



## Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

# Forum

Twentyfirst Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 27, 2023

### *WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?*

All of us are called to answer one question. Maybe the most important question posed in history. And we each must answer for ourselves. The question is from Jesus: “Who do you say that I am?”

But no question is ever posed in a vacuum. Now more than ever, we have voices on all sides telling us what we must believe. Asking us all kinds of questions. How can you believe in a God who allows so much suffering? How can you believe that the Church is the body of Christ on earth with so much weakness in the Church? Who do you think you are to claim to have any answers for this world?

The good news is that the Church exists to help us answer this one question of who Jesus is. Because once we know who HE is, then we will know who the Church is, and finally we will know who we are. Jesus Christ, His Church, and our own identity are all tied together.

This month we heard about the disciples in a boat on stormy seas. The Church Fathers always saw this boat as the Church on her journey through this world toward heaven. This boat, despite the storms that it has encountered over the last 2000 years, has never capsized, because Christ is in it and he has kept Peter and his successors in the boat, never allowing them to veer from him in issues of faith and morals.

This is the only boat that we can be sure will reach its eternal port, because Jesus promised he'd guide it there. We see that promise in today's Gospel. Upon the rock of Peter, the first pope, he will build His church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

So who do you say that I am? We say, with the Church, that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Let us stay in the boat with Peter and the apostles. And then, as the Catechism teaches: “Moved by the grace of the Holy Spirit and drawn by the Father, we believe in Jesus and confess: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

*Deacon Gene*

### *Mission Statement*

*We, the people of God of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish, guided by the Holy Spirit are called to continue the mission of Jesus Christ.*

*We dedicate ourselves to the fulfillment of this mission by proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of God, by living in love and fellowship, by seeking nourishment in God's Word and in worship and prayer, and by dedicating ourselves to the service of others.*

*Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we pledge ourselves to be living witnesses of God's presence to the world.*

### **WELCOME!**

Whether you come to us from across the street or from across the country, we are honored that you have chosen to spend part of your Sunday with us.

## St. Francis of Assisi Directory

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The following masses are  
livestreamed at this time:

10:30am on Sunday  
9:15 on Thursday

The Church is open for public prayer  
from 10am to 8pm on Saturdays  
and 8:30am to 2pm on Sundays  
8am to 7pm on Weekdays

#### Weekend Mass:

Saturday 5:00pm and 7:00pm. *en español*;  
Sundays 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm, 5pm

#### Weekday Masses:

In Church on Monday-Friday at 9:15am.

#### Holy Hour:

Live streamed Thursdays after 9:15am Mass.

#### Daily Rosary:

M—W, F at 8:45am

Thursday as part of Holy Hour

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm

**Baptism:** A pre-baptism class is required  
before the baptism. For details and to  
register, contact Fr. Seamus at 821-2100  
or see the *Baptism* link at our website.

**Marriage Preparation:** Please call the  
Pastor to begin marriage preparation at  
least nine months before the proposed  
wedding date.

**Spiritual Direction:** Would you like to  
speak with a Spiritual Director? We have  
several commissioned in our parish. To  
contact one, please call Janene Ternes at  
734-436-1351.

**Letters of Good Standing:** To receive a  
letter of good standing from the parish to  
be a Baptism Godparent, Confirmation  
sponsor, or marriage preparation mentor/  
sponsor you must be registered,  
participating, and contributing to St.  
Francis Parish for at least 6 months prior  
to the request. *Requests must be made  
online at stfrancisa2.com/letters.*

**Are You Experiencing a Life-Changing  
Event & Need Temporary Assistance?**  
**Call the Parish Office** if experiencing  
difficult situations like serious illness, new  
baby, miscarriage, hospital recovery, etc.  
For help in the form of a compassionate  
ear, prayers, meals, laundry help,  
transportation, etc.

## 2150 Frieze Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Phone: 734-821-2100 or Fax: 734-821-2102

### Office Hours

Monday—Friday 8:30am–5:00pm, or by appointment.  
Please call the office for appointments.

### Parish Registration

Register online on the parish website [www.stfrancisa2.com/im-new](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/im-new)

<u>Parish Team</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
<b><i>Council, Commission &amp; Ministry Chairpersons</i></b>			
<b>Pastor</b>	821-2100 .....	Fr. James Conlon .....	frjames@stfrancisa2.org
		<i>Pastoral Council, Mary Jane Tramontin .....</i>	<i>mjtram46@gmail.com</i>
		<i>Finance Council, John Dunlap .....</i>	<i>jhunlap123@yahoo.com</i>
		<i>Knights of Columbus, Wallerend Ezin, Grand Knight .....</i>	<i>GK8989@MiKofC.org</i>
		<i>Educational Trust Fund, Jeff Higgins .....</i>	<i>jchiggins27@gmail.com</i>
		<i>Assisi Center Construction, Dcn Tom Arehart .....</i>	<i>tarehart@stfrancisa2.org</i>
<b>Parochial Vicar</b>	821-2100 .....	Fr. Seamus Kettner .....	frseamus@stfrancisa2.org
Deacon	821-2100 .....	Dcn Rich Badics .....	rbadics@stfrancisa2.org
Deacon	734-930-4536	Dcn Gene Leger .....	gleger@stfrancisa2.org
Parish Office Admin. Assist.	821-2100 .....	Julie Kanitz .....	parishoffice@stfrancisa2.org
Parish Office Admin. Assist.	821-2100 .....	Mark Kempton .....	parishoffice@stfrancisa2.org
<b>Parish Business Manager</b>	821-2111 .....	Robert Kehn, CMA .....	rkehr@stfrancisa2.org
Bookkeeper (church)	821-2112 .....	LaQuanda Marshall .....	lmarshall@stfrancisa2.org
Bookkeeper (school)	821-2113 .....	Jackie Pearson .....	jpearson@stfrancisa2.org
<b>Outreach, Service &amp; Justice</b>	821-2121 .....	Scott Wright .....	swright@stfrancisa2.org
		<i>St. Vincent Service Ministry, Thomas Mussio</i>	
		<i>Life, Peace &amp; Justice Ministry, Kelly Gauthier &amp; Dick Brown</i>	
		<i>Senior Citizen Committee, Sharon Wright</i>	
<b>Music &amp; Liturgy Ministry</b>	821-2124 .....	Jonathan Hasey .....	jhasey@stfrancisa2.org
<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	821-2123 .....	Susan Wawrzaszek .....	liturgy@stfrancisa2.org
<b>Adult Faith Groups &amp; Adult RCIA Ministry</b>	821-2122 .....	Kelly Hernandez .....	khernandez@stfrancisa2.org
<b>Religious Ed Director</b>	821-2132 .....	Ellen Ward .....	ward@stfrancisa2.org
	Rel. Ed. Secretary 821-2130 .....	Helena Bichakjian (habla español) .....	stfreled@stfrancisa2.org
<b>School Principal</b>	821-2200 .....	Julie Pritzel .....	jpritzel@stfrancisa2.org
Pre-K/ESP Director	821-2290 .....	Christina Busse .....	cbusse@stfrancisa2.org
School Secretary	821-2200 .....	Aarika Stovcsik .....	school@stfrancisa2.org
School Secretary	821-2200 .....	Lou-Ann Morrill .....	school@stfrancisa2.org
		<i>School Improvement, Merrit Gilliland</i>	
		<i>ESP Committee, Jackie Lapinski</i>	
<b>Maintenance Supervisor</b>	821-2152 .....	Reynaldo Romero .....	rromero@stfrancisa2.org

