 <p>WINTER 2018-19</p>	p2	Thoughts from our Pastor
	p4-5	December events
	p7-10	Mustang Connection
	p13	Grief support

# The Canticle

## OF ST. FRANCIS

QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 4

## OUR JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS

Advent begins on Sunday, Dec. 2, this year. It is a season of waiting and preparation. Just as Mary and Joseph awaited the birth of the Baby Jesus and prepared to welcome Him into the world, so, too, should we. Have you thought about how you might spiritually prepare for Christmas as you journey through this special season of Advent? Following are a few suggestions.

### Make a Jesse Tree.

Each “branch” of the Jesse Tree tells a story about the heritage of Jesus through writings from the Old Testament. To create one, please visit our parish website Advent page at [stfrancisa2.com/advent/](http://stfrancisa2.com/advent/) and click on the "Jesse Tree" link. This site explains the tradition and gives step-by-step instructions for making a tree of your own.



It is a wonderful activity for families with young children. The ornaments on the tree have a

picture on one side and a correlating scripture verse on the other. Kids will enjoy helping create the tree by coloring the ornaments. Each day, one ornament is hung on the tree while the correlating scripture verse is read aloud.

**Celebrate St. Nicholas Day.** St. Nicholas is the Patron Saint of children, and his feast day is celebrated on Dec. 6. In many European countries, the tradition is for children to leave their shoes on the fireplace hearth or outside their bedroom door on the evening of Dec. 5. When they wake up, their shoes are filled with small religious items or other small gifts or treats.

**A Stocking for Jesus.** Hang a special stocking for Jesus. Ask your children to do special acts of kindness for others throughout the season of Advent. Write the acts on small pieces of paper, and tuck them into Jesus’ stocking. What better gift could our children give to Jesus on Christmas morning?

Please visit our Parish website Advent page at [stfrancisa2.com/advent](http://stfrancisa2.com/advent) for information and resources.

## THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTOR

## THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTOR

*'A light rises in the darkness' (Ps 112)*

Each year at St. Francis, we seek to draw all of our Advent and Christmas events and activities together under one unifying theme. This year, in the midst of all that is going on in our world, our eyes came to rest on Psalm 112 and the line "A light rises in the darkness."

As Catholics, that light is Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate and whose presence is at the heart of our community of faith. Advent is a special time for Catholics, one that can be lost in what the world sees as "the holidays." It is a specific time of prayer, renewal and sharing as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Savior at Christmas.

Advent is not Christmas -- that season begins on Christmas Eve and ends on with the Baptism of the Lord, this year celebrated on Jan. 13. That is why we here at St. Francis do not sing carols or decorate our church during Advent, but instead make every effort to stem the ever-encroaching tide of the "holidays" to preserve this holy time and its true purpose.

Each year, I am often asked by folks, "Why no carols or lighted trees?" And each year I answer, "It's not Christmas yet!" Instead, I try to encour-



**Fr. James Conlon**

age all of us to use the Advent season to ponder the light of Christ in our lives, and to seek ways to let that light shine in the lives of others. It is his light that brightens the way of our community and inspires us in all that we do.

As you will see from this edition of the Canticle, we are again offering lots of opportunities for all of us to let his light shine -- in Advent, Christmas and beyond -- opportunities for seasonal prayer, reconciliation, service, sharing. I hope and pray that you will take advantage of these opportunities.

As I noted above, our theme seems so appropriate in this time of darkness in our world. We need Christ's hope and the promise of new life to encourage and strengthen our prayer and our endeavors. We need his light to brighten our world.

Once you have finished reading this edition and chosen the activities you wish to be part of, I encourage you to share it with family and friends and invite them to be part of our community of faith. Christ's light is for all!

— Fr. James Conlon

PARISH EVENTS

# EMMAUS ROAD: ONE DAY, ONE STORY—FEB. 16

*‘Are you the only one who does not know of the things that have taken place?’*

The story of our salvation is God’s love story. It is God’s great desire to share His life with us that began with creation and continues throughout history to us today. This story is told in Sacred Scripture.



