

19 4th Sunday of Advent	20 *Jim Murphy	21 *Lauren Reder *Emily Sheard	22 *Ed Ratterman	23 *Julie Murray	24 Christmas Eve! Carols: 3:30pm Mass: 4pm *Moe Nieman	25 Christmas Day! Mass at 10am
26 Feast of the Holy Family	27 *Mary Lou Priestle *Emaline Weaver *Dirk Prius	28 Parish Open House 7-10pm	29 *Verss Russell	30	31 *Trey Hughes *Lynn Wing	January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mass at 10am *Jason Bruns

Music for Today's Liturgy
 Processional: #405
Advent Gathering Song
 Response: #40
To You, O Lord
 Communion: #420, *Creator of the Stars*
 #395 *O Come Emmanuel*
 Recessional: #409
People Look East



Winner-A-Day Winners: 12/7-12/19
 Michael Brinkmiller, Ann Keefer,
 James Filusch, Lynda Menkhous,
 Kathleen Glaser, John Metz, William Moran.
 All are \$25 winners! 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!



Minister Schedule for December 26
Coordinator: Lois Biddle
Greeters: Barbara Bok
Lector 1: Bob Dahlstrom
Lector 2: Diana Campbell
Intercessions: Alec Reder
Eucharistic Minister: Rita Reichert
Collection: N. Kravchenko, D. Ratterman

Yesterday, December 18, was the 162nd
 anniversary of St. Francis Seraph Parish!
 God bless those who came before us, who
 are here today and those who will worship
 in this church in the future!



Some Gifts to Give
 Some gifts you can give this
 Christmas (and in the future)
 are beyond monetary value:

- + Mend a quarrel,
- + Dismiss suspicion,
- + Tell someone, "I love you."
- + Give something away...anonymously.
- + Forgive someone who has treated you
 wrong. Turn away wrath with a soft answer.
- + Visit someone in a nursing home.
- + Apologize if you were wrong.
- + Be especially kind to someone with whom
 you work.
- + Give as God gave to you in Christ, without
 obligation, or announcement, or reservation,
 or hypocrisy.



Your life may be the only Bible some folks read.

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.



St. Francis Seraph Church

at Liberty & Vine, in Over-the-Rhine

4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas

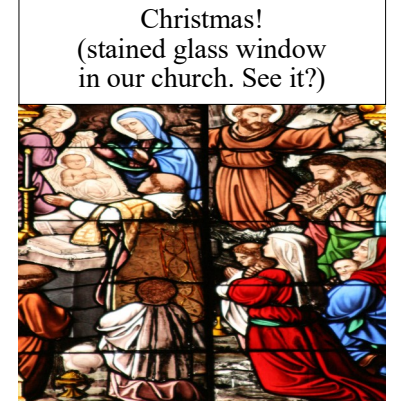
**ST. FRANCIS SERAPH
 THE HEART OF OVER-
 THE-RHINE**
 1615 Vine Street
 Cincinnati, OH 45202
 Office: (513) 535-2719

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.



4th Sunday of Advent:
 Mary greets Elizabeth.



Christmas!
 (stained glass window
 in our church. See it?)



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 corner-
 stone 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@sfsparish.org
Tim Sucher, OFM
Pastoral Associate
 (513) 404-3688
 tsucher@franciscan.org
Parish Website: sfsparish.org

We
 Welcome
 All
 Visitors!


Pastor's Corner



Christmas is right around the corner! We will hopefully be welcoming many visitors for Masses. Yes, we have two greeters meeting people at the door, but we are all part of the welcome team at Christmas. Help people feel at home. Greet someone you have not seen. Christmas is an occasion when some people are seeking a new connection to their church, their faith. We can all do our best to help visitors feel like they could have a home here.



We mailed a colorful postcard to all the residences in our 45202 area in early December, informing them of the Live Nativity, the Franciscan Christmas Display and our Christmas Mass schedule. Maybe God will inspire a few more people to join us at Christmas and continue to find enrichment in our faith life here.


Fr. Al

Come to the OPEN HOUSE hosted in the friary dining room on Tuesday, December 28, 7-10pm. Food and drinks, a chance to tour all the Christmas delights, and mainly, an opportunity for parishioners to socialize with each other. With all the covid restrictions, no real sign of peace at Masses, such a large influx of new members, we've missed the opportunities to get to know one another. Folks who have been members of St. Francis for a good number of years have enjoyed the strong sense of family, knowing almost everyone by name. There can be some unsettledness brought on by so many new people, a new pastor, whatever other changes. The Beacons of Light changes going on throughout the Archdiocese could have even more people checking out our parish. Brothers Tim and Al would be happy to hear from anyone finding it hard to make the adjustments.



