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FALL 2017

The Canticle OF ST. FRANCIS

QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 3

ALL-DAY PRAYER FOR PEACE

Prayer and all-day Confession set for Oct. 12

Lasting peace begins with conversion of heart fueled by prayer. During this 100th anniversary of the message of Our Lady of Fatima, please set aside some time on Thursday, October 12 to pray for peace with the community at St. Francis. Come pray for peace in your family, work, and in our world. Come experience

the Lord's peace in your own heart through prayer and the sacrament of Reconciliation.

On Thursday, October 12, Holy Mass is celebrated at 9:15 a.m. in Church and is followed by all-day prayer and confession available until 10 p.m.

Different prayers, songs, and

meditations will be led every hour before the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist. Commit yourself to prayer for peace during this time of God's mercy.

Check our website For more information at www.stfrancisa2.com/ or call 821-2100.

MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

'Stories of Peace' held Oct. 6 and Oct. 21

Perhaps no other virtue is more associated with Francis than peace. His most common greeting of others was, "May the Lord give you peace."

Join us as we celebrate our parish patron saint with *Stories of Peace*.

Mark your calendars for:

- Friday, October 6 for drinks, hors d'oeuvres & talks of peace
- Saturday, October 21, 5 p.m. Mass followed by an Italian dinner with talks of peace.

Let us know you are coming by registering online at the parish website.

For more information, contact Marty Lucas at 734-821-2125 or mlyucas@stfrancisa2.org

PARISH ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

FATHER ROGELIO

“WHEN
THEY
CAME TO
JERUSALEM,
THEY WERE
WELCOMED
BY THE
CHURCH
AND THE
APOSTLES
AND THE
ELDERS,
AND THEY
DECLARED
ALL THAT
GOD HAD
DONE
WITH
THEM.”
Acts 15:4

WELCOME, PADRE ROGELIO!

As part of our continued efforts to serve our ethnically and culturally diverse parish family, we are establishing a new weekly Mass in Spanish, starting Sept. 16.

Please join us in welcoming **Father Rogelio Bañuelos Castro**, who will be celebrating Mass at the chapel every Saturday at 7 p.m. and the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6 p.m. in the choir room, both in Spanish.

Fr. Rogelio was born in Zacatecas, Mexico, and was ordained for the Diocese of Texcoco on Aug. 15, 1990. He served in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 2008-2013 and for the next three years will live in Jackson, MI, serving the Hispanic community of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. Father Rogelio will be commuting from Jackson every Saturday. Please keep him in your prayers, along with our other devoted priests and deacons.



BIENVENDO, PADRE ROGELIO!

Como parte de nuestro esfuerzo continuo por servir a nuestra diversa familia parroquial, a partir del 16 de septiembre estableceremos una nueva Misa semanal en español.

Acompañennos a darle la más cordial bienvenida al Padre Rogelio Bañuelos Castro, quien, todos los sábados celebrará nuestra Santa Misa en español a las 7 p.m. en la capilla y también escuchará confesiones a las 6 p.m. en el salón del coro.

El Padre Rogelio nació en el estado de Zacatecas, México. Fue ordenado para la diócesis de Texcoco, el 15 de agosto de 1990.

Sirvió en la Arquidiócesis de Chicago entre los años 2008-2013 y durante los próximos 3 años vivirá en Jackson, MI, sirviendo La Comunidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. El Padre Rogelio viajará de Jackson todos los sábados.

Por favor, manténganlo en sus oraciones, al igual que a nuestros otros sacerdotes y diáconos.

PARISH OPPORTUNITIES

COME AWAY ON PILGRIMAGE

Experience new insights and moments of grace

A pilgrimage is a spiritual and educational time when we enter into the live memory of the Christian message. We discover new insights and discern moments of grace. We return to our daily lives passing along those small positive changes formed in our life to others. Join Fr. James Conlon for one of the upcoming pilgrimages:

Marian apparition site in the world. An information session on our Mexican pilgrimage will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel (located downstairs in Church).

Learn more and sign up at: stfrancisa2.com/pilgrimage-mexico

Pilgrimage Vineyard: Sept. 12 & 13

This overnight pilgrimage to Old Mission Peninsular (Traverse City), MI is a mini-retreat experience exploring more deeply the many biblical references to the vineyard and Christian life.

