Upcoming at the Casa

Fill the Well Concert
With Paul Hillebrand
Friday, December 6, 7 - 9 pm

Straight Talk
With Cathy Olds
Sunday, December 15, 8:45 am and 10:30 am

New Year’s Retreat
With Fr. Tom Nguyen
Monday, December 30 — Wednesday, January 1

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

Weekend Mass
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 7:30 am, 9:15 am, 11:00 am, 7:00 pm

Daily Mass
Monday - Saturday 7:00 am
as announced

Holy Day Masses
Monday - Saturday 7:30 am - 7:30 pm
Sunday 7:30 am - 8:30 pm

Reconciliation
Monday - Saturday 7:30 am - 2:00 pm
Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:30 pm

Rosary
Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:30 pm
Tuesday - Saturday 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Centering Prayer
Monday - Saturday 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Front Desk Hours
Monday - Saturday 7:30 am - 7:30 pm
Sunday 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Books & Blessings
Monday - Wednesday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:30 pm
Sunday 8:30 am - 2:00 pm
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
"Faith formation is a lifelong process." If you have known me for any amount of time, you have heard me say these words. They have almost become my mantra.

The reason I feel so strongly about this statement is because, in part, it gives me reassurance around my own faith formation. Doing this work, and working with so many diverse groups of people, has taught me one very important lesson: I will never be done learning about the many varied and beautiful aspects of our faith.

Just this past Sunday, while leading the weekly Liturgy of the Word for Children, I had a nine-year-old point out an insight into the Gospel reading that had never occurred to me. It was truly a moment in which I found my faith being stretched and grown by this Spirit-filled youth. Faith formation is a lifelong process. And the formation of our faith happens in ways often unexpected.

As parents, we have the added responsibility of guiding our children into ongoing faith formation as well. This can be a daunting task, especially when we are faced with all the other demands of our very busy lives.

But, remember that you are not alone. We are a community of followers of Christ, and we are all here for one another. It is in building community with one another that we lay a firm foundation for our faith formation. Faith takes work—but it also takes fun! The fun of making new friends and encountering Christ in one another. I encourage you to find someone new today, make a friend, and grow your faith.

Peace,

Donna Kinzie
Family Catechesis & Infant Baptism Coordinator
December 1, 2019

The 2nd Annual Casa Creche Festival
A display of nativity scenes from around the world
Dec. 14 - 15

Our collection of nativity scenes will be on display in the new Community Life Center all day Saturday and Sunday, with activities for the whole family—including live animals, hot chocolate and cookies.

Saturday evening, our Casa Choir and musicians will present a beautiful concert of Advent and Christmas music at 7 pm in the church called “Sing Joy To All the World!” Bring the whole family...bring neighbors and friends and introduce them to the Casa!

Concert on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7 pm
Open to the public and free to attend!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Advent is a good time to celebrate this sacrament as we prepare for Christmas: the proclamation of God’s great love for us! Opportunities for confession are:

- Wednesday, Dec. 11  2 - 4 pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 17  9 - 11 am, 6 - 8 pm
- Thursday, Dec. 19  9 - 11 am, 5 - 7 pm
- Saturday, Dec. 21  8:30 - 11 am

Come and experience the peace that comes from hearing the beautiful words of absolution.

Special Collection Next Weekend for the Religious Retirement Fund

Next weekend is the annual collection for the Religious Retirement Fund. In this Diocese, Bishop Olmsted has given permission for our collection to remain within our own province of friars. The Franciscan friars of this Province are a fraternity of 180 men. Of these, more than 70 friars are over the age of 70. Although most of these friars continue to work, some need professional residential care and reside at various assisted living facilities. As you can imagine, the care of our elderly friars is expensive. Your support of this fund helps insure our efforts to care for these good men in their old age.

You will find an extra envelope for this special collection if you use our envelope program. In case you forget it, you can always find an extra envelope in the Narthex or at the Front Desk.

Christmas 2019 Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, Dec. 24
- 4 & 6 pm outdoors in Palm Court
- 8 & 10 pm inside the church

Christmas Day – Wednesday, Dec. 25
- 9 & 11 am inside the church

A Call for Christmas Ministers
With Christmas approaching, extra Hospitality Ministers and Eucharistic Ministers are needed to serve our community members and visitors at our Christmas Liturgies. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated. If you would like to help with greeting worshippers or distributing Communion, please sign up at the tables in the Hospitality area. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve!
Advent Magical Memories!

Here are some ideas on how to create magical Advent memories, even without Christmas parties, decorations and lights, because it has its own beautiful symbols and traditions.

SHOP MORE MINDFULLY – focus your gift shopping on people, not things. Donate a small amount of your gift spending to the poor. See Advent as a time to prepare, not to celebrate Christmas, yet.

ADVENT WREATH – purchase or make a simple advent wreath with three purple and one pink candle.

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM – In early December, set up your family Nativity scene, but start with the empty stable and manger. Put the figures of Mary and Joseph on the other side of the room and move them closer each day.

