

January 1 Solemnity of Mary *Jason Bruns	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Epiphany. Anointing of the Sick *Jonas Hill	9	10	11 *Carl Hemmelgarn	12 *Jeff Allen *Lizzy Geers	13 *Susan Schmid	14 *Pablo Rosales *Tom Wanner

Minister Schedule for January 8
Coordinator: Lois Biddle
Greeters: Mary Geers, Steve Sparks, Gregory Weber
Lector 1: Mark Kacher
Lector 2: Moe Nieman
Intercessions: Sue Miele
Eucharistic Minister: Lois Biddle, Dan Nolan
Collection: Joan Callahan, Ken Horne

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. call or text him at 513-404-3688.

The Mass...As part of a national Eucharistic Revival, our Archbishop invites Catholics to join him in exploring the wonder of the Mass through a special video series, beginning Jan. 8 thru Feb. 12. Sign up for free at catholicaco.org/.

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: 12/26-1/1
 Taz Fox, Kim Plunkett, Jim Artmayer, Michael Flood, Donna Bushman, Hannah Hill \$100, last day of month, Gert Bregen \$500, Solemnity of Mary. All others 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! All proceeds benefit our Church and School.

SAINT FRANCIS SERAPH WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING
 All women of the parish are invited to attend the next meeting of the **Women's Group on Saturday, January 14th at 10:00 am in the Friary Dining Room.** Special guest speaker this month will be **Fr. Jon McClish**, who is the Assistant Priest at Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church here in Cincinnati. Continuing our year-long reflection on Mary, Fr. Jon's presentation will be **"Praying with Icons – Mary the Theotokos."** Fr. Jon was recently ordained (February 2022) as a priest in the Greek Orthodox faith-tradition. His presentation will guide us into an understanding of religious icons in general and as a vehicle 'through which' our prayers may be carried to God through the Mother of Jesus (Theotokos). Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Your life may be the only Bible some folks read.



St. Francis Seraph Church

at Liberty & Vine, in Over-the-Rhine

Solemnity of Mary

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

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.

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We
 Welcome
 All
 Visitors!

 Like Us
 and
 Spread the
 Word!

Sunday Mass
 10:00 AM
Weekday Mass
 Mon.– Fri. 8:00 AM
Holy Days
 8:00 AM. & 6:00 PM

Parish Council
 Kay Brogle
 Gary Favors
 Mary Geers
 Carol Metz
 Rita Reichert
 Henry Stacey

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, Chair
SFS School:
 513-721-7778
 Principal:
 Joe Clements

Stewardship - Week Ending Dec. 25
 Christmas Eve Collection: \$2,969.00
 Christmas Day Collection: \$ 628.00
 Mail in Collection: \$4,072.00
 Total: \$7,669.00

Upcoming Events
Today Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Jan. 2 Parish Office Closed (Holiday)
Jan. 4 School resumes classes
Jan. 8 Feast of the Epiphany; Anointing of the Sick after Mass
Jan. 14 Women's Group, 10AM
Jan. 12 Pathways Team Meeting at 6:30PM
Jan. 15 MLK, Jr. Holiday weekend
 Mary Pat Raupach, Executive Director of St. Francis Ministries, will speak at Mass.
Jan. 17 Parish Council Meeting, 6:30PM
Jan. 22 Social Action Committee, 11:30AM
Jan. 26 Parish Finance Commission meets.

Pastor's Corner

I'm grateful that Christmas is not just one day! Today is the 8th Day of Christmas, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (World Day of Prayer for Peace) and next Sunday we celebrate the Epiphany. Because of the frigid weather and ice and snow, so many people were not able to come to Christmas Mass. Our joining together today and next Sunday will give the opportunity to celebrate with one another the joys of Christmas. Blessedly, the City of Cincinnati was able to provide overnight shelters for our homeless neighbors. The OTR Recreation Center served as a daytime refuge from 10AM-6PM Friday-Sunday. There was food, drink, coats, hats, gloves and presents! **Happy New Year, 2023!**

Fr. Al

Finance Commission
 With Henry Stacey elected to the Parish Council, Fr. Al wanted to appoint another person to the Finance Commission. That will be John O'Connor, who has many years of work in the financial investment world. Thankfully, Henry Stacey offered to be the liaison from Parish Council to the Finance Commission. The other people serving on this commission are: Denise Ratterman, Fred Robertshaw, Robb Wing and Carla Sherman. Of course, Judy Cox (Bookkeeper) and Fr. Al are part of this commission also.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick...After Mass on Sunday, January 8, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be offered. Two of our parishioners have surgeries approaching and others might like to take advantage of this sacrament of healing. Parish members are always welcome to stay for these few extra minutes to pray with those being anointed.

HVAC Update—maybe the final one!
 There may be some fine-tuning, but all of the work on the new heating/air conditioning system is complete. Some men in the parish cleaned out all of the 70 vents in the floor! The new thermostat is installed. We are still receiving a few donations toward this capital improvement, but the official fund-raising will soon end.



Mother Mary, Pray for Us.



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.** Another option is to park in the lot behind the Franciscan Media building. You gain access to this lot via Race Street, north of Liberty. (Race is one way going south into downtown.) it is a short walk around the corner on Liberty Street to church. **This gate will be locked at noon.** We are grateful to Northcrowne Properties, 3CDC and Franciscan Media for making available all of these parking options free to our members on Sunday. 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.

Franciscan Christmas! One more week! Our church is open on Fridays, 4-7PM, Saturdays, Noon-7PM and Sundays, Noon-5PM, until January 6. This is a great opportunity to invite people you know, even people who show no interest in church or religion to come and visit us. Nativity sets from around the world and many other Christmas delights will be on display. (The parking lot behind the school will be open.) And outside in the courtyard, the Live Nativity is open every day from 1-7PM.

Time is a Gift
 The year 2023 is here and many of us aim for new resolutions. Time is a gift. How will you manage your time in 2023?



Try watching the morning light break through the darkness and take hold of the hope the new day brings.
Take courage and hear God's promise that you are not alone with your problems.
Give thanks for the light of your life and ask God to help you be light to others.
Stop a moment and pay attention to your breathing, the gentle in and out rhythm of life.
Try to remember the wonder you felt when your child took its first breath or the sense of sadness and awe you felt as you sat at the bedside of a loved one breathing their last. Life is precious.
Take this time to talk with God about ways you can make the most of the time you have been given.
 Often you get busy doing for others and forget to take time for yourself, but slow down in this time, and ask God how you can take care of yourself: A healthier diet? Exercise? Daily prayer time? Opportunities for just playing and relaxing? Time for laughter and silliness?
Write your ideas down and put them aside for awhile and then review how you've done on loving yourself as God loves you.
Spend time consciously being with loved ones. Look into their eyes, hear the music of their voice, listen deeply to what they say, just hold their hand and be with them or tell them how much they mean to you. If you live alone, visit or call someone who's important to you.
Take a walk. Feel the brisk breeze, the crunch of the snow. Say hello to your neighbors and check on those who are shut in.
Take five minutes at the beginning and end of each day to thank God for your time and feel a deep sense of gratitude and peace. If you're too busy to talk to God, you're too busy.

St. Francis, our patron, reminds us for the new year (and every day): Let us begin again.