Learn more and sign up at: stfrancisa2.com/pilgrimage-vineyard

Check our parish website for more upcoming pilgrimages.



Steve Ray's "Footprints of God" Mexico pilgrimage Nov. 27 - Dec. 6, 2017

We'll explore our shared Catholic heritage of sites in Mexico important to our Faith, including the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the most visited



Middle School Youth Group

Join us for the Middle School Youth Group gathering event on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 3:30 p.m. in the PAC. We'll pray together, enjoy a banana split bar, and plan the activities and service events for the year. Sign up by showing up on Sunday, Sept. 24! For questions, contact Catherine Anderson or Andrew Kanitz at stfreled@stfrancisa2.org or 821-2130.

MASS AND POTLUCK FOR MOMS!

Moms, bring your children and join us for morning Mass followed by a potluck and playgroup:

Friday, September 22

Mass at 8:15 a.m.

(in church)

Potluck & Playgroup

9:15-11 a.m.

(in Rectory basement)

Bring a breakfast dish to share. We'll provide the drinks and lots of toys and activities for the kids.



Through prayer, presentations and shared experiences, we help each other understand and nurture God's presence in our lives, our families and our homes. Come share your intentions, experiences and ideas in a supportive environment.

Come connect with other active moms on a diverse range of topics, participate in service projects, book reviews and more!

PARISH LIFE

SENIORS AT ST. FRANCIS (55 & FASTER)

Growing in age and grace, we invite our peers to share the faith and serve Christ in a variety of ways, especially through our parish. Help us plan by signing up at stfrancisa2.com or call (734) 821-2121.

Recognition Mass and Luncheon

The Washtenaw Catholic Council on Aging with the Diocese of Lansing has scheduled the annual Senior Appreciation - Senior Recognition Mass and Luncheon for **11 a.m. on**

Thursday, Sept. 21.

The hosting parish is St. Joseph Parish, Dexter (country church: 6805 Mast Road, Dexter).

Suggested donation is \$10. Please RSVP by Sept. 11.

Please sign-up on our parish website or, contact **Scott Wright** (821-2121) or email swright@stfrancisa2.org

JOIN US AT THE PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, Sept. 10 after the 12:30 p.m. Mass until 4 p.m.

Bring your favorite side dish, salad or dessert to share. We'll provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks.

There will be fun activities for all ages! Join us for music, dancing, beer garden for the adults; bounce house, face-painting, games and activities for the little ones; bingo, chalk-art contest, religious articles and info on the Centennial celebration of Our Lady of Fatima, and much more!



VOLUNTEER! Can you lend some of your time to help make the picnic a success? Sign up at: stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms or contact Kelly Hernandez at khernandez@stfrancisa2.org.



BEER AND BRATS WITH THE PADRES

*"Prayer is the best weapon we possess.
It is the key that opens the heart of God." –Padre Pio*

All men are invited to join us for evening prayer on the feast of St. Padre Pio, Friday, Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in church. Afterwards, join our own Padres, Fr. James and Fr. Shaun, for beer, brats, and camaraderie.

Let us know you're coming at stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms.

OUTREACH AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

APPLY NOW TO BECOME A STEPHEN MINISTER

Training begins in October

Do you have a friend who listens? Who listens to you? Do you have a desire to be a better listener?

Our Lord says, "When you call me, and come and pray to me, **I will listen to you.** When you look for me, you will find me." (Jeremiah 29:11-13) "Cast all your worries upon me because I care for you." (1 Peter 5:7) **Everyone who listens** to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock." (Matthew 7:24)

The pain of grief, the fears of critical illness, difficult relationships, and the stress of job loss are just a few life changing situations impacting us every day. The Lord our God is especially close to the

broken hearted, providing healing and meeting all of our needs.

Stephen Ministers are well trained listeners. Stephen Ministers administer Christ's care on behalf of St. Francis Parish and our pastoral team (since 2005). Our Stephen Ministers offer support by listening, praying with their care receivers, and being present to provide trust and acceptance that God can bring the hope and healing.

