



St. Francis of Assisi *Catholic Church*

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD | LA NATIVIDAD DEL SEÑOR



And the Word | *Y la Palabra*
was made flesh | *se hizo hombre*
AND DWELT AMONG US | Y HABITÓ ENTRE NOSOTROS
JOHN 1:14 | JUAN 1, 14

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—DECEMBER 21, 2025

OUR MISSION

Unified in one Body and Spirit, the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic community aspires to reflect the Light of Christ by cultivating *Faith*, *Serving* others, and *Loving* all of God's creation.

NUESTRA MISIÓN

Unida en un solo Cuerpo y Espíritu, la comunidad católica de San Francisco de Asís aspira a reflejar la Luz de Cristo mediante el cultivo de la *Fe*, *Servicio* a los demás, y el *Amor* a toda la creación de Dios.

**WELCOME!**

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE:
Monday—Friday: 8:00am

WEEKEND

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am and 11:00am

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays 3:45pm - 4:45pm
or by appointment

**¡BIENVENIDOS!**

MISA ENTRE SEMANA:
Miércoles—12:15pm

**HORARIO DE MISAS EN ESPAÑOL
DEL FIN DE SEMANA :**

Sábado: 7:00pm
Domingo: 9:00am,
1:00pm, 6:00pm

CONFESIONES:

Sábados 6:00pm - 6:45pm
o por cita previa

Served by Vocationist Fathers • Society of Divine Vocations

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS • BENDICIONES FINANCIERAS

We would like to thank you and remind you just how much your support means to the life and vitality of our vibrant parish. Without your time, talent, and treasure, our church would not be the strong community of faith that so many of us have relied on.

Please help us keep momentum going by supporting our parish through recurring donations to our online giving platform, WeShare. This is an easy way to support St. Francis of Assisi.

1. Visit stfrancisapopka.org and click Donate.
2. Select the collection of your choice.
3. Set up your donation amount, payment type, and frequency.

Thank you for your generosity!

Nos gustaría darles las gracias y recordarles lo mucho que su apoyo significa para la vida y vitalidad de nuestra vibrante parroquia. Sin su tiempo, talento y aporte, nuestra iglesia no tendría la fuerte comunidad de fe en la que tantos de nosotros dependemos.

Por favor, ayúdenos a mantener el impulso apoyando a nuestra parroquia a través de donaciones recurrentes a nuestra plataforma de donaciones en línea, WeShare. Esta es una manera fácil de apoyar a San Francisco de Asís.

1. Visite stfrancisapopka.org y haga clic en Donar.
2. Seleccione la colecta de su elección.
3. Establezca la cantidad de su donación, el tipo de pago y frecuencia.

¡Gracias por su generosidad!

December 14, 2025**OFFERTORY**

In Pew: \$14,308.60
Online: \$3,958.00
Total: \$18,266.60

FOOD PANTRY

In Pew: \$532.00
Online: \$1,525.00
Total: \$2,057.00

MAINTENANCE FUND

In Pew: \$1,007.00
Online: \$745.00
Total: \$1,752.00

"GOD IS WITH US"

On this day that follows the longest night of the year, as an ever-increasing amount of light begins to dawn, we hear of two men of the house of David who face momentous decisions. The light dawns for one, but not for the other. The Lord offers Ahaz, king of Judah, a sign, but he refuses to place his faith in God. Isaiah's prophecy that the Lord will present a sign in the form of a virgin who will bear a son called Emmanuel, "God is with us," falls on deaf ears. Centuries later, Joseph, after finding out that his betrothed is pregnant and not by him, intends to divorce her. But the angel of the Lord comes to him and tells him that his betrothed, Mary, is the virgin who will fulfill the prophecy Isaiah told, a prophecy Joseph certainly knows well, a prophecy whose fulfillment he certainly has longed for, but a prophecy he must have found difficult to believe he will witness himself. Still, Joseph places his faith in God, taking Mary into his home and giving her child the name of Jesus. Because Mary and Joseph each place their faith in God, a new day with God's indwelling and our salvation dawns for us all.

When have you put your faith in God even when it seemed unrealistic?

