

The Canticle of St. Francis

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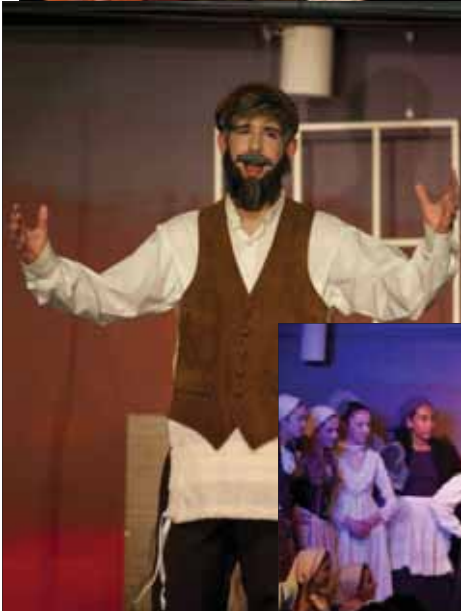
Parish Newsletter: Volume 19, Issue 1

Spring 2014



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Middle School students perform Fiddler on the Roof Jr.

St. Francis of Assisi Middle-School students performed the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof Jr.* on February 7 and 8 to full house audiences. Mrs. Opaleski, Mrs. O'Sullivan, Mrs. Waldecker and all members of the cast and crew worked very hard and put on a wonderful show. Our beloved pastor, Father James, also had a part in the performance. Congratulations to all!



Spring 2014 Calendar



Saturdays thru April 5: **Tax Assistance Program**- 10:30AM - 12 noon / Parish Office/ Appts 769-2550.

March 11, 18, 25, April 1: **Letter to the Galatians** with Fr. James/ 8:30AM / PAC/ Marty Lucas 821-2125

March 11, April 28: **Women's Faith & Fellowship**/ 7:00 – 8:30PM / PAC /Janene 821-2122

March 14: **Mother/Child Network** / 2nd & 4th Fridays 10AM – 12 noon/ Nursery / Tanya 734-395-6651

March 14 (April 18, May 16): **Serve A Meal for the Hungry** / 3rd Friday 3PM or 5PM / Delonis Center Shelter / to volunteer, call Bridget 665-9549

March 16, April 6, May 18 - **High school small group.** Are You Ready?! 4:00-6:00PM/ youth room/ jen@stfrancisa2.org

March 16, 17, 18: **Parish Lenten Retreat: Finding Joy in Following Jesus** / Church / Marty Lucas 821-2125

March 16 - **High school Youth Group** / Sundays 7-9:00PM/ youth room/ jen@stfrancisa2.org

March 17 – 31: **The "Broken" art installation** by Susan Clinthorne and Sally Thielen for *healing of people in human trafficking* / Church / Scott Wright 821-2121

March 21: **M.O.M.S. Group** / 1st & 3rd Fridays 10AM – 12PM with childcare / Chapel / Megan 734-646-9034

March 24: **Divorced & Separated Group** / All Mondays 7:00– 8:30PM / school library / Jeff 734-678-0995.

March 24: **Meditation Group** / All Mondays 7:00 – 8PM / Chapel / Paul 734-646-5591.

March 24, Mar. 31, Apr. 7: **Taize Lenten Prayer Service** / 8PM / Church / Thomas Kean 821-2124.

April 1: **Young Adults** 20-30's single or married/ **Theology On Tap** 7-9PM / Arbor Brewing Co/ jen@stfrancisa2.org

April 1: **Men's Group**/ 7:00 – 8:30PM / POMR / Kevin 734-972-6878.

April 6: **We Miss You – Catholics Return Home**, 12noon / Parish Office / Marty Lucas 821-2125

April 8: **SENIORS' program & lunch** / 10AM PAC/ "Fr. Bosco's Faith Journey" / Scott Wright 821-2121

April 12: **Catholic Business Professionals' Connection** 9:00-11AM /school library / Tom 734-649-2655.

April 13-14: **Return Lenten CRS Rice Bowl** contributions at Palm Sunday Mass / Scott 821-2121.