Our next training series (50 hours) begins on a Thursday evening in October. This is a wonderful ecumenical training experience. Complete the application and learn more: stfrancisa2.com/stephen Questions: **Scott Wright** 821-2121; swright@stfrancisa2.org

Serve A Meal for the Hungry / Third Fridays of each month at 3 or 5 p.m. / Delonis Center Shelter /Bridget (734) 665-9549 abcuddy@gmail.com

Jail Ministry Orientation Saturday, Sept 23, / 9-11:30 a.m. / at jail / RSVP Scott Wright (821-2121) swright@stfrancisa2.org

Compassionate Communication Practice Group Learn about this practical approach to real peace in our world, our relationships, and our hearts. Contact Scott at our Parish Office

Advent/Christmas Giving Tree You can help... Set-up Friday, Nov.24 & return gifts by Sunday, Dec. 10. stfrancisa2.com/giving-tree/

BRINGING FATIMA TO THE HOMEBOUND



The 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima is generating a renewed peace in the hearts of all during our Communion services with homebound parishioners. With the blessing and support of Fr. James and the St. Francis parish community, parishioners are accompanying our homebound ministers during services which include Communion and Fatima prayers for peace. Visits are taking place until late October. Families are also invited to volunteer. See the DATES and TIMES of all our services for homebound at:

www.stfrancisa2.com/homebound-ministry/

Thank you.

Scott Wright (821-2121) swright@stfrancisa2.org and **Ellen Ward.**

OUTREACH AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Party for
Foundations
Preschool**

Our St. Francis Parish family will provide and host a **Christmas dinner party** for the local charity organization, Foundations Preschool of Ann Arbor, which benefits the at-risk low-income children and families of our area.

DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 5 in the St. Francis Parish Activities Center (PAC).

Parishioners can participate by providing dishes for the party or serving at the party. The buffet-style meal serves about 200 persons.

Please sign up on website to help, or contact the Parish St. Vincent Service Ministry Office, (821-2121) or justice@stfrancisa2.org

FOOD DRIVE NOVEMBER 12

Help stock our local food pantries



Food and groceries are needed for those who use the food pantries in our area.

We need you! Help distribute the empty bags with the shopping list after a Mass on the first weekend, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 4 and 5. St. Francis parishioners shop and purchase some of the items listed on the empty grocery bags, then return the groceries in the bag at Masses the following weekend. Then on Sunday, Nov. 12, come to the school gym to help load/deliver groceries.

Please sign-up on website to help, or contact the Parish St. Vincent Service Ministry Office, (821-2121) justice@stfrancisa2.org

Meeting Present Needs: Building For The Future

For Year Ended June 30, 2017

2017 Annual Report

To the People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Dear fellow parishioners,

By now you will have heard that we are undertaking a capital campaign to build a new parish hall and ministry center. This dream has long been spoken of and has finally become a possibility. After much discussion and sharing, our plan is to use the opportunity of the upcoming diocesan capital campaign to run a combined campaign with a goal of \$8 million dollars over a five year period. This new center, located on the west side of the church, will hopefully meet our ever growing needs as a parish and provide us with the necessary space that we need to carry out our wide variety of ministries and works. My prayer is that all our parishioners will join us in this worthy endeavor. Hence the above theme!

People often ask what makes St. Francis Parish so special? In many ways it is the rich diversity of her people as well as the wide variety of her many ministries. Hopefully you will get a taste of that diversity and variety from this annual report. Once again it comes as part of our Fall Canticle allowing you the reader to see the breadth of our ministries and to put them in a wider parish context. It is our hope that once you have read this you will pass it on to others and use it as an invitation for them to connect with our community of faith. Together let us be the Lord's presence while continuing to build for the future.

Fr. James Conlon
Pastor

Worship

"The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the font from which all her power flows."
Sacrosanctum Concilium 10



In our celebration of the Mass we become one with the Risen Christ. St. Francis Parish seeks to build up and enhance participation in music and liturgy at all levels and to offer all an opportunity to share their talents for the glory of God. Our new director of Music and Worship, Jonathan Hasey, worked to increase collaboration among the parish's music groups and to recruit new members (total musicians 200+). Sue Wawrzaszek, coordinator of worship, recruited and trained new readers, altar servers, and ministers of Holy Communion, and provided scheduling for these 335 volunteers. Highlights for the year included Holy Week liturgies, the Living Nativity, Taize and Tenebrae prayer services, and the Handbell Choir Anniversary Concert. This year as part of our Lenten and Easter celebrations we invited members of the Chaldean and Byzantine Catholic communities to share with us their traditions and liturgical life—reminding us of that rich prayer and liturgical diversity within the universal Church.

