

SPRING 2018

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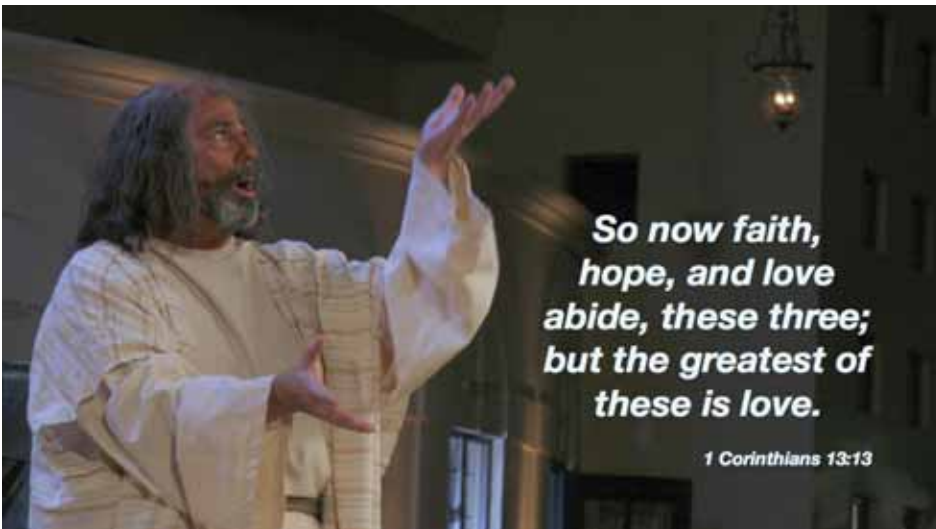
The Canticle

OF ST. FRANCIS

QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 1

ENCOUNTER CHRIST!

Meet Jesus through the woman at the well, St. Thomas, and St. Paul



Thursday, Feb. 20, 21, 22 and presents three different encounters with Jesus Christ.

Mark delivers a dramatic presentation each evening that is dynamic, passionate, thought-provoking, and brings these people to life. Through him, the **Woman at the Well, St. Thomas the Apostle, and St. Paul** will speak to you about their lives and experiences and how encountering Jesus changed their lives dramatically.

Come, get to know Jesus through some who were closest to Him and dig deeper into the Scriptures to discover who Jesus is to you. **For more information, contact Marty Lucas at 821-2125 or mlucas@stfrancisa2.org.**

Have you ever had a life-changing encounter? One moment and you knew things would never be the same? Perhaps when you met your future spouse, or the moment you cradled your newborn child?

Throughout scripture we see several life-altering encounters

between God and man. The Gospels give us a "boots on the ground" glance at the beautiful intimacy God desires to enjoy with each one of us. Jesus Christ portrays this as He ministers to the "least of these."

Mark Price returns to St. Francis at 7pm **Tuesday/ Wednesday/**

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

COME EXPERIENCE MERCY FRIDAYS

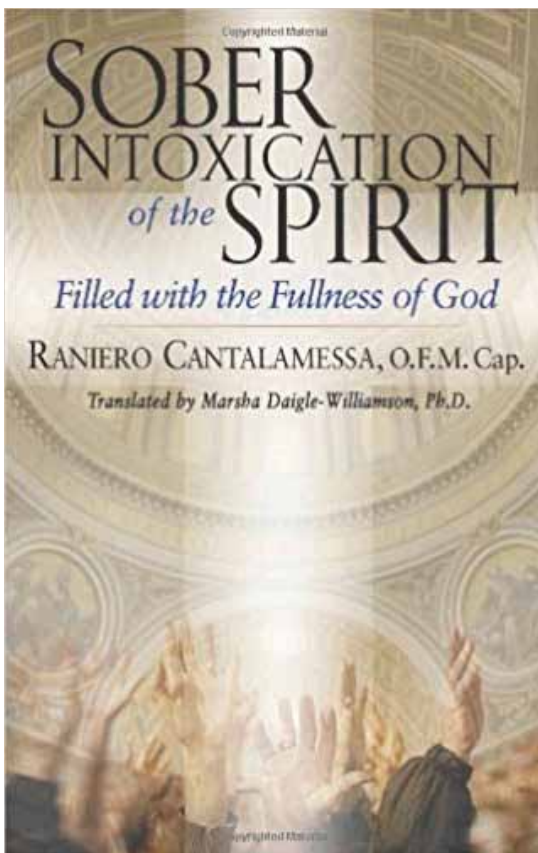
This Lent, following the 8:15 a.m. Friday Masses on **Feb. 16 & 23, and March 2, 9, & 16**, join us for breakfast and a short talk on the Holy Spirit (9:20 a.m.) in the Parish Activities Center. We'll give a short presentation each week on the role of the Holy Spirit, using the thought and commentary of the preacher for the papal household, Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa.

