Upcoming at the Casa

**Brush with God**
*With Peter Pearson*
*Thursday, Dec. 5—Sunday, Dec. 8*

**Grief and Loss Retreat**
*For anyone experiencing grief over the death of a loved one.*
*Friday, Dec. 13—Sunday, Dec. 15*

**Emmaus Retreat for Grieving Parents**
*With Marianne Gouveia & Fr. Peter Kirwin, OFM*
*Friday, Dec. 13—Sunday, Dec. 15*

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**The Conventual Church of**
**Our Lady of the Angels**
*at the Franciscan Renewal Center*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekend Mass</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>7:30 am, 9:15 am</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>11:00 am, 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Mass</td>
<td>Monday - Saturday</td>
<td>as announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Day Masses</td>
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<td>7:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosary</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7:45 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centering Prayer</td>
<td>Monday - Saturday</td>
<td>7:30 am - 7:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front Desk Hours</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>7:30 am - 8:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books &amp; Blessings</td>
<td>Monday - Wednesday</td>
<td>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thursday - Saturday</td>
<td>10:00 am - 6:30 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
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Behaving Badly in the Eternal City

I was in Rome in late October and early November, when the synod on the Amazon was meeting. During that time, the Holy Father allowed several images from indigenous tribes to be displayed in a church in Rome. Several people chose to remove the images, throw them in the Tiber and protest about pagan idols being shown in a church as a way to garner international attention for their dislike of the present pope. In the meantime, people stated that the pope is going to ordain married men as priests and women as deacons as a result of the synod. It was an exceptional time to be in Rome.

First, about the synod. It was a meeting of bishops of the region—with some outside officials, and various experts in science and theology—in response to a developing ecological, pastoral and social crisis. The bishops present did vote a majority (not unanimously) in favor of ordaining certain (not all) men who are ordained deacons, as ordained priests. The bishops also voted in favor of supporting the idea of women deacons. The Vatican has made no decision on what to do with these recommendations. But, people like to spread rumors that are more interesting than the facts.

Now, about the images. Having some training in art history, I was surprised to see that some Catholics claimed on social media that it was a good idea to take the images noted and throw them in the Tiber (later recovered) because “pagan idols have no place in a Catholic Church.” The first reality ignored was that they are not images of any divinity so they cannot be defined as idols. The action also reveals a profound ignorance of the development of symbols commonly used for centuries to teach Christian ideas through art in churches that have roots in pagan religion before the time of Christ.

A few examples could include: halos (Sol Invictus); the Phoenix Bird (on our diocesan emblem); Geneii (developed as images of angels with wings); Hermes (Good Shepherd); Helios/Apollo (Christ as the Light of the World). There are more, but I think you can get the point.

Allowing fears to build into intense dislike and intense bad behavior is not a way that leads to the proper development of social or church structures. Critique is certainly acceptable, however it needs to be based in reality rather than imagined absolutes. Otherwise, it’s simply ideology, not reason. As a church, I encourage all of us to open our minds and hearts to what we can learn about our world through the study of science, spirituality, theology, and anthropology. By doing this, we will act in the tradition of the Church and help spread the teaching of the Gospel to all nations. That would be attractive behavior!

Peace and Good,
Fr. Joseph Schwab, OFM
Thanksgiving Day Mass –
Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019 at 10 am

For what we have received from God’s bounty, we return to the Lord with gratitude! Join in this festive liturgy where the community gives thanks together.

We invite you to bring food for the poor to Mass on this day—this invitation is always open every week. But on this day (even though the food will not reach the needy in time for Thanksgiving dinner), it will visibly connect this holiday to our service of the poor and can help to replenish the shelves of local food distribution programs after Thanksgiving.

“Taizé Prayer Around the Cross”
Wednesday, November 27 at 6:30 pm

Making time for quiet reflection is important, especially in our very busy and noisy lives. Taizé prayer consists of meditative singing and periods of silence in order to reach a contemplative state.

All are welcome to join in this beautiful and unique prayer! We gather in the church on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The prayer service lasts about 35-40 minutes.
Thanksgiving Day Grace Prayer

Lord, You made a world full of goodness, filled with beauty, love, and nourishment. Now, as we talk, eat, and pray, we praise you Lord for Thanksgiving day.