April 14: **Monthly Knitting Shawl Ministry**/ 7:00PM / Church Library / Kathleen 734-717-0685

April 18: **Living Way of the Cross** /Good Friday 12noon / church/ high school volunteers / jen@stfrancisa2.org

April 25/26: **Home repair** with "Christmas In Action"/ prepare worker lunches & home repair for low income needy elderly / Scott 821-2121.

May: **Registration begins-Vacation Bible School 2014 July 21 - 25** at www.stFrancisA2.org click *Religious Education* / call Ellen Ward 821-2130

May 4: **Young Adults / Theology On Tap** / 7-9PM Arbor Brewing Co/ jen@stfrancisa2.org

May 30: **Ice Cream Social** /5:00PM, **Car Raffle Drawing** at 8PM/ Colleen Pierce / 734.821.2208.

June 7: **Middle Singles (40-50's) Potluck Dinner** 6:30 PM / PAC/ Jen 821-2126

June 11, 12, 13: **Altar Society RUMMAGE SALE** / opens 9:30 AM/ Gym/ 734-769-2550. **Drop-Off donations** on June 7—9.



Lent Communal Penance Services

Family: Monday, April 14 at 5:00 p.m. in church
All Parish: Thursday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. in church

TRIDUUM / EASTER 2014 MASSES

Holy Thursday, April 17: 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
 Good Friday, April 18: 12 noon Stations of the Cross enacted by HS Youth
 1:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Evening Prayer
 Holy Saturday, April 19: 8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil & Mass (no 5PM Mass today)
 Easter Sunday, April 20: Easter Mass 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m..
 (No mass will be offered in the PAC-Parish Activity Center).



NOTE: There will be no 5PM mass on Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday

Women's Tea



On January 19th, women gathered to listen, learn, share, and grow in their faith at the first Women's Faith & Fellowship Tea. Hot tea, tasty treats, laughter and friendship warmed our hearts despite the cold temperatures. Our speaker, Janene Ternes (*photo lower right*) told the story of God's faithfulness in her life journey.

The Women's Faith & Fellowship group meets monthly to share faith, fellowship and FUN! Plan to join us for our next event on March 11.



More laughter and sharing!



Women brought their own tea cups and shared their stories.



The planning team poses by an assortment of delicious desserts.



Smiles and laughter filled the air.

THANK YOU to St. Francis Parish!

Christmas Party for Perry Nursery

Thank you for the 2013 Christmas Dinner Party!



Our St. Vincent de Paul Service committee is grateful to all who brought joy to the families of Perry Nursery School of Ann Arbor this year, while hosting a Christmas Dinner Party at St. Francis in December.



Over 156 family members and staff from Perry attended the buffet. Sandy Hilton, Perry's director, and those families wish to thank all from St. Francis who prepared food and/

or served at the party in some manner. Also, we thank, our party coordinators: Mary Hayden (food & kitchen); Doris Filisko (decorations); Chris Kempton (activities); Julie Holmes Martyka (emcee), Jason Zurawski (raffle); Linda Opaleski and the St. Francis School Choir (*photo above*), and of course Santa.

And, we thank everybody, more than 100 people, who helped (especially, if we forgot to list your name here) Amy Allen, Cayla Allen, Jane Antosiak, Dcn. Rich Badics, Susan Bass, Ann Bogits, Kim Bonenberger, Father Bosco, Mary Bowman, Elaine Brandenburg, Sue Bright, Noreen Burnett, Ben, Maggie, Cecilia & Colleen Burroughs, Marionette Cano, Elaine Caoili, Tom Carvill, Shin Young Choo, Liz Cole, Jim & Flo Collins, Andrew Comai, Doris Conlin, Lorraine Cordeiro, Kathi deGeus, Barbara & Dick Dehn, Karen, Marian & Ray Digby, Patti Dobbs, Doris Filisko, Mary Hayden, Annette Herbert, Margaret Hermes, Jake Hinshaw, Emma Hudson, Kathleen Kaveh, Barbara Kelly-Ferris, Lily & Chris Kempton, Nancy Klaphake, Judy Kovac, Molly Lobdell, Alison and Michael MacGillivray, Luke & Lisa Madden, Rosemary Markel, Carol McCaffrey, MaryKaren McClellan, Tammy Michalec, David Miller, Jane Miller, John & Cicie Miller, Anthony & Chris Mollo, Ann Moln, Felice Moorman, Norma Orona, Cathy Pietrasiuk, Barbara Pomey, Diane Purcell, Tess Raveendra, Maya Savarino, Annie Scott, Patrick & John Sherry, Rose Sherry, Evan Sood, Peggy Soto, Sharon Sprague, Sharon Sprague, Clare Stando, Angela Szewczul, Debbie Tirico, Kathy Vincenz, Chris Vonkoss, Cathy Wagoner, Mary Wakefield, Akane Kanesaki Wiseman, James & Linda Wiseman, Scott Wright,