We'll summarize his commentary on the Holy Spirit (and make it easy to understand) for 30 minutes over breakfast and then allow you to discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in your

own life. You'll be on your way with new insights by 10:30 a.m.

Ellen Ward, along with team members Kelly Hernandez, Scott Wright, and Jake Kanitz, will be heading up the presentations and facilitation of our morning. Fr. James Conlon will be leading a special session on March 16 regarding Prayer to the Holy Spirit with opportunities for the gift of prayer.

Plan to join us for this unique opportunity to know and even encounter the Lord through the Holy Spirit. Please help us plan by signing up at: stfrancisa2.com



JOIN A LENTEN SMALL GROUP

We will be reading *“Sober Intoxication of the Spirit: Filled with the Fullness of God”* by Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap.

Fr. Cantalamessa is an internationally acclaimed speaker and writer, who in 1980 was appointed as the preacher to the papal household and continues to serve in this capacity under Pope Francis.

In his book, he reminds the reader of the immeasurable power of the Holy Spirit for each baptized believer.

As seen in Sacred Scripture and the Church Fathers, the Holy Spirit is the action of God,

made available through the sacraments---most especially in the Eucharist---that purifies us of sin, renewing the spirit and enlightening the mind.

Small Groups meet on different days and times, choose one that works best for your schedule.

Sign-up can be found on our parish web page or in the weekly bulletin.

If you are interested in forming your own small group, contact Kelly Hernandez at: khernandez@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2122.

PARISH OPPORTUNITIES

COFFEE & CHAT WITH A PRIEST

(and maybe a confession) all day March 8!

When was the last time you went to confession? Has it been over a year or two or maybe more? Or maybe you're not really into confession, but still there's a few things in your past that you wish you hadn't said or done and maybe you'd like the chance to just talk about them?

St. Francis is hosting a coffee and chat with a priest (with maybe confession) **all day on March 8** from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the Parish Activities Center. We'll provide the coffee (or tea) and some snacks. Come yourself or come with a friend who you think might benefit



from a talk with a priest.

God bless you and please know that you are in our prayers. For questions, call 821-2100.

LENT BEGINS FEB. 14

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has anointed me to bring glad tidings—Luke 4:18

- **Ash Wednesday Masses, Feb. 14:** 7 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m.

Other Lenten Liturgies:

- **Stations of the Cross** in the church, every Friday during Lent.
At 7:00 p.m. (in English) each week, our reflections are composed and led by different ministries and groups in our parish, so this special Lenten time of prayer remains traditional in format, yet fresh in content and reflection. This year we will hear from our Service and Justice ministry, 2018 RCIA class, our parish school children and teachers, our religious education students, and members of the Pastoral Team. All are welcome to join us as we recall our redemption.
At 8:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross in Spanish (in church), preceded by Lenten reflections at 7 p.m. in the chapel.
- **Anointing of the Sick** (in Spanish) after the 7 p.m. Saturday Mass, on March 3 and 17.

- **Evening Prayer and Benediction**, 6:30 p.m., Thursdays, February 15, and March 8.

- **Taizé Prayer with Adoration and Benediction**, 7 p.m., March 1. This evening includes a combination of scripture, song and silence that allows us to reflect more deeply on the true meaning of Lent as it prepares us for Easter.
- All **weekday Masses** during Lent will be celebrated in the main church.
- **All-day Confessions or "Coffee and a chat with a priest,"** Thursday, March 8, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
- **Communal Penance Service**, 7 p.m., Thursday, March 22, St. Francis Church
Other regional penance services :
Monday, March 19—St. Thomas 7 p.m.
Tuesday, March 20—St. Mary, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 21—St. Patrick, 7p.m.

