

March 2021

28 2nd Sunday of Lent	March 1	2	3	4	5	6 Lenten Speaker Series 10am
7 3rd Sunday of Lent  *Barbara Menefield	8 *Ryan Heller	9	10	11	12	13 Lenten Speaker Series 10am  *Denise Ratterman

**Minister Schedule for March 7**

Coordinator: Randy Ulses  
Lector 1: Casey Betz  
Lector 2: Jeanette Tepe  
Eucharistic Minister: Clarissa Irvin  
Collection: Nataliya Kravchenko, Dave Frondorf

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.

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.

**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: 2/22-2/28**  
 Ed Emmerling \$25; Joyce Paff \$25; Carolyn Romani \$25; Lonnie Kuhl \$25; Mary Miller \$25; Helen Dangel \$25; Frances Rappoport \$100 (last day of month.)  
 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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# St. Francis Seraph Church

at Liberty & Vine, in Over-the-Rhine

## Second Sunday of Lent

**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.



**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 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**  
 Joe Pearce  
 513-535-2719

**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. 21**   
 Sunday Collection: \$1,131.00  
 Mail in Collection: \$ 744.68  
 Total: \$1,875.68  
 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 statements have been sent, per IRS, for donations over \$300.

**SFS MINISTRIES**  
 Sfsministries.org  
**Executive Director**  
 Chris Schuermann,  
 513-549-0542

**Volunteer Director**  
 Theresa Diersen  
 513-276-7037  
 Breakfast 7-9am  
 Dinner 4-6pm  
 Monday thru Friday.  
 Bag Lunch 8:30 to 10:30am  
 Monday thru Thursday

**Office Manager**  
 Annise Anderson  
 513-549-0542

## Pastor's Corner

### Franciscan Spirituality

Our 4-week Lenten Series began with Fr. John Quigley's presentation on Feb. 20. What is particular about the spirituality that has emerged from St. Francis' sense of God? Simply put, God is Good, Goodness itself. And we are good at our core. The theology prominent in his time was based on an image of God who was demanding. People grew fearful of God, suspicious of God's intent. Sin was the preoccupying theme. Francis came to know God as a loving God. In a very real way Francis fell deeply in love with Jesus.

Francis' conversion was a process over a number of years beginning the year of profound suffering as a prisoner of war. He experienced what today we would call a "break down." When finally ransomed, his relationships with family, friends and his beloved town of Assisi had all collapsed. Only God was left for him. He detached himself from all the former comforts of life in the city and went to live outside among the lepers, the poor.

The Franciscan story through the centuries is one of companioning the poor, the marginalized, the left out. Franciscan men and women want to be heralds of good news those damaged by the powerful forces in the world.

I often think of the importance of our official name: FRIARS MINOR. The noun is "friars", brothers. The descriptive adjective is "minor", the lesser ones.

Friars down through the centuries have had a passion for the poor, for justice, for human rights. The friars came to Cincinnati to be among all the immigrants of that time and to make their home among them in Over-the-Rhine.

*Fr. Al*

*"Our labor here is brief, but the reward is eternal."*  
 St. Clare of Assisi

*Your life may be the only Bible some folks read.*

Today's Readings:  
 Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13  
 Rom 8:31b-34  
 Mark 9:2-10

Next Sunday:  
 Ex 20:1-17  
 1 Cor 1:22-25  
 John 2:13-25

*God is Good*



## Transfigure Our Hearts, O Lord.

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.

**Finance Committee report...**The Feb. 18 zoom meeting focused a lot on clarifying the purpose and guidelines for the use of our Endowment Fund begun in the late 1990s, added to over the years and continuing to accrue benefits through investing. As we anticipate some capital improvements, it is important to know how the endowment monies can be used. We hope to have bids in the next month regarding our church windows, the heating and air conditioning of the church, maybe another bathroom. We also have work to do on the 1600 Vine St. building to avoid more fines for code violations. The committee reviewed the financial reports for the first half of the fiscal year and found the news very good. Our parish income has significantly increased with new members, a successful Christmas Display and a good Winter Appeal.

The Parish Penance Service is Wednesday, March 24, 7pm, with St. Clement Parish, at St. Clement Church.

**Growing in Faith**  
**Lenten Saturday Speakers' Series**  
 Lent provides us an opportunity to reflect on our Baptismal call and to take steps to grow in faith and love for Jesus Christ. This Lent, St. Francis Seraph Parish is looking at the ways the charism of the Franciscan way of life enhances our spiritual journey. **This coming Saturday session, March 6** (this will be the 3rd of 4) begins at 10AM with Morning Prayer followed by a spiritual talk. John and Colleen Gerke, FSO, will speak about *How Lay Franciscans Embody Franciscan Values*.

**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 the bin located near the ramp to the sanctuary.

SFS School still participates in the Box Tops for Education. The program has changed to all digital. Download the app on your phone and scan your grocery receipt. The app will identify Box Tops products and credit the school. SFS school earns tens cents on every eligible item. For instructions, go to [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) and choose St(no period) Francis Seraph School.

The Catholic Inner-city Schools for Education is sponsoring a week-long virtual "Party @Home" fundraiser, today through March 6. Go online at [cisekids.org](http://cisekids.org) to purchase raffle tickets and/or bid on over 100 Silent Auction items. The proceeds from this fundraiser are geared to keep over 2,300 inner-city kids learning and engaged with quality Summer School projects. St. Francis Seraph School is a beneficiary of the CISE program.