**La Misa y Confesiones**

La Misa en español se celebra todos los sábados a las 7pm. Las confesiones están disponibles a solicitud antes de la Misa y la seguiremos transmitiendo en vivo: [stfrancisa2.com/misa](https://stfrancisa2.com/misa). Te gustaría pedir intenciones para algún ser querido durante la Misa, favor de traerla a la oficina parroquial. De lunes a viernes de 8:30 a 5pm.

**Clase de Preparación para Bautizo**

Si deseas bautizar a tu hijo, la clase de preparación para bautizo es necesaria. Por favor, contacte a Fr. Seamus Kettner [frseamus@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:frseamus@stfrancisa2.org).

**Sacramentos para Adultos (Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos)**

Esta preparación es para adultos que les falten los sacramentos como: Bautizo, Primera Comunión y Confirmación. Mayores informes, contacta a Kelly Hernandez:

[khernandez@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:khernandez@stfrancisa2.org) (español) ó 734-821-212 (español)

**Acerca del Matrimonio**

Quieres prepararte para poder casarte por la Iglesia y ya estás casado por lo civil, pero quieres que esta unión sea bendecida en la Iglesia, contacte a: [parishoffice@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:parishoffice@stfrancisa2.org)

**Quinceañera**

Las fechas disponibles para las ceremonias de Quinceañera son el segundo sábado de cada mes a la 1pm. Se necesita preparación con anticipación asistiendo a clase o taller. Para más información, contacte a Sue Wawrzaszek: [liturgy@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:liturgy@stfrancisa2.org) (español o inglés) o 734-821-2123 (inglés)

**Preescolar y Escuela St. Francis**

Dales a tus hijos la oportunidad de estudiar en nuestra escuela católica. Más información: [www.stfrancisa2.com/school](https://www.stfrancisa2.com/school) Tenemos ayuda financiera para los que cumplan ciertos requisitos.

**Clases de la Fe o Catecismo para Niños de distintas edades (preK-8)**

Tenemos clases para niños en grados PreK-8 de la Fe católica y sacramentos como Primera Comunión (Eucaristía) y Confirmación. Este año estamos ofreciendo clases bilingües (Español e Inglés) los días Sábado de 5:30 a 6:45 pm con Misa en Español a las 7:00pm.

También tenemos clases disponibles los domingos para grados 1-8 de 9am a 10 am a la vez que para los grados de Preschool y Kindergarten de 10:30 a 11:45am mientras los padres asisten a misa. Otra opción de clases de Educación Religiosa, es los días miércoles de 6:30 a 7:30 pm. La forma de registro está aquí y en línea, la puedes encontrar en: [stfrancisa2.wufoo.com/forms/20212022-prek8th-religious-education/](https://stfrancisa2.wufoo.com/forms/20212022-prek8th-religious-education/)

Es muy importante atender la misa regularmente. La misa se celebra todos los sábados a las 7pm en Español y en Inglés los sábados a las 5pm y domingos a las 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm y 5pm.

Buscamos maestros para compartir la fe: si puedes enseñar, por favor contacte a Ellen Ward a [ward@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:ward@stfrancisa2.org) (inglés o español). Para más información, contáctenos (Helena o Ellen a [stfreled@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:stfreled@stfrancisa2.org) o 734-821-2130 (lunes a viernes 10am-4pm en español)

**En esta sección nos enfocamos en eventos de interés para personas que hablan español. Sin embargo, nuestra parroquia cuenta con varias actividades para incrementar nuestra fe. ¡Participa en la vida de nuestra parroquia!**

**¡Jesús te llama!**

## Register for Religious Education Classes

### Classes begin in mid-September!

Secure your family's spot now for an enriching journey of faith with our Religious Education program. Designed for children from PreK-8, our classes offer preparation for the sacraments and a deepening of their understanding of the Faith. Emphasizing the importance of regular Mass attendance, we foster a strong connection with God and with the Church.



Classes begin in mid-September and are offered on

- Sunday mornings (9:30am-10:30am),
- Wednesday evenings (6:30pm-7:30pm), and
- Saturdays (bilingual in Spanish and English) from 5pm-6:45pm followed by the 7pm Mass in Spanish.