We began offering a weekly bilingual Sunday 5PM Mass in English and Spanish last Fall. Our Hispanic brothers and sisters have taken on greater roles of leadership at this liturgy in both worship and music. As we closed the Jubilee Year of Mercy last November, we again offered "Coffee & Chat with a Priest" in the PAC - an All-Day Confession, with over 600 people attending, supported by 23 priests from greater Ann Arbor. NEW this time: confession in Spanish was available. A Lenten All-Day Confession in March, provided more than 400 individuals an opportunity for God's mercy.

Evangelization

*"Because she believes
in God's universal
plan of salvation,
the Church must be
missionary."
Catechism of the
Catholic Church 851*

St. Francis Parish strives to share God's love by word and deed with others, inviting all to a personal relationship with Christ within a supportive faith family. This year, a new parish web-site welcomes visitors and provides quick and easy access to information about our Parish and School. Its adaptive display accommodates phones, tablets and computers. Also, a new public Google Calendar shares information about upcoming parish events and their locations.

We also continued the practice of inviting all of our new parishioners to semi-annual welcoming events for new parishioners. These are opportunities for new parish members to meet with the pastor, the members of the pastoral council and local neighbor coordinators.



Lenten Reflections in Spanish

St. Francis Parish continues to build up its Hispanic Ministry and to welcome and include our diverse Spanish-speaking community in the life of the parish. Collaboration among ministry leaders and the Facilitator of Hispanic Ministry, Claudia Morales, increased awareness and accommodation for Spanish speakers in our parish ministries and school via bilingual resources and one-on-one relationships. Activities this year included V Encuentro (a diocesan think-tank), and a small faith-sharing group for Spanish speakers. Beginning September 16th we are pleased to announce the introduction of a weekly Mass in Spanish on Saturdays at 7pm with Confessions at 6pm. Our current bilingual 5PM Mass on Sunday evening will continue year round.

Faith Formation for Youth

*"The Church is bound
as a mother to give to
these children of hers
an education by which
their whole life can be
imbued with the spirit
of Christ." Gravissimum
Educationis 3*

St. Francis Parish and School seek to assist parents in forming and teaching their children in our Catholic faith so that they may become missionary disciples who share freely their faith and hope with others. To this end all our educational efforts are about accompanying our families in living the faith and creating the necessary experience for all generations to grow in their faith. Through family pilgrimages, cultural sharings and prayer services from different Catholic traditions, our students live their catechetical experience. Our parish's new Director of Youth Ministry, Jake Kanitz, has expanded the opportunities for youth involvement including more youth group meetings and retreats. A joint Confirmation Mass at Hill Auditorium with St. Andrew Parish, Saline rounded out this year's achievements, with 121 St. Francis students being confirmed.



First Eucharist



St. Francis School students at Mass

Our school also worked to provide more faith formation opportunities for students and families to participate in parish life. Scott Wright, Director of Social Outreach, began to teach in the school with the goal of connecting what is going on at parish level with classroom formation. Last year he shared with the students about our Lenten giving to help the Christian community in Kottapuram in India. Next year he will be joined in this goal by our Director of Music and our Youth Minister. Other exciting accomplishments for our school include renewed accreditation, a budget that does not rely on annual fundraising or appeals, and the formation of a Newcomers Committee to connect new families to current ones and usher them into parish life.



Sunday Family Rel. Ed.

Adult Faith Formation

As a pilgrim people journeying together towards Heaven, we witness to and support one another in faith. St. Francis Parish seeks to help all grow in knowledge and relationship with Christ and his Church. Ongoing adult formation is one of the great growth areas in our community that calls for additional space.



Adult small faith-sharing groups have grown to include 100+ members in 11 groups, including groups for young adults, mothers of young children, and Spanish speakers. Events such as the Common Conference, the Women's Day of Reflection, and both Friday Breakfast & Talk series on Mercy and Resurrection encouraged parishioners to discover new aspects of their faith and grow in their understanding of Church teaching. At the Parish Picnic, groups and ministries hosted various activities, inviting attendees to further participation in parish life. A new Men's Ministry provides opportunities for prayer, fellowship and discussion among the men of

the parish. New sponsor couples have joined the effort to help engaged couples explore the sacramental nature of Matrimony. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults continues to guide candidates to become intentional disciples of Christ in the Catholic Church. Other groups such as the Divorced and Separated continue to work hard to help parishioners in their time of need, and our now annual workshop to help those who are grieving *"Grieving with Great Hope"*, continues to flourish.

