

14 6th Sunday *Joan Hoxsey	15 *Nancy Frondorf	16	17 Ash Wednesday Mass: 8am 12:15pm 5:45pm	18	19 *Tina Candelaresi	20 Lenten Speaker Series 10am
21 1st Sunday of Lent	22	23	24	25	26	27 Lenten Speaker Series 10am

Minister Schedule for February 21Coordinator: Jerry DiersingLector 1: Clarissa IrvinLector 2: Moe NiemanEucharistic Minister: Jerry DiersingCollection: Anne Burkhart, Mike Smith

Weekday Masses are celebrated at 8am in the chapel of our church, Monday-Friday. You can request that a Mass be celebrated for a particular intention. A number of parishioners participate in this Mass on a daily or weekly basis. You are invited.



Finance Committee: This meeting will be held at 3PM on February, January 18. Members of the committee are Fred Robertshaw, Robb Wing, Denise Ratterman, Martha Schueler along with accountant Judy Cox and Fr. Al.

The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.

Peace Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that I may not so much need to
be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

**Winner-A-Day Winners:** 2/8-2/14

Carol Hehemann \$25; Barb Teague \$25; Aloysius Humbert \$25; Nancy Frondorf \$25; Michael Brinkmiller \$25; Joanne Marsh \$25; Mike Smith \$25. The Winner-A-Day Hopper has lots of room. Have you purchased your tickets yet? If not, call the parish office at 513-535-2719 so your name can be in the hopper for the daily drawing. If your name is drawn, the ticket goes right back in so that you have the possibility of winning again!



Our parish is now able to provide live-streaming of the 10AM Mass. You can view Mass live on Sunday mornings at 10am at <https://www.facebook.com/SFSCChurch> and the Mass and homily videos are generally posted to the parish website later in the day. Thanks to a new parishioner, Ron Callahan, for taking on this task and to parishioners who are pledging to donate to the expense. Those of you who are able to come to church might want to advise other parishioners that they can feel more included even if they have to be at home.



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Call
513-535-2719



St. Francis Seraph Church

at Liberty & Vine, in Over-the-Rhine

ST. FRANCIS SERAPH THE HEART OF OVER- THE-RHINE

1615 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Office: (513) 535-2719

A Roman Catholic
Community of Faith
welcoming *all* people of faith
in the Franciscan
Tradition since 1859.

Sacraments

Baptism - Infants: Sunday during or immediately following 10am Mass. Expectant parents plan to attend Baptismal Preparation Program.

Baptism - Adults: Usually celebrated at Easter Vigil. Preparation in stages through the year.

Reconciliation - Sundays 9:30am or by appt.

Anointing of the Sick: Schedule by calling the Office before surgery/medical procedure, or in event of serious illness. In event of medical emergency or death, call 513-404-3688.

Matrimony - registered Parishioners should contact the Pastor at least 6 months prior to the anticipated wedding date to begin the process of marriage preparation.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**OUR MISSION:**


Saint Francis Seraph is a Catholic faith community. We are called to serve with and among the people of Over-the-Rhine. Our mission is to share the powerful love of Jesus Christ, which changes lives and communities. In the spirit of Saint Francis, we proclaim the Gospel through worship, education and social justice.


**A Short History of St Francis Seraph Parish**

Saint Francis Seraph Church is a Roman Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, established by the Franciscan Friars of the Province of St. John the Baptist. In November 1858, the cornerstone was laid for the present St. Francis Seraph Church, and it was consecrated December 18, 1859, with the School opening the same year. In 2000, the church building underwent a major remodel. The social ministries of the Franciscans continued to develop into the 21st century, maintaining the friars historic commitment to Over-the-Rhine in the area of social service. St. Francis Seraph Parish and School continue the friars' parochial and educational ministry. The Parish, School and Ministries are affiliated in a covenant, which expresses the relationship which they share.

Al Hirt, OFM, Pastor
(513) 535-2719
alhirt@sfparish.org
Tim Sucher, OFM
Pastoral Associate
(513) 404-3688
tsucher@franciscan.org
Parish Website: sfparish.org

We
Welcome
All
Visitors!



 LIKE US ON **facebook** Like Us and Spread the Word!

Sunday Mass
10:00 a.m.
Weekday Mass
Mon.– Fri. 8:00 a.m.
Holy Days
8 a.m. & 5:45 p.m.

Parish Council
John D. Back
Nataliya Kravchenko
Anthony Newby
John Reder
Robb Wing


Visit the parish website: sfparish.org
for a history of our parish and the latest news
about our church and school, and parish life.

