The Franciscan Renewal Center • Peace. Renewal. Good.



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PASTORAL REFLECTION



The Christmas season has begun and before we even blink our eyes, Holy Family Sunday has arrived. For the Gospel on this day, our Church has chosen a story outside of Luke's infancy narrative that involves the members of the Holy Family: Jesus,

Mary, and Joseph.

But when we listen to this story carefully, it becomes clear that it is a foreshadowing of the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension and thus unclear why we would proclaim it during the Christmas season. Let's sum up the story this way: The time is Passover. Jesus goes to Jerusalem. But when the Passover is over, Jesus is missing. He is gone for three days. After three days, he shows up. Those who are closest to him cannot understand why he would leave them like that. Jesus responds to them by asking, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know where I must be?" Let's remember that Luke's community (which probably would have been Antioch) was trying to come to grips with the fact that Jesus' return was not as imminent as the previous generation thought. What were they to do if the Jesus of the past was gone and the Jesus of the future wasn't coming back any time soon?

Well, the story of Jesus the boy in the Temple is a reminder to Luke's community and to us today that the Jesus of *now* lives on through the community of believers. If Jesus appears to be missing in our lives, it is most likely because we have forgotten where Jesus must be. We are the Holy Family of today, and Jesus the Risen Lord must be born and living in us. Like Mary, we would do well to "keep all these things" in our hearts.

Fred T. Menull

Fred T. Mercadante Director of Faith Formation

The Conventual Church of OUR LADY of the ANGELS

at the Franciscan Renewal Center			
Sunday Mass	Saturday	4:00 pm	
	Sunday 7:30 am; 9:1	5 am; 11:00 am	
Daily Mass	Monday – Friday	8:00 am	
Sat. 4 pm, Sun. 9:15 am, and Monday – Friday Daily Mass also available on <u>YouTube.com/theCasaFRC</u>			

Taizé Prayer	2nd & 4th Wed	nesday 7:00 pm
Reconciliation	Saturday <i>Tisit the website for a</i>	2:00 - 3:00 pm additional times in Advent
Guest Services	Sun. – Sat.	6:00 am -7:30 pm
Adoration	1st Friday	6:00 pm
Bookstore	Sun. Mon. & Tu	8:00 am - 1:00 pm Closed
	Wed. & Thu.	10:00 am - 2:00 pm
	Fri.	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
	Sat.	11:00 am - 5:30 pm
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Please see pg. 10 for this week's Mass Intentions. For weekly readings, visit <u>bible.usccb.org/</u>.

Our Lady of the Angels Church Pastoral Staff

Rector		
Fr. Page E. Polk, OFM	fatherpage@thecasa.org	x145
VICE-RECTOR		
Fr. Vincent Nguyen, OFM	fathervincent@thecasa.org	x174
Deacon		
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Friars in Residence		
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Franciscan Renewal Center Executive Administration

Executive Director		
Charles Brown	casa@thecasa.org	x175

Officers of the FRC Board

Richard Murphy, Secretary

Diane Catlin, Chair Richard Linda Christian, Treasurer

Visit: thecasa.org/frc-board-of-directors for all board members and bios

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LITURGY CONNECTION

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God December 31 at 5 pm January 1 at 11 am

Come start the New Year with this festive community liturgy. As we begin this New Year, we gather in faith and joy to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. We give thanks for the gift of peace that God offers to all people and pray that this peace fills our hearts, our homes, and our world. As we celebrate this Solemnity of Mary, we will ask for the strength to follow her example of humility, faith, and devotion. We also pray for lasting peace among all nations and for the reconciliation of all peoples.

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord January 4 and 5

Our regular weekend Mass schedule: Sat. at 4pm; Sunday at 7:30 am, 9:15 am & 11 am

We commemorate the visit of the Magi—wise men from the East—who followed a star to honor the newborn Jesus, offering gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This feast reveals Christ as the Savior of *all* nations, symbolizing the light of God's presence shining into the world. We are called to seek and recognize Christ in our lives.



Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

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

Join us this Friday, January 3



"Hope does not disappoint"

(Romans 5:5)

In the spirit of hope, the St. Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christians of Rome. Hope is also the central message of this coming Jubilee Year.

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt.

Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope. Taking it as our guide, let us return to the message that the Apostle Paul wished to communicate to the Christians of Rome.

Hope does not disappoint.

Director of Liturgy & Music Assistant Director of Liturgy & Music Executive Assistant to the Liturgy Office Norbert Zwickl Richard Guerra Rosa Rodriguez-Saiz
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FAITH FORMATION — GENERATIONAL MINISTRIES

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



Register Here



Visit our online Faith Formation portal: casafaithformation.org

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FAITH FORMATION

January 11–12: Support the St. Charles Apache Mission School

The St. Charles Apache Mission School is a member of the American Indian Catholic Schools Network, an initiative of five Indian Mission Schools in partnership with the University of Notre Dame. The school is located on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.







