

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

# RENEWAL

The Franciscan Renewal Center • *Peace. Renewal. Good.*



5802 East Lincoln Drive • Scottsdale, Arizona 85253 • Phone 480.948.7460 • [thecasa.org](http://thecasa.org)



Fifteen years ago, I gave birth to Maximilian. I cried, smiled, laughed, and thought, “I can’t believe God loves and trusts me so much.” His love is all-consuming, a love that knows no bounds, some would say unconditional, and I do my best to love him back in the same way.

This has contributed to a better understanding of the Incarnation from a Franciscan perspective. When God, in all His divine glory, chose to become human, to experience the joys and sorrows of earthly life, it was an act of love beyond comprehension. He understood the human condition, He knew the weight of our burdens and loved us enough to share in our experiences. He chose to be in communion with us and showed us His love.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 says, "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you." This verse speaks to the heart of Franciscan spirituality. It's a call to love others as Christ loved us. It's a call to see the Divine in *every* person, to treat them with compassion and respect. It's easy to make room in my heart and home for “little baby Jesus” but what about the homeless, the infirmed, or the abused? Sometimes I forget there is a reflection of God in us all. As we prepare for our journey through Advent, I pray that you find God’s abundant love reflected back to you by others.

Peace,

Rosa Rodriguez-Saiz  
Executive Assistant to the Liturgy Office

The Conventual Church of  
**OUR LADY of the ANGELS**

at the Franciscan Renewal Center

<b>Sunday Mass</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7:30 am; 9:15 am; 11:00 am</b>
<b>Daily Mass</b>	<b>Monday – Friday</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>
<i>Sat. 4 pm, Sun. 9:15 am, and Monday – Friday Daily Mass also available on <a href="https://www.youtube.com/theCasaFRC">YouTube.com/theCasaFRC</a></i>		
<b>Taizé Prayer</b>	<b>2nd &amp; 4th Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>Reconciliation</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2:00 - 3:00 pm</b>
	<i>See pg 2 for additional times in Advent</i>	
<b>Guest Services</b>	<b>Sun. – Sat.</b>	<b>6:00 am -7:30 pm</b>
<b>Adoration</b>	<b>1st Friday</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Bookstore</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>8:00 am - 1:00 pm</b>
	<b>Mon. &amp; Tu</b>	<b>Closed</b>
	<b>Wed. &amp; Thu.</b>	<b>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</b>
	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>10:00 am - 6:00 pm</b>
	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>11:00 am - 5:30 pm</b>

Please see pg. 10 for this week's Mass Intentions. For weekly readings, visit [bible.usccb.org/](http://bible.usccb.org/).

**Our Lady of the Angels Church Pastoral Staff**

RECTOR

Fr. Page E. Polk, OFM [fatherpage@thecasa.org](mailto:fatherpage@thecasa.org) x145

VICE-RECTOR

Fr. Vincent Nguyen, OFM [fathervincent@thecasa.org](mailto:fathervincent@thecasa.org) x174

DEACON

Dcn. Hervé Lemire, OFM Affiliate [deaconherve@gmail.com](mailto:deaconherve@gmail.com)

FRIARS IN RESIDENCE

Dcn. Matt Ryan, OFM [deaconmatt@thecasa.org](mailto:deaconmatt@thecasa.org)

**Franciscan Renewal Center Executive Administration**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Charles Brown [casa@thecasa.org](mailto:casa@thecasa.org) x175

**Officers of the FRC Board**

Diane Catlin, Chair Richard Murphy, Secretary  
Linda Christian, Treasurer

Visit: [thecasa.org/frc-board-of-directors](http://thecasa.org/frc-board-of-directors) for all board members and bios

“Buon Natale, Greccio”  
*St. Francis & the Nativity*

*Canticle  
of Joy*

**Performances:**

Saturday, December 14 ~ 7 pm  
Sunday, December 15 ~ 1:30 pm

Join us for a beautiful time of music and storytelling as we celebrate Saint Francis and his role in creating our Nativity scene tradition. The event will take you to Greccio, the Italian village where, 800 years ago, St. Francis brought the story of Jesus' birth to life.

Through inspiring music and heartfelt stories, we will honor the timeless legacy of Saint Francis and his dedication to spreading the love and message of the incarnation of Christ.

Don't miss this special gathering — it's a celebration of faith, tradition, and community.