PARISH LIFE

SUPPER WITH CATHOLICS

Feb. 19 and 26, and March 5 at select restaurants



Got questions about God? Faith? Practice or Belief? Got questions about the Catholic Faith? Let's talk over dinner! A different restaurant each Monday night on Feb. 19 and 26 and March 5. Bring a friend or just bring yourself. **Tell a friend and let us know your thoughts and interest (and find the restaurant locations) by signing up at our website: stfrancisa2.com**

You are also welcome to email us: swright@stfrancisa2.org or jkanitz@stfrancisa2.org or ward@stfrancisa2.org
Choose any one of us to express your interest. ***We look forward to seeing you.***

Tax program with English & Spanish-speaking tax aides

Experienced parishioners volunteer their time to assist individuals in need, and with limited income and simple Income Tax Returns. We prepare returns with income of \$45,000.00 or less. Call the Parish Office (734-769-2550) to volunteer, or, to make an appointment. Our program is run at St. Francis Parish Office on Saturday mornings **until April 14.** Your sign-up in advance is required. Bilingual individuals encouraged to join. Must be 16 or older to volunteer as tax preparer. We provide the training and the opportunity to apply the knowledge.



Mass & Eucharistic Adoration & Rose Procession

Join us for Mass & Eucharistic Adoration from 10-11:30 a.m. on **Saturday, March 3 in the church.** This time includes a procession to Planned Parenthood as part of the 40 Days for Life.

Questions? Contact: Sandie Weathers at (734) 657-1936, or email sandieweathers@gmail.com or visit stfrancisprolifea2@gmail.com

WOMEN'S AND MEN'S MINISTRY

Join us Thursday, March 8 for a talk by Sr. Sarah Burdick on *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit, as explained through the writings and teachings of St. John Paul II*

6:30 p.m. (church) Evening Prayer and Benediction

7 p.m. (chapel) Fellowship and Talk (childcare available in the nursery next door)



Sr. Sarah Burdick is the director of formation for the Servants of God's Love religious community, serves as the director of theology and teaches at Father Gabriel



Women's Faith and Fellowship
Explore the beauty & challenge of being a Catholic woman

Richard High School. She has offered talks worldwide and is co-host of the Ave Maria Radio show "Notes From Above." She has a B.S. in Education from the University of Michigan and a M.A. in theology from Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

Let us know if you can make it: stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms

The Women's Faith & Fellowship hosts monthly gatherings and speakers regarding topics of faith. All gatherings are open to women in all stages of life.

Through prayer, fellowship, study, we strive to grow in our relationship with Christ and one another. Look for upcoming events in the bulletin and on our parish webpage.

Feb. 15: "The Debt the World Owes the Church" with radio host Al Kresta

Looking at how Jesus has been operating through His Church over the centuries to bless the human race. Through Christ and His Church we've received the scientific enterprise, the elevation of sacrificial love as the gold standard of human ethics, the creation and preservation of the world's greatest works of art and music and a spirit of prophecy which warns the world about false teaching.

Let us know if you can make it: stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms/

Mark your calendars for March 15. Fr. James will join us for an evening out at a local restaurant. Come with any questions you may have about the Catholic faith. If you have any friends who may have fallen away from their faith and might be interested in joining in a conversation about our faith in a relaxed atmosphere, feel free to invite them along. Look for more details and location in the upcoming parish bulletins or online.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

MEANINGFUL MEETINGS

Inspiring teens to be on fire for Christ

Spring is right around the corner — can you smell it in the air? I'm excited for this fresh start for the new year! During this time of the year, the SFA High School Youth Ministry has some exciting things planned, like having meaningful meetings on Sunday evenings that the teens can implement into their daily life, Shelter in the Gym in March, going to Wixom for a retreat to join 600+ other high school teens to deepen their relationship with Christ.