For years, Casa community members have chosen to support the school. St. Charles qualifies for Arizona private school tax credit. As we approach the end of the year, the students want to thank you for your past support by visiting the Casa *the second weekend of January (January 11–12)*. In the meantime, you can learn more about the school by visiting their website: <u>https://stcharlesmission.org/</u>.

Information on how to continue to support them (through tax credit donations) will be available at their table in the Hospitality area after all the January 11–12 Masses and also in a future bulletin.



DISCOVER THE VISION

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

1st Thursdays of the Month

Upcoming dates: January 2 11:00 am February 6 11:00 am

Reserve Your Spot Today

online: <u>thecasa.org/</u> <u>discover-the-vision</u>

phone: 480.355.5631

email: <u>rsvp@thecasa.org</u>

Director of Development Development Manager Christopher Meyer Paula A Tobin



THE FRANCISCAN VISION LECTURE SERIES

Sunday, January 12, 9 – 10:30 am | Auditorium *"A Franciscan Vision of the Bible: St. Clare's Spirituality"* with Fr. Garrett Galvin, OFM

For more information and a listing of future programs, visit: <u>frc.retreatportal.com</u>

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

Mass Offerings

12.15.24 \$17,023 12.17.23 \$25,049

Mass Attendance

12.15.24 1,381 12.17.23 1,429

christopher@thecasa.org 480.355.5634 paula@thecasa.org 480.355.5631

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Faith in Action Ministries!

Be doers of the word and not hearers only...(James 1:22)



Faith in Action Ministry (FIA) empowers our community, as the people of God, to fulfill the Church's mission of love, justice, freedom, and peace, which is built up or torn down in the daily decisions and actions we make.

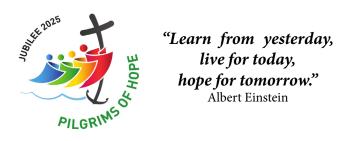
Our faith does not call us to abandon the world but to shape it. This mission accomplishes more when we act together, supporting each other and helping each other to have the courage of our convictions, to stand up for what we value and to practice what scripture proclaims.

At the Franciscan Renewal Center, "Faith in Action" means putting your passion to work for social justice and positive change in the world. We are the hands and feet of Christ, and we are motivated by St. Francis' revolutionary concept of what it means to embrace all of Creation with love, not blame.

Our various FIA ministries are made up of not only volunteers from the Our Lady of the Angels community but also anyone who has a heart for a particular ministry and its mission.

We welcome and appreciate our direct service volunteers. However, our FIA ministries cannot thrive or exist without our vital volunteer leadership teams. If you are interested in learning more about FIA leadership opportunities, please reach out to the respective ministry via email.

There is a fit for you. Please join us in continuing God's work.



As we enter into the New Year, we also celebrate the Jubilee Year *Pilgrims of Hope*. Let us embrace the call to serve as living signs of God's love in the world. "Jubilee" is a time to actively reach out to those in need, to be a beacon of hope for the marginalized, and to work together to build a more just and compassionate society. Let us use this year to renew our faith and deepen our commitment to service, demonstrating the true meaning of Christian charity.

With this new year, we pray for all of the volunteers who serve with the Casa's many outreach ministries. We also pray for those who benefit from their service, and for anyone discerning a call to serve:

In this year of Jubilee, we ask You, to touch our hearts anew with the love of Your Son, Jesus Christ, enlighten our minds with Your Holy Spirit and strengthen our hands for service. Amen.



Sources for the *Jubilee2025*: the Vatican, the USCCB, the Archdiocese of Washington, Xavier University and the Diocese of Albany.

Visit our new Faith in Action page! casafaithformation.org/faith-in-action-ministries

Co - Manager, Faith in Action	Victor Jaimes	<u>victor@thecasa.org</u>	480.306.4027	
Co - Manager, Faith in Action	Laura Libertore	<u>laura@thecasa.org</u>	480.355.5645	
For volunteer opportunities and FIA events, visit: <u>linktr.ee/socialconcerns</u>				

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COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of our 2024 Annual Appeal, I reflect on the many ways the Lord has worked through your generosity to sustain the mission of the Franciscan Renewal Center. Together, we have been instruments of God's grace, offering spiritual renewal, healing, and hope to countless souls.

With gratitude in my heart, I invite you to prayerfully consider a gift before the year's end. Our goal of \$510,000, is at hand and I invite your faithful support to increase our response to God's call in

four vital areas:

Our Church: Your generosity sustains this sacred house of prayer, where hearts are lifted to God in worship and thanksgiving. **Our Grounds:** Your support preserves the beauty of these holy grounds, a place where many encounter God's presence in creation. **Our Retreats:** Your gift ensures that all who seek rest for their souls can find it here, regardless of financial need. **Our Ministries:** From acts of mercy to counseling and social justice, your support brings Christ's love to those in greatest need.

Time is short, but the opportunity to make a lasting impact remains. Will you answer this call of faith and charity? Together, we can continue to build the Kingdom of God through the mission of the Casa.

Know that you remain in my prayers as I entrust our work and your intentions to the loving care of our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Angels and her newborn son, Jesus.

- With every blessing, Christopher Meyer, Director of Development

Annual Appeal 2024

Lifelong and Ongoing...Serving the Casa Community

FINAL DAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S APPEAL!

Gifts can be made:

Online: <u>thecasa.org/donate</u>

Drop off: The Casa's Guest Services Desk

Mail:Franciscan Renewal Center5802 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

For ACH recurring withdrawals, email 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 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.



Scan the QR code to give online.

photo by:

Peter Jordan

Together We Can. Page 7 • RENEWAL • thecasa.org

EDUCATION, RETREATS, AND EVENTS — Pre-registration required.



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



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



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



WORKSHOP

RETREAT

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



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

To see all upcoming programs and to register, visit <u>frc.retreatportal.com</u>. Registrations can also be made by visiting or calling our Guest Services Desk, or by emailing <u>lora@thecasa.org</u>.

EDUCATION, RETREATS, AND EVENTS — Pre-registration required.

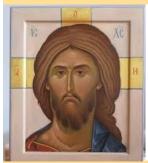


RETREAT

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



ICONOGRAPHY RETREAT — NEW!

A Brush with God April 10 – April 13, Thursday – Sunday Peter Pearson, MDiv, ThD We will walk through the ancient process of creating an icon of the face of Christ, using this image which was created by a contemporary master as our guide. No experience required.

Fee, incl. meals: \$600 single room; \$400 commuter. Register: frc.retreatportal.com



RETREAT

Holy Week 2025 Part I: April 12 – 16 | Part II: April 17 – April 20

Fr. John Quigley, OFM Part I: Stay as many nights as you wish between April 12 –16. To register, email lora@ thecasa.org, call 480.948.7460, or visit the Casa's Guest Services Desk. Part II: The Paschal Triduum. Online registration available. Register: <u>frc.retreatportal.com</u>



RETREAT

Living Into the Truth of God's Extravagant Love April 25 – 27, Friday – Sunday

Roger L. Parks, Psy.D Join this contemplative retreat to realign your view of God with His true nature. Engage in meditation, prayer, and reflection for a more loving, biblical perspective.

Fee, incl. meals: \$300 single room. Register: frc.retreatportal.com

WORKSHOP SERIES—NEW!

Protecting Our Own Well Being in Challenging Times Saturdays: Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 5, May 3, Jun 7 | 9 am – Noon

Wayne Tormala Workshops designed to build knowledge and skills for sustainable life balance and awakened decision-making amidst the many distractions and stressors in life.

Registration Details: frc.retreatportal.com

To see all upcoming programs and to register, visit <u>frc.retreatportal.com</u>. Registrations can also be made by visiting or calling our Guest Services Desk, or by emailing <u>lora@thecasa.org</u>.



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. To set up an appointment with one of our directors, contact Cathy Olds, Coordinator of the Spiritual

Direction Ministry, at spiritualdirection@thecasa.org



Therapy, Support, and Counseling Ministry (TSCM)thecasa.org/tscm

TSCM offers donation-based professional behavioral health therapy to help individuals, couples, and families cope with life's challenges — such as relationship issues, stress, depression/anxiety, and personal growth.

Ryan Sheade, LCSW, Director of Therapy, Support and Counseling Ministry. counseling@thecasa.org

Faith Sharing Groups at the Casa

Centering Prayer meets Wednesdays at 8:45 am in the Meditation Chapel. SpiritualDirection@thecasa.org

Contemplation in the Desert gathers in the Healing Garden on Mondays at 11 am. 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

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

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

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 or 480.580.7750.



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Mass Intentions December 29, 2024 - January 4, 2025

Sunday Paul Jones Peggy Theiss Randy Beauchamp	7:30 am 9:15 am 11:00 am
Monday Paul Jones	8:00 am
Tuesday Matthew Clarke Justin Hammer	8:00 am 5:00 pm
Wednesday Daniel James Elsener	8:00 am
Thursday Fr. Thomas Herbst, OFM	8:00 am
Friday Eleanor English	8:00 am
Saturday Marjorie Mooney	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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Franciscan Renewal Center, Paradise Valley, AZ



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