Jesus, on the day of His resurrection, journeyed with two disciples, interpreting from scriptures all that pertained to Him. We, too, are travelers on that road who

sometimes require guides to help us understand Scripture.

Celebrate and explore different books and

themes of the Bible in this one-day FREE event on Feb. 16! We will have a keynote talk followed by three time slots with five different speakers in

each. Choose your topic. Stay for the whole day or attend only the portion you wish. 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Suggested donation for lunch: \$7.

## WEDDINGS, WINES, MIRACULOUS TIMES

***Marriage enrichment for couples married 10 years or less***

*"An enduring marriage is more than simply endurance. It is a process of growth into an intimate friendship and a deepening peace. So we urge all couples:*



renew your commitment regularly, seek enrichment often, and ask for pastoral and professional help when needed."  
*(from the USCCB, Follow the Way of Love)*

Married life is a calling from God for two people to travel

a sacramentally graced path to get each other to heaven. The married couple needs the involvement and support of their faith community.

Have you been married 10 years or less? Join us on **Saturday, Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m.** (following the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass) in the PAC for a talk by Fr. James on sustaining a joy-filled marriage in good times and difficult, a catered dinner, and wine tasting provided by Everyday Wines.

Make this your “date night” for the month! Cost per couple is only \$30. Register online or by contacting Marty Lucas at [mlucas@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:mlucas@stfrancisa2.org) r (734) 821-2125.

## DECEMBER EVENTS

## Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

**Miércoles, 12 de Diciembre**  
**La Serenata a las 6:30 p.m.**  
**La Misa a las 7 p.m.**

Te invitamos a ti y a tu familia a nuestra celebración bilingüe (Español e Inglés) en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, patrona de las Américas. Los padres serán quienes celebren la misa y de acuerdo con la tradición mexicana habrá música de mariachi.

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). Por favor trae tu



comida favorita para compartir. Información de contacto: 734-821-2128 o 734-821-2130.

**Celebration of our Lady of Guadalupe**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 12**

**Musical tribute to Our Lady begins at 6:30 p.m.; Mass 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, Patroness of all the Americas.

Children are invited to bring a flower to Mass. A reception follows Mass in the PAC. Please bring your favorite food to share. All are welcome. For information, contact (734) 821-2130 or (734) 821-2128.

## LOOKING TOWARD ADVENT

**“A light rises in the darkness” (Ps 112)**

During Advent, all weekday Masses will be celebrated in the main Church as follows: **Monday thru Thursday at 9:15 a.m.; Friday at 8:15 a.m.** (except Dec. 17 and 18 — Mass in downstairs chapel)

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is **Saturday, Dec. 8** (*a Holy Day of Obligation*). The Masses for this special celebration will be held on: **Friday, Dec. 7, Vigil at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m.**

Advent Taize Service — Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.  
 Our Lady of Guadalupe — Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 9:15 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Please join us this Advent season as we ready our hearts and prepare the way for the Christ Child.

### Tradicional Posada

Este año nuevamente tendremos nuestra tradicional Posada para preparar nuestros corazones con alegría y oración por la venida de Jesucristo, y para recordar y vivir los momentos que José y María pasaron antes del nacimiento de Jesús cuando buscaban una posada en Belén.

Sábado 22 de diciembre,  
 7 p.m. Santa Misa, 8 p.m. Posada dentro del salón parroquial.

### Traditional Posada

*A Posada is a way to prepare our hearts with joy and prayer for the coming of Jesus Christ and to remember and live the moments that Joseph and Mary spent before the Birth of Jesus when looking for an inn (posada in Spanish) in Bethlehem.*

Saturday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m. Spanish Mass, 8 p.m. Posada in PAC.

Traditional songs will be sung, light refreshments will be served, and lots of fellowship will be enjoyed. Please bring a light snack to share, if you can.