—We Celebrate Worship Resource, Vol. 51, No. 1



"DIOS CON NOSOTROS"

En este día que sigue a la noche más larga del año, mientras la luz se hace cada vez más intensa, oímos hablar de dos hombres de la casa de David que se enfrentan a decisiones trascendentales. La luz amanece para uno, pero no para el otro. El Señor ofrece una señal a Ajaz, rey de Judá, pero este se niega a confiar en Dios. La profecía de Isaías de que el Señor presentaría una señal en forma de una virgen que daría a luz un hijo llamado Emmanuel, "Dios con nosotros", cae en oídos sordos. Siglos después, José, tras descubrir que su prometida está embarazada y no es de él, pretende divorciarse de ella. Pero el ángel del Señor se le acerca y le anuncia que su prometida, María, es la virgen que cumplirá la profecía de Isaías, una profecía que José sin duda conoce bien, una profecía cuyo cumplimiento sin duda anhelaba, pero una profecía que seguramente le costaba creer que presenciaria él mismo. Aun así, José depositó su fe en Dios, acogiendo a María en su hogar y dándole a su hijo el nombre de Jesús. Gracias a que María y José depositaron su fe en Dios, un nuevo día con la morada de Dios y nuestra salvación amanece para todos nosotros.

¿Cuándo has puesto tu fe en Dios incluso cuando parecía poco realista?

—We Celebrate Worship Resource, Vol. 51, No. 1

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ♦ HORARIO EN DÍAS FERIADOS



Christmas Eve * Noche Buena

4:00pm - Bilingual (Children's Mass),
6:00pm - English, 8:00pm - *Español*,
12:00am Midnight (Carols begin at 11:30pm) - English

Christmas Day * Navidad

11:00am - English, 1:00pm - *Español*

Mary, Mother of God * María, Madre de Dios
New Year's Eve Wednesday, December 31st 6:30pm Vigil,
Miercoles, Diciembre 31 8:00pm Vigilia en Español
New Year's Day Thursday, January 1st, Jueves, Enero 1
(No 8am Daily Mass), 10:00am - Bilingual

*The Parish Office will be CLOSED:
December 24th through January 1st*

*La Oficina Parroquial estará CERRADA:
Del 24 de diciembre al 1 de enero*

**LET THE LORD ENTER; HE IS KING OF GLORY.
VA A ENTRAR EL SEÑOR, ÉL ES EL REY DE LA GLORIA.**

DAWN MASSES

DECEMBER 16TH - 24TH
5:00AM—CHURCH

FOR 9 DAYS WE WILL BE CELEBRATING SPECIAL MASSES AS WE AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF THE CHRIST CHILD. WE INVITE YOU TO COME WITH YOUR FAMILY TO ENJOY THIS LOVELY TRADITION IN THE EARLY MORNING, THE 'AGUINALDO MASSES'. (IN SPANISH)



MISAS DE AGUINALDO

16 AL 24 DE DICIEMBRE
5:00AM—IGLESIA

DURANTE 9 DÍAS ESTAREMOS CELEBRANDO CON EUCARISTÍAS EL TIEMPO QUE NOS QUEDA PARA LA LLEGADA DEL NIÑO DIOS. LE INVITAMOS A VENIR EN FAMILIA A DISFRUTAR DE LA MEJOR TRADICIÓN DE LA MADRUGADA, LAS MISAS DE AGUINALDO.

Bodas Comunitarias Community Wedding

¡Una FELICITACIÓN muy especial a las nueve hermosas parejas que recibieron el Sacramento del Matrimonio el sábado 22 de noviembre en la Boda Comunitaria de San Francisco de Asís!

A very special CONGRATULATIONS to the nine beautiful couples who received the Sacrament of Matrimony on Saturday, November 22nd during St. Francis of Assisi's Community Wedding!



TO ALL CATECHISTS AND ASSISTANTS:

Thank you for serving with a heart like Jesus. During the Christmas season, we celebrate God's greatest gift to us, his Son, Jesus. We are truly blessed to have you sharing your gift of faith and the love of Jesus with our community. May the gift of Christ's love fill your heart with joy this Christmas.



