



Church of St. Francis

The Liberal Catholic Church, Province of the USA
Villa Park, Illinois



The Passing of Rev. James Ascareggi

Right now, the English language is failing me. Our dear brother, Rev James Ascareggi, peacefully passed on to realms beyond our immediate reach, as of 4:19AM this morning.

Please keep James and his family and friends in your prayers, especially over the next 72 hours, as an important part of his next transition occurs.

On a sunny Easter morning at Mozart Street, I was the first person in The Liberal Catholic church to greet him, along with Julie Hamilton. Bishop Ruben and Rev Forth were the last to meet him, as they provided Last Rites on Sunday evening.

As the architect and designer of our beautiful church on School Street, his efforts have literally been memorialized in brick. Our primary altar cross and other appurtenances result directly from his efforts and generous contributions. James served our church with love, ardor, and consistency. His physical presence will be sorely missed, from his graceful posture to his handsome appearance—from his warm smile to his lovely, singing voice.

His contributions and expertise will likely never be matched, given his professional background in design (including the New York Metropolitan theater, aka the Met) and delicate taste. From overseeing contractors to his choice of colors—from arrangement of flowers to his stately service at the altar, James individually contributed thousands of hours to “church work” with unending love and attention to detail.

Baptized and originally Confirmed a Roman Catholic, James was elevated through the Deaconate by 2002. A constant voice on the Vestry and year-after-year as Vice-President and Senior Warden, James shaped our property, our services, and our hearts. “God” I will miss this man. Hopefully I will be as blessed in transition and greeted by others that surely are helping him now, especially Dimpna and Bishop Lawrence, frequent co-attendees at the Lyric Opera House, and exceptionally close friends outside of church as well.

James provided substantial design support when LoriJo and I built our house in Gurnee and later in Richmond as we remodeled a 100-year old bathroom. His choices suggestions had a daily impact on the environment we lived, grew, and raised our family. The same must be said of our ‘church family.’ James had a tremendous impact on our lives, and in his passing, he will be missed for many years to come.

God speed Brother James, and may the Light you seek, become more brilliant for you than it has ever been. You have certainly been a brilliant and shining part of our life experience, and we wish you all the best as you continue your service on other planes.

Rev. Terrence Metz, September 2, 2014



Holy Eucharist

"Eucharist" is from the Greek meaning "thanksgiving." The Holy Eucharist is the central act of Christian worship. Designed to help those who take part therein, it is intended also to pour out a great flood of spiritual power upon the surrounding world at large, and it summons the congregation to intelligent and energetic participation in this work. So real is this participation that the congregation may expect to feel a great spiritual upliftment.

Sundays at 10:00am

followed by refreshment and fellowship hour downstairs.

<u>CALENDAR</u>	<u>Intent</u>	<u>Celebrant/Leader</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
9/14 12th Sunday after Trinity	<i>Self-Dedication</i>	Rev. Terrence Metz	Vestry Meeting
9/21 13th Sunday after Trinity	<i>Good Works</i>	Rev. Jeffrey Forth	
9/28 14th Sunday after Trinity	<i>Renewal of Heart</i>	Rev. Jeffrey Forth	
10/5 15th Sunday after Trinity	<i>A day of devotion to the Holy Spirit</i>	Rev. Jeffrey Forth	11:30am Blessing of Animals
10/12 16th Sunday after Trinity	<i>Justice</i>	Rev. Jeffrey Forth	Church of St. Francis Annual Meeting Acceptance of the proposed 2014-2015 Vestry
10/19 17th Sunday after Trinity	<i>Spiritual Progress</i>	Rt Rev. Ruben Cabigting	TLCC Triennial Conference in Rio Rancho, New Mexico

Resignation of Rector

I am saddened to report that I have received and accepted the resignation of the Reverend Daniel Provost as rector of the Church of St. Francis Villa Park. Father Provost has resigned for personal reasons.

I have consulted with the Rector Emeritus Fr. Terrence Metz and he has kindly agreed to serve as interim Rector until the next regular congregational meeting. At which time the membership may suggest whom they wish to have appointed as rector for the next three year period.

I strongly recommend all Vestry and membership to read The General Constitution and code of canons of the LCC, The Provincial Constitution and canons of the LCC and the Bylaws of the Parish Church of St Francis. Please consider the last message received from our late Deacon James Ascareggie, "love one another"

which was the same message communicated by Our Lord Christ before he was crucified, A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34

+William Downey
Regionary Bishop
September 3, 2014

A Homily for the Nativity of Our Lady

Rabbecca Collin, Deaconess - The Church of St. Francis

Today we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lady. Last year I outlined some history regarding this feast day. Today, I would like to talk about the meaning of the word Nativity.

First, “the occasion of a person’s birth”. Humanity recognizes the incarnation of souls in varying degrees from common celebrations, to special days marked on a calendar, to feast days, to holidays. What this means to me, is that each nativity represents a potential that we must remember is divine in origin. The simple fact is that we all have had a nativity, every single one of us. Our diversity as individuals, and as a species among many, reveals the many ways the Divine Will works upon all creation. We all have a purpose, we all play a part in a greater scheme. Judge not your life on any futile scale of grandiosity. Scale only matters with how much LOVE we pour into the smallest of tasks.

