

FALL 2015

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The Canticle

OF ST. FRANCIS

QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 3



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis has declared a jubilee year of Mercy beginning December 8. At St. Francis this will be a time for ongoing renewal and spiritual growth and an opportunity to invite others to be part of our community of faith.

MARRIAGE IN THE LORD

Convalidation Workshop October 23-24

Perhaps you and your spouse were married civilly, or at another Christian church, and now as a couple you feel called "to get things right" with the Catholic Church? Perhaps now is the time you wish to have your marriage blessed by the Church?

- Has been married civilly for 10 years or longer
- Has no impediments to Convalidation (such as previous un-annulled unions)
- Has been a registered and practicing member of our parish for at least 6 months

Our program will prepare you to celebrate what the Catholic Church calls "convalidation." The program begins Friday evening, October 23, and continues Saturday, October 24, with your convalidation taking place at the end of the Saturday session or during the evening Mass.

Please register by contacting Marty Lucas at mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2125. Marty will contact you directly about what documents we require. Each couple will need to complete a FOCCUS Inventory online prior to the workshop. There is a \$200 cost associated with this program which covers the materials, food, speakers, etc., but some scholarship funds are available.



In order to register for this program, you should be a couple that:

PARISH-WIDE EVENTS

JOIN IN THE FUN AT THE PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, September 13



“Behold,
how good
it is, and
how
pleasant,
where
brethren
dwell as
one!”
Psalm
133:1

Join us for the 12:30 p.m. Mass in church followed by the parish picnic immediately after Mass until 4 p.m. on the parish grounds west of church.

We'll provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, and plenty of entertainment! Bring your favorite side dish, salad, or

dessert to share and a blanket to sit on the lawn. (We'll provide some tables for those who find it easier to be seated at a table.)

Enjoy activities for both young and old! **Everyone is welcome!** Come meet new people, greet friends, and join us in the fun!



Our Sunday 5 p.m. Mass resumes on September 20. Join us for Mass:

Saturday 5 p.m.

**Sunday 7 a.m.; 8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 12:30 p.m.
and 5 p.m.**

We welcome back our “Sunday at 5” music group as they enhance our liturgy with a selection of familiar and contemporary music. Contact our Director of Music and Liturgy at tkean@stfrancisa2.org if you would like to be part of any of our music groups.

PARISH-WIDE EVENTS

CELEBRATING ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

We Honor Our Patron Saint in October

October is the month in which we honor our Parish's Patron Saint. We owe a lot to our patron: for over 60 years he has watched over our community of faith, strengthened us by the example of his holy life, taught us by his words of preaching and sustained us by his prayers.

Francis stands before us as a model of trust in the Lord and faithfulness to the Gospel. His example challenges us to seek to serve our brothers and sisters in the name of Christ.

All are welcome to these events; so, go ahead, invite a friend!

- All the weekend masses on the **3rd and 4th of October** will celebrate the Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi
- The Blessing of Pets will take place on **Sunday, October 4, at 2:30 p.m.**, on the outside steps at the front of the Church as a remembrance of St. Francis' love for all of God's creatures
- For Francis Fest this year, join us on **Thursday, October 8**, for Evening Prayer, Benediction, Light Supper and Speakers and again on **Monday, October 19**, for Evening Prayer, Speakers and Desserts. On both evenings real people from our own community of faith will share "Stories of Hope," small glimpses of their tragedies and triumphs. Stories of hope generate hope.

Francis,

Beloved of Christ and patron of our parish,

We beseech your intercession and prayer for our community as we celebrate this month dedicated to your honor.

Strengthen the faith and commitment of all our parish members, deepen the bonds of community, and grant us a true spirit of sharing and self-sacrifice.

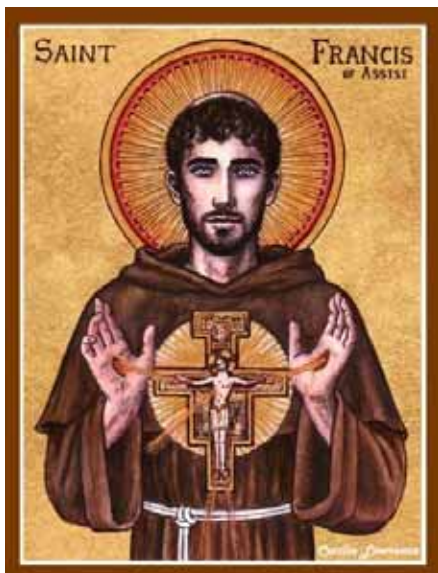
Teach us by your example to forsake the passing things of this world and embrace the true and eternal things of heaven.

