



## Church of St. Francis

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

*"In tracing the symbolism of the Latin cross, or rather of the crucifix, back into the night of time, the investigators had expected to find the figure disappear, leaving behind what they supposed to be the earlier cross-emblem. As a matter of fact exactly the reverse took place, and they were startled to find that eventually the cross drops away, leaving only the figure with uplifted arms. No longer is there any thought of pain or sorrow connected with that figure, though still it tells of sacrifice; rather is it now the symbol of the purest joy the world can hold — the joy of freely giving — for it typifies the Divine Man standing in space with arms upraised in blessing, casting abroad His gifts to all humanity, pouring forth freely of Himself in all directions, descending into that 'dense sea' of matter, to be cribbed, cabined, and confined therein, in order that through that descent we may come into being".*

C. W. Leadbeater – The Christian Creed

**This sacrifice is perpetual, for in every form in this universe of infinite diversity this life is enfolded, and is its very heart, the "Heart of Silence" of the Egyptian ritual, the "Hidden God". This sacrifice is the secret of evolution.** The Divine Life, cabined within a form, ever presses outwards in order that the form may expand, but presses gently, lest the form should break ere yet it had reached its utmost limit of expansion. With infinite patience and tact and discretion, the divine One keeps up the constant pressure that expands, without loosing a force that would disrupt. In every form, in mineral, in vegetable, in animal, in man, this expansive energy of the Logos is ceaselessly working. That is the evolutionary force, the lifting life within the forms, the rising energy that science glimpses, but knows not whence it comes. The botanist tells of an energy within the plant, that pulls ever upwards; he knows not how, he knows not why, but he gives it a name — the *vis a fronte* — because he finds it there, or rather finds its results. Just as it is in plant life, so is it in other forms as well, making them more and more expressive of the life within them. When the limit of any form is



reached, and it can grow no further, so that nothing more can be gained through it by the soul of it — that germ of Himself, which the Logos is brooding over — then He draws away His energy, and the form disintegrates — we call it death and decay. But the soul is with Him, and He shapes for it a new form, and the death of the form is the birth of the soul into fuller life. If we saw with the eyes of the Spirit instead of with the eyes of the flesh, we should not weep over a form, which is a corpse giving back the materials out of which it was builded, but we should joy over the life passing onwards into nobler form, to expand under the unchanging process the powers still latent within.

**Through that perpetual sacrifice of the Logos all lives exist; it is the life by which the universe is ever becoming.** This life is One, but it embodies itself in myriad forms, ever drawing them together and gently overcoming their resistance. Thus it is an At-one-ment, a unifying force, by which the separated lives are gradually made conscious of their unity, labouring to develop in each a self-consciousness, which shall at last know itself to be one with all others, and its root One and divine.

**This is the primary and ever-continued sacrifice, and it will be seen that it is an outpouring of Life directed by Love, a voluntary and glad pouring forth of Self for the making of other Selves.** This is *"the joy of thy Lord"* [Matt., xxv, 21, 23, 31-45 ] into which the faithful servant enters,

significantly followed by the statement that He was hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, a stranger and in prison, in the helped or neglected children of men. To the free Spirit to give itself is joy, and it feels its life the more keenly the more it pours itself forth. And the more it gives, the more it grows, for the law of the growth of life is that it increases by pouring itself forth and not by drawing from without — by giving, not by taking. Sacrifice, then, in its primary meaning, is a thing of joy the Logos pours Himself out to make a world, and, seeing the travail of His soul, is satisfied.

From ESOTERIC CHRISTIANITY  
by Annie Besant





## Holy Week Ecclesiastical Visit

We are thankful that our Regionary Bishop William Downey was able to join with us in Holy Week services and meet with many of our members during his ten day stay.

Congratulations to Josh in being raised to the minor office of Reader, and to Vicky, Renee and Laura in the Order of Our Lady.

And a very special thank you to Rev. James Ascareggi for all you do for us. *"I fiori d'altare son meravigliosi! Più bella!"*





## 2013 Spring Retreat

Thank you to St. Gabriel and All Angels Church from Fairfield for hosting the retreat again this year at the Shalom Center in Dubuque Iowa. LCC members from every region of the country attended, and those in attendance were honored by the presence of Bishop William Downey, Regional Bishop, Province of the USA. The retreat theme "The Service of God" gave a context for reflection and discussion about our own experiences of God, and the ways in which the mystical Christian finds God in prayer and Divine service in the world.



