

March 2023 (\* birthday)

19 4th Sunday of Lent *Maggie Mascunana	20	21	22	23	24 *Elizabeth Hilton	25 Lenten Reflection 10am *Isaac Hill *Jayne Yager
26 -SFS School Open House 11:30-1pm *Todd Trabert	27	28 *Liz Gutmann-Fuentes	29 Reconciliation Service at St. Clement 7pm *Kathy Bennette	30	31 *Nancy Kathman	April 1  *Yvonne Foley

**Minister Schedule for March 26**

Coordinator: Jeanette Tepe  
Greeters: Barbara Bok, Sr. Joyce Moeller, Marilou Priestle  
Lector 1: Bob Ersham  
Lector 2: Tim Candelaresi  
Intercessions: Dave Frondorf  
Eucharistic Minister: Kathleen MacQueeny  
Collection: Rita Reichert, Tina Candelaresi

Please contact Br. Tim or the parish office if you or someone in your family is in need of prayer. Call or text him at 513-404-3688.

Bonnie Neumeier will speak at Mass next Sunday March 26th, on behalf of our Social Action Committee. We are asking parishioners who live in Cincinnati to support the efforts of Cincy Action for Housing Now Coalition. It's a grassroots effort working to pass a city charter amendment that will allow us to vote YES to restore our earned income tax to its 2020 level to **fund affordable housing**. This can generate \$40-50 million a year for our local Housing Trust Fund to ensure that all of us have a safe place to call home. We are short 28,000 units of affordable housing in Cincinnati. We need parishioners to sign the petition. We are also looking for volunteers to help circulate this petition (we will provide training). We will pass out material for you to read and more information can be found at [www.cincyhousingforall.com](http://www.cincyhousingforall.com). We will have the petition available to sign on Sunday, April 2nd, and all Sundays in April. Our parish witnesses every day the need for affordable housing. Thank you for your help.

*Deacon Don Meyer*

**Winner-A-Day Winners:** 3/13-3/19  
 Cecile Walsh, Karen Boles, Kenneth Barnhorst, Jean Buck, Marilyn Meyer, Paul Schneider, Mike Sepate.  
 All are \$25 winners!



**A new Winner-a-Day season begins April 1.**

Tickets have been mailed. If you did not receive them or need more, please call the parish office at 513-535-2719. The Winner-A-Day Hopper has lots of room for you to get your name in the for daily drawing. If your name is drawn, your ticket goes right back in so that you have the possibility of winning again! All proceeds benefit our Church and School.

**Lenten Events:**

**Way of the Cross** is prayed every Friday evening, 7pm, at St. Clement Church. This is a bilingual service.



**Lenten Reflection on Way of the Cross**

will be here at St. Francis Seraph on Saturday, March 25, 10am-noon. Fr. Mark Soehner, OFM, will speak about the meaning of this devotion and then we will have opportunity to pray this devotion with some reflections offered by members of our parish.

**Communal Reconciliation Service** for our two parishes will be celebrated at St. Clement Church at 7PM on Wednesday, March 29.

**Lenten Weekday, March 30**, is also the Reds Opening Day!!! No school because of the traffic connected with the parade!

*Focus on a good life, not a good living.*



# St. Francis Seraph Church

at Liberty & Vine, in Over-the-Rhine

## Fourth Sunday of Lent



**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.

**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@friars.us (new address)  
**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**  
 Randy Ulses - Chair  
**Director of Faith**  
**Formation:** Pat  
 Ruthemeyer  
**Pastoral Musician:**  
 Jim Loughery  
**SFS School:**  
 513-721-7778  
 Principal:  
 Joe Clements

**Stewardship -Week Ending Mar. 12**   
 Sunday Collection: \$3,109.00  
 Mail-in Collection: \$ 560.00  
 Total: \$3,669.00  
 February PayPal Offerings: \$3,835.54

**Choir Members...** We invite you to consider joining the choir. As you can see, on any given Sunday all of our choir members are not here. We could certainly use a few more voices! See Jim Loughery for a quick minute after Mass if you are interested. Rehearsal is usually at 9:15AM before Mass. There is an occasional extra practice for seasonal music. 


Low-gluten hosts are available for those with gluten allergy. Simply come to Communion where Fr. Al is distributing and let him know you need such a host.

