

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

RENEWAL

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



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The top of the refrigerator. When I was a child, that's where my parents hid the baby Jesus from our nativity set in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Each year, we waited with barely contained excitement, knowing that on Christmas Eve, when the time finally came to open gifts, the little figure would make its journey from its secret resting place to the manger. That was the moment we all knew: the time was now!

As a young child, I didn't learn where the baby Jesus was hidden until the year it fell behind the refrigerator and a piece of its arm chipped off. In my youthful innocence, I wondered how they could leave the baby alone up there, so high and precarious, in clear danger of falling! I still smile at the memory, recalling the simplicity and wonder of those early Christmases.

As a young college student, working as the music director in our parish, the pastor gave me a small nativity set he had brought back from Italy. It wasn't fragile or valuable in the way many gifts are, but it meant something much more important. It symbolized a shared bond between us, a connection that carried deeper meaning than its material worth. Forty-four years later, I still have that nativity set. Each December, with a sense of deep gratitude and sentimentality, I place it among the other holiday decorations in my home, honoring its significance.

This is the season for sharing stories—and these memories are so precious because they help keep those traditions alive, reminding us of the simple joys and the deep connections that shape our holidays. How do you feel when you set up your nativity each year now, after all this time?

Norbert Zwickl
Director of Liturgy & Music

The Conventual Church of
OUR LADY of the ANGELS

at the Franciscan Renewal Center

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

Please see pg. 10 for this week's Mass Intentions. For weekly readings, visit bible.usccb.org/.

Our Lady of the Angels Church Pastoral Staff

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Fr. Page E. Polk, OFM fatherpage@thecasa.org x145

VICE-RECTOR

Fr. Vincent Nguyen, OFM fathervincent@thecasa.org x174

DEACON

Dcn. Hervé Lemire, OFM Affiliate deaconherve@gmail.com

FRIARS IN RESIDENCE

Dcn. Matt Ryan, OFM deaconmatt@thecasa.org

Franciscan Renewal Center Executive Administration

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Charles Brown casa@thecasa.org x175

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Diane Catlin, Chair Richard Murphy, Secretary
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Visit: thecasa.org/frc-board-of-directors for all board members and bios

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To receive RENEWAL and other Casa news by email, tinyurl.com/z8t2vj3a

The 5th Annual Casa Crèche Festival
Saturday, December 14 | 10 am – 9 pm
Sunday, December 15 | 8 am – 4 pm

This unique festival celebrates the Christmas experience of Saint Francis of Assisi in the little village of Greccio, Italy—800 years ago—which started the tradition of setting up nativity scenes in our churches, towns, and homes. We have many beautiful “crèches” (nativity scenes) on display from a variety of cultures and traditions. This collection of diverse and interesting nativity sets are on loan from members of the Casa community.



Coming up this 3rd week of Advent
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Monday, December 16 ~ 6–7 pm
Wednesday, December 18 ~ 2–3 pm

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

*Canticle
of Joy*

Two 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.

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

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
richard@thecasa.org
rosa@thecasa.org

480.355.0346
480.355.0347
480.355.5642

The 4 Elements Retreat

Saturday, February 1

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



More Information and
Registration Here!



Visit our online Faith Formation portal: casafaitform.org



Casa Young Adult Ministry
invites everyone in our community for an intergenerational event!

A CASA CHRISTMAS

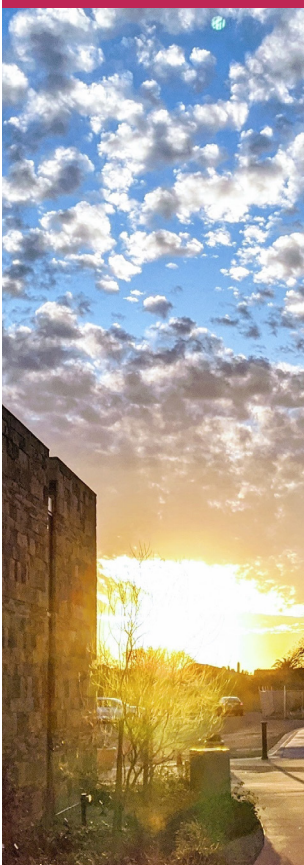
Music | Desserts | Games | Fun

December 18 | 6–8 pm

Sign up today!



For more information, email
yaministry@thecasa.org



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



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

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

Mass Offerings

12.1.24 \$20,934

12.3.23 \$27,958

Mass Attendance

12.1.24 1,493

12.3.23 1,315

Director of Development
Development Manager

Christopher Meyer
Paula A Tobin

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

Casa Advent Blanket Drive Next Weekend December 21–22

Benefitting *André House* of Arizona's guests experiencing homelessness.



Can You help?

We need volunteers for the blanket drive. Sign up as a Collection Volunteer on the **FIA LinkTree**. Questions? Email Fred at fred@thecasa.org or call 480.355.0359.

Bring your new or gently used blanket donation next weekend.

Drop-off your blankets at the canopy tents by the Our Lady of the Angels Church Parking Lot exits.