## Solemn Benediction

A Healing Service followed by Solemn Benediction will be held quarterly. Please join us at 7:30pm.

**June 22, 2013**  
September 21, 2013  
December 21, 2013



*Jesus said, "It is I who am the light which is above them all. It is I who am the all. From me did the all come forth, and unto me did the all extend. Split a piece of wood, and I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find me there."*

The Gospel of Thomas, Logion 77

## 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 7:30pm.

Upcoming dates:

**June 5, 2013**  
July 3, 2013  
August 7, 2013



## Rosary of the Seven Rays

The Church of St. Francis invites you to chant the rosary in honor of Our Lady. 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." No rosary is needed. It is a sung meditation. All are welcome. For more information please contact Rabecca Collin.

The Rosaries are held on **Sunday mornings at 9:00 am before Holy Eucharist** on days where a Mary Feast Day falls withing the Octave. The 2013 schedule is:

1/06 ..... Octave of the Solemnity of Mary  
2/03 ..... Octave of the Presentation of Our Lord  
**6/02 ..... Octave of the Visitation**  
8/18 ..... Octave of the Assumption  
9/08 ..... Octave of the Nativity of Our Lady  
10/13 ..... Octave of the Our Lady of the Rosary  
11/24 ..... Octave of the Presentation of Our Lady  
12/08 ..... Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Please mark your calendars.

## Adult Education

### LOST CHRISTIANITY LECTURE SERIES

**Sunday June 9, 2013**

**Sunday July 21, 2013**

11:30am following Holy Eucharist

Upcoming video lectures:

The Gospel of Peter • The Secret Gospel of Mark

Modern Christianity is widely diverse in terms of its social structures, beliefs and practices. But this diversity is mild in comparison with Christianity during the first three centuries, when people claiming to be Christian did not agree on the most basic of issues. These video lectures, presented by Bart D. Ehrman, professor and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, consider the diversity among early Christians and situate the formation of the Christian "cannon" of Scripture.



## Dinner with Presentation by +Ruben Saturday June 22

Bishop Ruben Cabigting will make a presentation to a special gathering the evening of June 22. In honor of the Summer Solstice and St Alban's Day, we will be meeting for dinner at 5:00pm in the Social Area downstairs, participate in +Ruben's presentation from 6:00pm until 7:30pm. Around 7:30 we will have a Healing Service followed by Solemn Benediction.

## Complin - Friday May 17

A Complin Service will be led by Joshua Novak Friday, May 17 beginning at 7:00pm. The term Complin is derived from the Latin completorium, and has been given to prayers said at the close of the day.

## Incense Making Class Sunday, June 2

The next incense making class will be Sunday June 2 at 12:00pm. Contact Rabecca for more information.

## Church Picnic Sunday, August 25

The date for the Annual Church Picnic has been set - see the next newsletter for more details.



## Fellowship & Flapjacks

Join us after Holy Eucharist for our Fifth Sunday Pancake Breakfast, featuring of course pancakes, vegetarian sausage, hashbrowns and other yummy fixings. Visit with old friends, and make some NEW ones! **Bring a friend – All are welcome, and there is no charge.** We do ask everyone to bring an item to donate to a local food pantry.

Upcoming Dates: **June 30, 2013**  
**September 29, 2013**



## Did you know?

In 1909, Bela Lugosi played the role of Jesus Christ in a theatrical Passion Play. He was very taken with the role and had many photographs taken in character.

## Requiem

A Requiem Mass for John Ricci was held Saturday April 27th officiated by Rev. T. Metz. Family and friends met for lunch in our lower level social hall following the service.

*Rest in the eternal grant unto him, O Lord:  
and let light perpetual shine upon him.*



## May Birthdays

Aaron Provost .....	5/09
James Ascareggi .....	5/13
Dawn Regnier .....	5/15
Sophie Pietras .....	5/15
+WHD .....	5/18
Joshua Novak .....	5/23

## June Birthdays

Jeffrey Forth .....	6/09
Ijya Tulloss .....	6/13
Karli Provost .....	6/24



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<u>NEXT ISSUE</u>	<u>EXPECTED PUBLICATION DATE</u>	<u>LAST DAY FOR INCLUSION IN ISSUE</u>
Midsummer	June 14, 2013	June 1, 2013



