

Church of St. Francis

THE LIBERAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Province of the USA • Villa Park, Illinois



Saint Francis of Assisi ~ The Grotto, Portland, Oregon

Francis of Assisi (*Francisco d' Assisi* 1181-1226) was born in the town of Assisi, Italy, and is known as the patron saint of animals because of his love for animals and all nature. St. Francis of Assisi is the founder of the Order of the Franciscan Friars. His Feast day is October 4th.

Francis was a joyful friar who preached in the marketplace. He was born the son of a successful and wealthy merchant family. Francis gave up family and fortune to devote his life to God and the poor. During his pilgrimage before he had any followers, Francis would tend to those who suffered from leprosy. Francis said he would not be ordained a priest, his only mission was to lead a life of poverty and teach his brothers, the friars - love, respect and peace toward others.

To Francis love was the truest of all truths, hence his deep sense of personal responsibility towards his fellows. The love of Christ permeated the whole life and character of Francis.

Francis found happiness in offering songs and poems; he identified with elements of the Universe and found in all created things some reflection of the Divine perfection, and loved to admire in them the beauty, power and wisdom and goodness of the creator.

During a forty day fast in preparation for Michaelmas Day, Francis had a vision as a result of which he received the stigmata, (wounds of Christ). In later years, being already very ill, and in one of his last visits to St. Clare of Assisi, he composed the "Canticle to the Sun." Francis always yearned to be both a knight and a troubadour (poet-singer) – to do battle for God and at the same time to amuse with a song. Saint Francis is remembered during the month of October. The good work of Saint Francis, his genius writings, his gentle charity and compassion, his loving heart and virtuous humility, are reminded to us through his powerful prayer:

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;

where there is sadness, joy.

*O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
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;

it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

Amen.

The Cantic of the Sun, also known as the Laudes Creaturarum (Praise of the Creatures), was written in the Umbrian dialect of Italian but has since been translated into many languages. It is believed to be among the first works of literature, if not the first, written in the Italian language.

The Cantic is an affirmation of Francis' personal theology as he often referred to animals as brothers and sisters to Mankind, rejected material accumulation and sensual comforts in favor of "Lady Poverty".

Saint Francis is said to have composed most of the cantic in late 1224 while recovering from an illness at San Damiano, in a small cottage that had been built for him by Saint Clare and other women of her order. According to tradition, the first time it was sung in its entirety was by Francis and Brothers Angelo and Leo, two of his original companions, on Francis' deathbed, the final verse praising "Sister Death" having been added only a few minutes before.



Cantic of the Sun

*Most high, all powerful, all good Lord!
All praise is yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing.*

*To you, alone, Most High, do they belong.
No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;
in the heavens you have made them bright,
precious and beautiful.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
and clouds and storms, and all the weather,
through which you give your creatures sustenance.*

*Be praised, My Lord, through Sister Water;
she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you brighten the night.
He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth,
who feeds us and rules us, and produces
various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love
of you; through those who endure sickness and trial.*

*Happy those who endure in peace,
for by you, Most High, they will be crowned.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whose embrace no living person can escape.*

*Woe to those who die in mortal sin!
Happy those she finds doing your most holy will.
The second death can do no harm to them.*

*Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks,
and serve him with great humility.*

Annual Congregational Meeting



The Annual Congregational Meeting was held October 9, 2011.

2011 Blessing of the Animals

The annual Blessing of the Animals was held on Sunday, Oct 2nd in honor of the Feast of Saint Francis. Parishoners and neighbors brought their furry friends out to be blessed and receive a blessed St. Francis medal to put on their collar. 6 dogs, 4 cats and their human companions participated.



Dear Members and Friends of the Church of St. Francis, the past year has included the following highlights:

- 1,304 people attended all services compared to 1,325 in 2010 and 1,491 in 2009.
- We averaged about 19 people per Sunday Eucharistic service.
- 999 Holy Communions were shared compared to 1,242 in 2010.
- Attendance was flat as we had only one special visit, by Regionary William in October 2010.

Other special services (shown in no particular order):

- Admission of Jack Horbal as a member
- Admission of Josh Novak as server
- Blessing of the Animals with seven canines in attendance
- Seventeen Healing Services compared to six the prior year
- Baptisms of Jake Ryan Conley and Luke Daniel Jones
- The wedding of Justin Cole Gurley and Grace Millar Mentala
- The Requiem Eucharists of Claire Hayes & Donald Joseph Forth
- Monthly Ray Rosary led by Becky Collin
- Over 30 people attended on seven different occasions, including 35 at Midnight Mass (there were 33 last year and 35 in 2008)
- Good Friday Mass of the Pre-Sanctified
- Blessing of the Fire
- One cancelled evening Healing Service due to a snow blizzard
- The Blessing and sales of 25 rosaries
- Blessing of two houses