CELEBRATE ST. NICHOLAS – On the night of December 5, have your children leave one shoe outside their bedroom door. Fill with candy, small treats and toys for them to find in the morning. Gifts from St. Nicholas.

AND ST. LUCY – Make a crown-shaped coffee cake or traditional cat-shaped buns on December 13.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING – wait a little bit into December before putting up your tree – and consider putting it up in stages. First put up the tree, then a night or two later, add the lights, then the ornaments. When the tree is complete, bless and light the tree.

Family Faith Formation

REFLECTION: As the song goes, “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas.” Everywhere we look there are reminders that Christmas is a few weeks away—everywhere except in today’s liturgy. The lessons that we hear on the first Sunday of Advent do not sound particularly “Christmasy,” although the Season of Advent begins today—the time of preparation for the celebration of the Lord’s birth. Today, we look ahead to the second coming. We know how to prepare for Christmas, but how do we prepare for the coming of the new world? The answer is simple. Paul tells us: “May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all so as to be blameless in holiness before God at the coming of our Lord Jesus. Anticipation, waiting, preparation... these are what Advent is about as we prepare for the coming of Christ in the manger and in the new world when Jesus returns.” —Leslie J. Hoppe., OFM.

CONVERSATION: How can you get ready for God to come into your heart and your life?

PROCLAMATION/DISCUSSION: Read Matthew 24:37-44.
Why do we get ready for the Second Coming of Jesus?
On what day is the Lord coming? What will happen when Jesus comes again?

ACTION: Make an Advent wreath this season with your family. Each week as you light a new candle, encourage each member of the family to tell one thing he/she will do during the week to prepare for Jesus’ return.

CONCLUDING PRAYER: Dear Jesus, during the season of Advent, make our hearts ready to welcome You. Amen.
Pastoral Ministry to the Sick and Homebound

“I can sense when someone I see in the hospital is going it alone. There’s no card, no balloons, no flowers—even the side chair is missing. It reminds me of the loneliness of Christ’s passion. Where are the families, the friends? I remember my visit with Jose, alone on the night before his surgery. His anxiety poured out in tears during our prayers together, and his gratitude flowed freely as he apologized for his emotions. How fortunate we are to have faith when our lives get difficult. And what a blessing to those of us visiting at the hospital, to be the face of Christ to our brothers and sisters who are going it alone.”

This is just one of hundreds of experiences that our volunteers in the Pastoral Ministry to the Sick and Homebound at the Casa tell us about. These volunteers minister to the elderly and sick members of our community with dignity and respect, offering compassion and encouraging a sense of belonging and connection to the body of Christ through the Eucharist and the people of God. If you would like to learn more about this vital ministry contact Norbert@thecasa.org.

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

Thank you for your stewardship!

Mass Offerings

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<tr>
<td>11.17.19</td>
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We received 271 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

Meet the Artist: Kathy Feld - Images of Passion.
Kathy will be outside the bookstore with her jewelry collection, including her very popular rosary bracelets, on 12/8 (Sunday morning Masses). Stop by to say hello and ask about her recent trip to Jerusalem, where she participated in an archeological dig!

For more information about our Counseling Ministry, please call 480.948.7460, ext. 134 or email: counseling@thecasa.org
Give Gifts that Give Twice
Selling after all Masses:
December 7 and 8
Also December 14 and 15

Café Justo is excellent, pure, organic coffee, but the taste is even more exquisite when you know that you are reducing poverty for Mexican families in the spirit of justice. Our goal is to provide a means for people to remain on their family lands.

Remember to purchase enough for Christmas and hostess gifts this month, and ask for grower information cards and gift bags with the purchase of 2+ bags of coffee. You can also buy a bag for (and donate to) a Veteran.

If you would like to join the ministry, contact Eileen Waldron at: casagrounds@thecasa.org.

Amidst the “hustle and bustle” of this Season:
Treat yourself to Scripture Discussion

Just Scripture
Sunday, December 8
9 - 10:30 am Guadalupe Room

How does God’s Word speak to you?

You are invited to join with others for:
- Sharing from a perspective of Franciscan values
- Biblical issues of justice and mercy that impact our world today
- An interactive process: a deeply personal and collective experience
- No previous study of Scripture is needed

For more information, contact: kgarast@aol.com. Provide your contact information, and you will receive the monthly invitation, readings and meeting location.

All Are Welcome!

On December 14 & 15, the students of the St. Charlies School on the San Carlos Apache Reservation will be at the FRC to thank you for your past contributions to the AZ Private School tax credit program. Come hear the children sing and learn about how your tax credit dollars supports this Catholic school. The students will be in the Hospitality area after the 5 pm on Saturday and all morning Masses on Sunday.

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.

Thank You
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!
REMINDER: it’s not too late to help the children of the St. Charles Apache School — the school depends on your support.

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 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
- Café Justo Fair-Trade coffee
- Divine Fair-Trade chocolate
- Reusable stainless steel FRC water bottles

Shop Fair - Trade for Christmas
Think About Giving a Gift of a Casa Program to Your Loved Ones!

