Upcoming at the Casa

Hot Topics
Left, Right & Center: Views on Violence in Our Schools
Friday, December 13, 7 - 9 pm

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

Mindful Meditation
With Debbie Holexa
Saturday, December 14, 9 am - 3 pm

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</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, 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>
<td></td>
<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>Thursday - Saturday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:30 am - 2:00 pm</td>
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<td>5:30 pm - 8:30 pm</td>
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Watching and Waiting

Advent—the season of watching and waiting with patience and kindness in preparation for Christmas. Mind you, patience and kindness are certainly not limited to this season but rather, an experience for all times, seasons, and places! Accepting this premise, we can make our daily experiences opportunities for others to share. Shopping, whether for gifts or groceries, can be enjoyable with the right mindset. This begins with making the list to be purchased and continues not only while in the car, but also in the stores. Remember the golden rule! This in itself becomes a gift to be brought to the altar when the community gathers for worship.

I think back on my childhood with great fondness, because I could help make the manger a more comfortable place for the baby Jesus by putting a piece of straw in it every time that I was kind and patient. Perhaps, I should reestablish this practice as an adult to make certain my actions are in line with the teachings of my faith, and rather than straw I could use money. Yes, money, and at Christmas give it to one of the places that offers help to those in need. This may be something you’d like to put into practice, too. How much money you ask? I leave that up to you. Giving, not from our surplus but rather making choices to reflect our understanding and purpose for our actions, is the key. May God bless you with peace as we wait to welcome the Prince of Peace into our world.

Blessings,

Fr. Peter Kirwin, OFM
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!

Christmas 2019 Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24
4 & 6 pm outdoors in Palm Court
8 & 10 pm inside the church
Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25
9 am & 11 am inside the church

The 2nd Annual Casa Creche Festival
Next Weekend

Saturday December 14 ~ 9 am to 7 pm
Sunday December 15 ~ 8:30 am to 3 pm

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!

This festive holiday concert is
Saturday, December 14 ~ 7 pm
and is 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.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Thursday, December 12 at 7 am in the church,
and also at 11 am at the Guadalupe Shrine
(followed by a community lunch of pozole and tamales)

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the Americas. The story...Juan Diego was a quiet, humble man, a poor peasant. When the blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and asked him to tell the local bishop to build a church in her honor, Juan Diego was a very reluctant messenger. The bishop would not believe him. So, Mary filled Juan Diego’s tilma, or cloak, with roses in December, and when he emptied out these beautiful flowers at the bishop’s feet, there, imprinted on his tilma, was a wonderful image of the Virgin, dressed like a young Aztec woman.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9 at 7 am

Come celebrate this special feast of Mary. God prepared the way for his Son’s coming in the flesh. The belief that Mary had been prepared for her role as Jesus’ mother from the moment of her conception has been cherished by the faithful for centuries. We celebrate Mary’s openness and acceptance...we share in her reverence, and her awareness of who she was created to be, and her willingness to let God act in her life. Come and be inspired.
Happy Feast Day! December 8 is the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception.

This is not about Jesus’ conception, but rather Mary’s conception within the womb of her mother, St. Anne. This special day occurs nine months before the Birth of Mary within the Liturgical Calendar.

Sts. Joachim and Anne prayed for a child for a very long time. Just as they began to lose hope, St. Anne became pregnant with Mary. In order for Mary to become the mother of Christ, her soul never suffered the effects of original sin.

In Guam and the Philippines, this day is considered a legal holiday. In some countries, the feast is celebrated with parades, fireworks and songs. The Immaculate Conception is the patroness of many countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Korea, Nicaragua, Spain, Portugal and Uruguay.

Celebrate the feast by placing a blue tablecloth on the kitchen table and pray the Magnificat. Cupcakes decorated with blue icing and sprinkles can be added. Flowers can also be placed in front of a statue of Mary. Making a rosary as a family could be a fun activity as well!

FAMILY FAITH ACTIVITIES 2nd Sunday of Advent Dec. 8

REFLECTION: John the Baptist—wild locusts, honey, camel's-hair clothes, proclaiming a message of repentance. What a character! Our role in preparing the way for Jesus is to become a “John the Baptist,” called to announce and witness to the love of Jesus. Called to be courageous in loving as we have been loved, having the heart of Jesus for others.