Bishop Downey visited in January and celebrated two Holy Eucharists, including:

- Raising Stephanie to Love and Will in the Office of Mary
- Raising Laura, Rebecca, Julie, and Vicky to the Office of Love
- Confirming Renee Turner and raising her to Purity and Devotion in the Office of Mary
- Raising Frank and Raymond to Reader and Exorcist

Membership in the Church of St Francis is currently:

- Forty- four (44) active, adult members
- Thirty-nine (39) inactive adult members
- Thirty-six (36) infant or minor members

Congratulations and Thank-you. Our new slate of vestry members is shown below. You can count on these and other people who attend regularly to keep the spirit burning at the Church of St. Francis. In the spirit of representative democracy, we are truly a church of the people, by the people, and for the people. If you have not been able to join us recently, please consider the fifth Sunday of any given month--- chances are, we'll be hosting a pancake breakfast along with wonderful fellowship and Communion. Peace to you all for the balance of 2011 and beyond,

St. Francis Vestry and Congregational Guardians 2011 to 2012

- Rev. Terrence Metz, President
- Rev James Ascareggi - Vice President
- Rev Jeffrey Forth - Junior Warden
- Rabecca Collin – Secretary
- Lori Jo Metz – Treasurer
- Vicky Fitzmaurice - Ladies' Guild President
- Julie Hamilton
- Felite Manila
- Pat Meike
- Frank Pepich
- Dawn Regnier
- Marion Schulte

Triennial Provincial Assembly

The Liberal Catholic Church was fortunate to congregate for its Triennial Assembly in October. Our Lady and All Angels, under the rectorship of the Very Rev Canon Milton Shaw, hosted the event in Rio Rancho NM. Four bishops attended as the Provincial Assembly was led by its President and Regionary Bishop, the Rt. Rev. William S. H. Downey. The episcopacy also included Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting, Rt. Rev. Robert Green, and Rt. Rev. Lloyd Worley.

Nearly 50 people travelled to Rio Rancho including our parish representative, Dawn Regnier along with Father Terrence, Father Jeffrey, Frank Pepich (ordained to acolyte), and Josh Novak (ordained to cleric).



The Provincial Assembly agreed to meet again for its next Triennial from October 16 to 20, 2014 at Our Lady and All Angels in Rio Rancho.

Update your calendars now so that you can plan to attend in 2014. All are welcome, and encouraged to attend.



Rosary of the Seven Rays

The Church of St. Francis invites you to chant the rosary in honor of Our Lady on the third Monday of each month. The rosary used in this meditation is based on the Franciscan Crown Rosary, also called the "Rosary of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

The sanctuary will open at 6:30 p.m. for any who wish to meditate to soft Marian-themed music. Services to Our Lady will begin at 7:00 pm. No rosary is needed. It is a sung meditation. All are welcome. For more information please contact Rabecca Collin.

Upcoming dates: October 17, 2011
November 21, 2011
December 19, 2011



Seven Ray Rosaries are now available from St Francis. They are made from imported Czech Fire Polish beads, and the crucifix, centerpiece and chain are imported from Jerusalem. Each rosary is hand assembled by a member, has been blessed by one of our Priests, and comes with a blue velour pouch, informational card, and certificate. They're \$25 each plus shipping cost. (Similar rosaries are comparable at \$45 - \$60 elsewhere.) To order, email stfrancisvillapark.org.

Healing Service

The purpose of the Service of Healing is to bring spiritual upliftment to those in need, and secondly to give some relief, whenever possible, to those who are suffering from various physical ills. All are welcome.

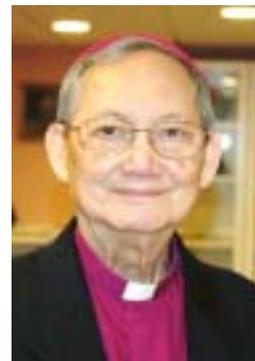
Father Daniel will conduct a Healing Service followed by Communion on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Francis, beginning at 6:30pm.

Upcoming dates:
November 2, 2011
December 7, 2011



Adult Education

We are pleased that the Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting will again be with us leading a two part multimedia presentation. + Ruben is a staff member at the National Center of the Theosophical Society in Wheaton, and an Auxillary Bishop in the Liberal Catholic Church.



Sunday November 13, 2011

God's Plan for the Spiritual Evolution of Humanity

Part One — 11:30am downstairs following Holy Eucharist.

Sunday December 11, 2011

God's Plan for the Spiritual Evolution of Humanity

Part Two — 11:30am downstairs following Holy Eucharist.

To stimulate and serve our membership, the vestry approved the installation of a plasma monitor to display various adult education pieces, such as special presentations by Bishop Ruben Cabigting, informative podcasts like Tolle's "A New Earth", and special movies such as What the Bleep.