Sharon Wright, Dorothy Zeck, Rita Zyber, the Washtenaw Young Adult Friendship Group & the Girl Scout Troop (*photo left*).

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2014 Mass, Choirs & Dinner

On **Sunday, January 19th** our St. Francis community again honored Dr. King at weekend masses, before the national holiday that recognizes his efforts to use the tools of non-violence to bring



peace and justice to all people. His positions reflect much of our own Catholic Social Teaching. The 5 PM Sunday mass featured our talented Contemporary Choir, under the leadership of Carol Fedewa, joined by members of the Corpus Christi Choir (our sister

parish), under the leadership of Michelle Baines (*top photo*). The combined choirs bring a vitality and energy in honoring Dr. King.

After a joyous, song-filled mass, celebrated by Fr. James, all were invited to a delicious dinner catered by **Cecie & John Miller**. In the interest of being more sustainable, we fed almost 80 guests using "real" dishes and utensils. Thanks to all who participated and served at this event. Also, thanks to **Andy Comai & Kevin McKay** and all the volunteers who lent a hand to help with the dishes, and to **Wendy Lemke** for doing all the real-cloth tablecloth laundry. We are proud to have avoided using and throwing away all those disposable plates, cups, and utensils!

Thanks to all who work to bring justice & peace into our community! We especially thank Michelle Baines, Carol Fedewa and our Choirs. We thank all who helped: Dick Brown, Katie DeBona, Patrice Deutschmann, Ray Digby, Jeannette East, Victoria Emch, Mark Gawronski, Mary Hayden, Julie Hurley, Julia Jackowski, MaryLou Kellermann, Ernestine McGlynn, John Miller, Chris Mollo, Cathy Pietrasiuk, Jim Russo, Maya Savarino, John Schwarz, Sharon Sheldon, Ann Skonecki, Autumn Smith, Tricia Suttman, Sharon Walker, Linda Wiseman, Sharon & Ed Wright, Elizabeth, Julia, Karol, Miriam, Kasia & Scott Wright, and Patti & Charles Yonka.

Service & Support for those in need

“When I was hungry, you fed me”

St. Francis Parish Food Drive

Thank you for the Parish Food Drive-November 24, 2013!

Our St. Francis Parish St. Vincent Service Committee would like to thank all St. Francis parishioners who contributed to this November's Food Drive. Through your generosity we were able to provide 580 bags of food and essential goods to the organizations listed here. Each has expressed their special gratitude as their pantries were almost bare. We also thank **BUSCH'S GROCERY** on Green Road for their contribution of bags, which makes the drive possible.

And, thanks to our project coordinator, Mary Hayden, and, to her assistants, especially: Denise Cadavieco & Family, Cynthia Carnevale, Dick & Barb Dehn, Sarah Donnellon, Kathleen Downer, Catherine Farrell, Glen Feak, Brian Fitzgerald, Dick Galant, Mark Gawronski, Karen Holeva, Andrew Kanitz, Chris Kempton & kids, Donna Krukowski, Bill La Croix, Jane Levy, Joan Meagher, Chris Mollo, Deb Purcell, Carol Rigg, Annie & Ed Scott, Mike Sloan, Julie Soyer, Kathi & Steve Tobey, Tuffin Wagner, Linda & Jim Wiseman, Carol, Jack & Will Wisner, Ed & Sharon Wright, Girl Scout Troops 42701 & 40312; St. Francis Middle School Group, and, everyone who worked on this project. We are happy to report that our Food Drive delivered

580 total bags of groceries...

54 to [PORT Project Outreach Team of Washtenaw County for Homeless](#);

110 to [Corpus Christi Parish, Detroit \(Our Sister Parish\)](#);

176 to [Hope Clinic](#);

174 to [Northside Community Center \(of Catholic Social Services\)](#);

75 bags (+gift cards) to [Perry Nursery School of Ann Arbor](#) (baskets assembled by St. Francis Middle School Youth).