"Nobody in the Church of Jesus Christ should feel excused from receiving catechesis." Catechesi Tradendae 45

ATTENDANCE	
100+ adults	11 small groups
45 women	Day of Reflection
275 adults	Common Conference offering 19 topics
125 adults	Friday Breakfast&Talk
50 adults	Stories of Mercy
7 adults	RCIA new members
4 adults	Confirmed
40 adults	Bible Study in Chapel
12 adults	Gospel Group-weekly
171 pilgrims	3 Parish Pilgrimages

Social Justice

"When we attend to the needs of those in want, we give them what is theirs, not ours. More than performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice." Catechism of the Catholic Church 2446

Outreach to the vulnerable in our community is central to the Christian way of life. St. Francis Parish sponsors many service opportunities to assist those in need in our local community and beyond. New leaders stepped forward this year to coordinate the bi-annual service week at Alpha House (for families), as well as our parish Elizabeth Ministry that provides temporary help to those experiencing a life-changing event. Here again a new parish center will allow us to expand our outreach ministries and/or services to welcome and care for the needs of the vulnerable, strangers, homeless, hungry, thirsty, and ill members of our greater community. The 2017 Lenten giving for the Diocese of Kottapuram in India was: \$12,7565.85 and the bishop there has contacted Fr. James to express his gratitude for our generosity. Likewise our Holy Week collection for the Christian Communities in the Middle East raised \$9,286.00 to assist our brothers and sisters in this time of turmoil and difficulty. Through our three food drives, parishioners donated and helped deliver 1,545 bags of food.



Giving Tree and Food Drive



Parish members at Donate A Day 2017 to help our needy Seniors



2017 Annual Report

Meeting Present Needs:

Parish Operations

"The Church is both visible and spiritual, a hierarchical society and the Mystical Body of Christ. She is one, yet formed of two components, human and divine. That is her mystery, which only faith can accept." Catechism of the Catholic Church 779

Careful administration and operations of St. Francis of Assisi Parish ensures that all our resources, financial and otherwise, are used for the most efficient purposes and ultimately for the building up of the Kingdom of God. We strive to recycle as much as possible, cut down on paper usage and to encourage all to communicate electronically.

Our feasibility study invited parishioner feedback on plans to build our new Hall and Ministry Center. More information about the results of the feasibility study and the current campaign can be found at stfrancisa2.com/witness-to-hope or by calling the Parish Office (734-821-2100).

Conclusion

No report can adequately describe the numerous and diverse activities of our large, dynamic parish and school. By highlighting a sample of our major accomplishments each year in an Annual Report, we communicate our priorities as a parish and we invite all members to take on a greater role in parish life. Whatever your talents, there is a place for you to serve.

Count the ways ...

Baptisms: 72 infant/child, 13 adults
Prepared for Baptism: 83 parents
Weddings at St. Francis: 12
Prepared for marriage: 19 couples
First Eucharist: 103 students
Confirmations: 132 youth & adults
Funerals: 48
Coffee & Chat with a Priest: 1,000 people
with 23 priests
Newly registered Parish Families: 300
Total registered households: 2,815



StFrancisA2.com

For more information about parish events, initiatives and fellowship learn more at our website: StFrancisA2.com

Parish Year end Financial Statement. Our parish year end financial statement has been posted to our website, and copies are available to pick up in our Parish Office.

Parish Pastoral Plan. Our Parish Pastoral Plan for 2015-2020 is being implemented. It is also posted on our website.

Have an idea?

Your Pastor and Pastoral Team value your input for continued growth and improvement. Please contact Fr. James Conlon, at frjames@stfrancisa2.org

REGISTER NOW FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes begin the last week of September

"Are you looking for empty thrills in life or do you want to feel a power that can give you a lasting sense of life and fulfillment? Empty thrills or a power of grace? To find fulfillment, to gain new strength, there is a way. It is not a thing or an object, but a person, and he is alive. His name is Jesus Christ."—Pope Francis

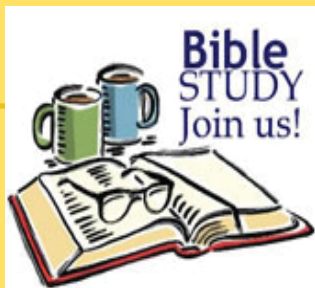
Parents, give your child the gift of faith in Jesus Christ. Religious Education classes, including sacramental preparation, for children (not attending our Catholic school) begin the last week in September. Register preK through 8th grade student at: <http://www.stfrancisa2.com/kids/>

We offer a family program on Sundays that prepare the child for a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ, and a traditional class on Wednesday evenings. Dates and times are available on the registration form and in more detail on our website.

