

9 Baptism of the Lord	10	11 *Carl Hemmelgarn	12 *Styxie Geers	13 *Susan Schmid -Church De-decorating 6:30pm	14 *Pablo Rosales *Tom Wanner	15
16 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time *Elizabeth Hill	17 *Kasia Solomianko Blair	18	19 *Charlie Luebbe *Bill Otto *Steve Sparks	20	21	22 *Nataliya Kravchenko

**Music for Today's Liturgy**  
 Processional: #873  
*Shall We Gather at the River*  
 Response: Psalm 27  
*The Lord is My Light and My Salvation*  
 Communion: #903 Baptized in Water  
 #418 On Jordan's Bank  
 Recessional: #685  
*How Can I Keep from Singing*



**Winner-A-Day Winners:** 1/3-1/9  
 Mike Smith, Martha Kelly, Beverly Cloran, Pam Thaxton, Martha Schueler, Chris Stange, Molly Hiles. 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 January 16**  
 Coordinator: Jerry Diersing  
 Greeters: Matt Cavanaugh, Dan Nolan  
 Lector 1: Moe Nieman  
 Lector 2: Joan Monin Callahan  
 Intercessions: Robert Dahlstrom  
 Eucharistic Minister: Carla Sherman  
 Collection: Anne Burkhart, John Reder

**HVAC Update:** As of year end, we have raised over \$79,200 toward our \$100,000 goal. With more contributions and pledges, we will well exceed that goal, so we will need to take less from our reserves. **"Thank you"** is extended to everyone who has gifted the parish with small and large donations toward this effort to install an energy efficient heating system and AIR CONDITIONING! Installation is scheduled for the Spring, along with the refurbishing of the stained glass windows.

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.



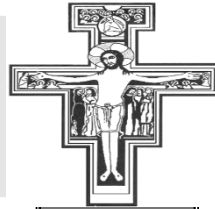
*It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving.*

Today's Readings: Is 42:1-4, 6-7  
 Acts 10:34-38  
 Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5  
 1 Cor 12:4-11  
 John 2:1-11

*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

**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.


## The Baptism of the Lord




**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@sfsparish.org  
**Tim Sucher, OFM**  
**Pastoral Associate**  
 (513) 404-3688  
 tsucher@franciscan.org  
**Parish Website: sfsparish.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  
 Carol Metz  
 Anthony Newby  
 John Reder  
 Robb Wing

**PARISH/SCHOOL**  
**Parish Office**  
 Joe Pearce  
 513-535-2719  
**Parish/School**  
**Accountant**  
 Judy Cox  
 jcox@sfsparish.org

**Bulletin Editor**  
 Dave Frondorf  
 davedorf75@gmail.com  
**Worship Committee:**  
 Dan Nolan  
**SFS School: Principal**  
 Halsey Mabry  
 513-721-7778

**Stewardship - Week Ending Jan. 2**  
 Sunday Collection: \$3,646.00  
 Mail in Collection: \$3,875.00  
 Total: \$7,521.00  
 Thank you to all who contribute on Sunday and to those who send your offerings during the week. You can donate online at sfsparish.org. We do not pass a collection basket during Mass.



*A friendship is a treasure beyond measure.*

Br. Tim and I hosted a dinner and conversation this past Monday evening with 7 college students (and one recent grad.) That might be an example of trying to improve participation of young people who can feel very estranged from the Church. It was a “first step,” simply letting some young members know we see them and care about them.



*Fr. Al*

## Pastor’s Corner



I’m obviously a big fan of Pope Francis. I truly believe he is gradually leading our Church on a path to more Gospel living. His call for this **Synod on Synodality** is a great example of how he wants the Church to be.

I encourage members of St. Francis Seraph to get involved in this process. Our deanery will host a gathering on Saturday, Jan. 29, 9-11AM at St. Francis Xavier Church, 611 Sycamore. There are some paper forms in the church or even better, sign up at [www.CatholicAOC.org/Synod](http://www.CatholicAOC.org/Synod). If you know someone who has distanced themselves from the Church or feels really disenfranchised, you are encouraged to invite their participation. The Pope wants to hear from them!