Sign up at: <https://stfrancisa2.wufoo.com/forms/20232024-prek8th-religious-education/>

For questions, please contact us, Ellen at 821-2132 or Helena (Spanish) at 734-821-2130 or [stfreled@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:stfreled@stfrancisa2.org)

## Back to School Supply Drive:

### THIS WEEKEND!

Please consider donating to our annual back to school supply drive for those in need, especially for those within our parish.



Supplies especially needed are: Backpacks for younger children and especially for age 12+ students; Gift cards (\$20 or \$25) to Meijers, Walmart, or Target;

Notebooks, pencils, pens, folders, binders, paper, glue, glue sticks, tape, crayons, colored pencils, washable markers, scissors, art supply bags, pencil soft cases, tissues, Clorox wipes, reusable water bottles.

Please drop off supplies on the weekend of August 26/27 before or after Mass in the gathering space, in the designated box or drop off supplies in the parish office: August 21-28 from 8:30-5:00.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## This Week at St. Francis

### Monday August 28: St. Augustine, Bishop &

#### Doctor

8:45 AM Rosary  
 9:15 AM **Mass:** Int. of Jorida—Yohanna Mualim  
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts—PAC  
 7:00 PM Divorced/Separated—S. Library, Zoom  
 7:00 PM Christian Meditation—Zoom

### Tuesday August 29: Passion of Saint John the

#### Baptist

8:45 AM Rosary  
 9:15 AM **Mass:** +Robert E. Burke-Barbara Ferris

### Wednesday August 30:

8:45 AM Rosary  
 9:15 AM **Mass:** +Marciella Mengozzi—Stefano Mengozzi  
 10:00 AM Gospel Group—Church Library

### Thursday August 31:

8:00 AM Women's Faith Sharing—Youth Room  
 9:15 AM **Mass:** +Alfred Paul Regitz—Shipley Family

### Friday September 1:

8:45 AM Rosary  
 9:15 AM **Mass:** +Antoni and Bronislawa Olszewski—Ann and Greg Skonecki

### Saturday September 2:

7:00 AM That Man is You—PAC  
 3:30 PM Confessions  
 5:00 PM **Mass:** +Larry Fisher—Barbara Ferris  
 7:00 PM **Misa en español:** Ints. of Pedro Lopez—Teresa Lopez

### Sunday September 3: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM **Mass:** +Eleanor Cesar—Joan McCollum  
 10:30 AM **Mass:** +Kevin Van Oirschot—Julie Pritzel  
 12:30 PM **Mass:** St. Francis of Assisi Parish Family  
 5:00 PM **Mass:** +Emily Larach—Susan Zick

**For Daily Readings, see the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website at:**  
[usccb.org/bible/readings](https://www.usccb.org/bible/readings)

## Allergies & Communion

Are you gluten intolerant and therefore cannot receive Communion? If so, we have a special low gluten host that you can receive at Communion time. For more information, please call Sue Wawrzaszek: 734-821-2123.

## Pray for the Sick

### **Please remember in your prayers:**

Susanna Romero Ronquillo, Cecelia Schmidt, Victoria Wozny, Noel D'Cruz, Nathan DeJohn, Juan Rodriguez, Joe Leger, Bonnie Floreske, Lindy Campbell, Phyllis Conlon, Larry Yonovitz, John Summers, Judy Stingo, Nunu Lysloff, Jennifer Bachman, Jackie Beaulieu, Antonia Cordina, Rose Marie Winslow, Paul Pilon, Harris Dufek Holland, Barbara Kramer, Ralph Zircher, Elizabeth Walkowiak, Roger Schneggenburger, Rob Iocca, Raul Cainghug, Nancy Schenk, Shaq Kalaj, Michael Griffin, Theresa Roth, Dale Buckland, Leonard Sanchez, Stella Wiktorski, Chan Han, Kim Pavicich, Mary Himlin, Nancy Rolph, Fr Chan, David Hasey, Bob Toth, Ken Echternach, Jim Conlon, Marian Bessy, Kristie Harbaugh, Kathy King, Andrea Jackman, Cristina Pereira, Lois Russell, Michelle Smith, Don Emerson, Ellsworth Stout, Ernest Toth, Don Mierzwa, Rita Vorek, Tina Kuehnle, Guadalupe Morales, Sarah Huige Uyttingco, Geraldo Uyttingco, Helen Ybarra, Edgar Celestino, Mark Nakashima, Michael Fleszar, Ines Morales, Gerald Montry, Helen Rysse, Kathy Miller, Mary Stoddard, Patricia Broecker, Jesenia Salazar-Godinez, Rosalie Ventimiglia, Shari McArthur, Autumn Osborn



*Please call the parish office to add a name to our prayer list. Help us to keep our list current by letting us know when we may remove a name.*

#### Married in Christ:

Octavio Sanchez-Hernandez and Beatriz Miranda Molina

#### Died in Christ:

Dorothy Zeck  
 Phyllis Dimitroff

#### Prayer Lamp (8/26-9/1):

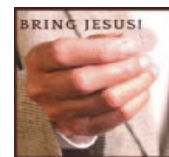
Int. of Jorida—Yohanna Mualim

#### Saint Joseph Candle (9/1-9/3):

+Debra Tighe—Ann Littlefield

## **BRING JESUS!**

Homebound Eucharistic Ministry Team  
 Building Events for all ministers in the  
 Ann Arbor area. Learn more here:



[www.stfrancisa2.com/homebound-ministry](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/homebound-ministry)

Questions? Scott Wright 734-821-2121

## **Need Help? There's HOPE...**

Do you or someone you know need help? The Hope Clinic offers free food and basic needs, medical care, dental care, and behavioral health care.

Go to [thehopeclinic.org](https://thehopeclinic.org) or call 734-484-2989 for info.



## Honoring our Parish Patron-Oct. 3-8, 2023



### Pilgrimage: Solanus Casey Center Detroit Thursday, October 5th, 2023 9:15 - 5:00

In honor of our parish patron, join **Fr. James Conlon** along with special guest, **Dr. Bill Cook**, Distinguished Teaching Professor and expert on the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Our day starts with Mass at Saint Francis, travel by bus to Detroit, catered lunch and a talk by Dr. Cook, on Franciscan art and the sacred art pieces at the Casey Center. There will be tour time and priests available for confession before returning to Ann Arbor by 5:00.