We are the people who keep the door open, even when it seems there is no hope that someone will return. We become more merciful, we hear the cries of those in need, and we reach out to stand with them. Like John, we don’t call attention to ourselves, but always point to Jesus.

During Advent, the opportunities to become a “John the Baptist” will come. We can simply ask to be opened to see them—to recognize them—and to be given the courage and trust to be an instrument of grace for others. “Come, Lord Jesus, Come.” (paraphrased from Creighton University’s Online Ministries)

CONVERSATION: Beyond gifts and parties, what do you hope will happen in your family this Christmas?

PROCLAMATION/DISCUSSION: Read Matthew 3:1-12.

What does John the Baptist do?
How does John the Baptist announce the coming of Jesus?
How does John help the people get ready for Jesus?

ACTION: At the dinner table, share examples of how family members have been a “John the Baptist” this week. In what ways has your family worked on preparing the way for Christ to come?

Create a list of ways you can make your home a better place for Christ to live. Every day during Advent, focus on one item on the list.

PRAYER: Come Lord Jesus, make room in our hearts for You. Help us get ready to welcome You on Christmas.

Amen.

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
Meet your Board – Sue Pitts

Please help me in welcoming Sue Pitts as the newest member of the FRC Board of Directors. Sue has been a community member since 2006 where she has served as a Eucharistic Minister for more than 10 years. She has been a member of the FRC Board Formation and Governance Committee since 2016 and recently participated in the Casa’s 2020-24 strategic planning process. Sue is an avid outdoorswoman who enjoys fly fishing, rock climbing, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

The BF&G Committee along with other Board committees are looking for dedicated community members who may be discerning a call to leadership. If you would like to discuss these opportunities further, please contact Bob Crawford, Board Member/Chair Board Formation and Governance at 480.203.7510.

— Pat Bennier, Director of Volunteer Services

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

Thank you for your stewardship!

Mass Offerings

<table>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>11.25.18</td>
<td>$20,243.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.26.17</td>
<td>$20,483.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We received 260 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 have her jewelry line for sale outside the gift shop today (12/8), after the Sunday morning Masses. Stop by and say hello. Don’t forget to ask her about her recent archaeological dig in Jerusalem.

Coming event: Jane Heart Jewelry will be at the gift shop on 12/15. (Artistic sterling silver cross necklaces.)

For more information about our Counseling Ministry, please call 480.948.7460, ext. 134 or email: counseling@thecasa.org
The Casa Habitat Ministry
A Home Is Where the Heart Is

Wear closed-toe shoes and regular work clothes in layers. The construction crew must be at least 16.

2019 - 2020 Build Dates: 7:30 am start
*December 14, 2019 - Begin Drywall
*January 18, 2020 - Begin Doors & Trim

To build, email: thecasahabitat@thecasa.org.

Support Casa Habitat through Arizona Tax Credit.
If you cannot volunteer your “time and talent” in building with Casa Habitat Ministry, please consider contributing a bit of treasure. By donating to Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona and indicating your donation is on behalf of The Franciscan Renewal Center’s Habitat Ministry (on the memo line), you will receive a dollar-for-dollar credit toward your Arizona income tax payment. More details are on the Casa Habitat webpage.

Give Gifts that Give Twice
Selling after all Masses today and 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.

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.

To join the ministry, contact Eileen Waldron at: casagrounds@thecasa.org.

Helping Those in Need With Your 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.

Beginning with the 2016 tax year, donations to qualifying organizations of these two tax credit programs will be claimed as separate credits with separate limitations for each.

In addition, you can still give to both public and private schools and take a tax credit. Because these are nonrefundable credits, the total amount of each credit that a taxpayer may use for the taxable year cannot be greater than the total tax liability shown on the tax return. Lastly, you have until April 15, 2020 to make your donation and still qualify for a credit.

Many of the organizations with whom we partner qualify for the credit such as:

- André House
- Arizona Career Pathways (an offshoot of VIP)
- Catholic Charities Foster Care
- Circle the City
- Desert Mission Food Bank
- DUET Partners in Health and Aging
- Maggie’s Place
- St. Mary’s Food Bank
- St. Vincent De Paul

Plus many more

You can find all the details on which organizations qualify and how much you can donate at:

https://www.azdor.gov/TaxCredits/QualifyingCharitableOrganizations.aspx

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.
Looking Ahead to 2020—A New Year!