Prior to the deanery session, we will host a **Synod Gathering here at SFS on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 6:30PM-8:30PM. Come to the church.** Rita Reichert, from our parish, is serving as one of the two deanery leaders. If you plan to attend our Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> session, an RSVP would be appreciated. Email Rita at [rcmreichert@msn.com](mailto:rcmreichert@msn.com).

Registration will help us prepare some refreshments, which will be available beginning at 6pm. Even if you don’t register, you can come! There are 4 particular questions that will lead these discussions. Give some thought ahead of time to these themes:

- + **Describe an experience you’ve had of a group working together, respecting everyone’s contributions and growing in unity, so that you felt the Holy Spirit was really working among you.**
- + **What do you think is the mission of the Church, and what parts of our mission do you feel we are neglecting? What would make us more effective in fulfilling the mission?**
- + **What voices are not being heard in our parish, church or community? What is preventing people from speaking up, and what is preventing us from listening?**
- + **How do you think we can improve participation and transparency in the life of our parish, church and community? What are some first steps we can take in this direction?**

*Fr. Al*



## Be Filled with the Wisdom and Grace 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. **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.

### Upcoming Events:

Today. **Baptism of the Lord**  
 Worship Committee meets at 11:30AM  
 Today. **Tornado Victims’ Collection:** A special collection basket/urn will be designated if you would like to aid our Kentucky neighbors. Catholic Charities will use these as they see best.  
 Jan. 11. Parish Council meets at 6:30pm via Zoom  
 Jan. 15. Fratelli Tutti Discussion Group, 1pm  
 Jan. 18. SFS Synod Session, 6:30pm  
 Jan. 23. Sunday of the Word of God and CMA



**“What goes up must come down.”** The decorations that went up before Christmas here in Church must now come down. And we will do that this Thursday, at 6:30pm. Many hands make light work. Please come and lend a hand and make use of a great volunteer opportunity. Refreshments, food and fellowship will be provided (after the work is completed!)



Join the Franciscans for a Come and See weekend, January 21-23, 2022. The weekend will be hosted by the Vocation Team of the US Franciscans, with an opportunity to meet friars and learn of our ministries in the Cincinnati area and throughout the United States. We will also Zoom with some of our men who are presently in formation. If you are between 21-40, a practicing Catholic and in good health, please call Fr. Greg at 662-392-3000, or email him at [thefranciscans@icloud.com](mailto:thefranciscans@icloud.com) for more information about the weekend and an initial Zoom call. You can also go to [usfranciscans.org](http://usfranciscans.org) for even more information.

**Fratelli Tutti discussion group** meets for the first of 8 sessions on Saturday, January 15, at 1pm in the chapel. About 20 people have already indicated their interest in reading and discussing Pope Francis’ encyclical. If you would like to join us, contact Faith Kemper at [flkemper@gmail.com](mailto:flkemper@gmail.com)

**Braver Angels**  
 Our sister/brother Parish, **Braver Angels** St. Clement, will be hosting a Braver Angels workshop, January 19, from 7-9:30pm. Braver Angels is an organization which is trying to bring Americans together and bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic. Many people dread political conversations with friends or family whose politics differ from their own. They worry that any attempts as political discussions will devolve into arguments, and result in hurt feeling or anger. Braver Angels “Skills for Bridging the Divide” workshop teaches skills for having respectful conversations that clarify differences, search for common ground, and affirm the importance of relationship. Everyone is welcome no matter your religious or political affiliations. For more info, you may contact Colleen Gerke, OFS, Director of Faith Formation at St. Clement Church and School, [cgerke@stclement.org](mailto:cgerke@stclement.org) or 513-641-3176. The Braver Angels website is [braverangels.com](http://braverangels.com)