A TODOS LOS CATEQUISTAS Y ASISTENTES:

Gracias por servir con un corazón como Jesús. Durante el tiempo de Navidad, celebramos el regalo más grande de Dios, su Hijo Jesús. Somos verdaderamente dichosos de tenerlos a ustedes compartiendo su regalo de fe y amor de Jesús con nuestra comunidad. Que el regalo del amor de Cristo llene sus corazones de alegría en esta Navidad.

Merry Christmas Feliz Navidad



May the joy of Christ fill your heart and His peace bless your home. Wishing you a Christmas full of love and light.

Que la alegría de Cristo llene tu corazón y su paz bendiga tu hogar. Te deseo una Navidad llena de amor y luz.



PARISH EVENTS • EVENTOS PARROQUIALES

Facebook.com/StFrancisApopka

Monday, December 22

7:00 pm K of C Officers Mtg (FF01)

Tuesday, December 23

5:00 am Aguinaldo Mass (CHU)

Wednesday, December 24 (CHRISTMAS EVE)

OFFICE CLOSED [NO 8am Mass]

5:00 am Misas de Aguinaldo (CHU)

4:00 pm Children's Mass (CHU)

6:00 pm Mass (CHU)

8:00 pm Misa de Nochebuena (CHU)

11:30 pm Christmas Carols (CHU)

12:00 am Midnight Mass (CHU)

Thursday, December 25 (CHRISTMAS)

OFFICE CLOSED

11:00 am Mass (CHU)

1:00 pm Misa de Navidad (CHU)

Friday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, December 27

8:00 pm Emmaus (PC)

Sunday, December 28

10:00 am Choir Rehearsal (CHP)

2:00 pm Emmaus Reunion de Caballeros (PC)

2:30 pm Emmaus Clases de Biblia (FF05)

(CHU) = Church

(STG) = Stations Garden

(CR) = Choir Room

(CHUF) = Church Front

(SCFR) = St. Clare Fellowship Room

(CHP) = Chapel

(PC) = Parish Center

(CHUPL) = Church Pkng. Lot

(SC) = St. Clare Hall

(OF) = Office

(NUR) = Nursery

(FF) = Faith Formation



Holy Land Gifts Regalos de Tierra Santa



The Christian community in Gaza and the Holy Land continues to face severe hardships. Bethlehem is now surrounded by checkpoints and barriers that restrict daily life, and the war in Gaza has brought tourism to a halt, forcing souvenir shops and hotels to close. As a result, unemployment among local carvers has reached 70%. Catholics in the Holy Land are seeking support through prayers and the purchase of their handcrafted religious artworks, which provide essential income for about 600 Catholic families. Payments can be made by card, cash, or Apple Pay, and buyers are encouraged to consider these items as meaningful gifts. ***Holy Land gifts will be available for purchase after all Masses the weekend of January 10–11.***

La comunidad cristiana en Gaza y en Tierra Santa continúa enfrentando grandes dificultades. Belén está rodeada de controles, puertas y barreras que restringen la vida diaria, y la guerra en Gaza ha detenido el turismo, lo que ha obligado a cerrar las tiendas de recuerdos y los hoteles. Como resultado, el desempleo entre los talladores ha alcanzado el 70%. Los católicos de Tierra Santa piden apoyo a través de sus oraciones y la compra de estas obras artesanales religiosas, que brindan ingresos esenciales a unas 600 familias católicas en Belén. Se aceptarán pagos con tarjeta, efectivo y Apple Pay, y se anima a los compradores a considerar estos artículos como regalos significativos.

Los regalos de Tierra Santa estarán disponibles para su compra después de todas las Misas el fin de semana del 10 y 11 de enero.

PARISH INFORMATION • INFORMACIÓN DE LA PARROQUIA

READINGS AND MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28,
6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
8:00am ✠Vicente Barajas

Tuesday, December 23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9,
10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
8:00am ✠Bill Brockman

Wednesday, December 24

Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab,
7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

4:00pm ✠Rosemary Orosch
6:00pm In Celebration of
Violayne Francois' Christening
8:00pm

✠Gaston y Llemile Vargas
12:00am (Midnight) For the
Deceased Members of the
Ruscito & Genio Families

Thursday, December 25

Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6;
Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
11:00am ✠Aura Walker
1:00pm ✠Fernando Zamora