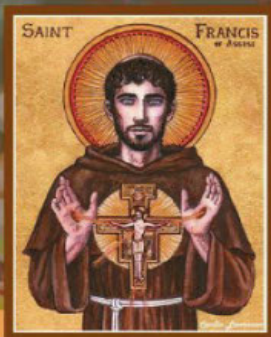
Our all-included price is **\$65/person**. Payment can be made by credit card at the time of registration, which is **due by Sept 18th**. Checks can also be dropped off at the Parish Office.

COME AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION

## FRANCIS FEST

**SUNDAY, OCT. 8**  
FOLLOWING THE 12:30 PM MASS

A fun day for our parish family to celebrate our patron, St. Francis of Assisi and gather as a community for food, fellowship, and fun!



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN PLANNING,  
EMAIL KELLY HERNANDEZ @  
KHernandez@STFRANCISA2.ORG

## CELEBRATING OUR PATRON

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

WITH SPECIAL GUEST, BILL COOK  
Oct. 3-6, 2023



**TUESDAY, OCT. 3RD 7 PM (IN CHURCH)**  
THE TRANSITUS WITH EUCHARISTIC ADORATION  
As part of the Transitus, Bill will speak for 15 minutes on St. Francis and his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4TH**  
**7 PM (IN CHURCH)**  
MASS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**8PM (IN THE ASSISI CENTER)**  
HORS D'OEUVRE AND TALK BY BILL COOK  
Bill will speak on the life of St. Francis and Francis' message for our modern world.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 5TH 9:15 AM (IN CHURCH)**  
MASS AND HOLY HOUR, FOLLOWED BY A PILGRIMAGE TO SOLANUS CASEY CENTER WITH SPECIAL GUEST, BILL COOK  
As part of the pilgrimage, Bill will speak on Franciscan sacred art. **RSVP required**

**FRIDAY, OCT. 6TH 9:15 AM (IN CHURCH)**  
MASS FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK AND TALK BY BILL COOK  
Bill will speak about his Foundation and its Franciscan roots. Learn more about his foundation below.

### THE MISSION OF THE BILL COOK FOUNDATION

The Bill Cook Foundation helps some of the poorest children in the world gain access to the best education possible. By providing grants that support education, we help break the cycle of poverty for children, their families and communities. Learn more at: <https://www.billcookfoundation.org/>

### YOUR SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT NEEDED

In the Franciscan spirit, Bill does not request any specific speaker fees, but rather asks our parish for a generous donation to his foundation to help advance his ministry of providing an education to the poorest around the world. We hope that you will partner with us in providing a generous donation as a gift for his time with us.

**ONLINE DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT:**  
<https://stfrancisa2.wufoo.com/forms/bill-cook-foundation-online-donation-form/>  
OR VIA THE QR CODE



**IN-PERSON DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT:**  
The parish office, 2150 Frieze Ave.  
Or, drop into the Sunday Collection basket.  
Memo: Bill Cook Foundation Sponsor

## Outreach Ministry

Scott Wright (swright@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2121)

### Are you a Caring Person?

We like to think of summer as being a relaxing, enjoyable time. But hurts, struggles, crises, and problems don't take a vacation. Many times our difficulties seem even worse during the summer because everyone else seems to be enjoying life while you are feeling down.

If you are experiencing a difficult time—emotionally, spiritually, or relationally—you **don't have to suffer alone**. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers.

It's free. It's confidential. And it will make a difference in your life!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry, our ministers will be available to meet with you in person before and after all Masses September 23-24 to chat and answer questions in the gathering space.



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

### St. Francis Parish - Phone Calling Ministry

The phone calling ministry at St. Francis Parish has grown over the years into a flexible, exciting outreach opportunity for parishioners to get-to-know each other, pray with each other, connect, share faith and celebrate the lives and relationships in our faith community. We personally call to ask how parishioners are doing, if they would like to pray and/or if they have any special needs, plus, by calling on their birthday, we wish them a happy birthday.

"I have received two calls so far. It is nice to have the human contact during this time."

Donna Johnston

"Everyone so far has been so pleased that St Francis is doing this. I'm proud of my church."

Jane Dorr

*Each year St. Francis parishioners volunteer to coordinate and participate in **hosting three weeks worth of shelter**. (Two of those weeks - one in **May** and one in **September** - are for homeless families with children staying at the Alpha House Shelter. And, one of those three weeks is in **March** for homeless men staying at St. Francis Parish.)*

*Volunteers are the heart and hands of Alpha House. Volunteers from over **40** local congregations and community groups provide meals and supplies for the shelter and the families, engage with the children, and perform building maintenance.*



### Alpha House Family Shelter

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

Join our St. Francis Parish Outreach Team the week of **Sept 18-24, 2023**, serving several homeless families MEALS each day of the week at Alpha House (4290 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, between Zeeb and Wagner). **We need your help!** Dinners may be prepared and simply dropped-off, or you may stay to assist. We need your help to **Purchase, cook and deliver meals** (about 15-20 people mostly children). 1.) Main Dish, 2.) Vegetable & 3.) Dessert.

**Deliver it** between 3pm-5pm. In addition to being a Meal Provider you may also want to stay and serve dinner.

**Sign-up** at: [www.signupgenius.com/go/shelter](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/shelter) or [www.stfrancisa2.com/shelter-programs](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/shelter-programs)

### Got Runners?

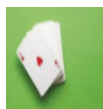
**International Samaritan has a 5K run!**

Do we have some interest at St Francis Parish for a group of us to participate in this run? It can be done any time between October 13 - November 6, 2023. <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/YourCity/IntSamGlobal>

### Game Night - Thursday, September 14

**6pm to 8pm in PAC**

A night of fun is planned for the adults and seniors of St. Francis Bring your favorite board or card game: your choice!