PARISH/SCHOOL
Parish Office
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Bulletin Editor
Dave Frondorf
davedorf75@gmail.com

Parish/School
Accountant
Judy Cox
jcox@sfparish.org

Elementary School
Halsey Mabry
Principal
513-721-7778

Stewardship - Week Ending Feb. 7 
Sunday Collection: \$1,759.00
Mail in Collection: \$4,191.00
Total: \$5,950.00
Thank you to all who contribute on Sunday and
to the many faithful who send your offerings
during the week. You can donate online at
sfparish.org. We do not pass a collection basket
during Mass. Instead, we have collection urn
behind the lectern. Contribution envelopes will
be sent soon, per IRS, for donations over \$300.

SFS MINISTRIES Sfsministries.org Executive Director Chris Schuermann, 513-549-0542	Volunteer Director Theresa Diersen 513-276-7037
Office Manager Annis Anderson 513-549-0542	Breakfast 7-9am Dinner 4-6pm Monday thru Friday. Bag Lunch 8:30 to 10:30am Monday thru Thursday

Pastor's Corner

Valentine's Day! I know, today is the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Sunday before we enter into Lent. Feb. 14 in the Liturgical Calendar is now the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius. But we all know this is Valentine's Day! In 1969, St. Valentine was removed from the liturgical calendar because there were so many questions about who he really was. Many legends had arisen around his name, but few real facts were available. (St. Christopher disappeared at the same time and we all know many people still keep his medals in their cars!) Tradition tells us Valentine was a priest (Bishop?) in Rome during the third century persecution of Christians. One story tells of how he would secretly conduct marriages of Christian couples when such weddings were forbidden. (If men were married, they were not conscripted into the army.) A further tradition recounts that in order to remind these married men of their vows and God's love, Valentine is said to have cut hearts from parchment, giving them to these persecuted Christians. Maybe this is the origin of widespread use of hearts on Valentine's Day. Another legend says that before his martyrdom he had cured the jailer's daughter of her blindness and he sent her a note signed, "Your Valentine."

It would be Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century, whose poetry surrounding St. Valentine probably came to be the source of our fascination with associating courtly love with this saint. And I would guess companies like Hallmark cards had a lot to do with the widespread practice of sending valentines! Whatever the situation or historical facts, expressing our love for others is always a good thing. So go ahead, since Cyril and Methodius cards aren't available, send a valentine or give that heart-shaped box of chocolates or red roses or diamonds to someone you love! **Happy Valentine's Day to all of you!**

Fr. Al

Your life may be the only Bible some folks read.

Today's Readings:	Next Sunday:
Lv 13:1-2, 44-46	Gn 9:8-15
1 Cor 10:31—11:1	1 Pt 3:18-22
Mark 1:40-45	Mark 1:12-15



Do Everything for the Glory of God



My Parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. It will be holy, if I am. Its pews will be filled if I help fill them. This we pray.

WELCOME GUESTS!...If you are visiting with us today, we want you to know how welcome you are, whether you have come from another parish here in the Archdiocese, from across the river, or from further reaches. Thank you for praying with us. Feel free to join us as often as you can! If you are new to the parish, parking is available in the school lot and the Moerlein Tap room lots over on Moore Street. Turn from Liberty to Moore Street at the Shell station and there are two parking lots immediately after the school on the left and right across from the tap room. This is free parking for our parish while Sunday Mass is in session. **HELP US GROW!! REGISTER PLEASE!** if you are attending St. Francis Seraph regularly and consider us "your parish"-please register yourself and your family. Forms are available on the table in church.

-This Saturday is the beginning of our parish Lenten Saturday Speaker Series, 10am. John Quigley, OFM, will be the speaker. -Our parish almsgiving this Lent benefits the Mary Magdalen House. See bulletin insert for details.

Parish Council met via zoom on Feb. 2. John Reder led the prayer. Faith Formation consisted of discussion of a St. Anthony Messenger article about Deacon Art Miller in Hartford, Conn., who has been so active in all the racial justice issues for many years. He challenges the Catholic Church to act and not just talk! Following the Pastor's Report, we continued discussions of the renovation and use of the building at 1600 Vine, the possibility of restoring the church windows, installing AC in the church, adding a bathroom, fixing broken pews. At this time we are simply starting to have companies look at these things and give us bids. Fr. Al shared a little Finance Committee news that indicates our Parish account at mid-year is running \$83,000 in the black! The School is breaking even. Overall, we are in good shape. Bro. Tim reported on progress regarding finding a new location for the Christmas Display. We briefly discussed AMOS, the city-wide social justice effort involving many congregations. Some members of the Council expressed interest in learning more. The issue was raised about lack of meals served on weekends in the neighborhood. The idea that our parish sponsor something like a cookout in front of the church on some weekends was thought a good idea. Tours of the church for many new members might be offered on Sundays with limited numbers in each group. The Franciscan Province continues to have the large friary on the market, but no buyers yet.

