

18 4th Sunday of Advent -Piano Concert 3PM	19	20 *William Deavy	21 *Emily Sheard	22	23 *Julie Murray *Gregory Hyland	24 *Moe Nieman -Christmas Eve Mass at 4PM; Carols at 3:30
25 Christmas! Mass at 10AM	26	27 *Marilou Priestle *Dirk Pruis *Emaline Weaver	28	29 *Veree Russell	30 Feast of the Holy Family Mass at 5:30PM Friary Open House 6-11	31 *Trey Hughes

**Minister Schedule for December 25**

Coordinator: Jeanette Tepe

Greeters: Volunteers

Lector 1: Mark Katcher

Lector 2: Karen Skillman

Intercessions: Moe Nieman

Eucharistic Minister: Rita Reichert,  
Deacon Don Meyer

Collection: Volunteers

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.

Many thanks to everyone who donated Kroger gift cards and/or cash in recent weeks. Your generosity will go far to help those in need of some assistance this year.



**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:** 12/12-12/18

Rose Segbers, Cookie Fox, Gerald Berding, Br. John Carey, Celise Bealer, Lisa Scully, Joe Metz. 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! 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!



Advent thoughts...

- + It is in giving that we receive.
- + Each of us is an innkeeper. Do you have room for Jesus?



*Christmas is the day  
that holds all time together.*



*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.

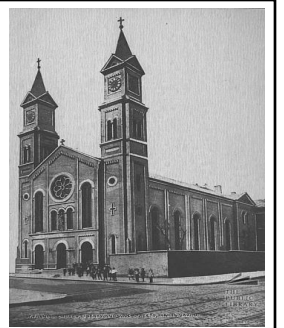
**Baptism - Adults:** Usually celebrated at Easter Vigil. Preparation in stages through the year.

**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.

## 4th Sunday of Advent



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY ST. FRANCIS SERAPH CHURCH!**  
163rd ANNIVERSARY!

**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. 11**  
 Sunday Collection: \$3,039.00  
 Mail in Collection: \$2,273.34  
 Total: \$5,312.34  
 Christmas Flowers: \$1,245.00  
 Retirement for Religious: \$1,715.00 (so far)

**Religious Retirement Fund Collection**  
 Thank you to those parishioners who contributed \$1,715.00 to this fund. (An update will be noted if more donations are received.) Envelopes are still available on the back tables so that further contributions can be made. *I know many Sisters Communities are so grateful for the help they receive to take care of the elderly Sisters. If you have not contributed, I know a gift would be most appreciated. Fr. Al*

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

**Pastor's Corner**

*“Tis the week before Christmas  
 And all through the church  
 All creatures are stirring  
 Preparing God’s house.  
 The choir is rehearsing  
 The cleaning goes on,  
 The manger is waiting  
 For soon the Child comes.  
 Our hearts are preparing  
 To enter the Mystery;  
 Our hopes and dreams are high  
 That this Christmas will be stirring.”*

We are in these beautiful days leading up to the great Feast of Christmas. Parishioners have gifted our community with their hours of dedicated service decorating and cleaning the church. Folks have stepped forward to fulfill all the liturgical roles. Choir members are giving extra time for rehearsals. Expressions of appreciation show up in cards, greetings, little signs of thanks. The Christmas and end-of-the-year donations are wonderful! Though we are in the typical overcast and gray days of winter in Cincinnati, I can see the SON shining! I look forward to our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses when we are able to greet and meet many visitors and family members joining parishioners for these celebrations. I know it will be a wonderful celebration here at St. Francis Seraph. The “Heart of Over-The-Rhine” is afire with love.  
*Fr. Al*

**163<sup>rd</sup> Dedication Anniversary! Today!**  
 On Dec. 18, 1859, our parish church was dedicated! We’re celebrating with a few special touches during Mass today. Our esteemed church pianist, James Loughery, offers a HOLIDAY RECITAL at 3PM today. Jim is in his fourth year playing for our Masses. Come and enjoy this delightful presentation to enhance the spirit of the season.

*The heaviest thing to carry is a grudge.*



**Do Your Best. Let God Do the Rest!**

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.

**Christmas Flowers Donations**  
 With remembrances and dedications, many parishioners have made donations to make it possible for us to so beautifully decorate the church. As of Dec. 11, we have \$1,245.00. Thanks to all who made these special donations for flowers; it is not too late, if you would like to make a donation. There are still some forms on the back tables.

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

**THANKS!** To those who helped construct the church stable and decorate the trees this past Thursday. And a special thanks goes to Jim Imholte for providing the food and cooking for all of us!

**December 30 Open House...** Parishioners are invited for food and drink on this Friday evening, between the hours of 6 and 11PM. Come through the main doors of the church. Since this is the **Feast of the Holy Family**, a Mass will be celebrated in the chapel at 5:30pm.

**Upcoming Events**  
**TODAY: 163<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of St. Francis Seraph Church!**  
**Concert in church presented by our pianist, Jim Loughery, at 3PM.**  
 Social Action Committee meets 11:30AM  
**Dec. 21** Christmas Break begins for our school.  
**Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Mass at 4PM. Music and carols begin at 3:30.**  
**Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass at 10AM**  
**Dec. 26** No 8AM Mass  
**Dec. 27** No 8AM Mass  
**Dec. 30** 5:30PM Mass in Chapel for the Feast of the Holy Family.  
 SFS Church/Friary Open House, 6-11PM.  
**Dec. 31** New Year’s Eve Mass, 4PM, at St. Clement Church.  
**Jan. 1** Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

**O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree!**  
 The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world.  
 Lord God,  
 let your blessing come upon us  
 as we illumine this tree.  
 May the light and cheer it gives  
 be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.  
 May all who delight in this tree  
 come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

