



SUMMER 2016

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The Canticle OF ST. FRANCIS

QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 2

PARISH



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE PARISH PICNIC

Join in the Fun
at the Parish Picnic
Sunday, September 11
following the 12:30 pm Mass

If you are interested in
volunteering for this year's
picnic, please contact Kelly
Hernandez: (734) 821-2122 or
khernandez@stfrancisa2.org.

SUMMER ON THE LAWN

Learn about the Saints with your parish family

Join Deacon Rich this summer for talks about the Saints "On the Lawn."

We will gather for Wednesday evening prayer at 6:30 pm in church, then retire to the lawn on the west side of the building for Deacon's presentation.

Bring a blanket to sit on the hillside or a chair to position at the edge of the parking lot. Bring a friend, too! This is a relaxed and easy way to perhaps introduce someone to the Catholic faith or to simply learn a bit about a few great Saints.

Register online at the Parish website or by contacting Marty Lucas at mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2125. We want to prepare food for you so please let us know you are coming.



On the Lawn Dates & Topics

Wednesdays this summer at 6:30pm

June 29: Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles of Mercy
with simple boxed picnic suppers
(\$10 suggested donation)

July 13: Our Lady of Mount Carmel and conferring of the Brown Scapular
with summery desserts to snack on

August 10: St. Lawrence the Deacon
with BBQ
(\$5 suggested donation)

FAITH FORMATION

CAN YOU HELP
WITH VBS?

Many hands are needed to help with Vacation Bible School. **High School, Middle School, and Adult** volunteers are very much appreciated.

Volunteers as a Group leader or Aide, or volunteer in Crafts, Recreation & Games, Kitchen (snacks), or Nursery (for children of volunteers). Especially needed are singers and musicians to join the VBS band that opens each day, enriches the children's morning with music sessions, and leads the music in the closing program on Friday of VBS week.

Are you originally from another country or culture?

Please come give a hands-on presentation (show and tell) to our VBS students.

If you can help, please contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or call (734) 821-2132.

SIGN UP FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday—Friday, July 18—22 (9 am to 12 noon)

This summer, children in grades preschool through 5th grade are invited to discover God at work in the lives of real people by exploring a different corner of the world each day of the VBS week. Children will experience the Faith lived out in different cultures through songs, games, snacks, crafts, and activities. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the children will cross cultures and encounter Christ in all nations, for "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16).



Expedition World

The adventure begins in Vacation Bible School for children entering 2016/17 grades preschool through 5th grade on July 18--22 from 9am to 12 noon. Parents, please plan on joining your children on Friday, July 22 at 12 noon. We'll end with a closing program in church, followed by a grand picnic on the lawn of church until about 2pm. We'll have plenty of surprises, giveaways, and just good faith-filled fun all week long!

Sign up your child at stfrancisa2.com. You may also pick up a form at the Parish or Religious Education Offices. Call us at (734) 821-2130 for questions or more information.



Youth at VBS 2015 enjoy each other's company while learning about God's love.

ADULT SACRAMENT PREPARATION

We invite you to join us

Has your busy schedule put your faith journey on hold? Have you felt that you don't have time to develop your faith?

We invite you to make the commitment to receive the sacraments, grow in your faith and have a deeper relationship with Jesus.



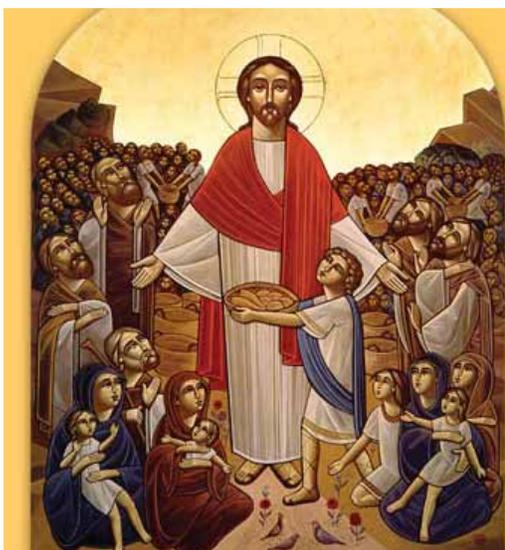
Why Be Confirmed?