The teens are encouraged to do things for others, like bonding with the homeless and making gifts (pictured on the right) for our wonderful mothers.

Join us for the Cross in the City on Good Friday at 12 noon as we recall the events of Christ's passion and death. Keep an eye out for updates in the bulletin or on the St. Francis web site. Any questions: contact Jake Kanitz at jkanitz@stfrancisa2.org



WORLD YOUTH DAY — HOW YOU CAN HELP

During this pilgrimage to Panama Jan. 21-28, 2019 we will participate in a life-changing faith journey with millions of other Catholics, in which we will share our faith and grow as fearless missionaries of Christ! Donated funds will help us defray the cost of transportation, room & board. They will be combined with other on-site fundraisers, and a portion of all the money raised will be used to relieve the material needs of a Panamanian parish.



We will be selling **pies for your Easter meal** and **items** from Equal Exchange **for Mother's Day**. Look for more information in our bulletin and on social media. The most important thing we ask for you is your prayers for gaining a closer relationship with Christ and that this experience will allow us to be joyful about sharing our faith with the world. Second, we ask for your financial support to make it to WYD and back. We have a GoFundMe campaign at : <https://www.gofundme.com/pilgrimage-to-panama> or if you have any recyclables cans and bottles there is a recycle bin outside of the Church (photo left) by the bike rack next to the PAC.



St. Francis of Assisi
— CATHOLIC SCHOOL —

MUSTANG CONNECTION

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

In this Issue:

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- p4 Wizard of Oz info and ticket order form
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Philosophy and Mission Statement

*St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is a family-centered ministry of the St. Francis of Assisi Parish community where each student is valued, respected, safe, protected and nurtured as a unique creation of God. We challenge our students spiritually, academically and physically to **learn, care and lead** as they work to discover the plan that God intends for them. As followers of Christ, we strive always to instill in our students the message of St. Francis of Assisi ... "Preach the Gospel always, and when necessary use words."*

Greetings to the St. Francis community!

In my two short months as Director of Development and Events at St. Francis, I have been collaborating and communicating with Parish Team members, school staff, parishioners and school parents in order to effectively analyze and coordinate the fundraising efforts which support the financial needs of our parish school.

This is an important endeavor and to have an office of development in a K-8 school in the Diocese of Lansing is unique. It speaks to the commitment of the St. Francis Parish to have specific monetary goals to be able to keep tuition rates as low as possible without sacrificing academic needs so as many families in our community can choose a Catholic Education for their children.



I come to this position with the view of an educator and principal, a parent of a St. Francis Catholic School student, and as a parishioner in the pew. Serving for 6 years on Parish Council afforded me the opportunity to learn about the school and work with the Development Office and Mrs. Pritzel from an administrative angle. In addition, over the last 7 years I have volunteered at the school, for Witness to Hope, and most recently co-chaired the annual ETF Benefit. And what has resonated with me from all these experiences is the tremendous number of dedicated people in our parish and the community at-large who share the same vision. With joy in our hearts, we share of our gifts and talents to provide for current and future needs of our strong and vibrant parish school.

As I was so warmly welcomed to St. Francis in 2010, I welcome you as a committee member, event volunteer, participant, or a contributor at any of our upcoming events!! Fr. James, Mrs. Pritzel, Mr. Scott and I are most grateful for your ongoing support.

Let's work together to provide the best Catholic education possible at our Parish School for years and years to come!

Together In Christ,
Diane Green-Boyd
Director of Development and Events
development@stfrancisa2.org
734-821-2208

Upcoming development events

22nd Annual Car Raffle (Curriculum Support):

COMING SOON! Alumnus Tom Butman of Gene Butman Ford has again blessed our school by donating a 24-month, 24,000-mile lease on a **2018 Ford Edge** in order to raise major funds for St. Francis School! WATCH the Forum Bulletin and the St. Francis web site for complete details! Proceeds from this year's raffle will allow for the updating of Fine Arts instructional materials, supplies, and equipment. To help out, please contact Diane at development@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2208