## LIVING NATIVITY & ADVENT CAROLS

**Living Nativity & Advent Carols Sunday,  
Dec. 16 at 5 p.m., beginning in Church**

***Come experience with joyful anticipation:***

- + The narratives of the coming of our Savior
- + Resplendent music to glorify the Lord
- + Live animals to honor the birth of the Christ child
- + Outdoor candlelit walk (weather permitting)
- + The peaceful wonder of the nativity

The Living Nativity is an interactive service with scripture narratives, live animals, and adult and child actors enhancing the story of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Afterwards, refreshments and friendship are offered in the PAC.

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



## HELP OUT AT THE FOUNDATIONS PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Tuesday, Dec. 4, St. Francis parishioners are hosting a Christmas dinner party for the at-risk, low-income children and families of our area served by Foundations Preschool. We need you to participate by providing a dish for the party or serving at the party. This is a buffet-style meal serving about 200 people. Deliver a casserole, fresh salad, or dessert, or be a kitchen assistant, help put up tables and decorations. For more Information, call (734) 821-2100.

## UPDATE

## WITNESS TO HOPE/NEW PARISH MINISTRY CENTER

*You can still contribute to our ongoing campaign!*

Thank you to all who have attended the Town Hall meetings in September and October.

We appreciate that city officials attended our Oct. 23 Town Hall along with a few neighbors. Standing with Fr. James (photo, right) is 3rd Ward Councilperson Julie Grand, and our County Commissioner, Jason Morgan.

If you missed the Town Hall meetings, feel free to visit our website to listen to our podcast. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact the Building Committee via email at [ministrycenter@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:ministrycenter@stfrancisa2.org).

We are now entering into the next phase of the Ministry Center development, but we still need your help. As of Nov. 1, we are still \$1.3 million away from our pledge goal and we still need your help.

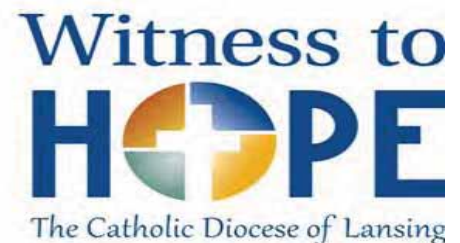
Now is the time to invest in our St. Francis faith community by embarking on a once-in-a-generation improvement to our Parish. We have outgrown the PAC and must alleviate this bottleneck to better serve our various ministries, school, volunteers and community. Simply put, more meeting spaces will allow our



community of faith to better serve God and help those in need both financially and spiritually.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this point. If you haven't pledged a gift or would like to increase your current gift, you may make your pledge online at [stfrancisa2.org/witness-to-hope/](http://stfrancisa2.org/witness-to-hope/) or contact Pam Smith in the Parish Office at (734) 821-2127 or email her at [psmith@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:psmith@stfrancisa2.org).

Our building committee and architect, Hobbs + Black, will be working tirelessly throughout 2019 to refine the design of the Ministry Center, and provide periodic updates to our parishioners.



We hope to have enough design and approvals in place to begin the bidding process for the general contractor by late 2019, start construction during the summer of 2020 and be completed by Christmas 2021.

As of Sept. 30, 2018, we have received \$809,896.11 in pledge payments for our Parish share of the Witness to Hope Capital Campaign. Please keep in mind that this actually reflects payments made to Witness to Hope through June 30, 2018.

## ALUMNI AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

### In This Issue

Winter 2018

- p2 Jog-A-Thon pictures and recap
- p3 Science update
- p3 Open House
- p3 Grandparents & Special Friends Day pictures
- p4 Important Dates
- p4 Support St. Francis Catholic School

### Philosophy and Mission Statement

*St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is a family-centered ministry of the Parish community. We are called to **learn, care, and lead** as we work to discover the plan that God intends for us. Each person is valued, respected, protected and nurtured as a unique creation of God.*

## From the Principal's Pen



Dear St. Francis School and Parish Community,

St. Francis School is up and running. We are so blessed to begin the school year with over 460 students in our 3-year-old enrichment through 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes. We are so excited for many of our beloved traditions to continue throughout the year.

