

December/January

25 Christmas!	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
January 1 Solemnity of Mary *Jason Bruns	2	3	4	5	6	7

Minister Schedule for January 1

Coordinator: Randy Ulses
Greeters: Gale LaWarre, Marilyn Meyer
 Karen Skillman
Lector 1: Karen Skillman
Lector 2: Clarissa Irvin
Intercessions: Bob Ehram
Eucharistic Minister: Kay Brogle, K. MacQueeney
Collection: Tina Candelaresi, Dave Frondorf

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 catholicaoc.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: 12/19-12/25
 Karen Boles, C. Edward Noe, Cynthia Metz, Allie Link, Mary B. Long, Kathy Meyer, Jim Lesch. 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.



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

Peace on earth will come to stay, When we live Christmas every day. Helen Steiner Rice

Your life may be the only Bible some folks read.



St. Francis Seraph Church

at Liberty & Vine, in Over-the-Rhine

Christmas!



**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 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
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Parish/School
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Worship Committee:
 Dan Nolan, Chair
SFS School:
 513-721-7778
 Principal:
 Joe Clements

Stewardship - Week Ending Dec. 18
 Sunday Collection: \$2,024.00
 Mail in Collection: \$5,325.00
 Total: \$7,349.00

Retired Religious Fund Collection
 We sent \$2,480.00 to the Archdiocese that we collected for the retired religious. On behalf of the many sisters and brothers who benefit from these funds: 'THANK YOU!'

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.

December 22 Parish Email: Our parish has made efforts to get this list as complete as possible. Please let us know if you did Not receive this email.

Pastor's Corner

Madeleine L'Engle, a fiction writer and devoted Christian observes:
"Don't try to explain the Incarnation to me! It is further from being explainable than the furthest star in the furthest galaxy. It is love, God's limitless love enfleshing that love into the form of a human being, Jesus, the Christ, fully human and fully divine. Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity, Christ, the Maker of the universe or perhaps many universes, willingly and lovingly leaving all that power and coming to this poor, sin-filled planet to live with us for a few years to show us what we ought to be and could be. Christ came to us as Jesus of Nazareth, wholly human and wholly divine, to show us what it means to be made in God's image. Jesus, as Paul reminds us, was the firstborn of many brothers and sisters."

At Christmas, I won't try to "explain the Incarnation." I hope together we can explore the great mystery of God's Love. St. Francis, of course, created that first Christmas scene at Greccio in Italy to spark people's appreciation for this profound event. I hope this Christmas we might fall in love with God present in the Son and present again on the altar and in the hearts of all of us.



Fr. Al

Update on 1600 Vine Building Renovation

We have begun seeking bids for the renovation of our building that will serve as communal housing for new teachers employed in our urban schools. Initially, 3 contractors are being sent the plans. Ideally, the construction work can start by the end of January. The goal is to have this building ready in August. It is, however, an extensive renovation. We continue to seek the funding for what is easily over a one million dollar project. Added to the initial \$283,400 grant is a \$100,000 pledge from a foundation. Our \$100,000 capital improvements fund is available for this project. So we are approaching \$500,000 to get started. We continue to write grants and are hoping for some positive responses soon!



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.** 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! 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.



Upcoming Events
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
Jan. 4 School resumes classes
Jan. 8 Feast of the Epiphany
Jan. 14 Women's Group, 10AM
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

The story of the origin of the Christmas creche rests with the very holy man, our parish patron, St. Francis of Assisi. In the year 1223, St. Francis was visiting the town of Greccio, Italy, to celebrate Christmas. Greccio was a small town built on a mountainside overlooking a beautiful valley. St. Francis realized that the chapel of the Franciscan hermitage would be too small to hold the congregation for Midnight Mass. So he found a niche in the rock near the town square and set up the altar. However, this Midnight Mass would be very special, unlike any other Midnight Mass. Francis prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The people, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God, St. Francis, stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem. (catholiceducation.org)