Sign up [stfrancis2.com/sign-up-forms](http://stfrancis2.com/sign-up-forms)

Looking forward to meeting you and having some fun!



## Outreach Ministry

Scott Wright (swright@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2121)



*You're invited to **Coffee & Conversations!***  
Benefits of Preplanning Your Funeral  
**Saturday, September 16th 9am-11am**

We invite you to learn how planning for your final wishes may shield your family from unnecessary emotional and financial burden.

Join us in the PAC to learn more about pre-arrangements, traditional funerals, veterans benefits, cremation, burials, and more. Nie Family Funeral Home will be making a presentation along with Fr. James.

**Please RSVP at 734-971-2345.**

### Seniors' "Out to Lunch Bunch"

Join your fellow senior parishioners from St. Thomas and St. Francis for lunch on the 3rd Thursdays...**SEPT 21st is next!**  
**Arrive at 11:30am at NEW MEETING LOCATION! at Metzger's Restaurant** (305 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor). (Pay-on-your-own.) Help us plan enough food & seats reserved, please sign-up online to RSVP **one week ahead no later than the Sunday before at:**



<https://tinyurl.com/StThomasOutToLunch>  
or  
[www.signupgenius.com/go/Out-to-Eat](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/Out-to-Eat)

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program

Resources to grandparents and other family members aged 55+ who care for related children. Support groups and educational information is offered and other resources like clothing, school supplies, etc. can be accessed. These support groups are popular as caregivers discuss their joys, struggles, and helpful ideas with each other, knowing they are not alone. **Contact Jeannette Matthews 734-971-9781 x 511**

### Calling All Seniors and Those Who Care For Seniors!

Mark your calendar for an informative, educational and enjoyable seminar: **Thursday, September 14th from 5:30-6:30pm in St. Francis School Library.**

**Barbara Zinser**, Local Realtor And Senior Real Estate Specialist will discuss topics such as:

- Is Your Home An Asset Or An Anchor?
- Is It Near Your Favorite Leisure Activities And People?
- Will It Meet Your Future Health And Mobility Needs?

**Aubree Shemwell & Bob Yopko** of First Equity Residential Mortgage, Inc will enlighten you about reverse mortgages and provide information to determine if this option is right for you. Come and get your questions answered.

**Julie L. Dunbar**, Plc and Elder Law Attorney loves to speak on the topic "Leave A Legacy". This incorporates issues of incapacity and disability as well as estate preservation to avoid problems during estate administration.

Kindly visit the parish website and use the sign up forms tab to register!



### Bible Foundations: Unlocking the Old and New Testaments

Join this two-year course with engaging, live teaching from In-shal Chenet, MA and understand the most foundational books of the Old and New Testaments.

Class meets Mondays 9:15-10:45 am at Old St. Pat (Ann Arbor) with childcare or Mondays 7:00-8:30 at St. Mary Pinckney (in 2023-24) and continuing at St. Joseph in Dexter (in 2024-25).

Learn more at an Open House Info Night: Wednesday **Aug 30th** 7-8 pm at St. Mary (Pinckney).

**Find out more at [cbsmich.org](http://cbsmich.org) or call/text 586-438-3085.**

## Adult Faith Formation

Kelly Hernandez (khernandez@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2122)



Want to know God?

He is speaking to us through the Bible – God's Living Word. It contains the story of the people of God, God's endless forgiveness and mercy, and the promise of eternity with Him!

Have you read it?

We encourage everyone to join a Bible Study this year!

## Bible Studies offered at St. Francis this Fall:

### Monday 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Meets weekly, Oct. 16 – Dec. 11

Facilitator: Wanita Forgacs

Study: Mary by Ascension Press

### Tuesday 10 – 11:30 am

Meets biweekly Sept. 5 – Apr. 2

Facilitator: Bill Forgacs

Study: The Gospel of Luke, Jesus the Compassionate Savior – Stephen Binz Threshold Series

Part 1 (Fall) & Part 2 (Winter)

### Tuesday Women's Bible Study

10 – 11:30 am, Sept. 12 – Nov. 28 (Fall dates)

Facilitators: Susan Edwards and Kimm Sarosi

Study: Gospel of John (Fall) and Letter of James (Winter) – by Ascension Press

### Martes Estudio Bíblico 7 – 8 pm

En Español, comienza Sept. 26

Lider: Freisy Bobadilla

Estudio: Evangelio de Marcos

### We want to hear from you for future planning!

1. Would you attend a Bible Study if there were child care provided?
2. Would you attend a Bible Study that met monthly September – May?

[stfrancisa2.com/adult-faith-formation/bible-study](http://stfrancisa2.com/adult-faith-formation/bible-study)

## + Freisy Bobadilla Predicador Católico

Martes Estudio Bíblico (7 – 8 pm)

En Español, comienza Sept. 26

Estudio: Evangelio de Marcos

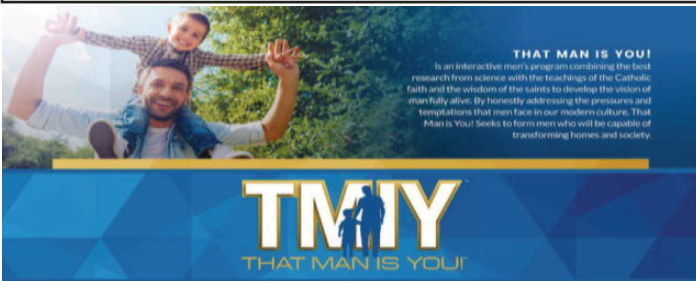
**Bio:** Freisy Bobadilla es un formador, predicador y escritor Dominicano. Formado en Sagrada Escritura en República Dominicana y ha impartido clases de Biblia en República Dominicana y Florida, además de manera virtual, donde asisten a sus clases personas de Bolivia, Colombia, Panamá, México, Puerto Rico y Estados Unidos. Es escritor de dos libros: Formando Líderes Conforme a Cristo e Intercesión Instrumento de la gracia, ambos traducidos también al inglés y publicados en Amazon. Su labor predicadora lo ha llevado alrededor de muchas comunidades, a lo largo de Estados Unidos, impartiendo retiros y enseñando a otros el amor por la palabra de Dios.





