

WINTER 2017

# The Canticle

## OF ST. FRANCIS

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QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 4

## FOUR PORTRAITS OF JESUS

### Breakfast talks follow Friday 8:15 Masses

Join us at 9:30 a.m. following the 8:15 Mass. Each writer of the Gospels brings a specific view of Jesus, even though they blend into one story of His life and teaching.

**Jan. 19: Mark and Matthew**  
**Jan. 26: Luke and John**

Cathryn Torgerson writes extensively on spiritual growth according to the writings of St. Paul. She has spent several years working with teens and now shares the Good News with adults through the Catholic Biblical School of Michigan. Sign up online to attend.



Let us know if you would like to help by bringing a breakfast dish to share.

## LENT 2018: ENCOUNTERING CHRIST!

### Three different evenings, three different Biblical figures! Feb, 20, 21, 22

Mark Price will deliver theatrical presentations that are dynamic, passionate, thought-provoking, and bring people to life. Through him, the Woman at the Well, St. Thomas and St. Paul will speak to you about their lives and experiences and how encountering Jesus changed



their lives. In his performances, Mark educates the audience about customs of the time, Bible

stories and values, and might also dispel some myths. Come, and get to know Jesus through some who were closest to Him and dig deeper into the Scriptures to discover who Jesus is to you.

**SAVE THE DATES!**  
**Feb. 20-21-22**

## FIESTA de NUESTRA SEÑORA de GUADALUPE

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**Martes, 12 de Diciembre  
con la Serenata a las 6:30 p.m.  
y la misa a las 7 p.m.**

Te invitamos junto a tu familia a nuestra celebración bilingüe (Español e Inglés) en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, patrona de las Americas. Invitamos a los niños a traer una flor a la misa. Después de la misa tendremos una recepción en el Centro de Eventos de la Parroquia (Parish Activities Center).

**Celebration of  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Tuesday, Dec. 12  
Musical Tribute to Our Lady  
begins at 6:30 p.m.  
Mass begins at 7 p.m.**

You and your family are invited to join in a bilingual celebration



(Spanish and English) in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of all the Americas. Children are invited to bring a flower to Mass. A reception follows Mass in the Parish Activities Center (PAC). Please bring your favorite food to share.

## ‘FOOTPRINTS OF GOD’ IN MEXICO

**Join Fr. James Conlon & Steve Ray's "Footprints of God" Mexico pilgrimage Nov. 26 to Dec. 6, 2018**

We'll explore our shared Catholic heritage of sites in Mexico important to our faith, including the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and much more.

Learn more and sign up at: [www.stfrancisa2.com/mexico2018](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/mexico2018)



**"JUST  
AS YOU  
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ROOTS  
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INTO HIM,  
AND LET  
YOUR  
LIVES BE  
BUILT  
ON HIM" —  
Colossians 2:6-7**



## PARISH OPPORTUNITIES

## VOLUNTEER AND HELP OTHERS!

Experience new insights and moments of grace

Our **St. Francis Tax Assistance Program** each year is held on, Saturdays in February-April, at St. Francis Parish Office volunteers prepare federal and state tax returns for over 100 clients, with refunds totaling over \$100,000. Many members of the community rely on this service. Volunteer! We provide the training.

Call Scott (734-821-2121) at the parish office. Bilingual individuals encouraged to join, too.

**¡Buscamos Asistentes para Declaraciones de Impuestos!**  
¿Le gusta ayudar a los demás?  
La Parroquia de San Francisco busca voluntarios para ayudar a familias de bajos ingresos obtener

créditos tributarios de Michigan y para asistir en la preparación de formularios básicos de declaración de impuestos. Proporcionamos el entrenamiento necesario y la oportunidad de usar los conocimientos en los sábados de febrero a abril. ¿Interesado? Regístrese en el sitio web de St. Francis o contacte a Scott (821-2121).

## OTHER VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Nov. 4-12:** Food Drive to Local Pantries/ Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. / School Gym / Scott Wright / 821-2121

**Nov. 24-Dec. 10:** Giving Tree Gift Sharing / shift times / Church / Scott Wright 821-2121

**Dec. 5:** Christmas Dinner Party for Charity / 5:30 p.m. / PAC / Scott Wright / 821-2121

ST. FRANCIS MEN'S MINISTRY  
PRESENTS



**3rd Thursdays**

6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer (in Church)  
7:00 p.m. Dinner and talk (in P.A.C.)

December 14th  
Panel: Living in Hope

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The **St. Francis Men's Ministry** exists to join men more fully each day in the mission of the Holy Spirit, by equipping them to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, to support and encourage one another through prayer and sharing, and to demonstrate the love of the Father through word and deed to a world in need.