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Casa Creche Festival  
December 14 – 15**

Do you have a special nativity set you'd like to share? To loan your set or get involved, email us at [crechefestival@thecasa.org](mailto:crechefestival@thecasa.org). You can help set up displays or host the event, or simply join us in celebrating this important Franciscan tradition!

**Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation**

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas, this sacrament offers a profound opportunity to experience God's mercy, healing, and love. In addition to our regular Saturdays from 2 – 3pm, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available:

Wednesday, December 4	9 – 10 am
Tuesday, December 10	1 – 2 pm
Friday, December 13	3 – 4 pm
Monday, December 16	6 – 7 pm
Wednesday, December 18	2 – 3 pm

All are invited to come and experience the peace that comes from hearing the beautiful words of absolution.

**Christmas 2024 Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve – December 24 (Tuesday)  
4 pm outdoors in Palm Court  
6 pm and 8 pm in the Church

Christmas Day – December 25 (Wednesday)  
10 am in the Church

**Eucharistic Adoration  
and Benediction**



Offered on the first  
Friday of every month  
at 7 pm in the church.

Join us this Friday,  
December 6

Director of Liturgy & Music  
Assistant Director of Liturgy & Music  
Executive Assistant to the Liturgy Office

Norbert Zwickl  
Richard Guerra  
Rosa Rodriguez-Saiz

[norbert@thecasa.org](mailto:norbert@thecasa.org) 480.355.0346  
[richard@thecasa.org](mailto:richard@thecasa.org) 480.355.0347  
[rosa@thecasa.org](mailto:rosa@thecasa.org) 480.355.5642

Casa Youth Ministry Introduces...

# THE ANTIOCH RETREAT

Sunday, January 12

Open to all 10th – 12th Graders

Led by a team of youth community members

9 am – 9 pm on Casa Grounds

Contact Vincenzo Torsiello for more details

[vincenzo@thecasa.org](mailto:vincenzo@thecasa.org)



Visit our online Faith Formation portal: [casafaithformation.org](https://casafaithformation.org)

# Casa Advent Blanket Collection

Benefitting *André House* of Arizona's guests experiencing homelessness. We are in need of volunteers to make this drive happen.

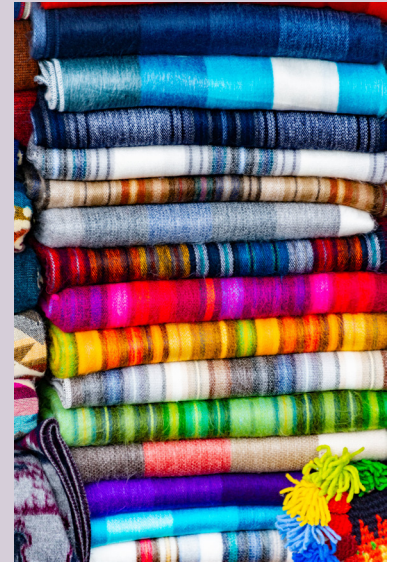
### Can You help?

We are currently looking for volunteers to serve on the below dates at all Masses (Saturday and Sunday):

- **December 14 –15**
- **December 21 – 22**

Volunteer to collect blankets in the Parking Lot, count donated blankets, or deliver blankets to André House. For more information or to sign up as a Collection Volunteer, visit the **FIA LinkTree**.

Questions? Email Victor at [vjames@thecasa.org](mailto:vjames@thecasa.org) or call 480.306.4027.



The Conventual Church of  
**OUR LADY of the ANGELS**  
 at the Franciscan Renewal Center

Mass Offerings		Mass Attendance
11.17.24	\$24,934	11.17.24 1,468
11.19.23	\$18,420	11.19.23 1,358

 **Franciscan School of Theology**  
 at the **UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO**

## THE FRANCISCAN VISION LECTURE SERIES

**Sunday, December 15, 9 – 10:30 am | Auditorium**  
*"A Franciscan Vision of Spiritual Motherhood"* with  
 Fr. Francis Lee, OFM

For more information and a listing of future programs, visit:  
[frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



### DISCOVER THE VISION

*A one-hour introduction to the Casa's mission and ministries.*

Upcoming dates:

December 5	11:00 am
January 2	11:00 am

### Reserve Your Spot Today

**online:** [thecasa.org/discover-the-vision](http://thecasa.org/discover-the-vision)

**phone:** 480.355.5631

**email:** [rsvp@thecasa.org](mailto:rsvp@thecasa.org)



### ART DOCENT TOURS

*"Treasures of Franciscan Art"*

Through its commissioned art and architecture, the Conventual Church of Our Lady of the Angels tells the story of Christ through a Franciscan lens. There's so much to discover in its symbolism, natural building materials, and liturgical art glass!