The Giving Tree Gifts 2013



Thanks to all of you shoppers and gift wrappers, and special thanks to our project coordinators: Karen Shellie & Susan Wawrzaszek. Thanks to our Middle School Students, Ellen Ward and Doris Filisko for making the Giving Tree Tags. We thank those who decorated the trees, and most especially those who moved the gifts from the church to storage after all the Masses: Jane Antosiak, Moni Barera, Joe & Molly Cleary, Wanita Forgacs, Amy Gottfried, Dorothy Greca, Vicki Hatch, Molly Hill, Andrew Hocott, John Jalbert, Jane Levy, Georgia Luke, Chris Mollo, Bruce & Ann Moln, James & Pamela Palm, Maya Savarino, Julie Soyer, Akane Kanesaki Wiseman, James & Linda Wiseman, and Susan Wawrzaszek.

More than 1000 individual gifts were distributed to individuals in need through the following organizations:

- Home of New Vision -Recovery;
- Ozone House;
- St. Louis Center;
- Catholic Social Services
- Angel Tree, Lansing
- Perry Nursery School;
- ArborVitae Women's Center;
- Project Transition;
- Hope Clinic, Inc.;
- HIV/AIDs Resource Center (H.A.R.C.);
- Community Action Network, Green Baxter and Hikone
- SOS Homeless Children's Services;
- CSTS, Community Support and Treatment Center;
- Veterans at VA Hospital.



Christmas 2013 ReGift Thank You:

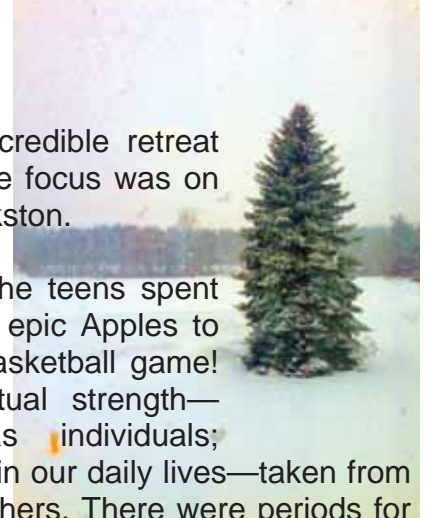
The St. Vincent de Paul Service Committee of St. Francis would like to thank all the wonderful donors of new items to our ReGift collection this past Christmas. We distributed 392 presents to Alpha House, Perry Nursery, and Project Outreach Team Homeless of Washtenaw County. Each organization wishes to thank our St. Francis parishioners and especially the children who gave some of their new toys and games to provide for other children. We also give special thanks to Mary Hayden who served as our coordinator. Questions, contact: Scott (821-2121).



High School Youth

High School Youth on Survival Retreat

In the midst of a snowstorm, our high school youth enjoyed an incredible retreat experience. Perhaps in the midst of harsh weather, it was apt that the focus was on **spiritual survival!** We journeyed to Colombiere Retreat Center in Clarkston.



Over the course of the weekend the teens spent time in discussion, prayer, and an epic Apples to Apples game—not to mention a basketball game! Topics included sources of spiritual strength—prayer in community and as individuals; characteristics that we need to live in our daily lives—taken from the Gospel stories of Jesus; and others. There were periods for the teens to pray as a group and as individuals. We had small group gatherings on Sunday morning that challenged the teens to apply the discussions, teachings, and prayers of the retreat to their daily lives.



By the end of the retreat, teens had a survival kit to take home with them. It included tangible items such as prayer books, rosaries, candles, a Youcat, and a box full of inspiration from scripture and the words of holy men and women. They also had the 'virtual toolkit' that included all the information, reflection, and prayer from the retreat.



Teens had the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with several of the retired Jesuits that live at Colombiere. The Superior, with plenty of experience with high school youth, presided at Mass.



The retreat was a refreshing and enjoyable experience for all. Everyone is looking forward to next year's retreat!