Help us to be instruments of true peace, bringing love, joy, and hope into our broken and fragmented world.

Through your intercession, we pray that our hearts might be filled with the fiery, gentle power of Christ's love so that all our actions and words might bring comfort to those in need.

Learning from your example and teachings, may we too become signs of God's love: bringing forth Christ's presence in our homes and community.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



St. Francis of Assisi, Pray for Us

For the month of October we will have available holy cards printed especially for our parish. The icon of St. Francis on the holy card was written by Cecilia Lawrence, a talented young adult from our local community, and our parish prayer (to the right) was composed by our pastor, Fr. James.

STEWARDS OF CREATION

GARDENS AND GROUNDS

A Comprehensive and Sustainable Plan

“Be praised,
my Lord,
through our
sister, Mother
Earth, who
sustains and
governs us, and
who produces
various fruits
with colored
flowers and
herbs.”

– St. Francis of
Assisi

As part of our care for God's creation, we plan to improve the attractiveness of our parish grounds while respecting and protecting the natural environment. Partnering with Mr. Erich Jensen, our Parish Sustainable Garden Project and Native Plants Initiative coordinator, we will use native plants, grasses, and organic maintenance techniques that care for our environment and are beautiful in both appearance and practice.

The St Francis property has many niches of outstanding potential for a sustainable and beautiful landscape. Some of these niches are in need of special attention. Other niches are already beautifully taken care of by generous volunteers who have done it for years. Thank you! Now we are seeking your input and continued involvement in this work of God's creation for our parish.

We are creating a map of all the various small gardens on campus. We invite



individuals and group leaders to commit to caring for a specific small garden. Thank you for considering joining us in this effort!

Interested? Contact: Scott Wright at (734) 821-2121 or swright@stfrancisa2.org.



We've started a new feature on our website to honor those from our parish who have died in Christ. You may find information on those who have recently entered into eternal life by visiting STFRANCISA2.COM and clicking on the Church Community tab. Links to obituaries can be found on the left side of the page under the heading "Died in Christ." Remember to mark your calendars for our annual commemoration of the faithful departed on Sunday, November 1 at our 5 p.m. Mass.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CLASSES BEGIN SOON

Religious Education for Grades PreK-8th Grade



We offer Religious Education classes for children in grades preK-8th grade to support parents in teaching their children our Faith in Jesus Christ. Traditional Religious Education classes meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and a family program meets on Sunday mornings. The

family program allows for the teaching of the faith to children with the close involvement of the family.

Registration forms are available online at STFRANCISA2.COM or in the Religious Education office. For questions, please call (734) 821-2130.

IMPORTANT DATES

For the full list of Religious Education class dates, please see STFRANCISA2.COM and click on Religious Education.

Wednesday classes (6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.) for children in grades 1-8 begin September 30 and run weekly through May 11, 2016.

Sunday preschool begins October 4 (10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.) and runs weekly through May 1, 2016.

Sunday Family A (10:20 a.m.--12:15 p.m.) for children (and at least one parent) in grades preK-5 and youth in grades 6-8 begins October 4 and meets two Sundays a month until May 1.

Sunday Family B (10:20 a.m.--12:15 p.m.) for children (and at least one parent) in grades preK-5 and youth in grades 6-8 begins October 11 and meets two Sundays a month until May 1.

Parish Sacramental Celebrations:

- First Reconciliation (for children in 2nd grade and older) is on Saturdays, January 23 & 30, 2016
- First Eucharist (for children in 2nd grade and older) is the weekend of April 23 & 24, 2016 (Saturday 10 a.m.; 5 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 12:30 p.m.)
- Confirmation (for youth in 8th grade- high school and adults): will be celebrated on the Vigil of Pentecost, Saturday, May 14 at 4:30 p.m. at Hill Auditorium with Bishop Boyea. All are welcome!

CONFIRMATION
FORMATION

Do you have a youth being confirmed and perhaps have not been Confirmed yourself? Or perhaps you have an adult relative or friend who would like to be confirmed as well? You are welcome to prepare for the Sacrament. Contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org for preparation of children and youth. Contact Marty Lucas at mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2125 for preparation of adults.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES



Our ministry's patron is St. Stephen, the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need.

LOVE BY LISTENING

Stephen Ministry Training Begins in October

God wants people to experience how much God loves them.