Second, “The start of life as a physically separate being.” Jeremiah 1:5 says, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.” One may think that the only manner of separation between man and God is a physical one. However TLCC teaches that God is transcendent, and permeates through all creation. We can never in the truest sense be separated from God because we are part of God and God is a part of us. In our physical bodies we exist in a state of individuality living out a purpose. As we experience, as we learn, as we grow, as we become more aware, we begin to awaken to our state of unity with the divinity in ourselves, in others, in creation, and in God. Christ was aware of this unity in His many references that He was One with the Father. Can we consider ourselves not a part of the Universe? Can we consider any single one our cells as not a part of the body? The answer is no. Therefore we can not say we are not a part of God.

Third, The definition of the Latin word for nativity means “Arise by birth”. There are many references in Scripture to states of being asleep, or in slumber to states of being awake, or risen. Perhaps the state of sleep is allegory for dormancy. When we arise from dormancy we awaken in to a state of activity. Whether you believe in reincarnation or not, we live our life (or lives) with this innate drive to reach higher levels, to discover and fulfill our purpose, and we do this through activity.

If I may step outside of Christian phraseology. There is a Sanskrit term called Mulaprakriti which means “Root Matter”. On a cosmic scale, it is the Virgin Matter through which the Logos is manifested. Bishop Leadbeater writes in his book The Inner Side of Christian Festivals that the Nativity of Our Lady is symbolic of the formation of the Root Matter.

We can interpret the Nativity of Our Lady on a cosmic level as the formation of matter out of which the universe is formed. With regards to our evolution as spiritual beings during an earthly existence, it is the birth of the mother of the Christ, who lights a path for us all to ascend with Him to higher realms. And in our own lives, we are examples of divine potential manifesting in diverse ways endowed with an innate purpose that we live our lives in unfoldment of.

The simplest application of understanding of all this is contained in one of Rev T-Metz’s list of Triviums: It is the Trivium of the Trinity which is Will. Wisdom. and Activity.

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 Rabbecca Collin. The Rosaries are held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am before Holy Eucharist on days where a Mary Feast Day falls within the Octave. The 2014 schedule is:

1/12	Octave of the Solemnity of Mary
2/09	Octave of the Presentation of Our Lord
3/30	Octave of the Annunciation
6/01	Octave of the Visitation
8/24	Octave of the Assumption
9/14	Octave of the Nativity of Our Lady
10/19	Octave of the Our Lady of the Rosary
11/30	Octave of the Presentation of Our Lady
12/14	Octave of the Immaculate Conception

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 velour pouch, informational card, and certificate. They're \$25 each plus shipping cost. (compare at \$45-\$60 elsewhere.)

To order, email: stfrancisvillapark.org.

Triennial in Rio Rancho New Mexico

Please do tell me (Better still T-Metz) about firming your intention of going to the Triennial. The announcement is made and the new program includes the presence of the Presiding Bishop, hence I will not be making a presentation. I am glad that there will be Clergy and Server Training on Thursday 10/16/2014 at 1:30 to 5:00 pm. to include Music in the Eucharist - Presentation and Training on Saturday starting at 1:30 pm. We will also have a chance to meet, compare notes, and associate with fellow clergy, the PB, other Bishops and Priests of the Province.

I hope that the Rector delegates somebody (I suggest Dawn) to coordinate the plan for St Francis members attending the Triennial asap. I am guessing that the Regionary expects a good turnout from our church. Our parish Representative is Vicky Fitz-Maurice for this Triennial. For those who need financial assistance, maybe there is a possibility of getting some.

Best to you All and thank you.

In Christ our Lord.

+Ruben

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Ruben Cabigting

<http://www.comasonic.com>

<http://www.theosophical.org>

October 5 – Blessing of the Animals 11:30am

The annual Blessing of the Animals will be held immediately after the Eucharist on Sunday, October 5th in honor of the Feast of Saint Francis. Parishoners and neighbors are invited to bring their furry (and featherly and scaley) friends out to be blessed and receive a blessed St. Francis medal to put on their collar – (or wherever.)

October 12 – Annual Congregational Meeting 11:30am

November 9th – Vestry Meeting 11:30am

November 30th – 5th Sunday Pancake Breakfast 11:30am

with special presentation on Theosophical insights by + Ruben
who will be just back from his trip to Adyar, India

December 14th – Vestry Meeting 11:30am

St. Francis Liberal Catholic Church

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

WEBSITE: <http://www.liberalcatholic.com>  The Church of St. Francis

St. Francis Vestry & Congregational Guardians 2013-2014

Rev. Terrence Metz, *Rector Emeritus* • Dawn Regnier, *Warden* • Rev. Jeffrey, Jr. *Warden* • Rebecca Collin, *Secretary*
Lori Jo Metz, *Treasurer* • Vicky Fitzmaurice, *Ladies' Guild President* • Sandy Brigando
Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting • Pat Meike • Anita Pepich • Frank Pepich • Renee Turner

Newsletter schedule: Christmas • Candlemas • Easter • Whitsuntide • St. Alban's Day • Midsummer • Feast of St. Francis

Please send your current email address to fpepich@gmail.com so that we can continue to keep you informed and connected.

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