Please visit [thecasa.org/art-docent-tours](http://thecasa.org/art-docent-tours) for dates and registration. To request a private tour, email [churchtours@thecasa.org](mailto:churchtours@thecasa.org)

Director of Development  
Development Manager

Christopher Meyer  
Paula A Tobin

[christopher@thecasa.org](mailto:christopher@thecasa.org) 480.355.5634  
[paula@thecasa.org](mailto:paula@thecasa.org) 480.355.5631



## Creation at the Crossroads

January 4 – March 16 | **Fee: \$100**

### Registration closes on Wednesday, December 11

A 10-week, small-group faith-sharing program by RENEW International spanning January through March. Groups gather in homes, on Zoom or at the Casa to reflect on Scripture and *Laudato Si'*.

*Sponsored by the Care for Creation Ministry.*

The sessions follow this model:

Step 1 is to “**Gather**,” which includes opening prayer and living our faith for 15 minutes. It is a recognition that we gather within sacredness.

Step 2 is “**Reflection**,” which opens with a story, Scripture reading, and opportunities to reflect on the material through one’s own experiences, thoughts, and feelings. This section is 55 minutes.

Step 3 is “**Invitation to Act**,” enabling participants to consider how they could specifically act from what they have learned. Through this program, we may be inspired to commit to a specific action as we gather each week.

Scholarships available. For more information, email Victor Jaimes at [victor@thecasa.org](mailto:victor@thecasa.org).

Questions? Please email  
[careforcreation@thecasa.org](mailto:careforcreation@thecasa.org).

*Selling at the Fair Trade  
Christmas Sale on Sunday*

**Saturday & Sunday,  
December 7 and 8**  
*Sold after all Masses*



Café Justo coffee will be sold again once-a-month in the Hospitality Tabling area! Try our delicious, fair-trade, organic, shade-grown, recently roasted (fresh) coffee. The cost of the coffee is \$10 per one-pound bag. Your purchase helps families in the Café Justo Farmers’ and Roasters’ Cooperative continue to work their ancestral lands and support and educate their extended families.

**Anytime:** Find the most popular varieties of Café Justo available at these two venues on campus:

- The *Books and Blessings* Gift Shop • The FRC Lobby Guest Services Desk.

### We need you!

To join this ministry and become part of the after-Mass selling team, contact [casagrounds@thecasa.org](mailto:casagrounds@thecasa.org).



## Just Scripture Virtual Conversation Saturday, December 14 10 – 11:30 am

We consider biblical issues of justice and mercy that impact our world today and talk about how the Sunday readings connect with daily life. Discussed from a perspective of Franciscan values, *Just Scripture (JS)* occurs on Zoom on the second Saturday of each month, **10 – 11:30 am**.

To register, please visit the FIA LinkTree. The session is free. No previous study of Scripture is needed. Contact Kathleen Garast [kgarast@aol.com](mailto:kgarast@aol.com) for the JS readings that will be discussed.

**All are welcome.**



Every time I walk across our sacred grounds, I am reminded of the countless ways God's love has touched hearts through the Franciscan Renewal Center. The Casa is more than a place—it is a sanctuary of renewal, a community of faith, and a beacon of hope for all who come seeking God's grace.

Today, I write to you with a heartfelt invitation. Our mission at the Casa continues to flourish, but we need your support to sustain and grow this sacred work. Our 2024 Annual Appeal is more than halfway, and I humbly ask for your faithful support to reach our goal of \$510,000. Your generosity will directly support the church, ministries, retreats, and sacred grounds that have changed so many lives.

This moment is urgent. As we reflect on the profound impact the Casa has made, we know there is so much more we are called to do. Your gift today will continue the Casa's legacy of being a light for those in need, ensuring that our church, grounds, retreats, and outreach ministries remain strong and vibrant.