Well-trained Stephen Ministers provide distinctively Christian confidential care for people going through difficult times. In a large parish such as ours, there are more needs for care than our priests can meet. Stephen Ministers supplement pastoral care at our parish.

Please consider becoming a Stephen Minister to listen to and encourage others who seek healing and companionship. We need more Stephen Ministers at St. Francis. Stephen Ministers meet one-on-one with their assigned care receivers for an hour weekly.

Our next Stephen Ministry Training Series will begin in October and meet on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The training series has 20 sessions. Our Stephen Leaders are planning this series together with several other congregations located near St. Francis and we are excited about offering this wonderful ecumenical training experience.

Apply today at www.stfrancisa2.com/stephen/ or pick up an application at the parish office. Applications are due by September 15.

Bear one another's burdens.
Galatians 6:2

Upcoming opportunities to serve Christ in our midst:

- Washtenaw CROP Hunger Walk, October 11
- St. Francis volunteer week at the Family Shelter at Alpha House, October 12-18
- Food Drive Empty Bag Distribution, November 14 & 15
- Food Drive Full Bags Returned, November 21 & 22
- Giving Tree Set-Up, November 27

Our St. Francis community leaders also invite you to consider helping with the ongoing ministries of the parish:

- Food Pantry at Northside Community Center
- Meals for the Hungry at Food Gatherers'
- Community Kitchen, located in the Delonis Center
- Nonviolent Communication Practice Group
- Jail Ministry Teams

Interested? Contact: Scott Wright at (734)821-2121 or swright@stfrancisa2.org.

Witness and Welcome: *Sharing the Joy of our Faith*

For Year ending June 30, 2015

To the People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once again it is my pleasure to present to you our annual parish report for the year 2014 to 2015. As you will see the past year has been a very active and busy one for our community of faith and my thanks go to all who were involved in making it so successful. Here we have just highlighted a few of the many events we have organized and celebrated in the hope that they will give you an overview of what we have tried to achieve. At the heart of all our ministries and activities is our desire to celebrate God's enduring presence in our world and to invite and welcome all to join us in that celebration. I believe we have moved a little further towards that goal. But of course there is always more to be done and as we embark on a new year we invite you to join us in this holy task and to use your God-given gifts to serve the Lord and his Church.

Please enjoy this report, which comes to you this year as part of our Fall quarterly Canticle. Taken together we hope they will encourage you to engage all the more with your family of faith and to be part of this ever-growing dynamic parish. When you have finished you might even pass it on to others, especially those who are searching for a family of faith and have expressed an interest in our community. Remember there is no greater gift you can give another than the gift of a relationship with Christ and those who belong to him. Here at St. Francis we cherish that sacred relationship and welcome all who seek to join us. It is our joy to share Christ and our faith with others. Let them know that there is no obstacle that cannot be overcome! So go on: invite your family and friends to join us! Christ is waiting and so are we! Together let us share the joy of our faith with others.

Fr. James Conlon
Pastor

Sharing Our Joy

“An evangelizing community is always concerned with fruit, because the Lord wants her to be fruitful. It cares for the grain and does not grow impatient at the weeds.”

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 24.

Pope Francis tells us that the message of Jesus is one that brings joy and abundance to our lives. Mindful of this, our parish placed greater focus this year on sharing that joyful and life giving message and on being a more welcoming community – a place where all will feel cared for and valued. Through workshops and discussions on hospitality and evangelization, we took active steps to make people feel more at home and to welcome all who come to our parish community. This included initial planning for a new welcome center as part of our Church Gathering Space.

This renewed focus on welcome and faith sharing is a key component of our parish's new five-year pastoral plan which we published this past summer. In creating the new plan, our pastoral team and parish leaders worked together to extend the spirit of unity and collaboration across the various ministries thereby creating a more vibrant parish and a welcoming spiritual home for all.

COVER -(Continued on page 2)



COVER - (Continued from page 1)