(www.livingprayers.com)

Join with André House to Honor the Lives of the Indigent and Unknown

As part of an annual Thanksgiving Eve Service, André House of Arizona invites the community to honor the lives of the poor, indigent, and unknown, who have been buried in the White Tanks Cemetery over the past calendar year. The White Tanks Cemetery is the final resting place for the indigent deceased of Maricopa County. Many of those buried are people who died in our community but cannot be identified.

A prayer service in the Christian tradition will include Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, music, luminaries, and vigil candles. As part of the service, each name of the deceased will be read aloud. This powerful service is a reminder to all of us of the brevity of our life on earth and prepares us to truly give thanks on Thanksgiving for the many blessings in our lives.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 27, 7:30 pm
WHERE: White Tanks Cemetery 5000 N. Alsup Rd. Litchfield Park (just past 159th Ave and Camelback Rd)
INFO: ewunsch@andrehouse.org

For Baptisms, Sacramental Preparation and Family Catechesis, contact Patty Tafolla at 480.355.0359 or dcm@thecasa.org; Donna Kinzie at 480.355.0344 or donna@thecasa.org; for Youth Ministry contact James Whitaker at 480.355.0343 or youth@thecasa.org
VOLUNTEER VOICE – Ordinary People, Extraordinary Hearts!

Thank you for your stewardship!

Mass Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.10.19</td>
<td>$22,073.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.11.18</td>
<td>$20,993.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.12.17</td>
<td>$24,854.50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We received 262 collection envelopes.

Support Groups

No appointments required. All Are Welcome.

**Monday:**
6:30 - 8 pm: Divorce/Separation/Relationship Endings

**Tuesday:**
5:30 - 7 pm: Grieving the Loss of a Loved One
6:30 - 8 pm: Depression and Anxiety

**Wednesday:**
6:30 - 8 pm: Addiction & Family

For volunteer opportunities, contact Pat Bennier at volunteer@thecasa.org or 480.355.0361

Books and Blessings
bookstore & spiritual boutique at the Casa

Meet Cathy Zoccoli after the Sunday morning Masses on November 24. She is the U.S. distributor for the A Men collection. She will be at table outside the gift shop, with her jewelry. Cathy imports the jewelry from her family business, in Italy.

For more information about our Counseling Ministry, please call 480.948.7460, ext. 134 or email: counseling@thecasa.org
**Fair Trade Christmas Sale**

Sunday, December 8, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

In the Hospitality Area after all morning Masses.

From production to purchase, Fair Trade is a model of sustainable, ethical trade that puts people and the planet first. It’s the easiest way to do the most good, every day. Visit the ministry tables on Sunday, December 8 and include their items on your Christmas shopping list.

You will find:

- Handcrafted Apache baskets, jewelry and more.
- Cafe Justo Fair-Trade coffee.
- Divine Fair-Trade chocolate.
- ALSO, reusable stainless steel FRC waterbottles.

**Shop Fair - Trade for Christmas**

For more information about Faith in Action Ministries, contact us at 480.948.746. Patti Sills-Trausch at x130 or socialconcerns@thecasa.org, or Laura Libertore at x156 or laura@thecasa.org.

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**The Casa Habitat Ministry**

A Home is Where the Heart Is

Builders are needed for our 13th home.

No tools or experience is required. Wear closed-toe shoes, regular work clothes in layers, and be ready to get dirty. The construction crew must be at least 16 years old to be on-site.

**2019 -2020 Build Dates:**

*December 14, 2019 - Begin Drywall
*January 18, 2020 - Begin Doors & Trim
*February 8th, 2020 - Finish Interior Paint/Begin Exterior Paint/Landscape

To help build, please sign up through email: thecasahabitat@thecasa.org.

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**Hunger Action Ministry**

Fall and Winter Service Opportunities

Sign up for service through email to Hungeraction@thecasa.org.

Individuals are needed to help to pack emergency food boxes at St. Mary’s Food Bank in December and to serve at St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room or Desert Mission Food Bank in the new year. More details provided via email per opportunity.