In December, we focus on our Advent practices. As staff, we formally structure our calendars to be reverent and focused during the season by hopefully not over scheduling events and programs. Our goal as a school community is to partner with families to bring faith opportunities into the home. Through prayer, reflection, and studies, we will grow in our celebration of the Lord's birth. We are also extremely thrilled to celebrate through prayer and worship in our annual Christmas program.

In January, we will be celebrating the Christmas season as we return to school. At the end of the month, we will usher in our celebration of Catholic Schools and entering into our Hopes and Dreams Weekend on Sunday, Feb. 3.

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! Please visit [www.stfrancisa2.com/school/giving-alumni/built-of-hopes-and-dreams/](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/school/giving-alumni/built-of-hopes-and-dreams/) to contribute online.

As we embark on a new calendar year, we celebrate the many gifts Our Lord has given us. We wish you all a blessed new year with joy and happiness.

In Peace,  
Julie Pritzel



# Sixth Annual Jog-A-Thon



If you happened to drive by St. Francis of Assisi School on Thursday, Oct. 18, you might have seen the Mighty Mustangs running in the sixth annual Jog-A-Thon! The event, which featured students from kindergarten through eighth grade hustling around the parking lot, raised over \$30,000 to fund a school safety initiative. Each year, the money raised from the Jog-A-Thon is used to support school improvement. Past events have funded a gym renovation, interactive whiteboards in classrooms, a new bell system for the middle school, and water bottle refilling stations.

This awesome event would not be possible without the help of a dedicated group of parent volunteers and our sponsors: Underground Printing; Story Point; Jimmy John's; Domino's; Edwards and Shafer Orthodontics; Ottenwess, Taweel & Schenk, PLC; Latcha & Associates; Promanas; Ann Arbor Running Company; Enspire Dental; Lewis Jewelers; Busch's; The Pretzel Bell; California Closets; and The Bo Store.

Additional thanks to those of you who supported our runners with your generous donations!





# School News and Events

## Open House Feb. 3

Our school Open House is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 3, from 1-3 p.m. We fill up quickly, so anyone interested in touring is encouraged to come check us out and register that day. I can't say enough about our wonderful school community. My own daughter, Eliza Jane, will be with us soon as a student. Pray for her future teachers! To be able to call this community my family, my school, and my church means the world to me and my husband. I hope that I can share that with anyone else interested in Catholic education for their children. It truly is a remarkable community.

— Julie Fantone Pritzel

## Next Generation Science

St. Francis of Assisi School has adopted the Next Generation Science Standards as the new K-8 science curriculum. These standards are research-based, written by science education experts, and are a reflection of how students learn most effectively. The NGSS aims to ensure that “all students have some appreciation of the beauty and wonder of science; possess sufficient knowledge of science and engineering to engage in public discussions on related issues; are careful consumers of scientific and technological information related to their everyday lives; are able to continue to learn about science outside school; and have the skills to enter careers of their choice, including (but not limited to) careers in science, engineering, and technology” (*A Framework for K-12 Science Education*). *All of this is crucial for young Catholics as they influence our world in their studies, careers, voting, and vocations.*

Our parish school is a place of formation where we can raise up young men and women of faith to be speakers of the truth, problem-solvers, critical consumers, stewards of our planet, and people of reason. I am privileged to be part of a school that takes seriously our mandate to be salt and light, and I am grateful for the support of our parish and our parishioners.

— Sr. Rebecca Mierendorf

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## Grandparents & Special Friends Day

We hosted a very exciting day for grandparents and special friends of our students on Oct. 12, complete with Mass, refreshments and classroom visits. We always look forward to this fantastic event, and this year was no exception!



# Car raffle winner picks up her new Ford Edge



In August, Mr. Tom Butman of Gene Butman Ford in Ypsilanti presented the keys to a 2018 Ford Edge to Claudia P. from California, the Grand Prize winner of the annual Car Raffle in support of St. Francis School! This annual fundraiser provided funding for updates to the PAC for school drama, music, and art events, as well as updates to the Fine Arts Curriculum. Thank you to all who so generously supported the 2018 event, and to the Butman family for this legacy gift to St. Francis School. Stay tuned! The 2019 Car Raffle will roll out in March!