Other highlights from the past year included

- Our Women's Faith and Fellowship Group celebrated its second year by hosting seven events with dynamic topics and speakers. Our parish health ministry team hosted a successful Women's Health Expo with the support of many businesses and individuals.
- Our biennial Common Conference was held in January and attracted over 350 participants who took part in a wide variety of workshops and talks on evangelization and faith development, including one by our keynote speaker, Deacon Ralph Poyo.
- Once again our liturgical/sacramental life took center stage as our pastoral team and parish committees sought ways to enhance our celebration of liturgy and increase active participation among our parishioners. New and increased opportunities were provided for all our music ministries by adding to our choirs and music groups and offering them greater training and faith formation. In addition our worship team created new worship aids for special liturgies and to help visitors and children feel more comfortable participating during Mass.
- To accommodate our growing numbers we decided to celebrate Confirmation outside of the parish. Hill Auditorium on UM campus, with its excellent acoustics and aesthetics proved a wonderful setting for this special celebration.
- Our technology team continued to build and improve on video capabilities. This year the parish did video broadcasting of events outside the church, including the outdoor Living Nativity procession and the Confirmation Mass at Hill Auditorium. Other advances included cost saving measures for the phone system, better tracking capability for donations at the Educational Trust Fund Benefit, plus posting of Sunday homilies on [Facebook](#).



Sharing in Service

“Every day we are all called to become a ‘caress of God’ for those who perhaps have forgotten their first caresses, or perhaps who never have felt a caress in their life.”

-Pope Francis

Once again, the list of outreach and Social Ministry projects could fill several pages. This past year, hundreds of generous parishioners provided assistance in many ways. This included jail ministry, tax preparation, supplying local and Detroit-area food pantries, growing vegetables for at-risk children, and organizing the distribution of thousands of Christmas gifts through our annual Advent Giving Tree.

Working ahead of the Pope's recent call for environmental care, our Sustainability Committee continued to review ways for the parish to be more energy efficient and to promote recycling, waste reduction and the elimination of disposable plates and utensils whenever possible. Once again, the parish hosted an electronic waste recycling day, collecting more than 11,000 pounds of waste.

The Social Ministry team also:

- Raised funds and awareness for causes and groups such as Mercy House, Arbor Vitae, a dormitory project for children in Kenya, *Schola Artium* in Ypsilanti, and the Rice Bowl collection for Catholic Relief Services during Lent.
- We supported other community ministries, such as Alpha House, Foundations Preschool (formerly Perry School) and St. Vincent de Paul. Plus, we partnered with Habitat for Humanity to complete the Catholic Habitat House, which included a sponsorship of \$10,000.
- We assisted in the Jail Ministry and supported the 57 jail ministers with two retreats and social events.



Sharing in Catholic Education and Formation

St. Francis of Assisi Parish School:

Last year saw continued growth in our parish school enrollment. In response to its mandate, the school continued to strive for the spiritual growth of its students and their academic excellence. We continue to invite all to consider our parish school for their children or grandchildren, and of course offer a variety of financial assistance to help achieve this goal.

Our teachers and staff exceeded the goals of the parish's previous five-year plan, increasing rankings in math and expanding Spanish to grades K-8. The staff continued to review best-practice education programs in the area, working to boost curriculum in science, math and language arts. Students also learned advanced computer programming and

technology information, and had access to better digital research and database resources. With a focus on service and virtue-based learning, the students helped with many service projects, including shopping together and wrapping gifts for the Advent Giving Tree, as well as supporting the CRS Rice Bowl collection in Lent. Sixth-graders visited an area nursing home monthly to play games and interact with the seniors.

Religious Education:

Public school students also have the opportunity to learn and grow in faith through a range of Religious Ed. programs. This year our high school students began to help lead small groups and activities at the Confirmation Retreats for our 8th-graders held at Bethany House in DeWitt.

Adult Formation:

Our parish provides a wide variety of year-round opportunities for education and growth. New initiatives included several on-site and on-line classes. Other learning opportunities included the School of Discipleship, which offered two courses this past year, one on Salvation History and one on Prayer.



Sharing in Friendship

Our small groups continue to grow, helping people of all ages make new friends and hear how God is working in our lives. This year, groups met weekly during Advent and Lent, with members especially enjoying the book *The Lessons of Saint Francis*, a part of our October-long celebrations of our patron. Our celebrations also included "An Evening in Assisi," an Italian dinner and dramatization of the stories of St. Francis by Mark Price.

Friends gathered at a variety of events, including our annual Parish Picnic, senior luncheons, the Women's Faith and Fellowship Group tea, and many events for middle school and high school youth. In December, the parish hosted a special evening of prayer with a dinner and movie in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Father James has introduced day trips to visit churches of historical importance. This year we visited Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Carey & Toledo, Ohio.

"If you act justly with one another, God will dwell in the land."

Jeremiah 7:5-7

Sharing our Support

The Pastoral Team worked to increase the level of outreach and expertise for support groups that assist people with bereavement and other losses, such as divorce and separation. Once again we hosted a community-wide workshop, called "Grieving with Great Hope," attended by 22 people with follow-up sessions and ongoing support.



