

December 22, 2024

Fourth 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)

PASTORAL REFLECTION



Matthew's Gospel tells us that when Joseph discovered Mary's pregnancy, he initially decided to "divorce her quietly." Yet, after an angel appeared to him in a dream, instructing him to take Mary as his wife, he obeyed. Although Mary was conceived without sin and had already

accepted God's will when she said "yes" to the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation, she was still a young girl from a devout family in first-century Palestine. As she pondered the mystery of her pregnancy, we might wonder: Was she scared?

The journey from Nazareth to Elizabeth's home in the hill country was about 90 miles. Did Mary fear scandal or want to avoid judgment from those who couldn't understand her role in salvation history? Was she worried about how others would perceive her pregnancy? Did she fear rejection or misunderstanding, even from her relative, Elizabeth? These questions remind us that Mary's journey likely involved vulnerability and uncertainty.

However, we hear in today's gospel from Luke, when Mary reaches Elizabeth, there is only joy—mutual joy. Both women have experienced miraculous pregnancies: Elizabeth's after years of barrenness and Mary's through divine conception. Their pregnancies are testaments to God's intervention and power. Mary's journey to Elizabeth is not just a physical one; it brings God's presence into the lives of all she encounters.

Our journey of Advent is one of anticipation, preparation, and trust, but also perhaps anxiety and stress. Just as Mary said "yes" to God's plan for her life, we, too, are invited to trust in His plan for our own lives. It calls us to examine where we might need to let go of distractions, embrace vulnerability, and open ourselves more fully to God's presence. This season often brings personal struggles, family tensions, and the busyness of the holidays. Yet, in the midst of these challenges, we can draw strength from Mary's example and her joy. She trusted God even when the path was unclear, and through faith, the world was transformed.

Deacon Matt Ryan, OFM

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>Visit the website 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**

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## Christmas 2024 Mass Schedule

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

**Christmas Day – Dec. 25 (Wednesday)**  
**10 am in the Church**

### Family Prayer Before Christmas Dinner

*God of all gifts,  
We thank You for the many ways  
You have blessed us this day.  
We are especially grateful for each person  
gathered around this table.  
We ask You to bless us  
and the food we share,  
and we remember in our hearts  
those we love but who are not with us today.*

*In our gratitude and love,  
we reflect on Your humble birth and  
pray for those who are without enough to eat.  
We remember the stable where You were born  
and pray for those who have no place to call home.  
We recall Your message of love, caring, and giving,  
and pray for peace in families and nations  
throughout the world.*

*We bless You and give thanks to You,  
for Your Spirit, who brings our hearts to life  
this Christmas Day and forever. Amen.*

### Feast of the Holy Family December 28 and 29

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

This feast is an opportunity to reflect on the love, unity, and example of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. We honor their holy example and seek strength in our own families, asking for God's blessings of peace and unity in our homes and hearts.

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God December 31 | 5 pm January 1 | 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 4 pm; Sun. 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.

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

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Richard Guerra  
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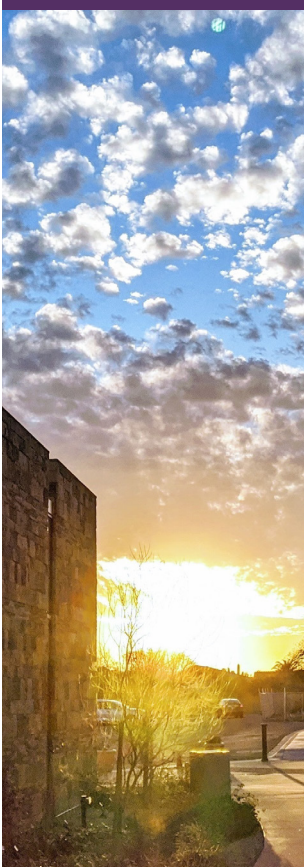
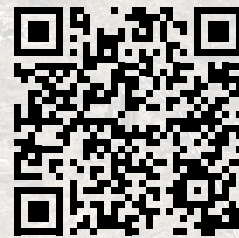
Visit our online Faith Formation portal: [casafaitformation.org](http://casafaitformation.org)



# The 4 Elements Retreat

## A Day Hike Retreat

- Led by a team of young adult & adult community members
- Witness Talks
- Small Group Discussion
- Prayer



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

phone: 480.355.5631

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



Franciscan School of Theology  
at the UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

### 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: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)

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

### Mass Offerings

12.8.24 \$20,027

12.10.23 \$20,539

### Mass Attendance

12.8.24 1,550

12.10.23 1,433

Director of Development  
Development Manager

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### Upcoming Winter Service Projects

w/ Casa Habitat for Humanity & Hunger Action Ministry

#### Habitat for Humanity Service

We need community members to help build our 24<sup>th</sup> Habitat Home.



We are building alongside St Patrick's Community.

Designated winter build dates:

**Saturday, January 11**

**Saturday, February 1**

More winter/early spring dates to be announced.

No experience is required to be a Habitat volunteer builder. Contact: [thecasa Habitat@thecasa.org](mailto:thecasa Habitat@thecasa.org)

Visit *FIA LinkTree* for Habitat ministry flyer/details.