## Adult Faith Formation

Kelly Hernandez (khernandez@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2122)



## "All Things New"

**New Creation Story, New Spiritual Life, New Adam, New Eve, New Fruitfulness, New Tree of Life, New Fruit from the New Tree of Life**

***Runs 13 weeks beginning Saturday, Sept. 9th***

### **Saturday morning schedule:**

7:00 - 7:30 am- Light breakfast and fellowship.

7:30 - 8:00 am- Video from TMIY program

8:00 - 8:30 am- Small group sharing.

**LOCATION:** Parish Activities Center (P.A.C.)

Start your day off right and be home in time to make breakfast for the family!

**Contact John Walsh for more info:**

michaeljohn32@yahoo.com

For more info about the "That Man is You" program, visit: [paradisusdei.org/that-man-is-you/](http://paradisusdei.org/that-man-is-you/)

**MOMMY & ME PLAYGROUP**

Fridays 10-11:30 am  
meets weekly in the preschool room  
located in the lower-level of the church  
Begins Sept. 8

MOMMY AND ME PLAYGROUP IS A COMMUNITY OF MOMS WHO SHARE THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF MOTHERHOOD, AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER THROUGH FRIENDSHIP, ADVICE, AND ENCOURAGEMENT. ♥ ALL WHILE OUR CHILDREN GET TO MEET AND PLAY WITH OTHER CHILDREN IN A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

YOU'LL ALSO GET TO MEET OTHER MOMS FROM YOUR AREA, AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR CHILD. WHETHER YOU HAVE A NEWBORN, A TODDLER, OR A PRESCHOOLER.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE BEST PLAYGROUP IN TOWN! WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU AND YOUR CHILD(REN)! ♥

Contact parishioner and mom, Deirdre Alsaidy at [lothrde@gmail.com](mailto:lothrde@gmail.com) for more info or to volunteer to help with set up & cleanup

**Engaged & Married Couples**

Join us for a fun evening of wine, dinner, and talk by Debbie and Peter Herbeck

**Lessons from the School of Love: Cultivating a Christ-Centered Marriage**

Friday, Oct. 27th 6:30pm  
in the PAC

Debbie and Peter Herbeck, Catholic speakers, authors, and happily married couple for over 35 years, will join us to share their insights on married life.

They recently co-authored a book entitled, "Lessons from the School of Love: Cultivating a Christ-Centered Marriage" in which they discuss how to strengthen the bond of marriage through the limitless grace offered to all by Christ.

**RSVP: [stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms](http://stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms)**  
\$40 suggested donation per couple

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**Beer and Brats**

JOIN FR. JAMES, FR. SEAMUS, DCN. GENE AND DCN. RICH FOR OUR ANNUAL BEER & BRATS WITH THE PADRES

**THURSDAY, SEPT 21**  
6:30 PM (IN CHURCH) EVENING PRAYER  
7 PM (IN ASSISI CENTER) BEER & BRATS & FELLOWSHIP

**RSVP [STFRANCISA2.COM/SIGN-UP-FORMS](http://STFRANCISA2.COM/SIGN-UP-FORMS)**

### Returning to the Church

*This is the 48th article in a series called,  
"Why do I pray these prayers at church?"  
written by Bill Razgunas.*

I hear many say, "We have no problem with the man Jesus. Our problem is with the leaders of the Catholic Church." What should be done in order to be a positive influence in the face of these unfortunate thoughts? In order to do this, let's look at how people find themselves in this situation. How come there is such a great chasm between their experience of church and their faith?

Let me share a real story about how this worked itself out in Sue's life. She is a senior who was emotionally injured by her experiences with the church while growing up. Her inner wounds were 40 to 50 years old and her bitterness toward the Catholic Church was deep. At this point I would say that she was a Nature worshiper. One weekend she came to Ann Arbor to visit her friend George. The weather outside was cold and the sidewalks were slippery. Sue fell and injured her leg. Since there was an ugly bruise, George asked me to take Sue to the emergency room. I stayed with her and the time was well spent listening to her life's story. After many hours she was sent home. On the way home, she said that she wanted to express her appreciation. I explained that she could do this by thinking a little better of Jesus and the Catholic Church. She emphatically said "THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!" A week later, Sue slipped on the ice again. This time she hit her head quite badly. The bruising on her face rapidly became very pronounced. After I saw it, I said to myself "This woman is going to die tonight." I took Sue to the emergency room. Since she had a very positive experience with our conversation the week before, she wanted to hear about my experience of following Christ. As we talked, I silently prayed for Sue. My sharing about Christ was like a single "barrel" of a shot gun. The other "barrel" of the shotgun was loaded with my prayers. I gave her both "barrels" without reservation that night. Why hold back in the face of her serious injury? Would she die that night? While talking to Sue, I wondered if God would do something if I reached over and touched her shoulder. When I did this Sue started repeatedly saying "You touched me!" Sue never admitted that God touched her that night. However, I saw Sue's injury showed signs of healing rapidly.

Later that night Sue was discharged and went back to stay with George. Sue was back on her feet the next day. Over the next couple of years, Sue embraced a deeper faith in Christ and returned to the Catholic Church.

Look at what happened! Sue had been fully trained as a Catholic. She had left the Catholic Church as a young adult. Subsequently, Sue had no faith in Christ. Her faith in "nature spirits" had been picked up along her life's journey. The first goal was to lead her to a fuller knowledge of Christ. Since this was blocked by SUBSTANTIAL emotional pain surrounding her injured relationship with the Catholic Church, I just listened while quietly praying. I did not try to solve any of her problems. During this time of listening, I asked that God would begin to heal what is going on inside of her. This established some fertile ground in Sue's heart. Christ acted in this situation and subsequently Sue found healing in her relationship with the church. That night, Sue's wasn't able to identify God as her healer. It's not that unusual for someone to experience a life changing event without fully comprehending it. Sometimes it takes many years for someone to admit that God acted.

