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SUMMER 2015

The Canticle

OF ST. FRANCIS

QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 2



A REMINDER OF GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

Our new Divine Mercy Icon is on display on the east side of the church sanctuary near the door closest to the Parish Activities Center. We are grateful to Cecilia Lawrence for writing (painting) the icon for us!

PRACTICING HOSPITALITY

Hospitality & Welcoming Center Coming Soon

Christian hospitality means being open and receptive to all people, especially the stranger and the "least" in our midst. By practicing hospitality, we deepen our love for Jesus Christ and introduce others to an encounter with the Lord. Hospitality is the responsibility of every Christian.

In late summer/early fall, we will begin our welcoming center in the gathering space in church. More than just offering information on our parish and activities, we want to offer warm friendship with one another and with Jesus Christ.

Please consider joining us in our efforts:

- Are you known for your friendliness?
- Do you love the Lord and desire to share that love with others?
- Do you want to share your gifts to create a more welcoming atmosphere here at St. Francis?

If you answered yes, then please consider being a part of our welcoming ministry. You may sign up on our website at STFRANCISA2.COM or contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132.



Pope Francis ✓
@Pontifex

twitter

Every Christian community must be a welcoming home for those searching for God, for those searching for a brother or sister to listen to them

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

VBS BAND MEMBERS NEEDED

High School Youth, Young Adult, and Adult Musicians:

Come share your gift with the kids of VBS!

The Band will lead the Sunday 10:30 AM Mass on July 19 and play for the openings of VBS Monday-Friday, July 20-24 at 9 AM, as well as help during the morning music classes (9 AM-12 noon). We also play for the VBS closing program on July 24 at 12 noon.

If you can help, please contact Kelly Hernandez at 734-904-3946 or khernandez731@gmail.com or contact the RE office at 734-821-2130.

Do you work in the science or technology fields and practice your Catholic Faith?

Consider presenting your work and weave your faith into your "Show and Tell" for the children during VBS. Please contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132 for more information.

SIGN UP FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday - Friday, July 20-24

Blending hands-on science activities with stories of our Catholic Faith, the 2015 Vacation Bible School (VBS) allows children to explore God's creation while confident of God's providential love for them.

When: Monday-Friday, July 20-24 from 9 AM—12 noon (longer on Friday for the picnic)

Who: For children going in 2015/16 grades preK (4 yrs), and grades K through grade 5.

How: Sign up at STFRANCISA2.COM

With: Adult, High School and Middle School Volunteers! We need your help! We need volunteers to be group leaders and aides for the children, music (singing and instrumental), crafts, kitchen (snack), recreation, and nursery.

Cost: \$35/child; \$70/family Includes the VBS t-shirt. Children of adult volunteers attend free. A nursery for the infant and toddlers of adult volunteers is provided.

Questions: Contact the Religious Education office at 734-821-2130 or Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132.



Registration forms for fall RE classes for children in preK-8 are now available online and in the RE and Parish Offices. Submit the completed form by August 30 with full payment for the early registration discount!

EVENING PRAYER, DINNER, AND TALK

Thursday, August 6 at 6:30 PM

Explore Flannery O'Connor's Short Stories and Moments of Grace on the Feast of the Transfiguration, Thursday, August 6 beginning at 6:30 PM.

"All human nature
vigorously resists grace
because grace changes us
and the change is painful."

-Flannery O'Connor

We'll start with evening prayer (liturgy of the hours) with Benediction in church, followed by Dinner and Talk in the Parish Activities Center (PAC). Join us for a delightful evening with the companionship of friends!

American Catholic writer Flannery O'Connor tells tales of characters who often miss moments for growth, grace and conversion. We hope to

enjoy each other's company and together find a few insightful ideas to enrich our lives.

Child care is available upon advance request. Please contact Marty Lucas at mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2125 or Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org for more information.



God reveals Himself to us through Sacred Scripture.

This fall, come, open your Bible, learn with us and grow in your faith! We offer our Bible Study on Tuesday mornings (10 AM), beginning September 15, OR Thursday evenings (7 PM), beginning September 17.

Contact Marty Lucas at mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2125.



SUMMER WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY VIGIL
5 P.M.