- **Tuesday, December 10** St Mary’s Food Bank, Pack Emergency Food Boxes on, 12:45 - 3 pm
- **Tuesday, January 28**, Saint Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Family Dining Room and Dream Center, prep and serve dinner, 4 - 6:30 pm
- **January 17, February 10 and March 20**, help at Desert Mission Food Bank (DMFB). HAM is continuing to provide volunteer service once a month at DMFB in 2020.
**Be the First to Register for these 2020 Programs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 17 - 19</td>
<td>Migrants &amp; Justice &amp; Bees, Oh, My! Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>Introduction to Nonviolence Leadership Certificate Program Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Veterans Reconnect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>Introduction to Biblical Archaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Balancing Body, Mind and Spirit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>Peace Within &amp; Walking Labyrinth Meditation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Introduction to Centering Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 14</td>
<td>The Joy of Journaling</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Brush with God**

**Thursday, Dec. 5—Sunday, Dec. 8**

Peter Pearson

In this retreat, under the expert guidance of Peter Pearson, you’ll go through the steps to create an icon, including the prayer and reflection that work of this nature evokes.

**Commuter Fee includes Thursday and Friday dinner, Saturday and Sunday lunch $350. With lodging and all meals: $575 single, $475 double per person. A $75 materials fee is included. Pre-registration required. Space is limited.**

**Fill the Well Concert with Paul Hillebrand**

**Friday, Dec. 6, 7 - 9 pm**

Paul Hillebrand

Most of us are running around with too much to do and are not taking the time to stop and fill our spiritual wells. "Come, Fill the Well" is a night of prayer, reflection, music, stories, Scripture, and inspiration for the whole community in addition to it being a great night for all Liturgical ministers in the Phoenix Diocese to have a night of renewal.

**Fee: Free will offering. Pre-registration is appreciated to ensure seating.**

**Franciscan Vision Series: St Francis: Master of Prayer Part 1**

**Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 - 11 am**

Fr. Michael Higgins, TOR

The writings of St. Francis and the legends about the saint demonstrate the important place of prayer in his spiritual journey. This first part of the two-part presentation will explore the depth and richness of the prayers that he composed. As many scholars point out, he truly deserves the title of Master of Prayer.

**Fee: $95 per person. Pre-registration required.**

For more information or to register for any of these programs please visit thecasa.org or call 480.948.7460 ext. 132
Hot Topics
Left, Right & Center: Views on Violence in our Schools
Friday, Dec. 13, 7 - 9 pm
Mark Klym
This program features lively discussions centered around a variety of "Hot Topics" that are of concern to people in Arizona and the Casa community.
Come discuss, ask questions and listen to differing views about the Violence Within Our Schools. What effect is all the talk of violence having on our children today? On the teachers? On parents?
For this evening's Hot Topic Talk, we will also have a panel of professionals in Education and Law Enforcement that will share their views with us to get us started on this discussion.
Fee: $12. Space is limited. Pre-registration required.

Grief and Loss Retreat
Friday, Dec. 13—Sunday, Dec. 15
Sheila Marchetta, MA; Mauro Pando, MC; and Timothy Ringgold, MT-BC
The retreat team provides a supportive setting for anyone experiencing grief over the death of a loved one, shares information about the grief process and suggests ways to heal during the intense and painful period following a loved one's death.
Fee: $135, commuter includes meals; with lodging, single, $250; double, $150 per person. Pre-registration required.

Mindful Meditation
Saturday, Dec. 14, 9 am - 3 pm
Debbie Holexa
This course will provide the science, strategies, skills and meditative practice experience necessary for developing a nonviolent relationship with our self.
Fee: $50, includes lunch. Pre-registration required.

New Year's Retreat
Monday, Dec. 30—Wednesday, Jan. 1
Fr. Tom Nguyen
We invite you to come on this New Year's Retreat Journey.
Fee: $135 commuter, includes meals; with lodging $250 single, $150 double per person. Pre-registration required.