2015 Annual Report



St. Francis of Assisi
PARISH

Sharing our Financial Gifts

Our Stewardship Team continued to develop the parish's financial gifts, and the Development Committee and Educational Trust Fund Board worked to find new strategies to promote our parish school. Building on its academic success, the school created a new Marketing Committee, which met about eight times during the year to help in advising our school principal on how best to promote and grow our parish school.

Financial highlights include:

- Total gross revenue of \$170,776 was raised for school operations. This included \$86,048 raised from the annual Car Raffle, sponsored by Gene Butman Ford, and from the *"Ice Bucket Challenge."* Our school also secured a grant of \$20,000 to fund an electronic database and e-books for better research solutions for students.
- Total gross revenue for our school's Tuition Assistance Fund was \$44,392. Part of this fund was raised through the successful *"Teeing it up for Tuition"* golf outing, which raised \$12,125, and the Tuition Assistance Appeal which raised \$26,450. All of these efforts allowed our parish school to award 16 current school families with tuition assistance totaling \$43,275.
- Our Educational Trust Fund (ETF) also continued to grow. The principal of the Fund is invested to generate interest, and each year a portion of the interest is transferred to the school's operating budget to help meet current needs. This year the award totaled \$70,000, and as of June 30, 2015, the balance of the Trust Fund totaled \$2,001,750. Total gross revenue raised for the Fund was \$133,747. This included another successful ETF Benefit, with the theme of *"Goin' to Graceland,"* which raised \$78,318, while our Leadership Circle totaled \$52,799.
- Our school's *"Hopes and Dreams Fund,"* launched two years ago to assist new families with tuition continues to grow. Last year the Fund helped three families to enroll their children at our school and at least five families will be assisted in the coming year. The Fund is built on an eight year dollar-for-dollar challenge gift of \$40,000 per year from an anonymous benefactor. This year's total gross revenue from gifts and pledges to the *Hopes and Dreams Fund* was \$130,891 (this included two challenge gifts of \$40,000 from our anonymous benefactor in the same fiscal year – one was for gifts raised in 2014 and the other was for our gifts raised in calendar year 2015).



StFrancisA2.com

For lots more information about parish events, initiatives and fellowship learn more at our website: StFrancisA2.com

Parish Year end Financial Statement. Our parish year end financial statement has been posted to our website, and copies are available to pick up in our Parish Office.

Parish Pastoral Plan. Our new Parish Pastoral Plan for 2015-2020 has been finalized and is ready for us to begin implementation. It is also posted on our website.

Have an idea?

Your Pastor and Pastoral Team values your input for continued growth and improvement. Please contact Fr. James Conlon at frjames@stfrancis2.org

Remember the greatest gift we can give another is the gift of Christ!

WELCOME NEW TEACHERS

Another Exciting Year At Our Parish School

With increased enrollment we have four new teachers joining our faculty:

Elana Fata will be our 2nd full-time kindergarten teacher. She also teaches our half-day kindergarten students in the same classroom and comes to us as a recent graduate of The University of Michigan.

Kristine Richart is our new 1st grade teacher. She comes to us from The University of Toledo with a wonderful love for early childhood teaching. Having served as a long-term substitute at the end of the last year, she very quickly found her place in our school community.

Natalia Collins will serve as a leadership teacher, a middle school math teacher, and a math interventionist. She is looking

forward to sharing her faith and her rigorous plans for math instruction at St. Francis.

*"If we pray, we will believe;
If we believe, we will love;
If we love, we will serve."
- Mother Theresa*

Maria Durham will be our middle school English teacher and one of the 8th grade religion/home room teachers. She has been a teacher for seven years in high school English. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience to reinforce the excellence at St. Francis School.

St. Francis School is sending its middle school choir to Rome over the New Year holiday. They will be participating in a Papal mass on New Year's Day celebrated by the Holy Father as members of the international choir organization, Pueri Cantores.



MATH AND TECHNOLOGY

We have adopted new math instructional materials from Glencoe Learning called "My Math." We are also restructuring our middle school math so that in the years ahead, most students will take pre-algebra in 7th grade and algebra in 8th grade.