**Pastor's Corner** *Fr. Al*

Lent is “heating up”, even though the weather is getting colder. This coming Saturday, we have the opportunity to celebrate our principle Lenten devotion with a talk on “**What do we do with our Suffering?**” Fr. Mark Soehner presents this reflection and then invites your comments, questions. Following this 10AM talk, we’ll have the opportunity to pray the Way of the Cross. I would suggest this Saturday morning Lenten offering will be very good.


The next day, Sunday, March 26, our school is hosting an **Open House**, 11:30AM-1:00PM. This isn’t exactly a Lenten Event, but how good it would be for many parishioners to visit the school. Our Lenten almsgiving is in the form of donations to our School Boiler Fund. Take a few minutes after Mass and visit the school. Prospective families will hopefully be there looking to see if our school is a good choice for their children. We know it is!

On Wednesday evening, March 29, our Franciscan Family will come together for a **Lenten Communal Reconciliation Service** at St. Clement Church, 4536 Vine Street in St. Bernard. I’ve recently been celebrating this Sacrament with Engaged Couples on their Encounter Weekend and with students at Roger Bacon and Moeller High Schools. In all cases, I witness the power of forgiveness, burdens lifted, a new beginning. Of course, the height of our Lenten Journey is getting closer, the **Sacred Triduum**, these three Holy Days. Sometimes we get stuck thinking all that matters is Sunday Mass. And it does matter! But can you look now at what your Holy Week will be? What a wonderful thing for all of us if many can adjust our routines April 6-8. That Thursday is **Holy Thursday**. At 7PM we celebrate the remembrance of the Lord’s Supper. After the Washing of the Feet, all are invited to gather around the altar as the first disciples did in that upper room. Families with children might find this a very good experience and not too late of an evening. On Friday, again at 7PM, we celebrate **Good Friday**. At this service we hear Scriptures, pray universal prayers and venerate the cross. This is a wonderful service for all of us to focus on the meaning of Jesus' dying for us. On Saturday, the church asks that we begin the great **Easter Vigil** after sunset, in some darkness for the lighting of the new fire. This service begins at 9PM. For all of our evening services we will have our Security Service providing for safety. A beautiful and spiritually fulfilling experience it is to celebrate all three days, to more fully engage in these central mysteries of our Faith.



**See the Goodness of the Lord.**

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.

**Upcoming Events**  
**March 21:** Parish Council Meeting  
**March 25:** Reflection on Way of the Cross, here at SFS, 10-11:30AM  
**March 26:** Open House at our School, 11:30AM to 1:00PM. Parishioners are invited along with prospective families with children.  
**March 29:** Communal Reconciliation at 7:00PM at St. Clement Church.  
**April 2:** Palm Sunday!

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

**Franciscan Family of Parishes** With the Archdiocesan renewal program of Beacons of Light, St. Clement and St. Francis Seraph are a family. Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 29, 10AM-Noon**. Please come. We want many of our parishioners to come to this “town hall” style meeting where we can hear the goals and hopes of Beacons of Light. We want to hear from the grass roots. What do you think? How does a family of these two parishes plan to work together? We are 4 miles apart, St. Bernard and Over-the-Rhine. Quite distinct! Both of our parishes are of moderate size. We each have a school. As of now, we each have a pastor. This plenary session will take place in the Fine Arts auditorium at Roger Bacon High School. As plans unfold, we will let you know. But right now, try to make this date a priority.

**Renovation of our 1600 Vine Street Building**  
 It has been a long road, but we are nearly ready to get to work on this project. We have someone in place to be the owner’s representative to oversee this project, the architects are finishing the detailed plans, a contractor will soon be chosen, permits secured so renovation work can begin in April. We are still working with Miami University to get an official Memorandum of Understanding completed. Fundraising is ongoing, but we now have over \$900,000 in grants! With another 4 or 5 grant requests out there, we are hopeful this \$1.2-1.4 million dollar project will get fully funded. This building will be home to early childhood teachers serving in our urban schools. The affordable rent these teachers will pay makes possible our payments for insurance, taxes and utilities. This program could be a great asset to the futures of children in these neighborhoods.

**CISE** (Catholic Inner-city Schools Education) is sponsoring a fundraiser at the American Sign Museum on Friday, April 28, 6-10pm. CISE helps provide access to values-based Catholic education. SFS School benefits from this fund. For more info, go to cisekids.org