For more information or to register for any of these programs please visit thecasa.org or call 480.948.7460 ext. 132
Being Present

My office is blessed with one of the most gorgeous views in the Valley; Camelback Mountain. The thing is, I need to turn around to see it. I’ve commented to my coworkers more than once that it seems to be a metaphor for my life lately; head down, working away, oblivious to the million-dollar view right outside. It can happen so easily; we get caught up in responsibilities and to do lists, forgetting we’re surrounded in every moment by beauty and grace.

One of my favorite ways to reconnect and be present is to watch the sun rise. It feels like such a sacred way to start the day. I prayed a few weeks ago for help seeing these beautiful AZ sunrises more often (not always easy when you’re nestled down in a valley). Shortly thereafter, a co-worker sent me a picture of that morning’s sunrise as seen from Fountain Hills. It was glorious. Later that day, another co-worker showed me the sunrise picture she takes every morning on her walk. It was stunning.

The same location, the same shot, but completely different every day. She went on to say how that walk reminds her to look around, and that there’s something new and beautiful in each moment.

What wonderful reminders of the glory and grace that surround us each moment of the day, and how our prayers are answered in a myriad of ways. I’m very grateful for the Casa community and the wonderful people I work with, for, and around each day. I’m also grateful that through them I’m reminded to pause, look up, become present, and appreciate all of this.

I think it’s important at this time of year to slow down and remember that. Just as important, are the people and places that help sustain us. How does the Casa sustain you? In what ways has it made a difference in your life?

As we move into the holiday season, now more than ever, the Casa needs your support during our Annual Appeal. Your ongoing generosity is appreciated and essential for those looking for this beacon of light. You help keep these doors open for everyone. Thank you and God bless.

— Colleen Rogers, Donor Relations, 480.306.4914

For information regarding the RENEWING LIVES initiative, please call 480.355.0357 or email sarah@thecasa.org

YOUR LEGACY: THE ULTIMATE GIFT

In this season of giving thanks for all we have been blessed with in our lives, we thank you for supporting the mission and ministries of the Casa in whatever way you have been able. It is a remarkable privilege to witness the difference the Casa makes in the lives of those who come here for spiritual growth, healing and transformation, and service to others—thanks to your support.

YOUR LEGACY IS YOUR ULTIMATE GIFT TO FAMILY AND COMMUNITY. WHAT WILL IT BE?

For many of us, there is a compelling need to make a difference—to leave a lasting impact on the people most dear to us and the world in which we live.

Leaving a legacy reminds family and community of all that you have loved and valued in your life, and is the most tangible way to have an impact far beyond your own lifetime.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO CREATE A LEGACY: Contact Mary Dunn: 480.355.0345, endowment@thecasa.org. Or visit our legacy website: http://www.frclegacy.org/
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Mass Intentions
November 24, 2019 – November 30, 2019

Sunday  
Pro-populo
Larry Schwietz
Robert Wimmer and Family
Javier Vasquez

Monday  
Jewelyn Down

Tuesday  
Harriet Tappan

Wednesday  
Dan Eldridge

Thursday  
Robert Salvino
Gaylene Ori

Saturday  
Larry Schwietz
George Murry Reed

For weekly readings, please visit usccb.org.

Mass Intentions for Next Week

Sunday: Benefactors FMU; Pro-populo; Carol Meka; Chris French.  
Monday: Teresa Valdivieso.  
Tuesday: Mary Agnes Goodman.  
Wednesday: Mike Mansfield.  
Thursday: Harry Trunnell.  
Friday: Nate Payne.  
Saturday: Jane Davis; Charles MacGillivray.

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

In 1951, the Casa de Paz y Bien began as a Catholic retreat center in Scottsdale. Now, as the Franciscan Renewal Center (still affectionately called the Casa) we offer opportunities for spiritual growth, healing and transformation that moves lives into the service of others.

The Casa was founded by and is today an active religious community of the Order of Friars Minor—part of the worldwide Franciscan family, following the footsteps of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. The Casa is a wholly owned entity of the Franciscan Friars Province of Saint Barbara, based in Oakland, California, that works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix.

Activities at the Casa include daily Mass, Sunday services, private retreats, gathering space for non-profit groups, as well as volunteer ministries that assist the poor or vulnerable, empower individuals to improve their circumstances, care for the environment, and build community fellowship. Discover more at TheCasa.org or call 480.948.7460.