In addition to the new math materials, the elementary teachers (K-5) will be implementing more tablet usage in the classroom with the math programs IXL and Accelerated Math. We are also pleased to continue to have programming opportunities for the lower grades through their technology classes and for our middle school students through electives.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

YOUNG ADULTS
GATHER FOR
VESPERS

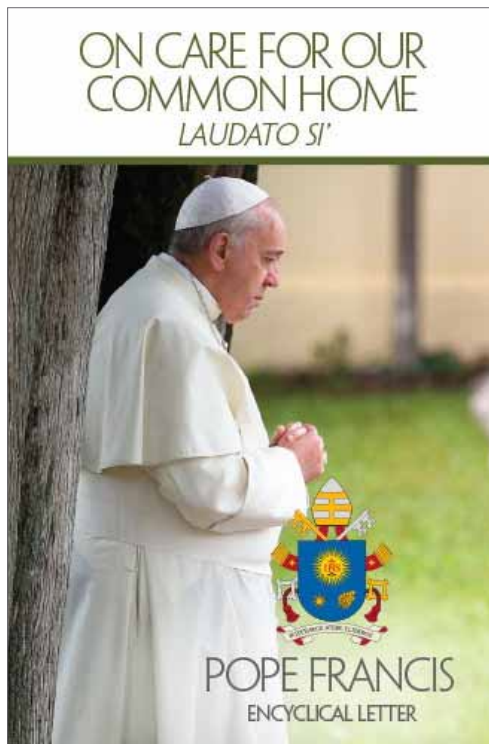
All young adults ages 21-35 are invited to a monthly time of prayer and fellowship every 3rd Thursday in the church at 7 p.m.

- **September 17th**
(The Feast of the Stigmata of Francis)
- **October 15th** (The Feast of Teresa of Avila)
- **November 19th**
- **December 17th**

Come together as a community and pray with the Lord in the living Tradition of our Catholic Faith. Attendees will learn the easy but beautiful art of Catholic chant and will then enter into a time of silent prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Each prayer evening will be followed by a time for food and fellowship. Expected dress is business casual.

If you are interested in attending this event, or would like to help, please contact Enzo Randazzo at enzo@stfrancisa2.org or (734)821-2126.

JOIN A SMALL GROUP THIS FALL

Read and Discuss *Laudato Si*

The full text of *Laudato Si* is available to read on the Vatican website at w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals.html. Book-bound copies will be available at the back of the

environment and the human community, most importantly, care for the poorest and most vulnerable.

Although encyclicals are historically addressed to the bishops of the Catholic Church with added groups such as clergy, religious, and laymen, Pope Francis seeks to address “every person living on this planet.” He states, “I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home.” We will be reading and discussing the document’s 6 chapters, which include:

1. What is Happening to Our Common Home
2. The Gospel of Creation
3. The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis
4. Integral Ecology
5. Lines of Approach and Action
6. Ecological Education and Spirituality

In October we will begin our Fall Small Groups. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other parishioners while enriching our faith.

We will be reading Pope Francis’ latest encyclical *Laudato Si*. “Laudato Si, mi Signore” translates to “Praise be to you, my Lord,” a line from St. Francis of Assisi’s Canticle of the Sun. Like St. Francis, Pope Francis is deeply concerned about care for God’s creation. In his encyclical, he addresses ecological problems in both the natural

“To ignore the Scriptures is to ignore Christ.”
-St. Jerome

Registration forms can be found in the Sunday bulletin, in the Parish Office, or online at www.stfrancisa2.com under “Sign-Up Forms.” For more information, contact Kelly Hernandez at (734) 821-2122 or khernandez@stfrancisa2.org.

SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

Class Begins September 21

We are excited to present our next course in the School of Discipleship, **Church History: Early Church Councils**.

What were these councils? What do Church Councils actually do? Why were they important at the time? What is their significance today?

The First Seven Councils stand as witness to a dramatic and fascinating time in the history of the Church. Each Council responded to powerful errors which stood to jeopardize the Church's very existence. As a result, the Church was able to enunciate the truth of her teaching, resulting in definitions and statements of the faith which we profess today.

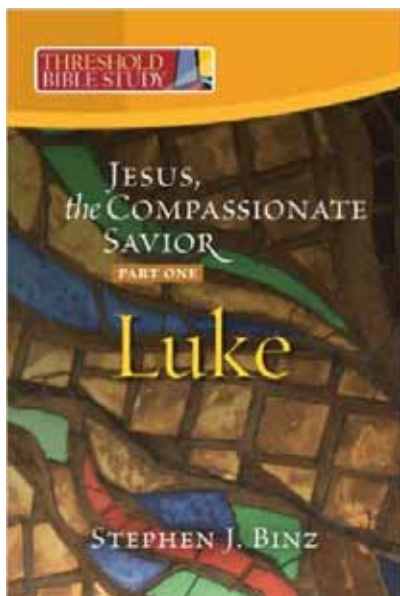
Join fellow parishioners and instructor Michael Andrews, Director of Worship for the Diocese of Lansing, for information-filled lectures and lively discussion about the very beginnings of our Church.