Please join me in this mission of service and renewal. Together, through God's grace, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

— With gratitude,  
Charlie Brown, Executive Director

# Annual Appeal 2024

*Lifelong and Ongoing...Serving the Casa Community*

Gifts can be made:

**Online:** [thecasa.org/donate](https://thecasa.org/donate)

**Drop off:** The Casa's Guest Services Desk

**Mail:** Franciscan Renewal Center  
5802 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

**For ACH recurring withdrawals,** email [lora@thecasa.org](mailto:lora@thecasa.org).

**An IRA Required Minimum Distribution** can be directed to the Franciscan Renewal Center.

**Stock wiring instructions:** Please contact Christopher Meyer for current details: [christopher@thecasa.org](mailto:christopher@thecasa.org) or call 480.355.5634.

If you would like to speak with someone about your gift, please call 480.355.5634.

*The Franciscan Renewal Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. All gifts must be postmarked or received by December 31, 2024. Please consult your tax advisor. Tax ID#: 86-0720036.*



photo by: Peter Jordan



*Together We Can.*

*Scan the QR code to give online*



**RETREAT**

**New Year's**

**December 30 – January 1, Monday – Wednesday**

*Peter Pearson, MDiv, ThD*

Come away for a bit. Pause, breathe, and reflect. Make this ending/beginning an opportunity to live more intentionally.

**Fee, incl. meals: \$300 single room; \$150 commuter.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



**CLASS**

**T'ai Chi**

**Mondays: January 6 – February 10 | 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

*Jake Zinn*

Experience the health benefits of the Centuries-old practices of Qigong and T'ai Chi. These exercises engage the body and mind in slow, fluid movement and full breathing.

**Fee: \$60 for six-week session.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



**RETREAT**

**Befriending Our Belovedness**

**Saturday, February 15 | 9 am – 4 pm**

*Diane Millis, PhD*

It's easy to forget who we are and who we were created to be. This retreat is designed for all those who are seeking to claim their identity as God's beloved.

**Fee, incl. lunch: \$100 per person.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



**MEET THE AUTHOR**

**Bartimaeus, the Blind Beggar of Jericho**

**Thursday, February 27 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

*George Sabol, OFS*

Meet the author and learn about this fascinating new novel! The author will provide a biblical and historical basis of the novel and answer readers' questions.

**Fee: \$10 per person.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



**WORKSHOP**

**Introduction to the Enneagram**

**Saturday, March 1 | 9 am – 5 pm**

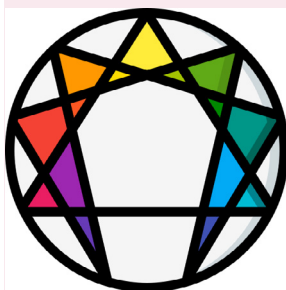
*Rev. Andrea Andress*

Explore the Enneagram, a tool for understanding motivations behind actions. Enhance self-awareness and personal growth through lectures and group discussions.

**Fee, incl. lunch: \$125 per person.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)

To see all upcoming programs and to register, visit [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com). Registrations can also be made by visiting or calling our Guest Services Desk, or by emailing [lora@thecasa.org](mailto:lora@thecasa.org).





**WORKSHOP**

**Exploring Scripture with the Enneagram**  
**Sunday, March 2 | 1 – 5 pm**

*Rev. Andrea Andress*

Connecting with God through Scripture is a great place to start. The Enneagram is an exceptional tool for gaining insight from reading the Bible.

**Fee, incl. lunch: \$75 per person.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



**PRESENTATION**

**Greccio and LaVerna**  
**Wednesday, March 26 | Morning and Evening Presentations**

*Fr. Steven McMichael, OFM, Conv*

This presentation focuses on the last years of the life of Saint Francis in which Francis celebrated Christmas and the Easter Triduum in a unique way.

**Fee, incl. lunch: \$20** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



**RETREAT — NEW!**

**If Only...Making Peace with Our Past to Heal Our Present**  
**March 28 –30, Friday – Sunday**

*Fr. Charles Wehrley, C.Ss.R*

This retreat will teach us how to fully grieve losses from past mistakes instead of simply replaying them and remaining stuck in regret.