HOPES and DREAMS (New Family Tuition Assistance): Envisioned in 2014 to provide tuition support for newly enrolling St. Francis school families, a special anonymous benefactor pledged up to \$40,000 for a dollar for dollar match *every year through 2021!* Fr. James will be announcing this year's matching pledge period very soon. Check for details in the Forum bulletin and or access the Parish web site for details. Or to contribute online visit: stfrancisa2.com/school/giving-alumni/make-a-gift-to-the-school/

Teeing It Up for Tuition

(Current Family Tuition Assistance): Summer 2018!! Join parishioners, alumni, school parents and staff, as well as friends of St. Francis Catholic School at Washtenaw Golf Club for the annual golf outing which raises monies for Tuition Assistance. The monies raised are earmarked to assist current school families with financial needs which may prevent them from being able to pay full tuition. For sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, call Diane at 821-2208 or email development@stfrancisa2.org



2017-18 Development Council

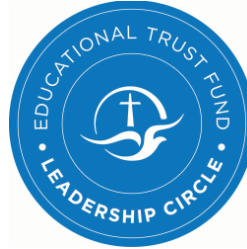
Chuck Stankovic, Chairperson
Julie Fantone Pritzel, Principal
Kathryn Dhitirojana,
Teacher Liaison
Robb Burroughs
Patrice Deutschmann
Patti Dobbs
Glenn Gottfried
Patrick McKeon
Dave O'Brien
Andrew Rushing
Michelle Updike

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. POMR

Educational Trust Fund Leadership Circle

The Educational Trust Fund (ETF) at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is all about preserving the outstanding Catholic education provided at our school. To ensure strong, consistent growth of our Trust Fund over time, a new initiative launched in 2011 to build an “ETF Leadership Circle.” The ETF Leadership Circle is comprised of families who make a multi-year pledge to the Trust Fund of at least \$1,000 per year, for five, consecutive years. Leadership Circle membership includes two complimentary reservations to our annual ETF Benefit.

Many families have committed to participating in the ETF Leadership Circle. This is a tremendous blessing to help ensure the strong, consistent growth of our Trust Fund over time. That in turn enables a strong, consistent award to our school each year to support operations. The 2017-18 award to the school is \$92,000 — the highest ever — and the anticipated gift for 2018-19 will be even higher!



Father James, Mrs. Pritzel and the ETF Trustees extend heartfelt thanks to these families who have responded to a “call to leadership” and invested in the future of outstanding Catholic education at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School.

As Catholics, we are called to give thanks for what God has given us by investing in the present and future of the young people in our Catholic community. Please prayerfully consider if this is the year for your family to join our ETF Leadership Circle. You are invited to contact the Development Office at development@stfrancisa2.org or 821-2208 for more information.

Save the date!

ETF BENEFIT (School Operating Budget /Current Family Tuition Assistance):

Mark your calendars: **October 27, 2018!**

The proceeds garnered from this event are invested in the St. Francis Educational Trust Fund and an annual award (2017-18 \$92,000!!!) is given for the school’s operating budget. In addition, \$30,000 was raised for Tuition Assistance at the 2017 event! For details, contact Diane at 734-821-2208 or email development@stfrancisa2.org All are welcome!

Support St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

View our wish list at stfrancisa2.com/school/giving-alumni/wish-list/

Make an online gift at:

stfrancisa2.com/school/giving-alumni/make-a-gift-to-the-school/

Send this form along with your tax-deductible donation to:

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, Development Office,
2270 E. Stadium Boulevard,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Name of Contributor

Street

City State ZIP

Alumna/us Yes No

My/Our child(ren) attended St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

\$ Contribution Check Enclosed

Credit Card # Expiration Date Security #

Cardholder's Signature

Educational Trust Fund

Hopes & Dreams Fund

School Operations

Tuition Assistance Fund

Please keep this gift anonymous.

This gift is in honor/memory of:

Please send me information on creating a gift in my estate plan.

I have included St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School in my estate plan.