Memories of the 2013 Nativity Procession



Living Nativity 2013

Thank you to all those who participated in the 2013 Living Nativity Procession either by mighty deed or kind words of encouragement! The Living Nativity Procession re-tells the story of the birth of Jesus Christ in narration, song, and recreated scenes.

Vacation Bible School

Looking ahead to the warmth of summer, mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School:

July 21-25, 2014

Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-12 noon. This year, during Vacation Bible School, we will head to the wilderness with Moses, to explore both our heritage and living faith in Jesus Christ! Vacation Bible School is for children ages preschool through 5th grade, with middle school, high school, and adult volunteers!



Questions? For information on these events and more, visit our web site STFRANCISA2.COM/RELIGIOUS-EDUCATION or in the Religious Education Office, contact Courtney Aymen, secretary (stfred@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2130) or Ellen Ward, director (ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132).



A young widow and past participant of the workshop, shares her story.

Grieving with Great HOPE

Despite frigid temperatures, Catholics from the Ann Arbor area gathered at St. Francis to remember their deceased loved ones and continue their healing journey. We had a candle lighting service on Friday night with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, beautiful music and inspiring talks.

On Saturday, we rolled up our sleeves and got to the challenging work of grieving, sharing and looking to the future with hope.



Listening with great hope.



Although all of our journeys are unique, we found we shared much in common.



John & Sandy O'Shaughnessy, our facilitators

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Celebrates

St. Francis of Assisi School had a great winter celebrating so many of its wonderful programs. Our annual Christmas program was absolutely stunning as we celebrated the birth of our Blessed Christ.

January started off with an unexpected stretch of snow days. In the in-between, students celebrated **Catholic Schools Week**. Our theme this year was "Faith, Knowledge, and Service". For our *Faith* theme, the students participated in the parish Holy Hour on Thursday and a beautiful all-school mass on Friday celebrating our beloved teachers with a spirit gift for all of the gifts they give our students. For our *Knowledge* theme, we recognized all of our 6th, 7th, and

8th grade students in their 2nd quarter accomplishments as part of the honor-roll. The students of St. Francis celebrated *Service* by collecting coins to benefit the beginning of the building of a kitchen through the organization of Mary's Meals.

February served just as busy as the students completed their annual *Jump Rope for Heart* benefiting the American Heart Association. They also participated in the annual St. Francis Science Fair where students in 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 8th completed science projects/experiments and students in 3rd, 5th, and 7th completed research papers on a scientific topic of their choice. With the guidance of teachers and parents, students learned and practiced the scientific method in research and experimentation.



BIG NEWS!!!

New Weekend MASS Times *begin Palm Sunday*

To accommodate our growing parish, we have adjusted the weekend mass times. This increase in time between masses will allow us greater time for fellowship between masses, as well as facilitating our growing Family Religious Education program.

As Palm Sunday to Easter presents increased traffic and parking difficulties, the new times ease this problem as we *begin the new Weekend Mass Schedule on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014.*

On Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014 our weekend Mass Times will change to:

Saturday 5PM
Sunday 7AM, 8:30AM, 10:30 AM,
12:30PM and 5PM.

NOTE: Sunday 5PM Mass ends on Sun, May 18, 2014 to begin our summer Mass schedule. It will resume in September.

Seniors At St. Francis (55 & faster)

One of most important things we do as senior Catholics is to gather around a table and share a meal. We also give thanks each November, we celebrate life when ever possible, we especially enjoy birthday parties and special St. Valentine treats.

Come join us!



Helping Our Homeless Neighbors -- Leadership by Example

Ductus exemplum; it means “leadership by example” in Latin. My desire to be a Marine officer is actually what started *Operation Welcoming Warmth*, a project to collect and deliver 72 back packs with warm items to the Delonis Center for our homeless neighbors.

While in my application process Captain Harmon suggested I take on a more pivotal leadership role than simply being on my dorm’s hall council. I had been interested in helping the homeless for two years so I seized the opportunity to finally make a difference. The leader must possess and actively demonstrate all 14 Marine Corps’ leadership traits.

I sincerely thank you for your involvement in this project. We would very much like making this an annual event. It would not have been possible without you and I hope we can work together again next year to bring the community together while assisting those in need!

- *Nathan Kossey* a 2nd year student at U of M.