If finances or language are a difficulty for you, we can help! Contact us at stfreled@stfrancisa2.org or 821-2130.

God bless you!

Julie Kanitz, Helena Bichakjian (en español), or Ellen Ward, Director at ward@stfrancisa2.org



FALL BIBLE STUDY: THE WRITINGS OF PAUL

Jeff Cavins once said: "The dynamic Catholic, the modern Catholic, *has to be, first and foremost, a disciple of Christ. If you're going to be a*

disciple of Christ, you have to meet him regularly in Word and Sacrament."

Of all the writings of Paul, none have made so significant a contribution to Christian life and identity

as the Letter to the Galatians and the Letter to the Romans. We will study how these two letters unite in projecting a common vision of God as a God of grace. They both call for a human response of faith and love.

Our Bible Study meets twice monthly beginning in late September and ends in April. We offer each session on Tuesday morning and Thursday. For more information, contact Marty Lucas (821-2125 or email mlucas@stfrancisa2.org).

ST. FRANCIS PARISH SCHOOL

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Social justice ministry & service among themes

St. Francis School has been busy getting the school year underway. We welcome some new faculty members to our team:

- * KB - Lisa Garnaut
- * 3A - Katie Rivard
- * 4A - long-term: Lisa Genova Isserstedt until Mid-October - Will transition through early November
- * 6A - Kathryn Dhitirojana (from 3rd Grade)
- * 6B - Allison Schreiber
- * PE - Mike Smith

Middle School teaching assignments:

- * Sue Waldecker- 7th LA, 8th HR/8B Religion
- * Sra. Gabriella Liburdi- 6-8th Spanish
- * Sra. Anna Damiani- K-5 Spanish; 8A Religion

They are all very excited and have been spending the summer planning for a great year ahead. Throughout the year, the students and teachers will be focusing on five main curriculum and faith learning studies: Social Justice Ministry and Service, Differentiation in Mathematics, Writing Workshop model with studies of various genres, unified Behavior Management, and teacher Mindfulness and Prayer studies.

Throughout the year, the students will be studying ways to bring social justice practices into their daily lives, and most importantly into the classrooms and their relationships with others. Last year was a brief overview, but this year we will be focusing on one social justice theme each month.



This year we are diving deeper into differentiation practices for mathematical instruction. Students will be challenged at their level and be able to get more in-depth instruction on the skills they need assistance with, whether it be advanced work or intervention. The teachers participated in some professional development in August and will continue collaborations and reviewing practices throughout the year.



This year we renewed our writing instructional materials. Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, the teachers reviewed various materials from different publishers. The teachers and administration decided that we will be using the Write Source Curriculum along with the Houghton-Mifflin Grammar Materials. These resources will serve as curriculum maps and guides as the students participate in a Writing Workshop model.

The teachers are finalizing plans for research-based behavior management systems so there is consistency across grade levels. We are excited for Kindergarten-2nd grade, 3rd grade- 5th grade, and 6th-8th grade to have similar systems.

