

Church of St. Francis



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

Christmas 2017



The Magical Aspects of Christmas

Festivals around the Winter Solstice have been celebrated for thousands of years before the birth of Jesus. Christmas represents a celebration of the birth of the Son of God and the Sun-God. What is this great Holy Day all about?

1) We are called upon to look back at the descent of the great disciple and Master Jesus. Such a birth is attended with unusual phenomena upon the higher planes, such as the gathering of the Angelic Hosts. Master Jesus reigns over the Sixth Ray, left of altar. The leading Archangel is Jophiel and His supporting Angels are focused on music. The Sixth Ray jewel is a ruby and the color is crimson. The Sixth Ray aspect is feminine and serves as protector of the spiritual forces of God. The primary virtues of the Sixth Ray include devotion and reverence.

2) We call to mind the descent of the Second Aspect of the Blessed Trinity into matter. We realize something of the Solar Deity's love for mankind and are moved today to cooperate with others who understand the privilege and honor serving of humanity—the modern expression being, Servient Leadership.

3) The world is steadily evolving and Christmas is a special time to remember spiritual ideals. Such truths may be distorted or misrepresented but the basic facts remain—in order to progress a person must be a good person, must live a high and pure and noble life, and must practice humanity's virtues—charity, nobility, self-control, temperance, patience, and love.

4) The birth of Christ is the Coming within the heart of each individual, the development of the Christ Principle within us—the connection of the Second Aspect of the Trinity with Christ the great World Teacher, many refer to the higher level as intuition. Intuition implies a wisdom



that knows, not by process of reasoning, but by utter inner certainty that the Christ Principle is within every one of us. It is being awakened as we realize that our separate consciousness is nothing but an illusion—that we are with each other. We may gain elevated consciousness by hard work and the constant practice of virtue. But the shortest, the most direct method of attaining the highest remains the deliberate awakening of the Christ within each human heart.

5) All great festivals provide special channels of force. If we are close to Him at all times, we can be certain that His Presence and influence come closer because there comes down upon us tremendous devotion, happiness, love, and blessings.

6) There is also the social Christmas of Dickens the feast of good fellowship, goodwill, kindness, comradeship, and gift giving. Such spirit should not exist solely on Christmas of

course, but since we are overwhelmed by noise in the world, it's nice to have one day when the Christian world agrees to practice brotherhood



and joy for others—for our Christmas joy can only be perfect when we share it with others, especially others less fortunate than ourselves.

7) Let Christmas enter into our hearts and our souls, and let us try to feel the peace that Angels sang so long ago . . . “Glory to God on the highest . . . Peace on earth and goodwill to all.”

Terrence O Metz

Rev. Terrence O. Metz
Rector, Church of St. Francis LCC

"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel . . . A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6

Thoughts on Advent



“Tis the Season.” Advent is the beginning of the church year, and symbolizes the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. People celebrate this time of year in many ways. Christians wait for their Savior to be born and eventually return. To paraphrase a well-known president: ask not what your savior can do for you, but ask how you can help a troubled world.

We all decorate our homes with Christmas lights, have we ever thought of decorating our homes, and nation using the Christ Light within us. May this new year be filled with acts of compassion, peace, and good will toward all people. May you have a very Merry Christmas, and your light within radiate out to enlighten the world throughout the New Year.

Fr. Jeffrey

It is fitting that the feast day of the Presentation of Mary should fall days before the beginning of Advent.

We should invite our Heavenly Mother into the temple of our hearts, for she represents the fullness of grace we all require to become “God Bearers” ourselves, so that we may rightly carry His light within us out into the world so that it may shine radiantly upon anywhere there is darkness.

Advent is a time of preparation. As the hymn says “Let every heart prepare him room.”

Peoples of all different faiths are preparing for the return of the Light. Let us keep the multi-colored lamps burning for the night is darkest before the dawn.

Sr. Rabecca

Christmas Services



The 4th Sunday in Advent

Sunday December 24, 2017

10:00am Holy Eucharist



Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Sunday December 24, 2017

Church opens at 10:30pm

11:30pm Holy Eucharist



First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday December 31, 2017

10:00am Holy Eucharist

All are invited to our pancake breakfast
following the service

The Church of St. Francis

12 West School Street

Villa Park IL 60181

(630) 592-8482



Holy Eucharist

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.

SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM

followed by refreshments and fellowship

Celebrating the Centennial year of our founding, The Liberal Catholic Church provides a bridge between the Catholicism of the past and the future, carrying all that was most beautiful in the old Catholicism into the new age. It hopes to become even more-so a distributing agent of esoteric teaching. It leaves its members free in matters of belief. Its clergy regard it as their chief work to be “stewards of the Mysteries of God”, and look upon the Christian Church as a great brotherhood of all who turn to Christ as the inspirer of their spiritual life, their Master and Friend, and consider that his sacraments should be given freely to anyone who reverently desire them, without any conditions being imposed in the way of intellectual restriction.

“Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.”

G.K. Chesterton



The Church of St Francis is the Chicagoland parish of The Liberal Catholic Church, Province of the USA that has steadfastly served the spiritual needs of our community by freely offering the sacraments to seekers in Chicago and the surrounding area since 1925.

Visit our website at www.liberalcatholic.com

The Liberal Catholic Church is an independent and self-governing body; neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant--but Catholic. It derives its Episcopal Succession through the Old Catholic Church and came into existence as a separate body in 1916. It aims at combining the traditional sacramental form of worship--with its stately ritual, its deep mysticism, and its abiding witness to the reality of sacramental grace--with the widest measure of intellectual liberty and respect for the individual conscience. It therefore permits to its members' freedom of interpretation of the Scriptures, the Creeds, and the Liturgy. Regarding the mind as one of the great avenues to spiritual understanding, it encourages among its adherents the freest play of scientific or philosophic thought. Its Apostolic Success is accepted as valid by all branches of the Catholic Church; it maintains the seven historical sacraments and the Holy Eucharist as its primary service of worship.



Theosophical Study Group

Third Sunday of the Month

The Besant Hall Theosophical Study Center meets at Noon on the third Sunday of each month at the Annie Besant Hall, 12 W. School Street in Villa Park. Please meet us in the community room located in the church basement following Sunday Mass. For more information, contact Jeffrey Forth: 630-836-0215
email: aspirant38@yahoo.com



Spud Sunday

Fourth Sunday of the Month

Join us for baked potatoes following Sunday Mass on the fourth Sunday of every month. Bring a topping to share. Contact Vicky or Rabecca for more information.



Pancake Breakfast

Fellowship & Flapjacks

Fifth Sunday of the Month

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

Upcoming Dates: December 31, 2017
 April 29, 2018

(July 29, September 30, December 30)

St. Francis Vestry & Congregational Guardians 2017-2018

Rev. Terrence Metz – President

Dawn Regnier – Vice President

Rev. Jeffrey Forth – Warden

Rabecca Collin – Secretary

Lori Jo Metz – Treasurer

Annie Pepich – Assistant Treasurer

Vicky Fitzmaurice – Ladies' Guild President

Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting – President Emeritus

Chuck Bermingham --Kathleen McNamara

Frank Pepich



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<http://www.liberalcatholic.com>



The Church of St. Francis

Rabecca provides a live stream of the Mass on most Sundays through Facebook! Contact her through our Facebook site for more information

Newsletter Schedule:

Christmas • Easter

St. Alban's Day/Midsummer

Feast of St. Francis (Annual Report)

Editor: Frank Pepich

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