MasterCard

Visa

American Express

The WIZARD of OZ



Youth Performers Edition

By L. Frank Baum
With Music and Lyrics of the
MGM Motion Picture Score
By Harrold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg

Produced by arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.,
560 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022



Ticket Order Form (due 2/7) for *The Wizard of Oz*
A Young Performers Edition
from the Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.
Presented by St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

___ 7 pm Friday, Feb. 9 ___ # tickets X \$10.00 = Total \$ _____

___ 2 pm, Saturday, Feb. 10 ___ # tickets X \$10.00 = Total \$ _____

___ Magic Wand ___ # wands X \$5.00 = Total \$ _____

(light up magic wand that will be used by the audience to help bring Dorothy home)

Total Enclosed \$ _____



St. Francis of Assisi
— CATHOLIC SCHOOL —

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:

FEBRUARY

• **9** Fine Arts Musical Theater Production “**The Wizard of Oz**” 7 p.m. PAC

• **10:** Fine Arts Middle School **Band Solo & Ensemble**, Livonia Franklin High School

• **10:** Fine Arts Musical Theater Production “**The Wizard of Oz**” 2 p.m. PAC

• **10:** Parent, Staff, and Friends of St. Francis School **Pretzel Bell Fundraiser** at 7 p.m., **\$35 per person**. For tickets, contact 734-821-2208 development@stfrancisa2.org

• **14:** **Ash Wednesday**

• **15-16:** **Mid-Winter Break** — No School

• **19:** **President’s Day**—No School

MARCH

• **26-30:** **Easter break** —No School

APRIL

• **1:** **Easter Sunday**

• **2:** **Easter Monday**—No School

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A school of faith, knowledge, and service — by Julie Fantone Pritzel, Principal

FAITH: Students attend mass every Friday with their home-room classes. They gather in prayer together daily in their classrooms and pray intercessions. Each day reflects our commitment to Jesus and His beloved Father. We work to encompass our faith in our interactions with the children on a daily basis. Our classrooms and school culture center on the virtues we are called to live each day: generosity, gratitude, kindness, obedience, prayerfulness, respect, sincerity, and responsibility.

We also love our traditions. One of our annual favorites is our Saints' Mass. Our 2nd grade students study a specific saint and then during a school mass, dress up as the saint. We also continue the beautiful tradition of the clay nativity set in art class. Any St. Francis graduate knows about these nativity sets.

KNOWLEDGE: Students at St. Francis work collaboratively. Building a team that learns from one another and grows together is one of our main goals as a Catholic School. High academic expectations are another sign of the amazing work God is doing through our own students' dedication and focus on their academics. We have seen great growth in our students' test scores this year as we have fully implemented differentiated



instruction in our classrooms for mathematics.

SERVICE: Throughout Advent, we worked to collect coats and winter supplies for children in need. What I saw as most impactful to the students was their efforts in singing at retirement homes and writing letters to the homebound. It allowed us to be directly connected to our community and share our gifts. Most importantly, St. Francis Catholic School students become activists for a better world even outside of the school hours. We are so blessed to have a community

where our faithfulness and social justice resonate with our children. We look forward to beginning our Lenten project.

Dates to look forward to:

- Our Middle School Musical Theater students will be putting on the musical, The Wizard of Oz on **Feb. 9-10**. Tickets can be purchased in the school office.
- The annual Science Fair is on **Thursday, March 3** in the classrooms from 5-8 p.m.
- **Friday, June 1** from 5-8 p.m. is our annual Ice Cream Social. Please come join us for some fun and celebration as we wrap up the school year.

Come and see what St. Francis Catholic School has to share with your family. Contact us at school@stfrancisaa.org, or call for a tour, 821-2200.

WITNESS TO HOPE/IRELAND PILGRIMAGE



WITNESS TO HOPE CAMPAIGN — WE ARE MOVING ALONG!

Our plans to build a new Parish Ministry Center are really starting to take shape. As of the second weekend of January, we were at \$6 million with 650 pledges toward our overall goal of \$8 million. The plans are exciting and will help meet our growing needs for the years ahead. Thank you to all who have pledged! To those still praying about it—we hope that you will commit soon. Here's how you can help!

Fr. James



EASY: Make your 5-year pledge and drop the envelope in the parish collection basket at any weekend Mass. Or...bring it by the office—you can defer your first payment to any month in 2018!