Press the PAUSE button

Work. Sports. Appointments. Travel. Shopping. We have all gotten so busy in our lives. Where do you go when you need a place of refuge or oasis? Is it the comfort of a favorite chair? A city park? A coffee shop? Driving the open road?

Our retreat director is **Michael Dopp**, who with Linda Smith formed *Mission of the Redeemer Ministries* in Ottawa, Ontario. Michael graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University with Bachelor degrees in Business Administration (BBA) and Philosophy (BA). He then earned a



Bachelor in Theology (STB) and Master of Divinity (MDiv) at St. Augustine's at the University of Toronto. He finished his studies at **Sacred Heart Major Seminary** in Detroit where he received a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL). Michael has been involved in a variety of ministries dedicated to evangelization and has been involved in mission projects in Europe, Africa, and North America. Michael recently completed a three year contract as Principal of Maryvale Academy, an independent Catholic elementary school. As of July 1, 2012, he is employed full time with *Mission of the Redeemer Ministries*.

Wherever that oasis is, it needs to point us to God. It needs to redirect our heart. Oasis is not about escape or entertainment; it's about positioning ourselves to enter into the Presence of God. Once there, God reminds us of his sovereignty. He refreshes and restores.

PARISH RETREAT FOR LENT:

Finding Joy in Following Jesus

Give Yourself the Gift of a Retreat this Lent!

No need to pack a bag, no need to drive far away, no need to make extensive child care arrangements---we make it easy for you! Indulge yourself spiritually! Set some time apart from your regular, busy schedule to attend our Parish Lenten Retreat on the evenings of **March 16, 17, and 18.**

Lent is a beautiful time of preparation for the greatest of Christian celebrations. On this retreat you will be encouraged and challenged to draw closer to the Lord during these special periods of grace. Parishioners will be led deeper into central truths of the faith, while also being given the opportunity to respond to the invitation to follow Christ more intimately.

Come to this spiritual oasis; experience a change in your life. By refreshing the faithful, encouraging the struggling, and reaching out to the non-believing, you will be led into a response of faith and relationship of love.

St. Francis Health Ministry

Promoting a Healthier Lifestyle

We have had a busy Fall and Winter having blood drives, and a **Flu Shot Clinic** in which over 100 people were vaccinated! **A new AED device was installed in the main school hallway!**

AED or *automated external defibrillator* is a device that automatically analyzes the heart rhythm and if it detects a problem that may respond to an electrical shock, it delivers a shock to restore a normal heart rhythm. Thanks to their small size and ease of use, AEDs have been installed in many settings (such as schools and airports), and serve a role in expanding the number of opportunities for life-saving defibrillation. **We now have three AED in the parish located in:** the gym, the school main hallway, and the ushers' room in the church.



The St. Francis Health Ministry is planning for a healthy Spring with some exciting projects! On Sunday, March 2nd our Blood Drive from 8am-2pm is in the St. Francis gym. We also offer free blood pressure screening in the church gathering space after weekend masses. We invite all of the community to get their blood pressure screened. Early detection of high blood pressure is the best way to prevent a stroke!

The Health Ministry is always **welcoming volunteers** to help our community live a healthier lifestyle, if you are interested in using your time and talent in the St. Francis Health Ministry please contact nurse@stfrancis2.org





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Handbell Choirs spread Christmas Cheer

Our St. Francis Handbell Choirs made their annual road trip to Detroit Metropolitan Airport in December to spread some Christmas cheer. On Wednesday, December 18, nineteen festively-dressed ringers gathered at the fountain at DTW's McNamara terminal and rang a wide selection of classic Christmas carols to entertain to holiday travelers. Getting handbell equipment - including tables, foam & table covers, music stands and 37 bells - through security is no easy task, but our Equipment Manager, Ralph Belknap, and ringer (and airport employee) Bryan Wagoner were up to the task. They took the equipment through security without a hitch and everything was ready for the ringers when they arrived!



The airport was buzzing with holiday excitement as unsuspecting new arrivals were greeted with joyful holiday handbell melodies. Dozens of travelers as young as age 4 joined in the bell-ringing fun during the 'ring and sing' portions of the program. Our guest ringers hailed from around the globe – and several members of our armed forces rang with us as well!

The handbell choir members of St. Francis love this community outreach opportunity. We look forward to ringing at the airport again next Christmas!