Donations are now being accepted to decorate the Church with flowers during the Christmas season. Check the back tables for forms or put your donation in the urn noting it is for Christmas flowers. Thank you.



 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
 Carol Metz
 Anthony Newby
 John Reder
 Robb Wing

PARISH/SCHOOL
Parish Office
 Joe Pearce
 513-535-2719

Bulletin Editor
 Dave Frondorf
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Worship Committee:
 Dan Nolan

Parish/School
Accountant
 Judy Cox
 jcox@sfsparish.org

SFS School: Principal
 Halsey Mabry
 513-721-7778

Stewardship - Week Ending Dec. 12
 Sunday Collection: \$2,667.00
 Mail in Collection: \$8,350.00
 Total: \$11,017.00



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 sfsparish.org. We do not pass a collection basket during Mass.

Please contact Br. Tim or the parish office if you or someone in your family is ill or if you have a special prayer request in order to be included in our weekly prayers for the sick.

Today's Readings:	Next Sunday:
Mi 5:1-4a	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
Heb 10:5-10	Col 3:12-21
Luke 1:39-45	Luke 2:41-52

Peace on Earth, Good Will to All!



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. **The school lot is closed and locked at 1pm.** There is also a parking lot on the left and right side of Moore Street. This is free parking for our parish while Sunday Mass is in session. There is also free parking in the lot at the southwest corner of Liberty and Race. At the kiosk, enter the code 4316. **You can park there until 1pm.** Help us grow! REGISTER PLEASE! if you are attending St. Francis Seraph regularly, please register yourself and your family. Forms are available on the table in church.



Christmas Schedule:
 -Christmas Eve Mass is at 4:00PM, come early for a prelude of singing and instrumental Christmas delights, starting at 3:30.
 -Christmas Day Mass is at 10:00AM. With fewer choir members, the prelude will be simpler. Feast of the Holy Family is Sunday, with the usual 10:00AM Mass.
 -Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, is on Saturday, Jan. 1. It is also a World Day of Prayer for Peace. Mass will be celebrated at 10AM.
 -Epiphany Sunday is Jan. 2. We'll celebrate the commissioning of the new Executive Director of St. Francis Seraph Ministries at this Mass.
 -Baptism of the Lord is Sunday, Jan. 9. The Christmas season comes to a close.
 -Worship Committee will meet at 11:30AM

The spirit of Christmas is not in the presents, but in *HIS* presence.



The Franciscan Christmas display is open here in the church and Friary through January 1! Fridays: 4-7pm; Saturdays: Noon-7pm and Sundays: 1pm-5pm. Free admission! And...The Live Nativity is open daily in the Vine Street Courtyard from 1-7pm. Bring your family and friends and show them the sights and sounds of a Franciscan Christmas!



ST. FRANCIS SERAPH WOMEN'S GROUP
 The January meeting of the St. Francis Seraph Women's Group will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 10:00 am in the Friary Refectory. January is Catholic Schools Month. Reflection will be centered on the lives of educators St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Katharine Drexel. Special guest speakers will be Phil McHugh, newly appointed Executive Director of CISE Schools, and Traci Hooks, Volunteer Coordinator at St. Francis Seraph School. Phil McHugh will explain the history/purpose of the CISE schools and present his vision going forward. Traci Hooks will present specific volunteer needs and opportunities at our own SFS School. Parking will be available in the SFS School parking lot. Enter Vine St. door.

With Christmas coming, Grandma was out shopping for gifts for her grandchildren. While she was at the toy store going through her list and carefully selecting gifts, she noticed a small homeless girl outside wistfully looking into the store. Grandma's heart went out to this little girl. She invited her into the store and asked her to pick out a gift for herself. As they walked out of the store, the little girl held Grandma's hand and looked into her eyes and asked, "Are you God?" Grandma, embarrassed and somewhat touched, said, "No, my dear, I am not God." "Then who are you?" continued the little girl. Grandma thought for a moment and said, "I am a child of God." The little girl, satisfied and smiling, said, "I knew there was a connection." When people come into your life, do they see a divine connection in you?
 from How Big is Your God? by Paul Coutinho, SJ