## PANEL: LIVING IN HOPE

*This fall we've explored living as men of peace and as men of gratitude and now we look at being men of hope!*

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Let us know if you can make it:  
[stfrancisa2.com/3rd-thursday](http://stfrancisa2.com/3rd-thursday)

## PARISH LIFE

## Images of Mary from Around the World - By Virtue of His Merits

Join us Friday, Dec. 8 for breakfast and talk for 8:15 a.m. Mass in church with our school children. And, after Mass at 9:15 a.m. in the PAC enjoy breakfast and talk on The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We'll display a variety of images of Mary from various cultures.

Please bring your favorite image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Consider making a freewill offering for food at the breakfast table in the PAC. Please sign up to let us know you are coming for the breakfast and the talk at (821-2121) or on-line at [stfrancisa2.com/immaculate-conception/](http://stfrancisa2.com/immaculate-conception/)

*We, at our Baptism, and participating in the Sacraments of the Church, stand with our Holy Immaculate Mother Mary, by virtue of the merits of her son Jesus Christ.*

## ADVENT PRAYER & REFLECTION

Afternoon tea, 2 p.m. Sunday Dec. 3 in the PAC

Bring your favorite teacup (optional) and join us on the First Sunday of Advent for a time of prayer and a talk by Anne Guminik on Mary's fiat and her role in the plan of salvation. The event will focus on preparing ourselves to enter the Advent season, and what we can learn from Mary's free "yes" to God's will.

Anne Guminik is a wife, mother of four and a parishioner of St



Patrick's in Brighton. She has worked as an Occupational therapist for 25 years, and following a mid life vocational call, entered the



seminary in 2005. Earning her Masters degree in Pastoral Ministry, she taught for the Catholic Biblical School of Michigan, worked as sacramental coordinator with Our Lady of Good Counsel, and continues to enjoy facilitating retreats and teaching as a part-time instructor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

Let us know if you can make it: [stfrancisa2.com/wff](http://stfrancisa2.com/wff)

## GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOP, JAN. 19-20



Grieving with Great HOPE is a weekend grief support workshop that offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. If you have lost a spouse, a child (including pregnancy loss), a grandchild, a parent, another family member or a friend, you are encouraged to attend. The workshop will be held Jan. 19 and Jan. 20. Presenters include Fr. James Conlon as well John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a Catholic bereavement organization. Contact Kelly Hernandez at 821-2122 for registration information, or visit [www.goodmourningministry.net](http://www.goodmourningministry.net)

January 19, 7-9:00pm (church) and January 20, 10-4pm (Activity Center) at St. Francis of Assisi. With support from Nie Family Funeral Homes Seating is limited. Registration is \$20.



## COFFEE WITH CATHOLICS

Got questions? Explore with others weekly during Advent

Would you or someone you know like to chat about anything or everything Catholic? Are you Interested in what it means to be Catholic? Maybe you or a friend are not Catholic but desire to know more about the Catholic Faith? Or maybe just a chat about a particular teaching you wish you could learn more about or perhaps you struggle with?

Join us for an informal chat over coffee or beer on Mondays during Advent at 7 p.m. at Cultivate in Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Coffee (or beer) with Catholics is a welcoming space for discussion on the Catholic Faith. And no worries, we'll also have conversation starters on Catholic identity to help us along as needed. Coffee and beer on tap are available for your purchase as you desire



Questions? Contact Ellen Ward at [ward@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:ward@stfrancisa2.org) or Scott Wright at [swright@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:swright@stfrancisa2.org)

## JOIN US FOR THE LIVING NATIVITY

Outdoor walk and carols set for Dec. 17

You and your family are invited to the **Living Nativity and Carols** on **Sunday, Dec. 17** at **5 p.m. in church.**

*Come experience with Joyful anticipation:*

- The Scripture narratives of the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ
- Live animals to honor and recall the birth of the Christ child
- Music to glorify the Lord
- The peaceful wonder of the Nativity
- Luminary walk outside (weather permitting) past the stable.
- Scripture & Carols last about an hour with the



walk outdoors at your leisure. **Please note that there will not be a 5 p.m. Sunday Mass on Dec. 17.** Please attend one of our other Masses and join us for this Service anticipating wonder of the birth of our Savior. All ages, from the youngest to the eldest, are welcome.

A reception follows in the Parish Activity Center.

For questions, please contact Ellen Ward (at [ward@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:ward@stfrancisa2.org) or 734-821-2130) or Jonathan Hasey at (734-821-2124 or [hasey@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:hasey@stfrancisa2.org)).