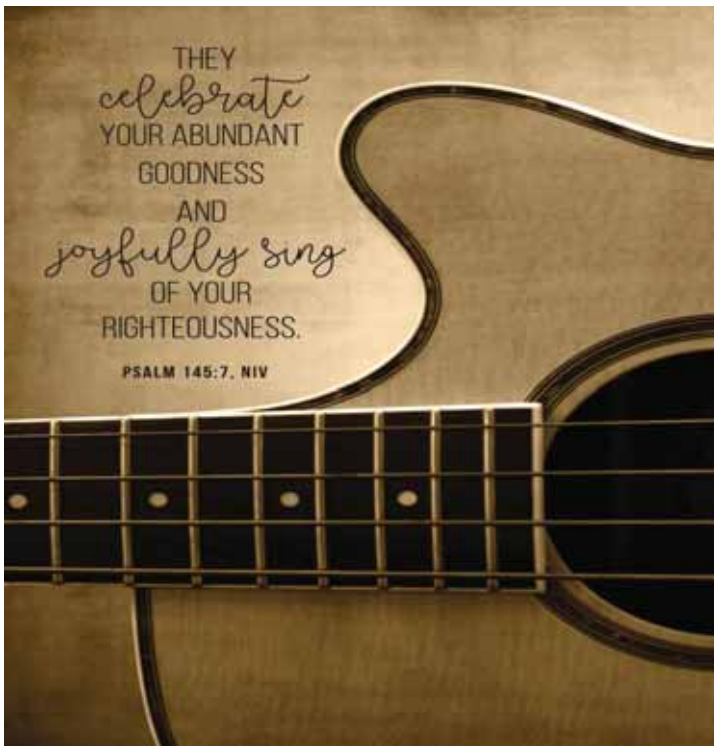
Lastly, the teachers, staff, and administration will be studying mindfulness and prayer throughout the year. Oftentimes mindfulness can be used in combination with formalized prayer and faith-based meditation. As a staff, we will be looking into using these practices for ourselves and how we approach our teaching profession. In the years ahead we will be taking steps to integrate for students at school, and then share the resources for families at home.

We are excited about another year ahead. Please keep St. Francis School, staff, and families in your prayers.

— Julie Fantone Pritzel, Principal

SO MANY WAYS TO MAKE YOUR PRAISE HEARD!

Sing, ring, or play an instrument for your parish



TRY CHOIR!

Wednesday, Oct. 4 and Sunday, Oct. 8

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be in the choir? Do you like to sing, but worry that you don't have enough experience in choirs or any formal training? Fear not!! "Try Choir! Sunday" was designed just for you!

Join us for Adult Parish Choir rehearsal on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the church. After an evening of inspiring music making, we will round out our time in fellowship with a light reception in the gathering space of the church.

"Try Choir! Sunday" culminates in our celebration on Sunday, October 8 at 10:30 a.m. Mass (beginning with 10:00 a.m. choir warm-up). If you have loved choir, you can choose to stay with us for the season, and if not, then we'll just be happy to have gotten to know you. For more information, contact Ginger Herrmann at gherrmann@stfrancisa2.org

*All Instrumentalists and Vocalists in Middle School, High School, or College (Young Adults) are invited to join the **PARISH YOUTH BAND!***

The YOUTH BAND plays twice a month at the 12:30 p.m. Sunday Mass (usually the 1st and 3rd), rehearsing just before. If you are interested in joining, please email Kelly Hernandez at: khernandez@stfrancisa2.org or see Ted Emch near the organ after 12:30 p.m. Mass.

Share your musical talent for the glory and praise of God!

Join the PARISH CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Come learn, develop, and share the gift of song that the Lord has given you!

The PARISH CHILDREN'S CHOIR is open to all children in the parish in grades K-8 and sings at one 12:30 p.m. Mass every month, as well as Christmas Eve and Easter. Middle School students are needed to help with the younger singers. Rehearsals begin soon!

For more information contact Kelly Hernandez at khernandez@stfrancisa2.org.

RING-A-BELL Sunday: Oct. 8th

If you want to try ringing a handbell, this is your chance! On Sunday, October 8th come up to the bell tables (by the organ) after any Mass; members of our handbell choirs will show you how to ring the bells. If you might be interested in joining one of our handbell choirs, you can learn more about that, too. Children accompanied by an adult are also welcome to try the bells.

For more information contact Ginny Birchler at gbirchler@stfrancisa2.org

RCIA



AN INVITATION

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

God works in many different ways: through ordinary people and events; other times, God calls during crisis moments or major life changes. Whether ordinary or notable, perhaps you have been considering becoming Catholic. Perhaps the desire to join your spouse and children at the Lord's Table in Eucharist is stronger now than it had been previously.

The process for becoming Catholic involves going through a period of investigation and instruction, like an apprenticeship. This is called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), and through it you learn about Catholicism and the Catholic way of life.

The RCIA is about developing a more intimate relationship with the God who loved us into being. It is about discernment and deepening one's relationship with Jesus Christ and to experience Christ as he is present to us in prayer, the Sacraments, and in the community of believers.