#### Hunger Action Ministry Service

*Your Involvement Matters*

Desert Mission Food Bank:

**Wednesdays, January 8 and February 12**

St. Vincent de Paul:

(SVdP; kitchen crew, plating meals)

**January 17 and February 21**

*Please note that the day of the week for plating meals at SVdP has changed to Fridays*

#### Service Opportunity for Teens!

**January 25, Special Saturday Service** at *St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix Dining Room*. Ages 16+, or ages 14-15 with adults, can volunteer. Volunteers create an experience for guests to feel welcome and part of a family. **Details in an upcoming bulletin!**

Questions? Email [hungeraction@thecasa.org](mailto:hungeraction@thecasa.org)

### Save-the-Date for These Upcoming Programs:

**Saturday, February 22 | 9 am–12:30 pm**

Gardening Sustainably in the Desert:  
*Desert Gardening for Pollinators*

**Friday, February 21– Sunday, February 23**

St. Francis: Journey of a Resilient Warrior  
*A Franciscan Retreat for Veterans*

**More information to be announced soon.**



### Going on a winter hike?

### Need to stock up on joe for the holidays?



*While supplies last...*

You can pick up **Café Justo Coffee** at the Lobby Desk or the Books & Blessings Gift shop for \$10. You can also purchase an FRC Water Bottle at the Lobby Desk for \$15. Water bottles are fully insulated and can keep your drinks cool for up to 24 hours and hot for up to 12 hours.

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Co - Manager, Faith in Action

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480.355.5645

For volunteer opportunities and FIA events, visit: [linktr.ee/socialconcerns](http://linktr.ee/socialconcerns)

## COMMUNITY CONNECTION



### Resilient Warrior Retreat for Military Veterans

I've been blessed to lead Military Veteran Pilgrimages to Assisi with Fr. Conrad Targonski, OFM since 2011. While at the Casa in 2013 for our yearly pilgrimage planning meeting, we were asked by the Casa Veterans Ministry to lead retreats there. From the moment of its inception, we strove to bring a piece of Assisi into these works. By far, it's the profound sense of peace in the hometown of St. Francis we hoped to share.

I have been deeply humbled by the men and women who have participated in the Resilient Warrior Retreats over the years. The stories they have shared along with the service they have performed in their lives is inspirational. The thread of faith throughout it all, of some who have been disquieted by war, is notable. It ties together a ministry that gives back a hundredfold.

As part of the retreat, we look at the life of St. Francis through the lens of a military veteran who transcended the scars of war, leaving a legacy of peace behind in its wake. It's a paradox worth deeper exploration for any trials our lives confront: Jesus in our midst even when we are blinded by dark circumstances.

I would be remiss to overlook the real rockstar of the retreat. Father Conrad was a chaplain to the Marines in Fallujah during some of the fiercest battles of the Iraqi War. He continues the legacy St. Francis began 800 years ago. If you are a veteran or active-duty, please join us on our next Resilient Warrior Retreat on February 21–23.

*Your annual appeal gift helps support Casa Veterans Ministry*

— Greg Masiello

# 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.*



*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)



**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)

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).





**PRESENTATION**

**The Holy Spirit and the Body of Christ**

**Tuesday, March 25 | Morning and Evening Presentations**

*Fr. Steven McMichael, OFM, Conv*

We will focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in the Eucharist theology of Francis and the importance of the Eucharist in the context of thirteenth-century Italy.

**Fee, incl. lunch: \$20** 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)



**PRESENTATION**

**Searching for Common Ground**

**Thursday, March 27 | Morning and Evening Presentations**

*Fr. Steven McMichael, OFM, Conv*

This presentation highlights the similarities and differences between Christians and Muslims regarding the prophets in the history of salvation and revelation.

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



**RETREAT— NEW!**

**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. There is no online registration for part I. To register, email [lora@thecasa.org](mailto:lora@thecasa.org), call 480.948.7460, or visit the Casa's Guest Services Desk.

Part II: The Paschal Triduum. Online registration available.

Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)

**COMMUTER RETREAT**

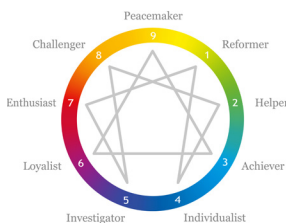
**St. Francis and the Enneagram**

**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. 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)



## Therapy, Support, and Counseling Ministry (TSCM) [thecasa.org/tscm](http://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](mailto:counseling@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 [johnelder@gmail.com](mailto:johnelder@gmail.com) or 480.580.7750.

## Mass Intentions December 22 – 28, 2024

### Sunday

*Mitchell & Emily Osiol*  
*Anthony Seminario*  
*Jean & Walt Mruz*

7:30 am  
9:15 am  
11:00 am

### Monday

*Catherine Zanotti*

8:00 am

### Tuesday

*Helen Czekaj*  
*Dr. John Corrigan*  
*Teresa Mendoza-Vargas*

4:00 pm  
6:00 pm  
8:00 pm

### Wednesday

*Maurine Tobin*

10:00 am

### Thursday

NO MASS

### Friday

*Peter Osiol*

8:00 am

### Saturday

*Kellen McMillin*

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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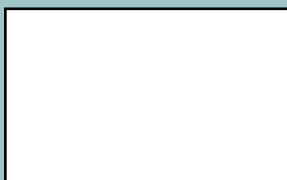
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