Class begins Monday, September 21 and will meet for six weeks. For more information please contact Marty Lucas at (734) 821-2125 or mlucas@stfrancisa2.org.

VISIT OUR LORD

Did you know that the church building is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday? Stop by and visit Christ in the Tabernacle. Perhaps leave a prayer request at our Prayer Wall. Join us for our weekly Holy Hour from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Thursdays. **Jesus is waiting for you.**



NEW BIBLE STUDY: THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

As we prepare to enter into Year C of the Liturgical Cycle, our newest Bible Study will tackle the Gospel of Luke and explore context, content, theology and challenges to contemporary life.

The study of this Gospel will be offered on Tuesday mornings (10:00

a.m.) and Thursday evenings (7:00 p.m.), twice monthly beginning September 15 and 17 and will end in late April.

Contact Marty Lucas at mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2125 for more information or to register.

FALL 2015 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

- September 10: Senior Appreciation Mass & Luncheon with Bishop Boyea / 11AM / St. Joseph Church / RSVP: Scott Wright (734) 821-2121
- September 11: Mother/Child Network / 2nd & 4th Fridays/ 10AM- Noon/ Nursery/ Tanya (734) 395-6651
- September 13: Parish Picnic /after 12:30PM Mass - 4PM / church grounds / Kelly (734) 821-2122.
- September 14: Divorced/Separated Group / 7 – 8:30PM Mondays/ Library / Jeff (734) 678-0995
- September 14: Meditation Group / 7 – 8PM every Monday/ Chapel / Paul (734) 646-5591
- September 14: Monthly Shawl Knitting Ministry/ 7PM / Church Library / Kathleen (734) 717-0685
- September 15 and 17: Bible Study-Gospel of Luke begins/ Marty (734) 821-2125
- September 16 or 20: Confirmation Meeting for Youth (8th gr. and older), Sponsors, and Parents / PAC/ 9-16 at 6:30 PM or 9-20 at 3PM/ Ellen Ward (734) 821-2130
- September 18: M.O.M.S. / 1st & 3rd Fridays/ 10AM – Noon/ Chapel & nursery / Kelly (734) 821-2122
- September 18: Serve A Meal for the Hungry @ Delonis Center / 3 or 5PM shift / Every 3rd Friday/ Bridget (734) 665-9549
- September 19: Catechist Orientation / 10AM in PAC/ Ellen Ward (734) 821-2130
- September 21: Tee It Up for Tuition / 9:30 Reg., 11AM shotgun/ Polo Fields-Washtenaw/ (734) 821-2208
- September 21: School of Discipleship begins / Marty (734) 821-2125
- September 30: Religious Education (preK-8) classes begin this week/ (734) 821-2130
- October 3: Training for Eucharistic Minister (EMHC) and Altar Assistant (AA) / EMHC's 10AM / AA's 12:30PM / Church / Sue Wawrzaszek (734) 821-2123 or liturgy@stfrancisa2.org
- October 4: Blessing of Pets / 2:30PM / In front of church / Marty (734) 821-2125
- October 8: Assisi Lectures “Stories of Hope” / Marty (734) 821-2125
- October 11: Small Faith Groups begin this week/ Kelly, khernandez@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2122
- October 12—18: Host Homeless Families @ Alpha House Shelter, Ann Arbor / Scott Wright (734) 821-2121 swright@stfrancisa2.org
- October 13: Autumn Coffee Hour with Saint Francis / after 9:15AM Mass/ Church Gathering Space/ Beverages provided. Bring a breakfast item to share/ No RSVP needed
- October 13 or 21: Altar Server training / 4 - 6PM / Church / Fr. Tom (734) 821-2100 or Holly Downey hkdowney@umich.edu
- October 16: Serve A Meal for the Hungry @ Delonis Center / 3 or 5PM shift/ Every 3rd Friday/ Bridget (734) 665-9549
- October 18 or 21: First Reconciliation Parent and Child Meeting / PAC on 10-18 at 3 PM or 10-21 at 6:30 PM/ Ellen Ward (734) 821-2130
- October 19: Assisi Lectures “Stories of Hope” / Marty (734) 821-2125
- October 31: Altar Server training / 10AM - 12PM / Church / Fr. Tom (734) 821-2100 or Holly Downey hkdowney@umich.edu