Coming January 11–12 Support the St. Charles Apache School

For years, Casa community members have chosen to support the St. Charles Catholic school on the San Carlos Apache reservation.



St. Charles qualifies for Arizona private school tax credit. As tax season begins, the students want to thank you for your past support and encourage you to continue supporting the school. Students along with their families will be at the Casa the **second weekend of January (January 11–12)** after all the Masses.

More details on how to donate and tax credit information coming soon in an upcoming bulletin.



Helping Those in Need Arizona Tax Credit

Support your favorite charity that helps low income people and children in Foster Care by participating in one or more of the AZ Tax Credit programs. Contributions to qualifying organizations of the low income and foster care programs can be claimed as separate credits with separate limitations for each.

Maximum credit amount has increased: \$587 for single, married filing separate and head/household taxpayers; \$1,173 for married filing joint taxpayers. List of qualifying organizations, are found on the State website azdor.gov/tax-credits/credits-contributions-qcos-and-qfcos

A Faith in Action Ministry that benefits directly from a tax credit contribution is the **Casa Habitat Ministry.**

Support Casa Habitat through the Arizona Tax Credit. Donate to **Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona** and indicate that your donation is on behalf of the **Franciscan Renewal Center**

- by check: on the *memo line*,
- or online: choose “*designate: I’m giving on behalf of my church*” and then add *Franciscan Renewal Center* (in the next box/name of church), and receive a dollar-for-dollar credit toward your Arizona income tax payment. habitatcaz.org/donate/

Did You Miss the Fair Trade Sale?



While supplies last...You can pick up **Café Justo Coffee** at the Lobby Desk or the Books and Blessings Gift shop. The FRC Water Bottles are available at the Lobby desk.

If there is any **Divine Chocolate** left, it will be at the lobby desk (we suggest that you call first).

Through fair trade, every purchase matters. It's the easiest way to do the most good, every day.

Great holiday and hostess gifts.

Co - Manager, Faith in Action

Victor Jaimes

victor@thecasa.org

480.306.4027

Co - Manager, Faith in Action

Laura Libertore

laura@thecasa.org

480.355.5645

For volunteer opportunities and FIA events, visit: linktr.ee/socialconcerns

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



We Get More than We Give — A Conversation with Casa Volunteers

Recently, Rosemarie LeClercq and Stan Martin told me about how volunteering is a blessing. Rosemarie said, “You build a community, in whatever ministry you work in.” She volunteers in at least eight different Casa ministries, plus other episodic Casa projects. Another of her blessings? “When I go out to the sick (as EM to the Sick and Homebound), it’s seeing the joy in their faces.”

Stan, the lead volunteer for the Casa Gardeners, mentioned another blessing of volunteering, “When you see people in the garden, you know they put in an effort to be here. They’ll say the nicest things.” Rosemarie also mentioned, “You get to see the preparation for the events that

happen here.”

They both said that as volunteers, they represent All Are Welcome, and are sensitive that visitors can be grieving when they come to the Casa.

Stan told how he once asked a couple in the gardens, “Can I do anything for you?” They had brought flowers to honor their deceased son. The mother said, “Do you think it would be okay if I brought some nice, silk flowers? They would last longer.” Stan assured her that it would be fine. And he decided to make sure the flowers stayed for as long as they looked good. “You go into a conversation one way and come away with something different,” said Stan. If you are interested in joining the circle of giving and receiving blessings as a Casa volunteer, feel free to contact me.

— Jenifer Tull-Gauger

Society for Human Resource Management-Certified Professional

Human Resources Manager

jenifer@thecasa.org

Annual Appeal 2024

Lifelong and Ongoing...Serving the Casa Community

Gifts can be made:

Online: 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.

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.



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



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



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

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



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

To see all upcoming programs and to register, visit frc.retreatportal.com. Registrations can also be made by visiting or calling our Guest Services Desk, or by emailing 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



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



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



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



RETREAT — RESCHEDULED!

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

To see all upcoming programs and to register, visit frc.retreatportal.com. Registrations can also be made by visiting or calling our Guest Services Desk, or by emailing 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



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](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

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 johnelder@gmail.com or 480.580.7750.

Mass Intentions December 15 – 21, 2024

Sunday

Bob Wilkerson

7:30 am

Minnie Rahn

9:15 am

Betty & Fran Beauchamp

11:00 am

Monday

Michael J. Rahn

8:00 am

Tuesday

Philip Chircop

8:00 am

Wednesday

Adrian DeGroot

8:00 am

Thursday

Yvette McCullough

8:00 am

Friday

Paul Jones

8:00 am

Saturday

Sarah Privee

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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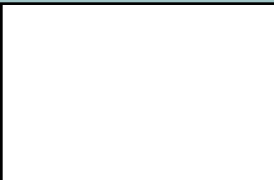
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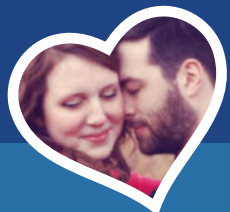
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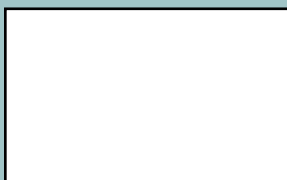
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