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

Feb. 1            Balancing Body, Mind & Spirit
Feb. 8            Peace Within & Walking the Labyrinth
Feb. 8            Franciscan Vision Series: Laity As
                    Co-Creators of the Franciscan Tradition
Feb. 15           Introduction to Centering Prayer

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, $225; double, $135 per person. Pre-registration required.

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

Of all the pains that life can hand us, arguably the most searing is the loss of a child. During this weekend, just as Jesus joined his distraught disciples on the road to Emmaus, we pray for all of our parents and we ask Jesus to join us as we walk the horrendous journey of grieving our loss every day.

Fee: $135, commuter includes meals; with lodging, single, $225; double, $135 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.

For more information or to register for any of these programs please visit thecasa.org or call 480.948.7460 ext. 132
to come on this New Year’s Retreat to remember the past, find new ways to enter into life’s meaningful moments and recognize that God’s love for us can make all things new.

**Fee:** $135 commuter, includes meals; with lodging $250 single, $150 double per person. **Pre-registration required.**

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**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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**New Year’s Retreat**
**Monday, Dec. 30—Wednesday, Jan. 1**
*Fr. Tom Nguyen*

Each year that is given to us is a gift from God. They are filled with memories, lifegiving moments as well as struggles and challenges. God is there in each passing moment and as we step forward towards a new year. We invite you

**Fee:** Free. **Pre-Registration is greatly appreciated.**

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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. Come discover what the Franciscans began 800 years ago and continue today. Journey with Kathy in the class from Dan to the Negev Desert with stops at fascinating archaeological sites along the way. Discover the culture, living conditions, writings, language and politics of Jesus’ time through Biblical Archeology. With these tools, the Bible comes alive!

This program will also take you through an actual dig that Kathy was selected to join consisting of a 30 member team in association with the University of North Carolina/Charlotte and the Israeli Antiquities Authority. The dig is located at the Zion Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem which is located close to the Room of the Last Supper and David’s Tomb. This dig just took place in June, 2019.

**Fee:** $45 per person, includes lunch. **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
Not Our Own

Stories of how the Franciscan Renewal Center has changed lives abound daily on the campus. For those of us privileged to hear them shared, we understand the importance of sustaining this safe place for others. The Annual Appeal supports the ongoing operating revenue that captures the funding of expenses and expresses the Franciscan calling of poverty. A poverty that puts reliance on our Creator. We as an organization know that our early humble beginnings to our current reality still insists on the fact that the results belong to God. The stories belong to us all. Your gifts matter and our mission reaches.

We have a saying around here—we pray as if all depends on God; we work as if all depends on us. At the Franciscan Renewal Center, we hold nothing back from God. We empty ourselves—our hopes and dreams, our gifts and strengths, our work and ministry—completely, thoroughly, into our trust in God, who alone is goodness and perfection. Our work, too, is a whole-hearted, authentic offering of gratitude and servanthood. The thoroughness of our dedicated efforts is always accompanied by a humility that acknowledges the limitations of all our strivings and the necessity of our total trust in God.

Our limitations are our personal and collective poverty. It’s been said that poverty comes in many shapes and ways. St. Francis was clear when he said, “desire above all things to have the Spirit of the Lord and its holy operation; “and “not making anything our own, but serving the Lord in poverty and humility.”

The campus is a vessel for which God works through Sacraments and people daily. We rely completely on the good of others to accomplish this purpose. The generosity of tens of thousands of people who share their resources with the friars to manifest the charism of Sts. Francis and Clare and our prayer, community, joy and service reciprocate a grace of relationship experienced at The Casa. Please help us as we close the financial budget gap of $415,000 with your support to the Annual Appeal.

— Charlie Brown, General Manager

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

What LEGACY Will You Leave?

We all desire significance – to lead happy and fulfilled lives surrounded by family and friends.

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. The search for significance and desire to plan for the future leads many to ponder their legacy. What kind of legacy will you leave?