Confirmation is a "stirring up" of the gifts of the Holy Spirit given in Baptism.

Confirmation allows us to grow beyond a self-centered spirituality and to live for others.

Confirmation will give you the grace to be bold and confident in your faith.

As Our Holy Father says, Confirmation gives us strength "to defend the faith and to share the Gospel courageously."



Are you someone who:

- is considering becoming Catholic?
- is a baptized Catholic and has not received First Eucharist and/or Confirmation?
- is a confirmed Catholic and would like to have a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith?

If any of these situations apply to you, this faith journey is for you!

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

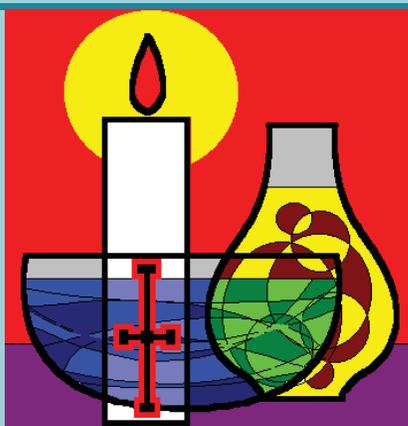
She will help you determine what best fits your needs.

"Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him."
(Acts 8: 29-31)

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R. C. I. A.)

Are you curious about the Catholic faith? We invite all non-Catholics to come explore the teachings of the Church: beliefs, practices, and rituals.

We also welcome any Catholic over 18 years of age who has not prepared for and received Confirmation and First Communion and desires to receive these Sacraments of Initiation.



PARISH MINISTRIES

HISPANIC MINISTRY BLOSSOMS

All Spanish speakers welcome to join

It began as a small, diverse group of Spanish speakers meeting weekly to improve their English and learn about their faith, and it's grown into a welcoming ministry of good friends from about 10 different



countries. The Hispanic Ministry seeks to cultivate the faith among Catholic Spanish speakers and bring the gospel to Spanish speakers who are disconnected from the Catholic Church, by fostering friendship, providing catechesis, offering English classes, helping with sacramental preparation, and hosting several fun events throughout the year. Join us for celebration of the Assumption on August 15! For more information, email us (in English or Spanish) at hispanicministry@stfrancisa2.org.

Comenzó como un grupo pequeño y diverso de hispanohablantes que se reunía cada semana para mejorar su inglés y aprender de la Fe; y ha crecido hasta convertirse en una comunidad cordial de amigos de casi diez diferentes países que te recibe con los brazos abiertos. El Ministerio

Hispano busca cultivar la fe entre Católicos hispanohablantes y traerles el evangelio a los que se encuentran desconectados de la iglesia Católica, fomentando la amistad, proporcionando catequesis, ofreciendo clases de inglés, ayudando con preparación sacramental y organizando divertidos eventos durante el año. ¡Acompáñanos para la celebración de la Asunción el 15 de agosto! Para más información, escríbenos (en español o inglés) al correo hispanicministry@stfrancisa2.org.

“If Christians ignore the call to unity which comes to them from the Lord, they risk ignoring the Lord himself and the salvation he offers through his Body, the Church.”

-Address of Pope Francis to a delegation of the World Council of Churches



JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO TORONTO

Tuesday Oct. 11, 9:15am - Wednesday Oct. 12, 7:30pm

Join us for a Jubilee Pilgrimage overnight in Toronto with Fr. James Conlon.

Itinerary:

- 8am Mass celebrated by Fr. James at St. Francis
- 9am Bus Departs from front of St. Francis
- Lunch at restaurant (pay on your own*).
- Tour St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto
- Dinner at restaurant (pay on your own*).
- Overnight at Hotel
- Holy Door & Mass at St. Paul's Basilica with Fr. James
- Breakfast at hotel restaurant (included*)
- Holy Door at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica, London, Ontario, Canada
- Lunch at restaurant (pay on your own).
- 7:30pm Bus arrives back at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ann Arbor.

Cost: \$200.00 double occupancy room.

Includes Bus transportation, Tours, Breakfast, as well as a Tip for our bus driver.

*Remember to bring your money for lunches & dinner. Be sure and plan ahead! You may want to check ahead with your local bank to get the best Canadian currency exchange rate before leaving.

Get your Passport ready or get your Enhanced Michigan Driver's License!

Save your seat now! A \$100.00 (minimum non-refundable) registration fee is due to reserve your spot. The remaining balance is due by August 10, 2016. Deliver your payment to the Parish Office, payable to "St. Francis" and note: "Toronto Church Tour."

Questions? Contact: Scott Wright (734-821-2121) or swright@stfrancisa2.org. Sign up at www.tiny.cc/Pilgrimage-Toronto

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS FR. JAMES?

Father James has a busy travel schedule in 2016 and 2017. Here are some of his planned journeys:

- The Young Adults are traveling with Fr. James to Poland this summer to meet with the Pope for World Youth Day
- Fr. James is leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands in February 2017
- Enzo Randazzo is coordinating a pilgrimage with Fr. James to the "Way of St. James" in Spain, May 2017

For more information about these trips, please contact the parish office at (734) 821-2100 or see parish website.

The 2015 Historic Church Tour in Chicago group visits St. Mary of the Angels Church.



ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL

SUMMER'S HERE BUT THE FUN GOES ON

Biology camp and building updates at St. Francis School

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.”

Job 12:7-10

St. Francis Parish School has wrapped up another year and is out enjoying summer vacation. There is still so much buzzing around the school. Our Second Annual Summer Biology Camp will be out in the field (and in the classroom) in mid-July learning about God’s blessings in nature. Over the summer, new windows will be installed in the 7A classroom and in the science lab, new social studies instructional materials are being purchased through



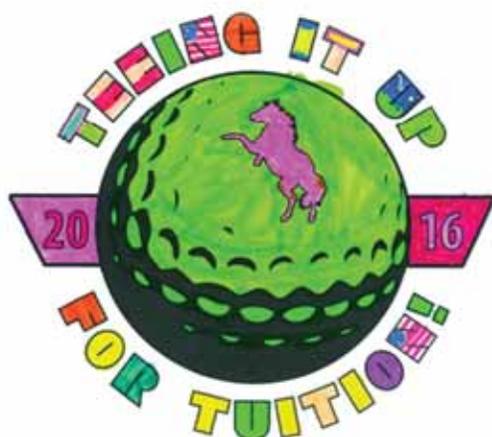
generous donations from the Annual Appeal, and the middle school bathrooms will be remodeled and upgraded from car raffle ticket sales.



School will commence on August 29, 2016 for the 2016-2017 school year. If you are interested in a tour or learning more about St. Francis Parish School, please email Kathryn Dhitirojana over the summer months:

kdhitirojana@stfrancisaa.org.

St. Francis Parish School wishes everyone a prayerful and joyful summer.





St. Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
In Partnership with the



JIM HARBAUGH
FOUNDATION



the Polo Fields
Golf & C.C.

REGISTER TODAY!

Tuition Assistance Golf Outing

Monday, June 20, 2016

Visit <http://stfrancisaa2.com/golf/> to register online
For more information, call (734) 821-2208

RUBY'S JAZZY SPEAKEASY

Save the date for our Educational Trust Fund Benefit

Enjoy ragtime piano, a full jazz band, great food and spirits in the elegant University of Michigan Student Union Rogel Ballroom. Start looking for a dapper suit, pearls, and your flapper dress. Online registration for the 15th Annual Educational Trust Fund (ETF) Benefit will open August 15, 2016 at www.stfrancisa2.com/etf. The cost to attend is \$125 per person.

This exciting and important St. Francis of Assisi Parish function is being held on Saturday, October 8, 2016. Our Benefit chair Mary Karen McClellan and co-chair Danaica Watson invite you to consider sponsoring the event and/or donating an auction item. For more information, contact Mary Karen at (734) 995-0149.

Special events include:

- Live piano entertainment throughout the evening
- Silent auction and charitable games
- Strolling dinner and open bar
- Live auction with great one-of-a-kind treasures to bid on
- Jazz band featuring some of the best musicians in the world and dancing

Who attends the Educational Trust Fund Benefit?

- Past and present school parents
- Parishioners
- Friends and family members of parishioners and school families
- Current & past teachers and staff of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School
- All who value a Catholic school and the outstanding education it provides

What is new at this year's Benefit?

In addition to the many new one-of-a-kind treasures that will be offered this year in both the silent and live auctions, the talented Mike Sommerfeld Jazz Band will be playing lots of classic jazz and dance music! During a rousingly fun game at the event, guests will have the opportunity to win a wine cooler, donated by Big George's, and fully stocked by numerous connoisseurs. The Benefit will also include the jailing of two 'birds' - they will only be released when their bail has been raised.

We look forward to seeing you at Ruby's Jazzy Speakeasy on Saturday, October 8. For more information, contact Colleen Pierce: (734) 821-2208 or cpierce@stfrancisa2.org.

WHAT IS THE EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND (ETF)?

The purpose of the ETF is to provide long-term financial assistance to our school. The ETF is organized to accomplish this purpose by pooling gifts of money and by investing this permanent fund to generate an income. Each year, five percent of the average of the last three years' beginning fund balance is disbursed to our school - the most recent distribution being \$78,000, the highest ever.

Our ETF fundraising efforts are intended to bring us closer to our long-term goal of a \$10,000,000 corpus, the income from which should go a long way toward ensuring a stable future for our parish school.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

HELP FEED HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

Live out the Gospel message with your parish family

“Jesus taught his disciples to pray by asking the Heavenly Father not for ‘my’ but for ‘our’ daily bread. Thus, he desired every person to feel co-responsible for his brothers so that no one would want for what he needs in order to live. The earth's produce forms a gift which God has destined for the entire human family.”

-Pope Benedict XVI,
Angelus Address,
November 12, 2006

“When you did it for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it for me.” (Mt 25:40)

Strong and challenging words from Jesus as he exhorts us, his disciples, to witness to our faith in practical ways before the world. Outreach to the vulnerable in our society has always been an important and central part of our response to the Gospel message. Our social ministry features abundant opportunities to fulfill this holy task.

Grow and harvest vegetables for local pantries. Our St. Francis Sustainable Vegetable Gardens produce fresh food, over 180lbs each year, for vulnerable children and families in our area. Sign up at stfrancisa2.com. Contacts: Rose Sherry (734) 657-0197 or family@rosendon.com; Erich Jensen (734) 771-8511 or erichjensen@msn.com.

Help serve a meal for the hungry. A crew of volunteers from St. Francis Parish serves every third Friday evening of the month at Food Gatherers' Community Kitchen, located in the Delonis Center Shelter, 312 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. 16 volunteers (8 per shift) are needed for each meal. Cook at 3-5PM/ Serve at 5-7PM. To volunteer, sign up at stfrancisa2.com or contact Bridget at (734) 883-9112.

Hand out groceries at the Emergency Food program administered by Catholic Social Services at Northside Community Center, 815 Taylor, Ann Arbor. If you can help for even 30 minutes please sign up at stfrancisa2.com or call Laurie Wilcox at (734) 662-4462.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

ST. FRANCIS BOTANICAL GARDENS

Gardening and Grounds Grooming Group Ministry



Several gardens surround the St Francis of Assisi campus including the church, school, rectory and parish offices. These gardens should be a beautiful expression of hospitality to our fellow parishioners and visitors as well as reflect our appreciation for God's creation and nature.



The primary activities of this Ministry are grounds grooming (e.g., weeding, watering, pruning, and mulching) and gardening (e.g., designing gardens, planting, and transplanting plants).



Our goals for 2016 are to recruit enough volunteers for grooming of existing gardens and to improve all gardens in design and plantings, with an emphasis on native plants. Initial efforts will focus on the front entrance of the church and will expand to existing and new gardens over time.



Donations and volunteers, families included, are ALWAYS welcome. If you like to garden, or want to learn to care for one of God's gardens, this is a wonderful hands-on way to minister. Please pray for God's blessing on our soil, on our hearts and on our hands as we garden. Sign up at stfrancisa2.com. Contacts: Erich Jensen (734) 771-8511 or erichjensen@msn.com; Karen Cole (734) 994-7045 or cole@aaps.K12.mi.us; Scott Wright (734) 821-2121 or swright@stfrancisa2.org.

SEND PRAYER INTENTIONS TO A PAPAL MASS



The St. Francis World Youth Day pilgrims want to bring your prayer intentions to the Papal Mass in Kraków this July for World Youth Day! Please send your prayer intentions by Sunday, July 17 to Enzo at enzo@stfrancisa2.org or put them in an envelope at mass marked "youth."

Photo by Korean Culture and Information Service.



STRONGER AND BETTER TOGETHER

By Fr. James Conlon

In our broken and fragmented world, we are stronger and better together as a family of faith.

It's a theme I go back to again and again, not because it sounds good but because I truly believe it sums up my vision for our parish. We are stronger and better when we support each other in our journeys of faith, when we stand up to defend and witness to gospel principles, and when we join forces to assist those in need.

On a personal level, I experienced that strength and unity when I shared with you all about my Dad's recent stroke. While he continues to make slow progress, it has been difficult being so far away from home! I have been buoyed by the outpouring of concern by my fellow parishioners. The many emails, Mass cards, assurances of prayers and words of comfort reminded me that although I am thousands of miles away from my biological family, I am part of a faith family.



Every one of us needs this support at some time-even the pastor! It's part of our common human experience. It's one of the reasons I put the call to unity at the heart of our Parish Plan and ministry. All that we do- from our liturgical celebrations to our active social outreach - is imbued with this desire to be there for one another. When we welcome all who come to our parish, we make a space for them within our community so that they too can find, express and grow their relationship with Christ and his Church. In short, it's what families do and I am grateful to all who take this "familial" aspect of our faith seriously!



We are an active parish and the newsletter highlights a few of our many events. Activities pop up frequently at St Francis! For more pilgrimages, activities, Jubilee year events, faith formation, devotional and church services, please visit our website at stfrancisa2.com regularly!

Please note our Mass schedule for the summer:

Saturday 5pm
 Sunday 7am,
 8:30am, 10:30am,
 & 12:30pm.

The 5pm Sunday Mass returns September 18.

“I BAPTIZE YOU...”

A reflection and invitation from Fr. Tom

One of the joys of an associate at St. Francis is being in charge of the Baptism Ministry. “Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit,” the Catechism tells us (CCC 1213). It is good to bring all of our minds to focus on the religious significance of Baptism; indeed it is more than a “family tradition” or “a celebration of the faith.” I tell the parents there is no point in bringing your child for baptism if you do not intend to teach the child about Jesus, His Church, and the way of life He calls his disciples to follow. The grace of the sacrament will never flower into eternal life if is not nourished by the parents and godparents who promise to pass the faith on to their child. Many new parents who come to the class are surprised to discover the deep connection between Baptism and Jesus’ death on the cross.