Ash Wednesday

8:00AM Mass (Fr. Al)
9:00AM Ash Wednesday Service with School children (Fr. Al)
12:15PM Mass (Fr. Dan Kroger, OFM) for staff in our Franciscan Media, St. Anthony Center, Parish and Provincial Offices. Parishioners are welcome.
5:45PM Mass with music (Fr. Mark Soehner, OFM)

A reminder: Instruction from the Vatican concerning the distribution of ashes in this pandemic: After the blessing of the ashes, the priest says the formula once for all, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." **The priest (and extra minister) takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each without saying anything.** So ashes will not be placed on the foreheads.

The special collection on Ash Wednesday is for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This helps those living in countries under formerly communist rule. So much needs to be restored and rebuilt, both buildings and pastoral work.

Please contact Br. Tim or the parish office at 535-2719 if you or someone in your family is ill in order to be included in our weekly prayers for the sick. The power of prayer is powerful.





MARY MAGDALEN HOUSE

1629 Republic Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

<https://www.marymagdalenhouse.org/>

Mary Magdalen House relies on the goodness of benefactors and donors to supply it with the basic goods to help others. If you can help by providing any of the items listed below it would be greatly appreciated.

Mary Magdalen House will gladly receive bags of good, clean, and gently used clothing. We do request that socks and underwear be donated new. Please consider the time of year when you are making a donation of clothing; we lack the space to store off-season clothing.

Our Most Needed Personal Items**

We especially need the following items for our guests.

For Men

- WHITE SWEAT SOCKS (We give away at least 1 dozen every day)
- UNDERWEAR (Sizes 30–38 most needed)
- THERMAL TOPS/BOTTOMS (Large, XL and up)
- T-SHIRTS (Large, XL, and up)
- SWEATSHIRTS (especially hoodies!) (L, XL and up)
- SWEATPANTS (Medium, Large, and Extra Large)
- WORK PANTS, JEANS (30–36)
- LONG OR SHORT SLEEVE SHIRTS (Large, XL & 2XL)
- GYM SHOES AND WORK BOOTS
- BELTS
- SHORTS, SIZES 30-36

For Women

- BRAS, especially new sports bras
- THERMAL TOPS & BOTTOMS
- SWEATSHIRTS, SWEATERS (Large & XL)
- GYM SHOES

Toiletries

- DISPOSABLE RAZORS
- SPRAY DEODORANT

- TOOTH BRUSHES
- VASELINE PETROLEUM JELLY
- WASH CLOTHS
- SOAP, SHAMPOO, TOOTHPASTE, BODY WASH (BOTH SMALL TRAVEL SIZE AND LARGE SIZE)
- COMBS AND BRUSHES

Other Items

- GIFT CARDS: Wal-Mart, Amazon
- These additional items can help Mary Magdalen House provide a cleaner environment and better service to our guests.
- Trash bags (13 and 55 gal sizes)
- Liquid Drano
- Liquid Lysol
- Laundry detergent (HE compatible)
- Chlorine Bleach
- Cleaning agents (Mr. Clean, Top Job, etc.)
- Paper towels
- Toilet tissue
- Window cleaning supplies (Windex, etc.)
- Note pads (4 X 6 in)
- Towels
- Clorox II
- Sheet fabric softeners
- Kleenex tissues
- Backpacks and day packs
- Stain remover (SHOUT, Stain Stick, etc)

We welcome your help and support of Mary Magdalen House and its mission.
We invite you to visit us and experience firsthand what we have tried to express in this website.

St. Francis Seraph Parish

LENT ALMSGIVING

The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2462)

- ❖ **WHAT: LENT ALMSGIVING - 2021**
- ❖ **WHO: St. Francis Seraph Parishioners**
- ❖ **FOR: MARY MAGDALEN HOUSE – A Franciscan Ministry @ the St. Anthony Center**
- ❖ **WHEN: EVERY Sunday during Lent - from February 21st thru March 28th**
- ❖ **HOW: Place Donations in BIN located near the ramp to the sanctuary.**
- ❖ **NEEDS: (See other side)**

Mary Magdalen House is an oasis of hospitality providing a safe and pleasant place for persons in need to shower, shave, brush their teeth, use a toilet, have clothes laundered, have use of a phone, and receive messages and mail.