Also, if you have misplaced your campaign packet, please use one of the generic envelopes that are on the tables located at all exits of the Church. Or... ask an Usher.

EASIER: Make your 5-year pledge and mail it back in the envelope provided. You will need a stamp!

EASIEST: Make your 5-year pledge online at www.witnessstohope.net. Click on the GIVE NOW! box on the upper right. If you want to make your pledge via direct debit from your bank, have your account number and bank routing number handy.

For stock gifts or other questions, please call the parish office @ 734-821-2100. Please make all checks payable to: Witness to Hope (NOT St. Francis Parish). Campaign funds are held in a separate account and are not co-mingled with offertory funds.

HEAD TO IRELAND WITH FR. JAMES

Make your reservation today for a pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle of Ireland where we will discover the Catholic heritage of this courageous Catholic land. Our hosts Steve and Janet Ray are the writers, producers, and hosts of the "Footprints of God" video series and pilgrimages. (footprintsofgodpilgrimages.com)

We will have Fr. James Conlon with us—a citizen of Ireland. He was an Irish lawyer before becoming a priest. He will share his knowledge and love his country with us.

We will study and discover the rich and long history of the Catholic Faith in this land of saints and scholars. We will see the most sacred sites and beautiful churches including those related to St. Patrick, Our Lady of Knock and many more.

Travel arrangements by: Corporate Travel Service, Inc., 23420 Ford Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI 48127. (ctscentral.net) To register or for information visit: stFrancisA2.com/pilgrimage, also for help with the process, call Elizabeth at Corporate Travel at (800) 727-1999 ext.150.



LENTEN FISH DINNER / LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

Your fish dinner purchase helps to offset the tuition costs of our school families!

Volunteers needed:

St. Francis parishioners, parents of students at St. Francis Catholic School and student service volunteers are needed for the St. Francis Lenten fish dinners. Come help out at the fish fry! All workers get free dinner and earn tuition credit \$\$ for their students at St. Francis Catholic School. Grandparents and extended family are welcome to come help! If you don't have a child in the school but would like to support tuition credits for the students, you are welcome too! Middle school students can earn service hours.

For more information, email Kelly Hernandez at: khernandez@stfrancisa2.org. Thank you!



\$10 adult meal (\$9 Seniors 62+) includes:

Choice of fish:
2 hand-battered fried cod loins Or 1 large baked tilapia filet

Choice of potato:
roasted red-skin potatoes Or French fries

Choice of side:
macaroni and cheese Or sautéed green beans

Roll with butter and full salad bar

\$6 kids meal includes:

You design the plate from the following:
Fish sticks, mac and cheese, grilled cheese, French fries, carrots and ranch, fruit cup.

Purchase of canned Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, lemonade, juice box and milk available for \$1.

Water, tea and coffee are free of charge.

Extra fish \$3.50; extra side item \$2; cup of tomato parmesan soup \$3

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE: BREAD OF LIFE, FEB. 27-28



This Lent, February 27 & 28, join Fr. James Conlon on Pilgrimage to St. Anthony's Chapel in Pittsburgh and St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, PA. St. Anthony's Chapel was recently featured in the Smithsonian as having the "greatest collection of relics outside of the Vatican Collection."

We'll celebrate Mass in the presence of so many living Saints! Tour of the Chapel follows.

Then, we'll head on to St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, the first Benedictine Monastery founded in the U.S. We'll join this vibrant group of

monks for prayer, tour of the gristmill (a flour mill 160 years old and still in operation), learn about bread-making, and sample some delicious bread from the monks. We'll engage with the scriptures on the "Bread of Life" and come away with an enlivened Faith.