Do you want to learn how to share your faith in this way? I have started an evangelism team at St. Francis. You can receive an invitation by sending me a text with your phone number included. I will call you back as soon as I am able. My phone number is 734-546-6445. God wants to work in powerful ways through you!

### Parish Stewardship Report

Month	PSG	cash/check	Grand Total
July	\$ 81,637	\$ 82,545	\$ 164,182
August	\$ 64,636	\$ 46,941	\$ 111,577
September			\$ -
October			\$ -
November			\$ -
December			\$ -
January			\$ -
February			\$ -
March			\$ -
April			\$ -
May			\$ -
June			\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 146,273</b>	<b>\$ 129,486</b>	<b>\$ 275,759</b>
	53%	47%	87%
	% PSG	% cash/check	% of budget

## Caring for Our Common Home Our Earth's Precious Blue Oceans

3rd in a Series by Peace & Justice Committee

*"The oceans were given to us as a gift from the Creator and we must work to use them fairly and sustainably in order to pass them onto future generations." (Pope Francis)*

Of the four innermost planets of our solar system, only the Earth presently has liquid oceans. Our oceans provide food for three billion humans living on our planet today. Ocean currents (like the Gulf Stream) help to moderate our climate. Oceans serve as "highways" for much of our international commerce. And oceans absorb significant quantities of carbon dioxide resulting from the waste products of the burning of fossil fuels in our atmosphere.

With so many benefits, one might expect that we would readily acknowledge what our planetary oceans provide and work to demonstrate our love and appreciation of them. However, it would appear that, instead of loving our oceans, we view them as just something to be used and abused.

We overfish them; we destroy their habitat (e.g., coral reefs); we facilitate the spread of invasive species; we burn fossil fuels thereby resulting in increased warming and greater acidification; we spill oil; and we are increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which will cause sea levels to increase significantly; etc. **Yes, it is a very strange way to demonstrate one's love.**

*Recently, the scientific community has highlighted two especially troubling concerns resulting from the warming that we have been experiencing:*

- The warming water is causing many coral reefs around the world to bleach and die. This can have a catastrophic impact on the fish populations for which the reefs serve as habitat.
- There has been a weakening of the warm Gulf Stream (the strong current that flows up our east coast and then to Europe). This raises serious concerns that it may reach a point where it may fail to function at some time in the not-too-distant future, thereby adversely impacting the climate of both continents.

***With the very real potential that our oceans will be drastically affected by a world that is becoming warmer and more contaminated, how might we respond to our grandchildren when they ask: "Grandpa / Grandma, what did you do while there was still time?"***

Fortunately, we have many ways by which we can address the causes that contribute to the warming of our oceans. One involves switching from incandescent light bulbs to light-emitting diodes (LED bulbs) which can reduce the energy required for an equivalent amount of light from 100 watts to 17 watts or less. This is especially important when a power plant is sourced with polluting fossil fuels.

## Spires to Heaven: A Spiritually Enriching Pilgrimage on Tuesday, October 17

with Fr. James Conlon

Embark on an unforgettable one-day pilgrimage with Fr. James Conlon, delving into the enchanting Land of the cross-tipped "spires to heaven" in Maria Stein, Ohio, where you'll find an awe-inspiring collection of relics.

Experience a day filled with spiritual nourishment as we begin with Mass, followed by an enlightening tour and serene visits to the grounds. After a delightful lunch, we'll embark on a scenic journey along the spires to heaven, making stops at captivating churches and sites.



In mid-October, witness the mesmerizing beauty of Ohio's Fall foliage, providing a breathtaking backdrop for our pilgrimage. The day will conclude with a shared dinner, evening prayer, and return home by 9:30 pm.

Secure your spot for this remarkable journey on Tuesday, October 17, departing at 7:15 am from St. Francis. For just \$130/person, you'll enjoy comfortable transportation by coach, delectable meals, and all-inclusive tour fees, tips, and stipends.

Don't miss this life-enriching experience! **Sign up now through our website: <https://www.stfrancisa2.com/>**

For additional details or any questions, reach out to:

Scott Wright at [swright@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:swright@stfrancisa2.org) (734-821-2121)

or

Ellen Ward at [ward@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:ward@stfrancisa2.org) (734-476-5640).

## Support for Divorced & Separated Meets Mondays 7-9 p.m. in the School Library (Zoom option also available)



Are you divorced or separated? Would you like support? We invite you to join us each Monday evening at 7pm. Find comfort, counsel and healing with others on the same journey. Whether you got divorced ten days ago or ten years ago, this group offers valuable insights for everyone. For questions, contact Jeff at [734-678-0995](tel:734-678-0995).



# Veneration of the Relics

OCT 11: ST. JUDE, THE APOSTLE - OCT 12: BL. CARLO ACUTIS - OCT. 17: PILGRIMAGE TO RELIQUARY

We are delighted to invite you to a special opportunity that will take place at our parish this October 2023. We will venerate some of the most precious relics of our faith, which have been generously loaned to us by various institutions and individuals.



**On Oct. 11,** we will have the opportunity to venerate the relic of the Apostle, St. Jude, which has been generously loaned to us by the Vatican. This is a rare and sacred opportunity that will bless our community. We will celebrate morning Mass at 9:15 am followed by all day veneration of St. Jude's relic. In the evening, we will celebrate a bilingual Mass at 7pm followed by a reception.



**On Oct. 12,** we will have the opportunity to venerate the relic of Bl. Carlo Acutis, which was given to Fr. James directly from Carlo's own mother while on pilgrimage to Italy. Beginning with the 9:15 am Mass followed by a holy hour and all-day eucharistic adoration and veneration of Bl. Carlo's relic. We will end with Evening Prayer and benediction at 6:30pm.



