we will have to give an account on what we did or did not do in helping to stop the biggest holocaust of our time that is still happening today.

### **2. ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**

Right now, our parishioners has donated \$18,813 of \$24,836.93 to the 2019/2020 Annual Appeal. That's 75.7% of our goal, with 17.1% participation. If you have already donated, thank you very much! If you have not donated, please prayerfully consider donating. We just need \$6,023.93 to reach our parish goal! Every little bit counts!

### **3. MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE**

Have you been praying about coming on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje? One of the most beautiful things about this pilgrimage is the peace in the heart that our Mother Mary wants for all pilgrims. The pilgrimage will be from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5, 2020. The cost is close to \$2,735 per person. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested. Also, if you are not able to go, but would like to sponsor a parishioner to go, please call our Parish Office and ask for Kelly.

### **4. PERSONAL**

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers! I had a wonderful visit with my parents, family, relatives and friends in Singapore. It was so special to be with my parents to celebrate their 50th Anniversary! However, not all family members were able to be there. As such, my parents will be having a larger celebration later this year.

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 Kneifl  
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

### **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 speak with 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.

### Prayer on this Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Dear Heavenly Father,

You are Creator of all and the Giver of life. You have created mankind in Your image to reflect Your glory to the world, and we praise You for the work Your hands have done. On this Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, we mourn that many of Your precious sons and daughters have lost their lives too soon. We grieve their absence today and every day.

We are broken people, and we have all sinned against You in so many ways, and we pray that today would be a day of repentance and forgiveness. We humbly come before You knowing that all of us have fallen short of Your glory, and we ask that You would forgive us of our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. Restore us to right relationship with You. Open our eyes, our hearts, our minds, and our hands as we seek to serve You and glorify You through our love for one another. Transform us into new creations. May we truly be Your hands and feet in our world, serving others like Jesus came to serve, loving others like we are to love ourselves.

Jesus, You made a way for us where there seemed to be no way. We pray today that You would breathe new life into us. We pray You would increase our empathy, compassion, and love for our neighbors, no matter their age, race, ability, background, or need. We pray we would be people whose hearts echo Your own heart for your people—be our strength, Holy Spirit.

Help us to be champions of life, Jesus. Strengthen us and equip us to do Your work in our communities, our nations, our world. May we stand for what You have taught us, and may we give You glory in all that we do.

We love you and praise You on this day and every day, Lord. Thank You for the gift of life. Help us to protect and preserve it in every way we can. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Your holy and mighty name. Amen

### Steubenville Youth Conference

Friday, July 17-Sunday, July 19, 2020

All incoming high school freshmen through graduating high school seniors are welcome.

Cost: \$345 per youth

Completed registration form and \$50 deposit to Deacon Jeff Zurek by Sunday, January 26.

### Financial Peace University

Whether you are nearing retirement or just newly married, getting your finances in order will make a difference for you. Financial Peace University teaches you how to manage the gifts God has given you. Join us for Financial Peace University from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis Borgia in the Education Building, beginning January 19 and ending in March.

Write a \$100 check to St. Francis Borgia Church to reserve your spot. Cece Tonn is coordinating registration and will deliver your member packet to you. Call or text 402.680.6036 to reserve a seat.

This is open to anyone, of any faith. Babysitting may be available on request.

### Spend precious time with Jesus during Eucharistic Adoration!

Please call the Parish Office if you are able to spend the **9:00 - 10:00 a.m.** or the **10:00 - 11:00 a.m.** hour with Jesus during Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament.

\* Eucharistic Adoration is on the first Friday of each month \*



### Visiting Missionary Says Thank You

Dear St. Francis Borgia friends,

Prayerful Greetings from the Vincentian Fathers! On behalf of the Vincentian Missionaries, I thank everyone at St. Francis Borgia Parish for the warm welcome given me during the January 11 & 12 weekend while I was with you, making a mission appeal on behalf of the St. Joseph Province of the Vincentian Congregation. Your attentiveness and earnest openness to my message heartened me and inspired my presentation. All the Vincentian Missionaries and Seminarians join me in thanking you for your prayers and generous mission offering of \$1,622.76 during the January 11 & 12 weekend Holy Masses. Everyone was very congenial and helpful. Overall it turned out to be a wonderful weekend that I spent in your parish.

The prayerful financial support and encouragement from St. Francis Borgia Parishioners will help our missionaries face the enormous challenges in bringing food, water, shelter, education and most importantly, the Gospel Message, to the people in our missions in India in addition to the support of our seminarians. If you did not have an opportunity to make an offering today or would like to make an additional offering, you may make your offering through the general parish collection next weekend in a specially marked envelope. **If you like help an individual seminarian in his studies for priesthood you may write: Vincentian Fathers, 1027 Twin Oaks St, Bensenville IL 60106.** (vcsjprovince@gmail.com) Your intentions are specially remembered in the Holy Masses and Prayers of our Missionaries and Seminarians.

Gratefully and Prayerfully yours in Christ,  
Fr. Joseph J Arackal V.C.



### Prayer Shawl Committee Thank you

The Prayer Shawl Committee would like to extend our thanks to all of you who have provided unused knitting yarn. We are putting it to good use! Many prayer shawls have been given out to our parishioners, friends, neighbors and elderly. We hope you will remember us if you come across yarn you are not using. The collection box is in the commons area, and yarn donations can be dropped off at any time.

Blessings from the ladies of the Prayer Shawl Committee



## 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 January 11/12	\$ 5,268.75
Budget YTD	\$ 156,165.00
Collected YTD	\$ 158,963.37



## MASS TIMES

<b>Monday, January 20</b> <i>Brandon &amp; Valentina</i>	<b>8 a.m. Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 21</b> <i>Betty Ong</i>	<b>8 a.m. Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 22</b> <i>For the Sacredness of Human Life</i>	<b>8 a.m. Mass</b>
<b>Thursday, January 23</b> <i>Joyce D'Cotta</i>	<b>8 a.m. Mass</b>
<b>Friday, January 24</b> <i>Veronica Tan</i>	<b>8 a.m. Mass</b>
<b>Saturday, January 25</b> <i>Larry Stier †</i>	<b>5 p.m. Mass</b>
<b>Sunday, January 26</b> <i>Parishioners of St. Francis Borgia</i> <i>Christi Coughlin †</i>	<b>8 a.m. Mass</b> <b>10 a.m. Mass</b>



### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### For the Weekend Of Jan. 25&26

5:00 P.M. SATURDAY	8:00 A.M. SUNDAY	10:00 A.M. SUNDAY
<b>EMHC</b> (Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion) * Denotes Distribution of Precious Blood		
Aman Bretey K. Adams* Ingalsbe* Grabbe* Brown*	Kozimor D Leehy* Limbach* P Leehy* McAvin*	Mencke Ortmeier Dawson* Mullen* Petersen*
<b>Lectors</b>		
Aman	Schmidt	Aschoff
<b>Altar Servers</b>		
K. Flynn H. Ferguson C. Flynn	L. Valasek D. Petersen E. Adams	M. Schrad H. Sorensen K. Smith
<b>Rosary Leaders</b>		
Crotty	Hall	Ott