They asked me to conduct a special search for donations, outside the realm of our most common and loyal contributors. Additionally, it has been suggested that we might request a special one dollar donation from attendees to help defray costs of equipment and programming. We also have wonderful materials produced over the years that need to be updated to modern media, including an excellent series of slides and tape from Australia on the Transformation of the Eucharist.

Can you help our members, potential members, and future members better understand the special nature of our humble little church by making a one-time contribution earmarked for the adult education fund? Your generosity could be rewarded for many lifetimes to come because of the immediate and positive impact it could have on the lives of others.

Father Daniel



Fellowship & Flapjacks

Fifth Sunday Pancake Breakfast
October 30, 2011

Join us after Holy Eucharist for our 3rd pancake breakfast of the year, featuring of course pancakes, vegetarian sausage, hashbrowns and other yummy fixings. Visit with old friends, and make some NEW ones! All are welcome. **WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND!** (Please RSVP if you think you may attend, so we know how much to prepare.)

Upcoming Dates: January 29, 2012
April 29, 2012
July 29, 2012
September 30, 2012
December 30, 2012

2011	Liturgical Calendar	Intent	Celebrant/Leader	Church Calendar
10/9	16th Sunday after Trinity	<i>Justice</i>	Fr. Terrence	Church of St. Francis Annual Meeting
10/16	17th Sunday after Trinity	<i>Spiritual Progress</i>	Fr. Daniel	(TLCC Triennial Conference in Albuquerque)
10/17	Third Monday Rosary of the Seven Rays		Rabecca	7:00pm
10/23	18th Sunday after Trinity	<i>Christ as Truth</i>	Fr. Jeffrey	
10/30	19th Sunday after Trinity	<i>Tact and Tolerance:</i>	Fr. Terrence	5th Sunday Pancake Breakfast - bring a friend
11/2	First Wednesday Healing Service		Fr. Daniel	6:30pm
11/6	All Saint's Sunday	<i>Precept and Practice</i>	Fr. Jeffrey	
11/13	21st Sunday after Trinity		Fr. Daniel	11:30am Adult Education: <i>God's Plan with the Spiritual Evolution of Humanity – Part One</i> , presented by Bishop Ruben Cabigting
11/20	Sunday before Advent	<i>Dispelling of Ignorance: a day of devotion to the Holy Spirit</i>	Fr. Terrence	Vestry
11/21	Third Monday Rosary of the Seven Rays		Rabecca	7:00pm
11/27	Advent Sunday	<i>Discrimination</i>	Fr. Jeffrey	
12/4	2nd Sunday in Advent	<i>Self-forgetfulness</i>	Fr. Daniel	
12/7	First Wednesday Healing Service		Fr. Daniel	6:30pm 7:00pm An Evening Service Devoted to Our Lady
12/11	3rd Sunday in Advent	<i>Love</i>	Fr. Terrence	11:30am Adult Education: <i>God's Plan with the Spiritual Evolution of Humanity – Part Two</i> , presented by Bishop Ruben Cabigting

St. Francis Liberal Catholic Church

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Holy Eucharist Sundays at 10:00am. followed by refreshments and fellowship hour.

Please visit our website or FACEBOOK site for schedule additions and updates.

The above event schedule is correct at the time this newsletter is published, but may be subject to changes.

Calendar: <http://ical.me.com/teammetz/Church%20of%20St%20Francis>

Subscribe to our calendar: webcal://ical.me.com/teammetz/Church%20of%20St%20Francis.ics

St. Francis Vestry & Congregational Guardians 2011-2012

Rev. Terrence Metz, *President* • Rev. James Ascareggi, *Vice President* • Rev. Jeffery Forth, *Junior Warden*

Rabecca Collin, *Secretary* • Lori Jo Metz, *Treasurer* • Vicky Fitzmaurice, *Ladies' Guild President*

Julie Hamilton • Felite Manila • Pat Meike • Frank Pepich • Dawn Regnier • Marion Schulte

Servers

Stephanie Chantos • Dawn Regnier • Renee Turner • Emily Berrum • Raymond Amegatcher • Frank Pepich • Josh Novak

We are very happy to announce that we have expanded our newsletter to seven issues a year:

Christmas • Candlemas • Easter • Whitsuntide • Midsummer • Lammas • Autumn

Unfortunately, our meager resources will only allow us to print and mail the Easter and Christmas issues at this time, with the others available in PDF form available through email and our website. Please send your current email address to tlcc_lector@mac.com so that we can continue to keep you informed and connected with the Church of St. Francis. A small donation is always much appreciated (so is a large one).

Send articles or information for inclusion in future issues to fpepich@gmail.com.