If you are actively practicing another faith, this invitation is in no way trying to pull you away from that faith. You are *always welcome at St. Francis of Assisi no matter your religious affiliation.*

The resolve to follow Jesus consciously and intentionally with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength is what the Christian call to discipleship is all about. Once made, that decision will be the controlling decision that drives everything in the life of the disciple of Jesus Christ. Here begins the New Life.

If you have been thinking a bit more about Catholicism, perhaps this is the year for you to begin the RCIA process. For more information, contact Marty Lucas (821-2125, mlucas@stfrancisa2.org).

[Photo: Easter Vigil 2017—we welcomed new members]



St. Paul says,
 “destroy
 arguments
 and every
 pretension
 raising itself
 against the
 knowledge
 of God, and
 take every
 thought captive
 in obedience
 to Christ”
 (2 Cor 10:5)

TRUNK N' TREAT FESTIVAL

This year's theme: Peace as Lived Out by the Saints



Our 2017 theme is the Peace as Lived Out by the Saints. "May there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be."
(St. Teresa of Avila)



Join us for a Trunk n' Treat and All Saints Festival on Wednesday, Oct. 25 in the parking lot (near the PAC/church) beginning at 6:30 p.m. and then continuing with a festival of Saints in the Parish Activities Center (PAC) until 8 p.m.

What: Trunk n' Treat is a festival of treats (car trunk to car trunk) and children's games and activities in the Parish Activities Center (PAC) with the 2017 theme of Peace as Lived Out by the Saints in this 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima.

Why: To have fun and share our faith with one another!

Who: For toddlers, preschoolers, and children grade K-5 with middle school and high school volunteers.

How: High School and Middle School youth and families: please decorate the trunk of your car keeping in mind the theme. Please provide some yummy treats too. Parents, bring and park the car by 6 p.m.

Contact: Catherine Anderson at canderson@stfrancisaa.org or Andrew Kanitz at akanitz56@gmail.com, or call Ellen Ward in the Religious Education Office at 821-2130.

SONG & SUPPER

Women, join us:
Thursday,
Sept. 28
for
Song and
Eucharistic
Adoration
6:30 p.m.
(in church)
followed by
Dinner & Fellowship
7:15 p.m.
(in the P.A.C.)

Come lift your hearts to God in prayer, praise, and song! Afterwards, join us in the P.A.C. for dinner and time to connect with other women.

Let us know if you can make it and RSVP for dinner at:
st.francisa2.com/sign-up-forms.

The **Women's Faith & Fellowship** hosts monthly gatherings regarding topics of faith. Through prayer, fellowship, study, we strive to grow in our relationship with Christ and one another. Look for upcoming events in the bulletin and on our parish webpage.



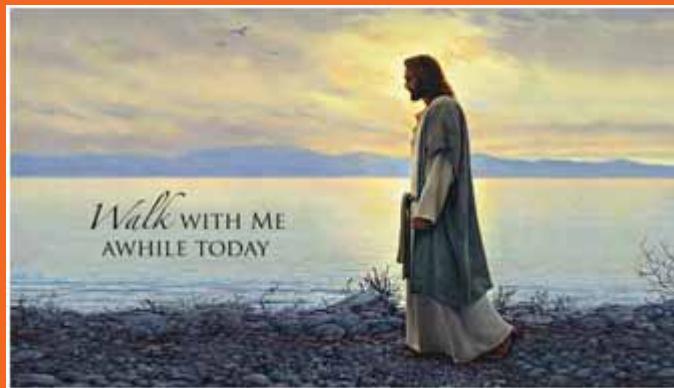
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“JOURNEY WITH JESUS” — A WEEKEND RETREAT FOR WOMEN

Why make a retreat?
When you go away for a weekend retreat, you're going away to be with God and to deepen your friendship with Him. Too often, in daily life, we're overwhelmed with so many distractions and cannot always hear the voice of God.



Eucharist, or to grow closer through prayer.

God wants your attention. Everyone else can wait.

All women of the parish are invited to our second “away” retreat to be held

The retreat can provide special graces whether to make a deeper examination of conscience, or to connect with the heart of God through

November 10-12 at Weber Center in Adrian. Some spots are still available. Make your reservation now! Sign up on the parish website or contact Marty Lucas for more information at mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or 821-2125.