To learn how you can make a difference in the lives and causes you love, visit our legacy website: http://www.frclegacy.org/, or contact Mary Dunn at 480.355.0345, mdunn@thecasa.org. To make an IRA rollover gift, please visit our legacy website: http://www.frclegacy.org/, or contact Mary Dunn, 480.355.0345, mdunn@thecasa.org. We’re here for you!
Pray @
Our Lady of the Angels
Buy Tires @
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www.discounttire.com

Consider Remembering
Your Parish in Your Will.
For further information,
please call the Parish Office.

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Office: 480.945.9583 Fax: 480.949.9430
Roc. Res. #268563 Roc. Com. #268561

WHY IS IT
A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket on an ADVERTISED mattress and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas in an ADVERTISED shower bathes with an ADVERTISED razor shaves with an ADVERTISED toothpaste washes with ADVERTISED soap puts on ADVERTISED clothes drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee drives to work in an ADVERTISED car and then refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn’t pay.
Later if business is poor he ADVERTISES it for sale.
WHY IS IT?
Faith Sharing Groups

**Casa Prayer Partners Ministry** petitions prayers and prays for our human family. Send requests to: CasaPrayerPartners@gmail.com.

**Casa Rosary Group** Tuesdays, 6 pm in the Meditation Chapel to share our prayer intentions, and those of the community.

**Casa Singles** Single, Divorced, Widowed—AGES 40+, meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7 pm. For more information and to be added to the email list, contact rick@thecasa.org.

**Contemplative Prayer** Thursdays, 7:45 am in the Meditation Chapel. All are welcome.

**Cornerstone at the Casa Meditation** Wednesdays 11:30 am in the Spiritual Direction/Cornerstone Center and Mondays 8:30 am in Room B. All are welcome.

**Interfaith Healing Prayers:** Saturdays, following 7 am Mass. Room varies—please contact Front Desk or healingprayer@thecasa.org. All are welcome.

**Men in Spirit** This group of Christian men meets the first Saturday of every month for 7 am Mass, breakfast, then discussion, study, lectures and guidance. Contact: Al Sapia-Bosch or Chuck Jirauch: MenInSpirit@thecasa.org.

**The Order of Secular Franciscans (OFS) Peace Fraternity** meets at the Casa on the second Sunday of the month from 2 - 4 pm. This canonical Order of the Catholic Church is open to lay Catholics. Contact: Pat Kennedy, OFS, at 602.284.9343.

**Spiritual Direction**

A spiritual director/companion is trained to listen and encourage you to explore a closer relationship with God through conversation, listening and prayer. If you are curious about spiritual direction at the Casa, or would like to make an appointment, please contact: Cathy Olds at 480.948.7460, x162 or spiritualdirection@thecasa.org.

Nonprofit Meetings and Conferences

Nonprofit organizations are offered an exclusively serene gathering place for meetings, conferences and special events. For more information about hosting your next nonprofit event at the Casa, contact Indra Rodney, Director of Meetings & Conferences at 480.355.5632 or indra@thecasa.org.

Upcoming Special Collections

Dec. 14, 15: Tax Credit Appeal for St. Charles School
Dec. 28, 29: Franciscan Missionary Union
Jan. 18, 19: Gospel of Life

### Mass Intentions

**December 8, 2019 – December 14, 2019**

**Sunday**  
Pro-populo  
Jerry Zygowicz  
9:15 am
Christopher Michael Fullam  
11:00 am
Catherine R. Pybus-Gately  
7:00 pm

**Monday**  
Christopher Fullam  
7:00 am

**Tuesday**  
Daniel Eldridge  
7:00 am

**Wednesday**  
Thomas Pleiman  
7:00 am

**Thursday**  
Mary Murillo Rivera  
7:00 am

**Friday**  
Tanner Ward  
7:00 am

**Saturday**  
Karen Zygowicz  
7:00 am
Graciela Dieck  
5:00 pm

For weekly readings, please visit usccb.org.

**Mass Intentions for Next Week**

**Sunday:** Pro-populo; John Weber; John Gallagher; Dan Welch.

**Monday:** Bob O'Connell.

**Tuesday:** Gwendolyn H.

**Wednesday:** Gerald Schwartz.

**Thursday:** Linda Seto Sbalchiero.

**Friday:** Sean Tessmer.

**Saturday:** Gerry Sullivan; Marie Charley.

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. Be a hero, donate blood TODAY! Stop by Piper Hall, walk-ins welcome.

### 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.