To sign up, or for more information on the schedule, see **Pilgrimage: Bread of Life** at stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms/ or contact us: Scott Wright at swright@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2121 or Ellen Ward at 734-821-2130 or ward@stfrancisa2.org

HOLY LAND COLLECTION / PARISH LENTEN PROJECT FOR INDIA

HELPING OUR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE HOLY LAND

Holy Week in 2017 our parish community donated over \$8,000 to support the Christian community in the Holy Lands. I am pleased to let you know that one of the projects we assisted with was the installation of a new heating system for the Terra Sancta Girls School in Bethlehem run by the Sisters of St. Joseph. I received a wonderful thank you from the principal, Sr. Femia Khoury — who assured me that the new system has made a real difference to the students and that we are now in their prayers. As you know the Christian community in the Holy Lands suffers greatly due to the political struggles there. Our act of sharing ensures that not only are the students warm but they can continue to study and build up the Christian community for the years ahead. I feel so proud that our gift has made such a difference. The rest of the money raised was used for a variety of smaller similar purposes. **Fr. James Conlon**



2018 LENTEN DRIVE FOR INDIA

Through our Lenten bulletin articles, we will learn about the great work done in the Diocese of Kottapuram to assist families in time of need, to care for the elderly and the disabled, educate farm workers and help finance small cottage industries that help communities to grow and prosper. Learn, pray and collect your monetary offerings from making sacrifices for those living in harsh poverty conditions. Give in solidarity with those less fortunate. Please return your cash and/or check contributions on **Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018**. Checks are payable to: St. Francis of Assisi, 2150 Frieze Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. For more information, see: www.stfrancisa2.com/lenten-almsgiving/

SHELTER VOLUNTEERS/DONATE A DAY

SHELTER PROGRAMS AND FOOD DRIVES

Each year St. Francis parishioners coordinate shelter volunteers for hosting three full weeks of shelter programs. Two of those weeks (one in May & one in October) for Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Shelter at Alpha House – for homeless families & one week (in March) for the Washtenaw County Shelter Association at St. Francis Catholic School gym – for homeless men. We are planning to host the **shelter at St. Francis Catholic School gym on March 12-19.**



Please consider signing up to help at: stfrancisa2.com/shelter-programs/
In addition to our efforts organizing volunteers and resources to give practical support for those in need, we also encourage our parish to give financial support by using **special collection envelopes for: Habitat for Humanity, Friends-in-Deed-Circles, RAAH Religious Action for Affordable Housing, Hope Clinic & the Dormitory at St. Joseph Academy in Kakamega, Kenya.**

And, of course every week all year long, members of St. Francis Parish bring non-perishable food items to Mass that are delivered by volunteers to local pantries. Volunteers deliver this food to the Northside Community Center of Catholic Social Services in Ann Arbor, and Hope Center in Ypsilanti, feeding over 50 families a week.

Groceries are needed, and volunteers are also needed to help with our **food drive** on weekends between **April 7-15, 2018, during Easter Season**, for our low-income neighbors who rely on our weekly food deliveries from St. Francis to the pantries. We will distribute empty bags the weekend of April 7-8, and deliver the donations on April 15. Especially needed: canned soups, peanut butter and jam, or any lunch foods. Sign up to help at: stfrancisa2.com/food-drives/



SAVE THE DATE: PARISH DONATE A DAY

On April 21, from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (rain date is the 28th) our group will donate our day working together on yard work, planting, trimming, raking, window washing, power washing siding and painting in-doors at **Emmanuel House**. Emmanuel House is a set of two homes for the elderly is providing housing for three to four older adults at each location, who are no longer capable of living alone and have limited income and support. Sponsored by Servants of God's Love, a Catholic Religious Community in Ann Arbor. Emmanuel House is run entirely by volunteers.)

Bring your own rakes/tools if you have them (also label or mark your name on them). We'll have extras if you do not. We'll have lots of fun for everyone of all ages. Teens are welcome with their parents. Sign up to help at: stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms/

Questions? Contact: the St. Francis Parish Social Ministry Office, 821-2121 or justice@stfrancisa2.org.



St. Francis of Assisi
PARISH

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday, March 29

- Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 p.m.
- Silent Prayer at the altar of repose in the chapel until 11 p.m.
- Sung Night Prayer, 11 p.m., chapel

Good Friday, March 30

- Cross in the City, 12 p.m.
- Good Friday Service, 1:30 p.m.
- Sung (Taizé) Evening Prayer, 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 31

- Blessing of Easter Food, 12 p.m.
- Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 1

- Normal Sunday Mass Schedule (7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.) except NO 5 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday