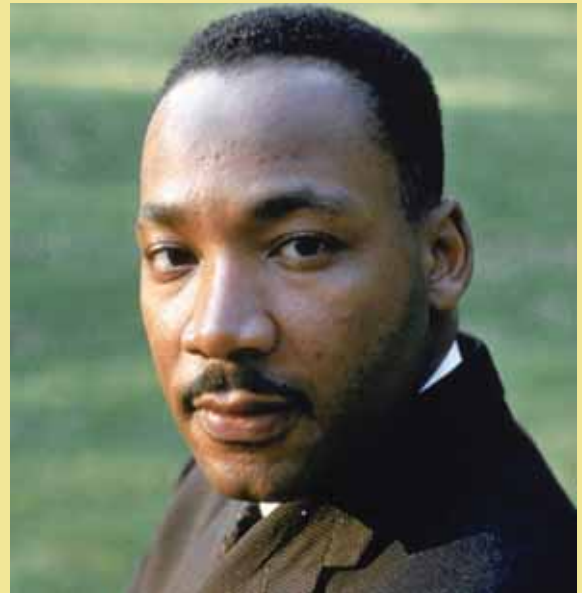
## CELEBRATION OPPORTUNITIES

## MASS AND BIRTHDAY DINNER FOR MLK, JR.

Visiting choir will add to the celebration

**MASS & BIRTHDAY DINNER to HONOR Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday, Jan. 14, at 5 p.m.**

The choir from our sister parish Corpus Christi, Detroit, under the direction of Michelle Baines, will join us for our celebration. We will enjoy a delicious dinner in the PAC before our friends from Detroit say farewell. While he was not a Catholic himself, we celebrate the life and work of Doctor King because his goals are completely aligned with the themes of Catholic Social Teaching: the life and dignity of all people; the call to community participation and inclusion of all Americans, regardless of their skin color, in our democracy; the duty to advocate for those who are downtrodden, putting the needs of the poor and vulnerable first; and solidarity in our one human family, regardless of racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Celebrate the advancement of our Human Rights and Civil Rights.



**Sign up to eat and help with the dinner by contacting Scott Wright  
swright@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2121.**

## 'SHEPHERD'S MASS' / PASTERKA

Polish Christmas "Shepherd's Mass" or Pasterka will be held **Saturday, Jan. 6, at 5 p.m. Mass** with Bishop Boyea presiding.

Celebrate Mass in Polish and English with Choir Filareci from Troy, Michigan, singing traditional kolędy, Christmas carols in the spirit of joy. Mass will be followed by a light reception in our Parish Activities Center. All are invited to bring a dish to share. St. Francis community has enjoyed this tradition for more than 30 years.

Sign up to volunteer here: [stfrancisa2.com/pasterka](http://stfrancisa2.com/pasterka)  
Questions? Contact: Scott Wright (734) 821-2121 or  
[swright@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:swright@stfrancisa2.org).

Mark your calendar:

**"On Becoming a Deacon" with  
Sue Leger, wife of Deacon Gene  
Friday, Jan. 19, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Parish Activities Center**

We will be joined by Sue Leger, wife of Deacon Gene Leger, as she shares her story of walking with her husband as he went through the permanent diaconate process. Listen as she shares about the relationship between marriage and Holy Orders, her own role as a deacon's wife, and how this process has aided her own spiritual growth.



## ADVENT AT ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL

Weekly prayer gatherings, Christmas program highlight the season

St. Francis School is off to a great start this year. We're working on providing more in depth prayer experiences for our students and staff through prayerful meditation and mindfulness. It's been beautiful to take time as a faculty team to pray and reflect on our own prayer lives.

Looking ahead, the months of December through February are very busy - but joyous!

December brings weekly prayer and studies of Advent. Every Monday morning, our students gather in the hallways as grade level groups to pray with their Advent Wreaths. It is such a wonderful time that we are grateful to be able to celebrate in a school setting!

Our annual, spectacular Christmas Program is scheduled for the last night before Christmas break. The students always do a wonderful job performing and praising on this beautiful evening. It is one of my favorite events of the entire year. January welcomes Catholic School's Week at the end of the month and our annual school Open House to new families.

**Mark your calendars for the Open House: Sunday, Jan. 28 from 1:30–4 p.m.** We would love to share our Catholic school opportunities with you for 3-year-old preschool—8th grade.

May God bless you these Advent and Christmas seasons.



— Julie Fantone Pritzel, Principal



St. Francis of Assisi  
PARISH

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## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

- **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (Holy Day of Obligation): Thursday, Dec. 7: 7 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 8: 8:15 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe:** Tuesday, Dec. 12: 7 p.m. (Mass in Spanish & English); reception follows in the PAC
- **Advent Regional Communal Penance Services:** 7p.m. Monday, Dec. 11 at St. Thomas; 7p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13 at Old. St. Pat; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at St. Francis
- **Fourth Sunday of Advent:** Saturday, Dec. 23: 5 p.m., and 7 p.m. (in Spanish, all are welcome); and Sunday, Dec. 24: 8:30 am only
- **Christmas Masses:** Sunday, Dec. 24: 4, 6, 8 & 10:30 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 25: 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
  - No 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 31
  - **New Year's / Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** (not a Holy Day this year due to falling on a Monday): Mass on Monday, Jan. 1, 10:00 a.m.