## Mark your calendars!

- Dec. 18, 2018:** Christmas Program
- Jan. 27-Feb. 1, 2019:** Catholic Schools Week; 2019-2020 registration begins
- Feb. 3:** Open house for new families
- Feb. 8 and 9:** Middle school musical theater performances of "Mary Poppins"

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## Support St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

View our wish list at [stfrancisa2.com/school/giving-alumni/wish-list/](http://stfrancisa2.com/school/giving-alumni/wish-list/)

Make an online gift at [stfrancisa2.com/school/giving-alumni/make-a-gift-to-the-school/](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

- MasterCard
- Visa
- American Express
- 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.

## PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY/BARCELONA HIGHLIGHTS

## PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY JUNE 20-29, 2019

Accompany us on this life-changing pilgrimage as we travel with Fr. James to Assisi, Siena, and Rome.

Throughout this 10-day journey, we will reflect on the lives of our patron, St. Francis of Assisi, as well as St. Clare of Assisi and St. Catherine of Siena as we tour beautiful basilicas, burial sites, and other holy places.

Our journey will also take us exploring the sites of ancient & Christian Rome and have a general audience with Pope Francis (pending confirmation). Our pilgrimage includes daily Mass, and music provided by members of our music ministry.

The time to reserve your spot is now! For brochure and registration information, visit the parish website ([stfrancisa2.com/pilgrimages](http://stfrancisa2.com/pilgrimages)) or contact our Corporate Travel representative,



Dave O'Brien, at [dobrien@ctscentral.net](mailto:dobrien@ctscentral.net) or (313) 565-8888, ext 142.

Contact Dave O'Brien or Ginny Birchler, Handbell Director - [gbirchler@strancisa2.org](mailto:gbirchler@strancisa2.org).

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR GOES TO BARCELONA

After preparing for nearly two years, this past July a group of 25 middle school choir members accompanied by director Mrs. Linda Opaleski, accompanist Mr. Jonathan Hasey, and Fr. James, traveled to Spain as part of the International Federation of Pueri Cantores Congregation.



Our choir joined with Catholic youth choruses from around the world which culminated in a Mass at the Basilica de La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. The choir also performed with a group from Holy Family Parish from Glendale,

CA at a 12<sup>th</sup> century cathedral in Segovia. The call to all in attendance was to "receive the light of Christ, who is the Light of the world, and bring it with us everywhere we go!" "Vos Estis Lux Mundi," the Congress' hymn states, "**You are the**

**Light of the World!"**

Throughout the pilgrimage, the choir kept the parishioners of St. Francis in their prayers who so generously supported this trip. The St. Francis Middle School Choir is already looking forward to the December 2021 Pueri Cantores gathering in Rome!

## STEPHEN MINISTRY/MLK DINNER

## MASS AND DINNER TO HONOR REV. KING

Join St. Francis of Assisi Parish at **5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 20** as we celebrate and honor the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., through scripture and song, to recognize his efforts and advancement of our Human Rights and Civil Rights. The choir from our sister parish, Corpus Christi, Detroit, will join us for our celebration.

We celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 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. The national holiday is observed annually on the third Monday of January. Rev. King's actual birthday is Jan. 15.

After the Mass, we will enjoy dinner in the PAC before our friends from Detroit say farewell. Sign up by contacting Scott Wright [swright@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:swright@stfrancisa2.org) or (734) 821-2121.



## STEPHEN MINISTERS: THE AFTER PEOPLE

Frequently friends will ask, "I know you're involved in Stephen Ministry. Can you tell me exactly what a Stephen Minister is?" I like to explain that Stephen Ministers are "After People."

Stephen Ministers are there:

... **after** you've washed and returned the last casserole dish.

... **after** the relationship has ended but the wounds are still bleeding and painful.