Friday, December 26

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4,
6 and 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
8:00am ✠Maxima Madrideo

Saturday, December 27

1 Jn 1:4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;
Jn 20:1a, 2-8
5:00pm ✠Dennis Branhou
7:00pm ✠Vicente Muñiz,
✠Martin Muñiz,
✠Teodoro Padilla

Sunday, December 28

**Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus,
Mary and Joseph**

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3,
4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17;
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

7:30am ✠Mr. & Mrs. Timothy
McMenamin
9:00am

✠María de los Angeles Galaviz
11:00am ✠Maria H. Dougherty
1:00pm ✠Frank Diaz
6:00pm ✠Salvador Lopez

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Office is **OPEN**

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am to 4:00pm

and Friday, 8:30am to 3:30pm

Closed daily for lunch between 12pm—1pm

ESTAMOS AQUÍ PARA SERVIRLES

La Oficina Parroquial de San Francisco de Asís está **ABIERTA**

Lunes a jueves de 8:30am a 4:00pm

y los viernes de 8:30am a 3:30pm

Cerramos diariamente para el almuerzo de 12pm—1pm

CHAPEL HOURS

Daily Mass is celebrated in the CHAPEL from
8:00am to 8:30am.

The chapel is open Monday—Thursday from

8:30am to 4:00pm, Friday until 3:00pm for private prayer.

The church is closed during the week.

HORARIO DE LA CAPILLA

Misa en Español los miércoles a las 12:15pm en la CAPILLA

La capilla está abierta de lunes a jueves de

8:30am a 4:00pm y los viernes hasta las 3:00pm para

oración privada.

La iglesia esta cerrada durante toda la semana.

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 3:45pm to 4:45pm in English, in the church

CONFESIONES

Sábados de 6:00pm a 6:45pm en español, en la iglesia

ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CHAIN

To add a name or intention to the Prayer Chain, call

Kathy Leigh at 407-536-0117 or by email at crabbekay1@gmail.com.

CADENA DE ORACIÓN

Para agregar un nombre o intención a la Cadena de Oración, envíela
por correo electrónico a crabbekay1@gmail.com.

PRAYER SHAWLS

To pick up a shawl for yourself or a person in need, please call or
text Sandy Bove at 407-463-9437.

MANTO DE ORACIÓN

Para recoger un manto para usted o para una persona que lo
necesite, llame o envíe un mensaje de
texto a Sandy Bove al 407-463-9437.

DESPENSA DE ALIMENTOS

La Despensa de Alimentos de San Francisco está abierta a todos
los feligreses y sus familias. Para más información comuníquese a
la Oficina Parroquial.

FOOD PANTRY

The St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is open on the FIRST and THIRD Friday of each month
from 9am to 12pm. All parishioners and their families are welcome.

For more information contact 407-505-8507.

CONTACT

834 S.O.B.T., Apopka, FL 32703

Ph: 407-886-4602

www.stfrancisapopka.org

facebook.com/StFrancisApopka

Parochial Administrator

Fr. Mathew Vettath Joseph, S.D.V.

fr.mathew@stfrancisapopka.org

Ext. 306

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Ferdinandus Sadiman, S.D.V.

fr.ferdinandus@stfrancisapopka.org

Ext. 307

Deacons

Dcn. Ruthven Jackie

Dcn. Greg Kandra

Dcn. George Torres

Administrative Assistant

Caroline McCauley

cmccauley@stfrancisapopka.org

Ext. 301

Business Manager

Antonio Barros

adminoffice@stfrancisapopka.org

Ext. 303

Director of Faith Formation

Mercedes Henry

Ext. 308

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Please call the office

Director of Music

Julie Campese

Maintenance

Carmen Arzola

Gerardo Briones



2026 MARCH for LIFE

TAMPA, FLORIDA

Saturday, January 17, 2026
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
to Perry Harvey Sr. Park
9am-1pm



Join the march, beginning at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. We will celebrate the sanctity of life through prayer, music, and inspiring speeches aimed at raising awareness, inspiring others, and advocating for life in our community.

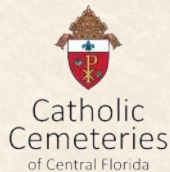


SCAN TO RSVP

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For further information,
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