**Fee, incl. meals: \$300 single room; \$150 commuter.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



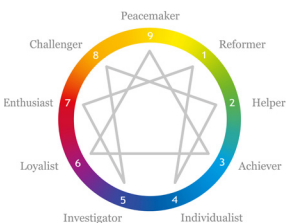
**RETREAT**

**Your Spiritual Legacy**  
**April 4 – 6, Friday – Sunday**

*Mary Dunn and Alanna Mack*

Deep in your soul is the story that wants to be told. In our weekend of guided reflections, we will help you open yourself to that story and discover the treasure that lies within.

**Fee, incl. meals: \$300 single room; \$150 commuter.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



**COMMUTER RETREAT**

**St. Francis and the Enneagram**  
**May 16 – 17, Friday – Saturday**

*Steve Spilde*

Dive into the Enneagram using stories of St. Francis to explore its nine personality types. Join this retreat for reflection and meaningful discussions for all levels.

**Fee: \$140 pp incl. dinner on Friday, lunch on Saturday.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)

To see all upcoming programs and to register, visit [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com). Registrations can also be made by visiting or calling our Guest Services Desk, or by emailing [lora@thecasa.org](mailto:lora@thecasa.org).



## An Invitation to Spiritual Growth

Our Spiritual Direction Ministry offers one-on-one listening and support for finding God in our lives and deepening that relationship.

Spiritual direction or companionship is not counseling, it is holy listening and discernment

of God's voice in our lives. To set up an appointment with one of our directors, contact Cathy Olds, Coordinator of the Spiritual Direction Ministry, at [spiritualdirection@thecasa.org](mailto:spiritualdirection@thecasa.org)

### Faith Sharing Groups at the Casa

**Centering Prayer** meets Wednesdays at 8:45 am in the Meditation Chapel. [SpiritualDirection@thecasa.org](mailto:spiritualdirection@thecasa.org)

**Contemplation in the Desert** gathers in the Healing Garden on Mondays at 11 am. [CareforCreation@thecasa.org](mailto:CareforCreation@thecasa.org)

**Cornerstone Contemplative Meditation** meets Wednesdays, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, in the Spiritual Direction room between the Guadalupe and Tekakwitha conference rooms.

**Interfaith Healing Prayer Group** meets Fridays following 8 am Mass in the back of the church. Send prayer requests to [HealingPrayers@thecasa.org](mailto:HealingPrayers@thecasa.org)

**Men in Spirit.** Christian men meet on the first Saturday of the month at 8 am for breakfast in the dining room, followed by discussion. Zoom available. [MeninSpirit@thecasa.org](mailto:MeninSpirit@thecasa.org)

**Rosary Group** meets Tuesdays at 6 pm in the Meditation Chapel and on Zoom. Requests for meeting information, Zoom link, and prayer intentions, contact: [Rosary@thecasa.org](mailto:Rosary@thecasa.org)

**The Order of Secular Franciscans (OFS) Peace Fraternity** meets on the second Sunday of the month. This Canonical Order of the Catholic Church is open to lay Catholics. Contact: John Elder, OFS, at [johncelder@gmail.com](mailto:johncelder@gmail.com) or 480.580.7750.

## Mass Intentions December 1 – 7, 2024

### Sunday

*Paul Jones* 7:30 am  
*Ruben Chavez* 9:15 am  
*Stanley A. Lukasz* 11:00 am

### Monday

*George & Martha Fagan* 8:00 am

### Tuesday

*Fr. Sam Nasada, OFM* 8:00 am

### Wednesday

*Mike Mansfield* 8:00 am

### Thursday

*Toni Santulli* 8:00 am

### Friday

*Nate Payne* 8:00 am

### Saturday

*Jean & Walt Mruz* 4:00 pm

The intentions listed here will be the intentions of the priest and will not be announced to the gathered assembly.

### About the Franciscan Renewal Center

The Franciscan Renewal Center is a place for spiritual growth, healing, and community that is open to everyone, regardless of faith. Activities include:

- Weekday (Mon. – Fri.) and Weekend Masses at Our Lady of the Angels Church
- Meetings and conferences for religious and nonprofit groups
- Therapy, counseling, and support groups
- Education, retreats, and events
- Family faith formation and Young Adult ministry
- Volunteer ministries, including those in service of the poor and vulnerable
- Spiritual direction

The Franciscan Renewal Center (the Casa) was founded in 1951 by the Order of Friars Minor as a Catholic retreat, called *Casa de Paz y Bien*. It remains an active religious community that seeks to follow in the footsteps of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. The Casa works cooperatively with the Diocese of Phoenix.



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