I am assisted by lay couples and volunteers who help teach the class. They give a short testimony of how

they passed the Catholic faith to their children. The new parents hear examples of how to bring children to Church, pray with them at home, and raise them to know Jesus. All of this is being translated into a Spanish version of the class which will soon be offered to our Hispanic parents.

In addition to the classes other volunteers help at the ceremony itself. Baptism coordinators assist the parents at the 12:30pm Sunday Mass in church, video volunteers record the occasion on DVD, and senior ladies knit the white garments put on the infants. All of these efforts are meant to bring out the underlying meaning of Baptism: the newborn child will be reborn of “water and the Spirit” and will become connected to Jesus’ death and resurrection for the rest of his or her life.

If you feel called to join us in some aspect of Baptism ministry please let me know and I will find a good fit for you.



Fr. Tom baptizes Daniel Hickey “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

SENIORS AT ST. FRANCIS

We meet after the 9:15am Mass twice each month to share our Catholic faith and get to know our peers. Join us!

- Go out to breakfast Tuesday, June 21st, at 10:15am. Pay on your own.
- The 9th annual Senior Picnic will be at Washtenaw County Farm Park Tuesday, July 12th, at 11:30am. Please bring a dish to share.
- The annual Senior Recognition Mass and Luncheon is Thursday, September 8, sponsored by our Diocese of Lansing’s Washtenaw Catholic Council on Aging. The hosting parish is Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (420 North St, Milan, MI 48160). The event will begin with the celebration of Mass with Bishop Boyea at 11:00 am and will conclude with lunch.

To sign up and/or to join our carpool contact Scott Wright: (734) 821-2121 or swright@stfrancisa2.org.



St. Francis of Assisi
PARISH

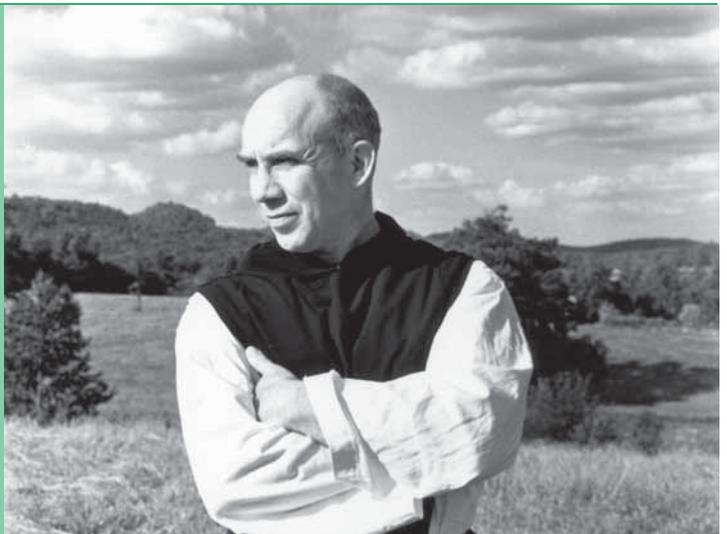
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SUMMER WITH THE SAINTS

Join a small group this summer as we explore some of the great heroes of our Catholic Faith. We will learn about the lives of St. Katharine Drexel, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Edith Stein, St. Teresa of Calcutta, Thomas Merton, St. John of the Cross, and St. Teresa of Avila. In particular, we will be exploring their personal devotions and prayer life. Come learn how to pray like the saints!

The group will meet for five Wednesdays, June 22, July 6, 20, 27, and August 3, complementary to the "On the Lawn" series. For more information and to sign up, contact Kelly Hernandez at khernandez@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2122.



"One of the greatest paradoxes of the mystical life is this: that a man cannot enter into the deepest center of himself and pass through that center into God, unless he is able to pass entirely out of himself and empty himself and give himself to other people in the purity of selfless love."
-Thomas Merton, priest & Trappist monk,
Seeds of Contemplation

Photograph by Sibylle Akers.
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