SUNDAY
7 A.M. 8:30 A.M.
10:30 A.M. 12:30 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP

PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, September 13

Check out some of the photos from last year's parish picnic. Can you spot Christ in the midst of the fellowship, fun, and service? Come and experience it for yourself at this year's **Parish Picnic Sunday, September 13.**

Join us for the 12:30 Mass – outdoors (weather permitting) followed by a potluck style picnic until 4 PM on the parish grounds (or indoors if the weather doesn't cooperate). Whether you're single, married, with or without children, no matter your age, you'll enjoy great food, entertainment, games and lots of fun with your parish family.



Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join you. It's a great way to let others know about our parish and perhaps gently invite those who have fallen away to return. **Please plan to join us. It won't be the same without YOU!**

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst.”
Matthew 18:20



ON VACATION?
Find a Mass nearby at masstimes.org



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

DEC 8 2015—NOV 20 2016

Pope Francis has announced a Holy Year, “A Jubilee of Mercy.” St. Francis Parish invites you to be a part of this holy year and join in activities and events during the year celebrating the Lord's mercy. Please watch our church bulletins and the website for updates and information.

RETURN TO THE CHURCH

MAKING DISCIPLES IN RCIA

Welcome, Neophytes



The Elect are born in the waters of Baptism.

At the Easter Vigil, the Elect and Candidates reach the apex of their long journey to initiation in the Catholic Church. The Elect receive the sacrament of Baptism, then, along with the already baptized Candidates, they are sealed with the Chrism of Confirmation and share the Eucharist as full members of the Roman Catholic Community.

As a parish, we welcome our newest Catholics who joined the Church at the Easter Vigil. Our neophytes need our ongoing prayers and support as they fully immerse themselves in the life of our parish community. We nourish them with our prayers as they grow strong in their faith.

At the Easter Vigil, light drives out darkness.

DROP-IN
INQUIRY
SESSIONS

June 15 & 29,
July 13 & 27
7 PM in the Music
Room

A new group gathers to begin the journey. Come to an Inquiry Session to learn more.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, call Marty Lucas at 734-821-2125.

WORK OF THE
WHOLE PARISH

The work of making disciples is the job of every Catholic, assigned to each by their own Baptism. Facilitators, catechists, sponsors, pray-ers, bakers and snack providers are all needed to bring people into the Church.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

ON THE GO, LIVING FOR OTHERS

Building relationships between seekers & givers of help



Hundreds of volunteer ministers here at St. Francis Parish happily labor tirelessly to make life wonderful for all God's children.

We are grateful! Yet the greatest gift is not our volunteers, but rather the "least ones," those who receive with grace. They may feel ashamed to ask for help, yet they find the courage to admit their need and ask, trusting in Divine Mercy.

If you are reading this article now with a desire to help or to find help, I implore you to contact our parish office at 734-821-2121 or justice@stfrancisa2.org.

"Unless life is lived for others, it is not worthwhile."

-Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Do you know someone away from the Catholic Church?

Only one third of Catholics attend Mass on a regular basis— Let's invite them back! Visit CatholicsComeHome.org to:

- View the TV commercials that are helping hundreds of thousands of souls back "home" to Church
- Learn and grow deeper in your faith, support this ministry, and share the web page with your friends and family

Help bring your friends and loved ones back to the Catholic Church!

NEXT YEAR AT ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL

Students will study lives of saints to identify virtues

St. Francis School had an amazing year. As we prepare for the respite of summer, we look ahead to the exciting things in the year to come.

Each month, teachers and students will focus on a saint from a different region of the world. Students will identify



virtuous characteristics demonstrated by each saint and learn how they can identify behaviors in each other that follow the example set by the saint.

One goal is to share with our youth that even though we may be very different on the outside, our Catholic faith bonds us together. Additionally, we can look to one another as living saints among us, serving and living as true Disciples of Christ.

Students will study the geographic region of each saint and the Catholic traditions in each region of the world. Finally, they will work as a community for a service project that benefits that region.

EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

As a Parish, we are truly blessed to have our Educational Trust Fund (ETF). This fund enables an annual award to our school for operations - next year it will total \$78,000, the highest ever.

The Leadership Circle is one of the primary means of growing the ETF. The Leadership Circle brings together families who make a commitment of at least \$1,000 per year for five consecutive years.

Please consider if this is the year for your family to join the Leadership Circle or to include the ETF in your estate planning. Our parish Development Office (734-821-2208) welcomes the opportunity to support you with your charitable giving decisions.

NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Join the new St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Alumni Association! An initial gathering is targeted for this summer. Will you be there? Hopefully so! Contact Colleen Pierce for more information at 734-821-2208 or at cpierce@stfrancisa2.org.



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

PARISH YOUTH
CHOIR

*"Sing to the Lord
a new song; sing
to the Lord, all
the earth!"
Psalm 96:1*

Come learn, develop,
and share the gift of
song that the Lord has
given you!

All children in grades K-
8 who enjoy singing are
encouraged to join!
Middle school students
are especially needed to
help with the younger
singers. Service hours
are given for your time.

The Parish Youth Choir
sings once a month at a
12:30 PM Mass as well
as other special events
such as the Living
Nativity Procession.
Rehearsals for the 2015-
2016 year will begin in
late August and occur
weekly for about an
hour.

For questions or to be
added to the email list,
please contact Kelly
Hernandez at
khernandez731@gmail.com
or (734) 904-3946.

PRESCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

For Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds



Why choose our program?

1. We feature a caring environment that fosters creativity and learning. Children have the opportunity to explore through small group activities, social play, and individual time with the teacher.
2. The curriculum provides developmental learning in the following areas: spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social, and physical. Our curriculum includes prayer, storytelling, art projects, music, movement, field trips, and much more.
3. Our Catholic faith is woven throughout our classes so that the children will grow in love of God and others.

The Preschool Enrichment class for three year olds meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 AM—11 AM in the church nursery. The total yearly tuition is \$625.

The Preschool Enrichment program for four year olds meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 AM—11:30 AM in the church nursery. The total yearly tuition is \$720.

There are a few spots left for your child. Please find the preschool enrichment application at stfrancisa2.com/religious-education.

For information, contact Denise Cadavieco, head teacher at denise@rc.net or contact the RE office at stfired@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132.

A TOUR OF EASTERN RITE CHURCHES

The Catholic Church breathes with two lungs



Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Rite Catholic Church, Hamtramck, Detroit

This summer, our historic church tour will explore three Eastern Rite Catholic Churches in the Detroit area. We will learn about the rich heritage, traditions, and mysticism that occur in the Eastern Rites and the Divine Liturgy.

A week prior to getting on the bus, we will we gather on Tuesday, August 4 at 7 PM in the Parish Activities Center to hear from guests from the 3 parishes we plan to visit. Each will share insight into their own traditions and practices.

On August 11, we will board the bus and see the Eastern Rite Catholic Churches for ourselves.

DID YOU KNOW?

All Catholics share three important things:

- Apostolic Faith
- Mysteries/ Sacraments
- Unity with Pope

Eastern Rite and Roman Catholics believe the same truths of the faith yet worship differently.

One could say they share the same essence of faith, but have a different expression of that faith. Each Church embraces its own culture and tradition to express her faith in Jesus the Risen Lord.

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 22
AN OVERNIGHT
HISTORIC CHURCH
TOUR IN CHICAGO

“...I listen to the Churches of the East, which I know are living interpreters of the treasure of tradition they preserve...The Christian East has a unique and privileged role as the original setting where the Church was born.”