Here are just a few programs to consider: (Gift Certificates are available for purchase)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5 - 8</td>
<td>Brush With God</td>
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<td>Dec. 6</td>
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<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Mindful Meditation</td>
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<td>Dec. 30 - Jan. 1</td>
<td>New Year’s Eve Retreat</td>
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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.

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
Straight Talk  
Sunday, Dec. 15, 8:45 am and 10:30 am  
Cathy Olds

Straight Talk takes place on the 3rd Sunday of each month, this year offering two sessions: 8:45 and 10:30 am and will offer a variety of exceptional presenters throughout the year.

No Fee. No registration is needed. A free will offering will be taken.

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Introduction to the Nonviolence Leadership Certificate Program Luncheon  
Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, 12:15 - 2:30 pm  
Br. Scott Slattum, OFM

Learn about the Casa’s Certificate Program in Nonviolence Leadership, focused on facilitating nonviolent dialogue and action.

Fee: $20 per person, includes lunch. Pre-registration is required.

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Introduction to Biblical Archaeology  
Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, 9 am - Noon  
Kathy Feld

Step into the physical world of the Bible and Jesus’ time through Biblical Archaeology.

Fee: $45 per person, includes lunch. Pre-registration required.

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Balancing Body, Mind & Spirit  
Saturday, Feb. 1, 9 am - 4 pm  
Don Fiore

Learn how to strengthen your body through easy physical movements and good nutrition, and sharpen your mind with Feng Shui principles in this all-day workshop.

Fee: $60 per person, fee includes lunch. Pre-registration required. Limited to 25 participants.

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Peace Within & Walking Labyrinth Meditation  
Saturday, Feb. 8, 9 am - 3 pm  
Kebba Buckley Button

This class introduces meditation methods, breath techniques, and finger and hand holds, plus development of your personal meditation space.

Fee: $45 per person, includes lunch. Pre-registration required.

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Saturday, Feb. 8, 9 - 11 am  
Darleen Pryds, PhD

Lay Franciscans can often be forgotten, but they are actually the majority of Franciscan practitioners. Explore the rich variety of ways in which laity have followed the Franciscan Charism from its inception.

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

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Introduction To Centering Prayer  
Saturday, Feb. 15, 9 - 1 pm  
Sharon Taszarek and Carole Whittaker, PhD

This workshop will provide the foundation for developing a personal practice of Centering Prayer as a practice that leads to contemplation.

Fee: $35, snacks and refreshments provided; lunch is not included. Pre-registration required.

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The Joy of Journaling  
Saturday, Mar. 14, 9 am - Noon  
Bonnie Wasniewski

Come for a morning that will give you basic knowledge, tools and that little nudge that can help you discover the joy of journaling and get you started writing!

Fee: $45 per person, includes lunch. Bring your favorite pen and journal or paper. Pre-registration required.

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For more information or to register for any of these programs please visit thecasa.org or call 480.948.7460 ext. 132
A Tax-wise Opportunity

If you are thinking about taxes and end-of-year giving, it’s not too late to take advantage of this tax-wise opportunity! Each year, IRA owners age 70 1/2 and older must take a required minimum distribution (RMD). Ordinarily, your RMD is reported as income and included on your tax return along with other taxable income. However, you can transfer your RMD to the Casa and get these benefits:

- Satisfy your obligation to take a distribution from your IRA;
- Lower your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions;
- Reduce your income taxes; and
- Best of all, support your favorite ministry or the area of greatest need at the Casa. Your RMD can be used for pledge payments, liturgical gifts, endowment, or a program that holds special meaning for you.

Your gift can be made simply by notifying your IRA plan custodian of your intent to make a transfer of your RMD to the Casa. For more information on RMDs, or how to make an IRA rollover gift, please visit our legacy website: [http://www.frclegacy.org/](http://www.frclegacy.org/), or contact Mary Dunn, 480.355.0345, [mdunn@thecasa.org](mailto:mdunn@thecasa.org). We’re here for you!
Mass Intentions
December 1, 2019 – December 7, 2019

Sunday
Benefactors FMU
7:30 am

Pro-populo
9:15 am

Carol Meka
11:00 am

Chris French
7:00 pm

Monday
Teresa Valdivieso
7:00 am

Tuesday
Mary Agnes Goodman
7:00 am

Wednesday
Mike Mansfield
9:15 am

Thursday
Harry Trunnell
7:00 am

Friday
Nate Payne
7:00 am

Saturday
Jane Davis
7:00 am

Charles MacGillivray
5:00 pm

For weekly readings, please visit usccb.org.

Mass Intentions for Next Week


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

Why donate blood? Our blood supply comes from donors like you. It takes about one hour of your time. When you give blood, it gives someone another smile, another hug, another chance. It is the gift of life. Please stop by the lobby front desk today to schedule your appointment for the blood drive on Sunday, December 8, 2019. www.bloodhero.com.

About the Franciscan Renewal Center
The Franciscan Renewal Center began in 1951 as a place for retreat programs. Affectionately known as the “Casa de Paz y Bien” or simply “the Casa.” It is today a Catholic renewal center, offering opportunities for spiritual growth, healing and transformation and service to others.

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