



# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

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## **Entrance Antiphon** (*cf Isaiah 9.5*)

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

## **First Reading** (*Isaiah 52.7-10*)

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (*Psalm 98.1, 2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6 (R.3bc)*)

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought him victory. **R.**

The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love  
and faithfulness to the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. **R.**

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. **R.**

**Second Reading** (*Hebrews 1.1-6*)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors  
in many and various ways by the prophets,  
but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,  
whom he appointed heir of all things,  
through whom he also created the worlds.

He is the reflection of God's glory  
and the exact imprint of God's very being,  
and he sustains all things by his powerful word.  
When he had made purification for sins,  
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,  
having become as much superior to angels  
as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
"You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you"?  
Or again,  
"I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son"?  
And again,  
when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Luke 2.10-11*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** A holy day has dawned upon us.  
Come you nations, and adore the Lord.  
Today a great light has come upon the earth. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** (*John 1.1-18*)

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into being.  
What has come into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.  
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.  
He came as a witness to testify to the light,  
so that all might believe through him.  
He himself was not the light,  
but he came to testify to the light.  
The true light, which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world.  
He was in the world,  
and the world came into being through him;  
yet the world did not know him.  
He came to what was his own,  
and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who received him,  
who believed in his name,  
he gave power to become children of God,  
who were born, not of blood  
or of the will of the flesh  
or of the will of man,  
but of God.  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.  
John testified to him and cried out,

"This was he of whom I said,  
'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me  
because he was before me.'"  
From his fullness we have all received,  
grace upon grace.  
The law indeed was given through Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.  
No one has ever seen God.  
It is God the only Son,  
who is close to the Father's heart,  
who has made him known.

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **A Christmas Message**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we welcome this beautiful Christmas season, we are reminded once again of the simple but powerful truth at the heart of our celebration: God loves us so much that He chose to be with us, right here in our world, in our lives, and in our everyday moments. The birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, **"God is with us,"** brings a joy and hope that no challenge can overshadow.

Christmas invites us to pause from the rush of the season and open our hearts to the gentle presence of Christ. Whether you are celebrating with family, gathering with friends, or enjoying quiet time at home, may His peace and strength surround you, and His joy in the small blessings that brighten your days.

We are also truly grateful to each one of you. Our parish community is alive because of your smiles, your prayers, your willingness to serve, and the simple kindness you show to one another. This year, we have shared laughter, moments of reflection, celebrations, and even challenges, but through it all, we have grown together as one parish family. Thank you for being such an important and cherished part of St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

As we look ahead to a new year, may the Christ Child guide us with renewed hope, unity, and faith. Let us continue to walk together, supporting one another and sharing God's love in our homes, our parish, and our wider community.

From our hearts to yours, we wish you a joyful, peaceful Christmas season, and blessed New Year 2026.

Bro. Arnel Arnaldo  
Chairman  
Parish Pastoral Council

Rev. Fr. Michael Phi Tri Nguyen, O.P.  
Pastor  
St. Francis of Assisi Parish