Who They Serve: Mary Magdalen House serves the homeless poor without hesitation or reservations or any manner of discrimination. Its mission is to serve the poor regardless of circumstance.

Services Offered: There are seven **private showers** for men, and four private showers for women continuously available at Mary Magdalen House. There are also **private toilets** and vanities for grooming.

Besides the basic comfort of clean toilets, towels, wash cloths, and fresh shower facilities, Mary Magdalen House offers our guests fresh **laundry services** and an often needed **replacement of clothing**.

The laundry facilities are operated by the staff and volunteers, and are continuously running during our hours of operation. Guests may leave one set of their personal laundry to be washed and available for the next day.

Mary Magdalen House also offers our guests all the **toiletries** they need to shower or shave, including soap, shampoo, razors, toothbrushes, combs and deodorant. Our goal is to provide everything our guests would use if they had their own homes.

A **phone** is available for the use of the guests, and when requested we will take messages for anyone who needs it. **Mail** can also be received at MMH for our guests.

We seek to serve the whole person. Our **Case Manager** works with guests to refer them to other agencies in town who can provide help in all areas of their lives.





**ST. FRANCIS
SERAPH
PARISH
LENT 2021**

**- GROWING IN FAITH -
LENTEN SPEAKERS' SERIES**

Lent provides an opportunity to reflect on our Baptismal call and to take steps to grow in faith and love for Jesus Christ.

This year we will look at the ways the charism of the Franciscan way of life enhances our spiritual journey.

Each session will **begin at 10:00 am** in **Church** with **Morning Prayer** followed by a **spiritual talk**. (Social-distancing observed and Masks required.)

Sat, Feb 20: John Quigley, OFM

Why is Franciscan Spirituality So Different and Welcomed?

After 22 years in Europe (Rome- justice and peace work with Franciscan friars; and Geneva, Switzerland- human rights work at the United Nations), John Quigley returned to Cincinnati to be part of the Franciscan community on Pleasant Street. He is a preacher and artist. Each year he leads a group of pilgrims to Rome and Assisi to follow in the footsteps of Sts. Francis and Clare of Assisi.

Sat, Feb 27: Tina Neyer

Obligation and Purpose: St. Clare as Model for Modern Catholic Women

Tina Neyer coaches individuals and groups in the art of writing their stories. She has a long affiliation with Xavier University as a philosophy and theology tutor in the athletic department. She is a writer and works closely with John Quigley, OFM to expose groups of pilgrims to Rome and Assisi, leading others to a more abundant understanding of Sts. Francis and Clare of Assisi.

Sat, Mar 6: John & Colleen Gerke, FSO

How Lay Franciscans Embody Franciscan Values

Colleen and John Gerke have been members of the Secular Franciscans for many years and both of them have been deeply involved in the ministries at St. Clement Church, another Franciscan Parish in Cincinnati. John is a deacon in the Archdiocese and Colleen has worked in the former Family Life Office of the Archdiocese.

Sat, Mar 13: Al Hirt, OFM

Sent to Evangelize in Fraternity and Minority in the PARISH

Al Hirt, OFM, has recently become pastor of St. Francis Seraph Church. The title of his presentation is based on a document issued by the Franciscan Order in 2009. Having served parishes in New Orleans, Kansas City, and Cincinnati, he has years of pastoral experience trying to bring that Franciscan flavor to parish ministry.



ST. FRANCIS SERAPH PARISH

LENT 2021

The key to understanding the meaning of Lent is simple: **Baptism**. Preparation of Catechumens for Baptism at the Easter Vigil, and the Renewal of our own Baptismal Promises during the Easter Mass liturgy lie at the heart of the Lenten season.

During this year's Lenten season our parish will focus on implementing the familiar Lenten practices of **PRAYER, FASTING, and ALMSGIVING**, as preparation for the renewal of our own Baptismal promises at Easter.

SOURCE: <http://www.catholic.org/clife/len/faq.php>



PRAYER

*Prayer is the foundation of our spiritual life.
Without prayer, no spiritual growth is possible.
Time given to prayer during Lent should draw
us closer to the Lord.*

Prayer is both personal and communal. Plan now for quiet times of **personal prayer** during the Lenten season, especially for the grace to live out our baptismal promises more fully.