...**after** the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away - and the house seems empty.

... **after** the doctors have said, "There's nothing more we can do."

**Stephen Ministers administer Christ's care on behalf of our congregation. St. Francis Cares Through *Stephen Ministry*.**

As we read in the Acts of the Apostles, one of the very first deacons, Saint Stephen, was a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit. Saint Stephen witnessed the love of Jesus Christ and walked alongside those on the journey of faith to comfort the afflicted, the doubtful, and the sorrowful, forgiving injuries and bearing wrongs patiently.

After completing 50 hours of training over the past several months, our newest Stephen Ministers are equipped to offer one-to-one Christian care and empathetic support (for free).

We are ready to come alongside you - or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives - provide comfort and confidential support for as long "after" as we are needed. Contact: **Scott Wright** at (734) 821-2121.

GRIEF SUPPORT

PRAYERFUL, PRACTICAL, PERSONAL APPROACH TO GRIEF



Jan. 19, 7-9 p.m. (Church)
and Jan. 20, 10-4 p.m. (Activity Center)
With support from Nie Family Funeral Homes

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.

Registration is suggested donation of \$20. To register, please fill out the form below or visit the parish office. Registration can also be done online at: stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Mt 5:4

Grieving with Great Hope Registration Form
Please print clearly and return to the parish office: Please one form per registrant.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_
Male: Female: Age Group: 18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 66+
Please tell us your loss: Spouse Child Grandchild Parent Grandparent Friend
And or Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of death: \_\_\_\_\_ Was your loss sudden? \_\_\_\_\_
If you like, please list name of your loved one: \_\_\_\_\_
Please list any other losses in the last 5 years: \_\_\_\_\_
Please tell us anything else you think we should know:

## PASTERKA/WOMENS OPPORTUNITIES



## CELEBRATE POLISH TRADITIONS

**PASTERKA- Polish Shepherds' Mass**  
Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019, 5 p.m.

Mass at St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor, celebrate this Polish tradition with Bishop Earl Boyea in English and in Polish language with Choir Filareci from Troy, singing kolędy, traditional Polish Christmas carols in the spirit of joy.

The Mass is followed by a light reception in our PAC. All are invited to bring a dish to share.

St. Francis Parish has enjoyed this Polish tradition since about 1982. Like those shepherds, in haste, let us go to adore Him! *"Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."* (Luke 2:8-20)

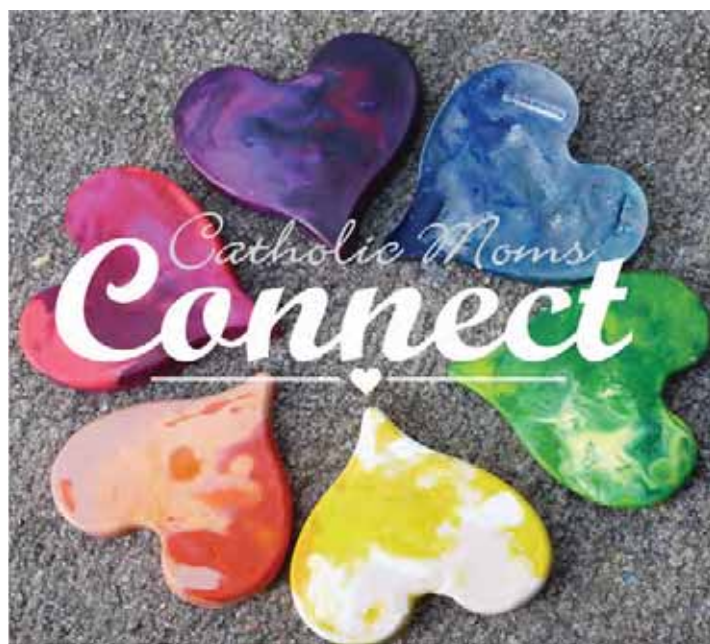
For more information, please contact **Krystyna Bobowski** at (734) 973-1226, [kqbobowski@gmail.com](mailto:kqbobowski@gmail.com), or **Scott Wright** (734)-821-2121, [swright@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:swright@stfrancisa2.org)



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

**"Preparing for the Light of the World  
In the Darkness of Advent"**  
Sunday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m.