**On Oct. 17,** we invite you to join us for a one-day pilgrimage to Maria Stein, Ohio, known for its cross-tipped "spires to heaven" and one of the largest collections of relics. Experience Mass, a guided tour of the chapel and grounds, followed by a scenic journey to prominent churches and sites. Enjoy the vibrant Fall foliage as the backdrop for this spiritual journey. The price of \$130/person covers transportation, lunch, dinner, and all tour fees. **Secure your spot at [stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms](https://stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms).**

## Knights of Columbus PICNIC TODAY!



The St. Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council 8989 cordially invites the Parish community to an outdoor picnic on Sunday, August 27th, following the 12:30 pm Mass, on Church grounds adjacent to the PAC.

Attendees will enjoy grilled foods, sides, and more while learning about the Knights of Columbus and the opportunities within the St. Francis of Assisi Council.

We encourage men aged 18 years and older to consider joining the Council and taking an active part in its noble mission.

We look forward to welcoming you to this enjoyable and informative event!

Wallerend Ezin, Grand Knight, Council 8989



Join Ann Arbor 40 Days for Life 365's prayer vigil outside Planned Parenthood. Consider making a once a month commitment. Offering Prayer, Outreach, Help and Hope at:

3100 Professional Dr, Ann Arbor

Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 2 PM

Extended hours on Thursday until 4 PM

To take a committed one hour time slot, go to [40daysforlife.com/annarbor](https://40daysforlife.com/annarbor) on the 365 calendar. Drop-ins are always welcome anytime!

For more info or any scheduling help, contact Sandie at 734-657-1936 or [plan2pray@gmail.com](mailto:plan2pray@gmail.com).



## The Beauty of Life

### Leave Abortion out of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

**Please comment before October 10!**

A federal regulation aims to include abortion accommodations within a law intended to support pregnant workers' fair working conditions. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops endorsed the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, focusing on helping working mothers while safeguarding their health and that of their unborn children. However, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission introduced proposed rules that encompass "having or choosing not to have an abortion" as a "related medical condition" covered by the law.

This proposed addition distorts the law's purpose. This occurrence echoes previous wrong attempts to equate abortion with childbirth in terms of benefits for pregnant women. The proposed federal regulation will be open for public comments for 60 days, ending October 10, 2023

**Action Needed:** please comment on the added wording, asking that "having an abortion" not be included in the Fairness Act. Include your reasons, including the inappropriate addition of abortion, the taking the life of the growing baby, the attempt to hijack legislation designed to aid pregnant women to further an agenda of abortion, the lack of protections for religious liberty, essentially forcing employers to provide for abortion which most people find abhorrent, for lack of protections for you to practice freely your Faith (Core Catholic teaching protects Life, including the developing unborn child).

The regulation language is lengthy, and the unfortunate addition is under 1636.3(b) Pregnancy, Childbirth, or Related Medical Conditions: *"The list in the proposed regulation for the definition of 'pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions' includes current pregnancy, past pregnancy, potential pregnancy, lactation (including breastfeeding and pumping), use of birth control, menstruation, infertility and fertility treatments, endometriosis, miscarriage, stillbirth, or having or choosing not to have an abortion, among other conditions. The Commission emphasizes that the list in the regulation is non-exhaustive, and to receive an accommodation an employee or applicant does not have to specify a condition on this list or use medical terms to describe a condition."*

Please comment and ask that the addition under 1636.3 (b) be removed. Your comments make a difference and can be done online:  
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/EEOC-2023-0004-0001>

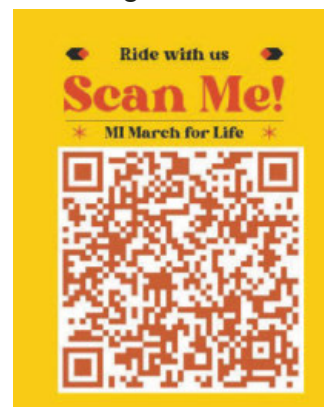
### Join us for the Michigan March for Life in Lansing on November 8th!

Mark your calendar for November 8, invite your pro-life family and friends, and plan to take off work or school on November 8. St. Francis of Assisi Parish in collaboration with the Michigan Catholic Conference, Michigan March for Life, and Right to Life of Michigan and each of the Catholic dioceses in Michigan is promoting the Michigan March for Life in Lansing. The March for Life is an opportunity for all the faithful to be the voice for the defenseless. Join us as we peacefully advocate for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. A strong showing of support makes a difference in our standing for Life, cherishing both mom and her unborn child.

Register for the event now at the Michigan March for Life site at:

<https://p2a.co/9sD90j6>

Whether you decide now or later regarding going to the event, registering will give you information and updates.



### Interested in going by coach with other St. Francis parishioners?

Secure your place on the bus at: <https://stfrancisa2.wufoo.com/forms/sfa-bus-for-march-for-life-nov-8/>

We leave from St. Francis Parish, 2250 E. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor at 8:30am and return at 4:30pm. The March will take place outside the State Capitol building at 100 N. Capitol Ave. in Lansing. The cost of \$35/adult includes transportation by coach, lunch, and tips. Call us for family rates. Questions?

Contact: Scott Wright  
 [swright@stfrancisa2.org] (734-821-2121)  
 and Ellen Ward [ward@stfrancisa2.org]  
 (cell:734-476-5640).



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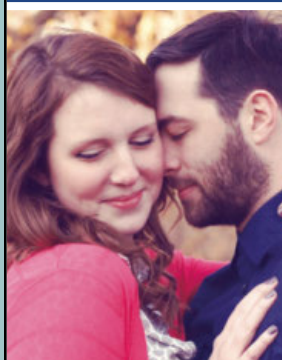
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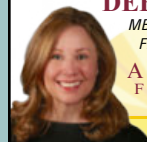


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