The following are opportunities for **community prayer** during the Lenten season:

Lenten Mass Schedule

Ash Wednesday: 8:00 am); 12:15 pm (noon); 5:45 (All in Church)

Weekdays: 8:00 am (daily – chapel)

Sunday: 10:00 am

Reconciliation

Parish Penance Service: Wed, Mar 24, 7:00pm @ St. Clement

Reconciliation Room: Sundays, 9:00-9:30 am

By Appointment (Par. Off. @ 535-2719)

Stations of the Cross

A traditional devotional prayer of the Church during the season of Lent is the Stations of the Cross. Below is an Online Link to this prayerful reflection. (Others also available online)

Stations of the Cross with Fr. Mark Toups:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJF9XjG4Wko>

Growing in Faith – Lenten Saturday Speakers' Series

Lent provides an opportunity to reflect on our Baptismal call and to take steps to grow in faith and love for Jesus Christ.

This year we will look at the ways the charism of the Franciscan way of life enhances our spiritual journey. Each session begins at 10:00 am with **Morning Prayer** followed by a spiritual talk.

Sat, Feb 20: John Quigley, OFM.

Perspectives Unique to Franciscan Spirituality

Sat, Feb 27: Tina Neyer

Clare of Assisi, The Contemplative Dimension of Franciscan Life

Sat, Mar 6: John & Colleen Gerke, FSO

How Lay Franciscans Embody Franciscan Values

Sat, Mar 13: Al Hirt, OFM

How Franciscan Spirituality is Evident in Parish Life

FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Fasting is the act of giving up something in order to develop spiritual discipline. Fasting is an outer sign of an inner reality: of our commitment, with God's help, to abstain from evil and to live by the Gospel. To fast properly we should also nourish ourselves with the Word of God.



Fasting is linked to living out our baptismal promises. By our Baptism, we are charged with the responsibility of showing Christ's love to the world, especially to those in need. Fasting helps us understand the suffering that so many people in our world experience every day, and it should lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering.

The Church has two forms of official penitential practices:

Abstinence

Catholics **14 years of age and older** are bound to **abstain from eating meat** on **Ash Wednesday**, and **all Fridays during Lent** in honor of the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. Abstinence from meat on Fridays during Lent is obligatory in the United States as elsewhere. Invalids, pregnant and nursing mothers are exempt from this obligation.

Fasting

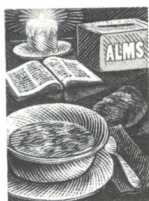
The law of fasting is obligatory on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**.

Catholics from **age 18 through age 59** are bound to fast.

The law of fasting requires a Catholic **from the 18th Birthday to the 59th Birthday** (i.e. the beginning of the 60th year, a year which will be completed on the 60th birthday) to **reduce the amount of food eaten from normal**. (Canon 97)

Other Forms of Fasting and Abstinence during Lent:

In addition to the above, Catholics are encouraged to **voluntarily offer some personal penance** (fasting, abstaining, or almsgiving) at other times during the Lenten season.



ALMSGIVING

Almsgiving is the culmination of the Lenten Discipline s, for through it we open ourselves up to God's grace. Whereas fasting is about saying 'no' to ourselves, almsgiving is about saying 'yes' to others.

Almsgiving, the third traditional practice of Lent, is also linked to our baptismal commitment. It is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all God has given to us. Works of charity and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life we began when we were baptized.

Parish Lenten Almsgiving

The **2021 St. Francis Seraph Lenten Almsgiving Collection** will be for **MARY MAGDALEN HOUSE** located at the Franciscan Ministries St. Anthony Center on Republic Street. Items needed include personal clothing items, laundry detergent, and personal care items for local homeless clients who use this facility.



Items may be brought on **any Sunday during Lent** and placed in a bin located near the ramp to the sanctuary.

- ❖ **WHAT:** LENTEN ALMSGIVING - 2021
- ❖ **FOR:** MARY MAGDALEN HOUSE – Franciscan Ministry @ St. Anthony Cntr.
- ❖ **WHEN:** EVERY SUNDAY of LENT – 2/21 – 3/28
- ❖ **HOW:** Place Donations in BIN located near the ramp to the sanctuary.
- ❖ **NEEDS:** Personal Clothing Items, etc.

Further Information: A complete list of items needed will appear as an SFS Bulletin insert and on the parish website.