Barbara Kelly-Ferris, Catholic wife, mother, Lay Dominican, and St. Francis parishioner, will lead us in a prayerful Advent preparation on the first Sunday of Advent. She will speak on the significance and meaning of the Advent candles and season and share with us some suggestions on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas throughout the weeks of Advent.



Join us on our new Facebook page:  
**"Catholic Moms Connect"**

A place for Catholic mothers to connect with other moms for support, prayer, encouragement, advice, and information about family-friendly events and parish ministries. Search for "Catholic Moms Connect." Look for our logo (pictured here) and request to join group. Or, enter url directly: [www.facebook.com/groups/526303544474902/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/526303544474902/)

## SEMINAR FOR GRANDPARENTS/SOCIAL MINISTRY/MUSIC NEWS



## 'DO IT GRANDLY' SEMINAR FOR GRANDPARENTS

**Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Come to our "Do It Grandly" seminar Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Activities Center. Don't miss out on the chance to learn more about the role that God has intended for you, and hear about the significant role that you have in passing on your faith to your grandchildren.

You will get new ideas about things you can do, with new hope for the role you can play, to make a difference in your grandchildren's lives.

Please find registration and information on the day on our website at: <http://www.stfrancisa2.com> or contact Ellen Ward at [ard@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:ard@stfrancisa2.org) or Scott Wright at [swright@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:swright@stfrancisa2.org) or (734) 821-2121. This workshop is fostered by the Strategic Grandparents Club, Lansing MI

## SING WITH THE ST. FRANCIS CHORALE

Do you love to sing? Are you looking for an opportunity to grow in your love for God? Then you are invited to be a part of the St. Francis Chorale, a mixed-voice, multi-generational choir which serves on a weekly basis during the school year. No experience necessary!

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, from 7-9 p.m., in the church, and we regularly sing at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Just come to rehearsal, or contact choir director Laura Bogan, [lbogan@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:lbogan@stfrancisa2.org).

There are many opportunities to be involved in the music ministry at the parish, so if the Chorale isn't the right fit for you, contact the parish Director of Music, Jonathan Hasey, at [jhasey@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:jhasey@stfrancisa2.org) or (734) 821-2124.

## MEET OUR NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR

We are very glad to introduce **Laura Bogan** as the new director of the St. Francis Chorale. Laura, a Michigan native, is a graduate of UM and Boston College in choral music and conducting, and was previously choir director in Chicago area parishes and at St. Xavier University. She and her husband and daughter recently relocated to the Ann Arbor area and are excited to be joining our parish community!

## 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. To volunteer, contact **Scott Wright (734) 821-2100**. Our program is run at St. Francis Parish Office on Saturday mornings February-April. 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.

## Jail Ministry - Catholic Religious Services at Washtenaw County Jail

Volunteer ministers meet with men and women in the jail. We celebrate Catholic services, have a charisma for Christ, and an ability to share faith in Jesus. On one Saturday morning in February, you are invited to an orientation.

Visit those in jail or prison!

See: [www.stfrancisa2.com/jail](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/jail)

Contact: **Scott Wright (734) 821-2121** or [swright@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:swright@stfrancisa2.org)



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## Christmas Mass Times

Please note: All Masses will be held in the main church

**Christmas Eve  
Masses, Monday,  
Dec. 24:** 4 p.m.  
Children's Mass  
(overflow in the PAC  
if necessary), 6 p.m.,  
8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.  
*Caroling begins at  
10 p.m.; the 10:30  
Mass is also live-  
streamed and will be  
available to view anytime.*



**Christmas Day Masses, Tuesday, Dec. 25:** 9:30 a.m.  
and 11:30 a.m.

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day  
of Obligation), Monday, Dec. 31:** Vigil Mass 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 1:** 10 a.m.