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Seven Ray Rosaries are 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.  
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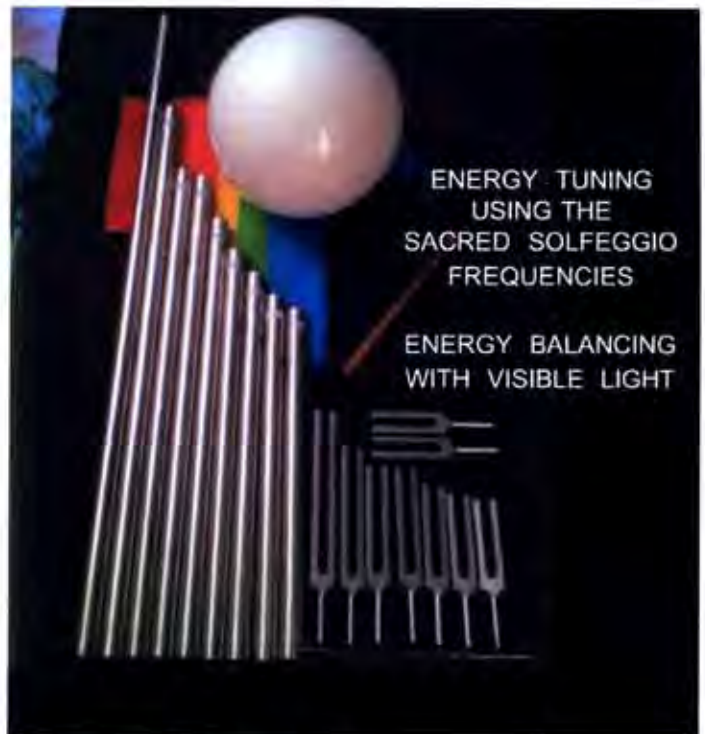
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5/19	WHITSUNDAY		Fr. Daniel	
5/26	TRINITY SUNDAY		Fr. Terrence	
6/02	Holy Rosary, <i>Octave of the Visitation of Mary</i> Trinity 2	<i>God as Light</i>	Rabeca Fr. Terrence	9:00am Healing service following Eucharist
6/05	First Wednesday Healing Service		Fr. Daniel	7:30pm
6/09	Trinity 3	<i>God as Ruler of Angels</i>	Fr. Daniel	11:30am LOST CHRISTIANITY LECTURE SERIES
6/16	Trinity 4	<i>God as Love</i>	Fr. Terrence	
6/22	St. Alban's Day / Summer Solstice			5:00pm Dinner 6:00pm Presentation by Bishop Ruben Cabigting 7:30pm Healing Service Solemn Benediction
6/23	Trinity 5	<i>God as Peace</i>	Fr. Daniel	
6/30	Trinity 6	<i>Steadfast Service</i>	Fr. Daniel	
7/03	First Wednesday Healing Service		Fr. Daniel	7:30pm
7/07	Trinity 7	<i>A day of devotion to the Holy Spirit</i>	Fr. Daniel	
7/14	Trinity 8	<i>Wisdom</i>	Fr. Terrence	11:30am Vestry Meeting
7/21	Trinity 9	<i>Confidence</i>	Fr. Daniel	11:30am LOST CHRISTIANITY LECTURE SERIES
7/28	Trinity 10	<i>Devotion</i>	Fr. Daniel	

## St. Francis Liberal Catholic Church

12 West School Street • Villa Park IL 60181 • 630-834-3320

HOLY EUCHARIST: Sundays at 10:00am. followed by refreshments and fellowship hour.

HEALING SERVICE: First Wednesday of the Month • ROSARY of the Seven Rays before Mass on Feast days of Our Lady

WEBSITE: <http://www.liberalcatholic.com>

Link to Map/ Directions, The Church Calendar, Past Newsletters and More! [facebook](#) The Church of St. Francis

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

### St. Francis Vestry & Congregational Guardians 2012-2013

Rev. Terrence Metz, *President* • Rev. James Ascareggi, *Vice President* • Dawn Regnier, *Junior Warden*  
Rabeca Collin, *Secretary* • Lori Jo Metz, *Treasurer* • Vicky Fitzmaurice, *Ladies' Guild President*  
Julie Hamilton • Frank Pepich • Rev. Daniel Provost • Carolyn Smith • Renee Turner

*This newsletter is published seven times a year: Christmas • Candlemas • Easter • Whitsuntide • Midsummer • Lammas • Autumn*  
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