


11 3rd Sunday of Advent	12 *Jeanette Yacucci	13	14 *Jason Kreinbrink	15 *Jerry Diersing -Church Decorating 6PM	16	17 *Sean Hill *Clarissa Irvin *Yvette Moon
18 4th Sunday of Advent -Piano Concert 3PM	19	20 *William Deavy	21 *Emily Sheard	22	23 *Julie Murray	24 *Moe Nieman -Christmas Eve Mass at 4PM

**Minister Schedule for December 18**

Coordinator: Jerry Diersing  
Greeters: Matt Cavanaugh, Dan Nolan,  
 Don and Kathy Meyer  
Lector 1: Jim Imhollte  
Lector 2: Cindy Lewis  
Intercessions: Karen Weber  
Eucharistic Minister: R. Reichert, K. Schellinger  
Collection: Anne Burkhardt, Joan Callahan

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.


**Christmas Flower Donations :** Forms are available in church to make a special donation in honor or in memory of another. Or simply make a donation to help us cover the cost of all the beautiful flowers. 


**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:** 12/5-12/11

Jeanne Clifton, Dennis Schone, Stephanie Schenk, Annie Davis, Sheila Carroll, John Tergerson, Greg Friedmann. 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. 

**Franciscan Christmas is here!** Our church is now 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. Children will delight in seeing the live sheep, donkeys and goats! 

Some gifts you can give this Christmas 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. 

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



# 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  
 Parish Website:  
[sfsparish.org](http://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.

## 3rd Sunday of Advent



**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  
**Don Meyer, Deacon**  
 (513) 235-3430  
 themeyer10@gmail.com

We  
 Welcome  
 All  
 Visitors!  
 LIKE US ON  
 facebook  
 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. 4**  
 Sunday Collection: \$ 5,997.00  
 Mail in Collection: \$10,010.00  
 Total: \$16,007.00  
 CCHD Collection: \$1,144.00

**Catholic Campaign for Human Development.** Our parish was able to give \$1,144 to this fund that helps organizations in our archdiocese and around the country to break cycles of poverty.

**National Eucharistic Revival:** A six-week study will begin Jan. 8, using a video series of *The Mass* from Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire Ministries. Each Sunday, the 25 minute episode will be sent to those who subscribe. You can sign up now at [CatholicAOC.org/theMass](http://CatholicAOC.org/theMass). You can watch these episodes as an individual or as a family, or with a small group of friends.

**Pastor's Corner**

One day last week, at Morning or Evening Prayer, I read this verse of Psalm 16:  
*"How wonderful are your faithful people! My greatest pleasure is to be with them."*  
 Yes, that's very much how I feel among all the people of St. Francis Seraph Parish, a pleasure to be with you. Yes, this verse of the psalm "stopped me in my tracks." Yes, God, how wonderful are your faithful people. My greatest pleasure is to be among them.  
 This Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday—Rejoice! I rejoice in your midst. We light the pink candle on our beautiful wreath. The great Feast of Christmas is drawing nigh! Together, we journey day by day, step by step in this Advent Season—and all year long—to share the Good News of God's Love.  
*Fr. Al*

**Upcoming Events**  
**Today** Retirement Fund for Religious collection  
**Dec. 14** Reconciliation Service at St. Clement, 7pm  
**Dec. 15** "Deck the Halls..." Church Decorating begins at 6PM  
**Dec. 18** 163rd Anniversary of the dedication of St. Francis Seraph Church! Concert in church presented by our pianist, Jim Loughery, at 3PM.  
**Dec. 18** Social Action Committee meet 11:30AM  
**Dec. 21** Christmas Break begins for our school.  
**Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Mass at 4PM  
**Dec. 25** Christmas Day Mass at 10AM  
**Dec. 26** No 8AM Mass  
**Dec. 27** No 8AM Mass  
**Dec. 30** SFS Church/Friary Open House, 6-11PM. Come for food and drink, some holiday enjoyment.

**Help Wanted!** Come and help construct the church nativity and help with tree decorating this Thursday, December 15, 6PM, in time for Christmas. Food and drinks will be provided (after the work is completed!) This would be a great opportunity to meet other parishioners. A guaranteed good time will be had by all!

Greeters still needed. Email Randy Ulses at [cintiowan@yahoo.com](mailto:cintiowan@yahoo.com)



Rejoice! The Lord is near.



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.

**School request for Food and Personal Items:** The blue bin is still in church near the bottom of the ramp, so that you can respond to our Principal's request to help families at our school. Food: peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti sauce, dry pasta, soup, baked beans, canned vegetable and fruit, canned ravioli, brownie mix, mac and cheese, rice, ramen noodles. Personal and cleaning: girl's antiperspirant/deodorant, bar soap, toothbrushes, detergent, cleaning supplies, toilet paper.

**Parish Council Meeting Notes**  
 Your new Parish Council met Nov. 29. The first order of business was the **election of officers.** Through dialogue, a form of discernment, Carol Metz was chosen as President and Henry Stacey as Vice-President. We also endorsed the idea that we try to find another member of the parish who would volunteer to be our secretary. We then discussed how the Council would like to interact with other committees and ministries in the parish. We agreed that we would like **liaisons** to each of the main ministries: Finance Commission, Social Action Committee, Worship Committee, the School and Faith Formation. At our next meeting members of the council will decide who will serve in these capacities. **Family of Parishes** was a topic of discussion. While this is still vague, we know this will be an ongoing point of discussion. Fr. Al gave a recap of the progress on the **renovation of the 1600 Vine Building.** Basically, we are working to finalize our memorandum of understanding with Miami University and seeking grants for funding this project. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is basically supportive of our moving forward, satisfied that we will have the needed funding. The **HVAC** project is near completion. Of course, we are all waiting for heat! (Enough of air conditioning in the winter!) **BLINK** was a topic of discussion with an agreement that we should explore opportunities to open our church to the public, having ambassadors as we did for Blink. It was suggested that we might ask for such volunteers on the weekends now when the church is open for Franciscan Christmas. The newly-emerging **Social Action Committee** reported on the areas this group of about 30 people are focusing on. We also received a **Principal's Report about the start of the school year.** During the Open Forum section of the meeting, we decided we would designate both side aisles of the church for social distancing during the Christmas Masses. Our next meeting will be January 17<sup>th</sup>. At that time we'll know if the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month will be consistent.