- St. John Paul II, *Orientalis Lumen (The Light of the East)*

SUMMER 2015 CALENDAR

JUNE

JULY

- June 14: Electronics Recycling truck accepting donations/ 6:30 AM to 1:30 PM / in front of St. Francis School / Kelly Gauthier (734-769-0807) or chaysayd@yahoo.com
- June 14: Welcoming Ministry Breakfast Workshop /9:45 AM - 12:15 PM / PAC/ Ellen Ward (ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132)
- June 15: RCIA-Inquiry Session (drop in) for those interested in becoming Catholic /7 PM /Music Room/ Marty Lucas (734-821-2125)
- June 15: Weekly Meditation Group / 7 – 8 PM / Chapel / Paul (734-646-5591)
- June 19: Serve A Meal for the Hungry/ 3rd Friday of month / 3 PM or 5 PM / Delonis Center Shelter / Bridget McGillicuddy (734-665-9549)
- June 28: Food Drive to Corpus Christi sister parish, Detroit / 9:45 AM - 4:30 PM / Scott Wright (734-821-2121)
- June 29: RCIA-Inquiry Session (drop in) for those interested in becoming Catholic /7 PM /Music Room/ Marty Lucas (734-821-2125)
- July 13: RCIA-Inquiry Session (drop in) for those interested in becoming Catholic /7 PM /Music Room/ Marty Lucas (734-821-2125)
- July 14: Senior Citizens' Picnic Lunch / 11:30 AM/ Washtenaw County Farm Park/ Sharon Wright (734-434-1428)
- July 15: Orientation Meeting for Vacation Bible School Volunteers/ 7 PM / PAC / Ellen Ward (ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132)
- July 17: Serve A Meal for the Hungry/ 3rd Friday of month / 3 PM or 5 PM / Delonis Center Shelter / Bridget McGillicuddy (734-665-9549)
- July 20—24: Vacation Bible School / Mon-Friday, 9 AM-12noon /For children in grades PreK-5 / High School & Middle School helpers, and Adult leaders needed! Sign Up NOW with credit-card payment at stfrancisa2.com/religious-education or pick up form in the RE or Parish offices (734-821-2130)
- July 27: RCIA-Inquiry Session (drop in) for those interested in becoming Catholic /7 PM /Music Room/ Marty Lucas (734-821-2125)

"See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come."

Song of Songs 2:11-12

SUMMER 2015 CALENDAR

AUGUST

- August 3: Summer Organ Recital/ 7 PM
- August 4: Breathing With the Other Lung: Eastern Rite Catholics/ 7 PM /PAC/ Marty Lucas (734-821-2125)
- August 6: Moments of Grace - Evening Prayer & Benediction, Dinner, Talk / 6:30 – 9 PM/ Church & PAC/ Marty Lucas (734-821-2125)
- August 10: Summer Organ Recital/ 7 PM
- August 11: Historic Church Tour of Eastern Rite Churches / 10 AM Bus Trip / RSVP Marty Lucas (734-821-2125) or stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms
- August 15: Celebration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary / Mass at 10 AM in church/ Not a holy day of obligation this year
- August 17: Summer Organ Recital/ 7 PM
- August 21: Serve A Meal for the Hungry/ 3rd Friday of month / 3 PM or 5 PM / Delonis Center Shelter / Bridget McGillicuddy (734-665-9549)
- August 24: Summer Organ Recital/ 7 PM
- August 30: A Faith Education for Children in PreK-8 / Deadline for early registration discount. Registration forms in Sunday bulletin, RE or Parish Offices or at stfrancisa2.com/religious-education (call 734-821-2130)
- August 31: Summer Organ Recital/ 7 PM

SEPTEMBER

- September 1- 15: Stephen Minister Training Applications Due to begin 50-hour training series / Scott Wright (734-821-2121)
- September 10: Senior Recognition Mass & Lunch/ St Joseph Church, Whittaker Rd, Ypsilanti / Scott Wright (734-821-2121)
- September 11: Mother/Child Network playgroup /2nd & 4th Fridays/ 10 AM– 12 PM/Nursery/ Tanya (734-395-6651)
- September 13: PARISH PICNIC / 12:30 PM outdoor Mass. Picnic 'til 4 PM / behind the church/ Janene Ternes (734-821-2122)
- September 13: High School Youth Group resumes! /Sundays 7 PM /youth room (734-821-2126)
- September 14: Monthly Knitting Shawl Ministry / 7 PM / Church Library / Kathleen (734-717-0685)
- September 18: M.O.M.S-Ministry of Mothers Sharing / 1st & 3rd Fridays/ 10 AM– noon /Chapel/ Megan (734-646-9034)
- September 20: Sunday 5 PM Mass resumes!
- September 21: Teeing It Up for Tuition Golf Outing / 9:30 AM Registration, 11 AM Shotgun Start / The Polo Fields Golf & Country Clubs-Washtenaw / Colleen Pierce (734-821-2208)
- September 22-23: Historic Church Tour in Chicago (overnight) / RSVP today-Scott Wright (734-821-2121) or stfrancisa2.com



St. Francis of Assisi
PARISH

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LET THE SON SHINE

“Then the LORD will guide you always
and satisfy your thirst in parched places,
will give strength to your bones
And you shall be like a watered garden,
like a flowing spring whose waters never
fail.”

Isaiah 58:11



The Sustainable Garden Project needs volunteers all summer long for maintenance and harvest. Contact Erich Jensen (734-771-8511) or erichjensen@msn.com.