FALL 2015 CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- November 6: [Flu Shot Clinic](#) / 2 - 6PM / PAC / Danaica Watson (734) 821-2115
- November 8: [Blood Drive](#) / 8AM - 2PM / gym / Danaica Watson (734) 821-2115
- November 14-15: [Women's Retreat](#): Rest in God's Embrace / Register at stfrancisa2.com or Marty (734) 821-2125
- November 17: [Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner Meal](#) with entertainment by Gemini / 10AM in PAC, Meal at 11:30 / Scott Wright (734) 821-2121
- November 20: [Serve A Meal for the Hungry](#) @ Delonis Center / 3 or 5PM shift/ Every 3rd Friday/ Bridget (734) 665-9549
- November 27: [Giving Tree Gift Sharing](#) / shift times to Dec. 20 / Church / Scott Wright (734) 821-2121

DECEMBER

- December 7: [Christmas Dinner Party](#) for at-risk families with Foundations Preschool/ PAC/ Scott Wright (734) 821-2121
- December 12: 5PM Mass with [celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#) & dinner following /church & PAC/ Ellen Ward (734) 821-2130
- December 13: [Living Nativity and Advent Carol Service](#) / 5PM / Church/ Ellen Ward (734) 821-2130
- December 18: [Serve A Meal for the Hungry](#) @ Delonis Center / 3 or 5PM shift / Every 3rd Friday / Bridget (734) 665-9549

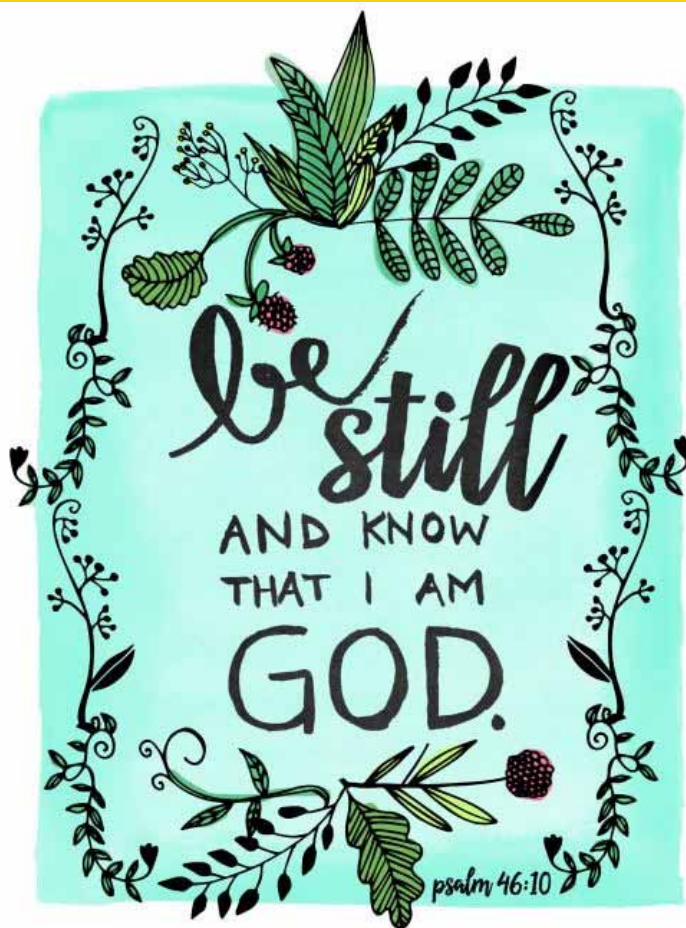


Image by Kristin Foss of VineofPlenty.com

For events and
information, visit us at
STFRANCISA2.COM

“We should seek not so much to pray but to become prayer.”

- St. Francis of Assisi



St. Francis of Assisi
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FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

All women are invited to our first Women's Retreat, called **Rest In God's Embrace**, to be held the weekend of November 14-15 at the Weber Center in Adrian. The topics for the weekend are:

- Constancy – In times of change or burden, how do we reorient ourselves to the constant that is God?
- Joy – Where is your joy as a follower of Christ?
- Inner Peace – De-clutter, de-stress and find your missing peace.

Time away can be a refreshing, renewing change of pace, even if only for a weekend! Please contact Marty Lucas to register at mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2125.



For God is not a god
of disorder but a
God of *peace*.

1 Cor 14:33