Upcoming at the Casa

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

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

The Joy of Journaling
With Bonnie Wasniewski
Saturday, March 14, 9 am - Noon

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 as announced
- Sunday 7:00 am

Reconciliation
- Please call for appointment

Rosary
- Tuesday 6:00 pm
- Thursday 7:45 am

Centering Prayer
- Monday - Saturday 7:30 am - 7:30 pm
- Sunday 7:30 am - 8:30 pm

Front Desk Hours
- Monday - Saturday 7:30 am - 7:30 pm
- Sunday 7:30 am - 8:30 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
The Feast of Christmas

When we celebrate the Feast of Christmas, I always remember how important this feast was for St. Francis. He believed it was the most important feast of the year, because he realized how significant it was to all of creation that God took on human flesh in Jesus of Nazareth.

His earliest biographer, Thomas of Celano, wrote about the time Francis established the custom of having a live nativity scene to celebrate the day in the little town of Greccio. Thomas was so impressed by this practice that he wrote about it in the present tense even though many years had past since St. Francis had died. “The men and women of that land with exultant hearts prepare (not prepared) candles and torches to light up that night whose shining star has enlightened every day and year. Indeed, the manger is (not was) prepared, the hay is carried in and the ox and the ass are led to the spot. The night is lit up like day, delighting both man and beast. In the hearts of many, the child Jesus has been given over to oblivion. Now he is awakened and impressed upon their loving memory by His own grace through His holy servant Francis.”

Elements of this story are depicted in the stained glass windows near the altar. May the love of the Lord Jesus be alive and revealed in your loving heart and memory during this holy season.

Blessings,

Fr. Joseph Schwab, OFM
Volunteers: please complete your Safe Environment Training online renewal

The Casa is taking a more proactive stance in the safety of the community. In this time of concern throughout the Church, organizations like the Casa must demonstrate the highest integrity in this matter. In order to have credibility, every employee and volunteer—both new and someone who has served for a long time—must participate. December 31 is the deadline to complete this requirement.

Special Collection next weekend for the Franciscan Missionary Union

The Franciscan Missionary Union (FMU) provides critical services worldwide and makes a host of Franciscan missionary activities possible. The missionary work of the St. Barbara Province reflects that call. They serve a culturally and ethnically diverse population within the United States but also in other parts of the world, including Russia, Mexico, Peru and the Holy Land. Your contribution to the Franciscan Missionary Union supports the efforts of the Franciscans in the work of evangelization, reconciliation and care of the poorest of the poor. Franciscans are assisted in missionary efforts by people like you who share your spiritual and financial resources through this collection.

Next weekend, an extra envelope for this special collection will be on the seats at Mass. There is only one collection during Mass, so please drop both envelopes (your weekly Casa gift & special collection gift) in the collection basket. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this missionary effort.

Other upcoming special collections:
Jan. 18 & 19  Gospel of Life
Jan. 25 & 25  Guaymas Mission Appeal
Feb. 9 & 10  Charity and Development Appeal

Christmas 2019 Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Tuesday, Dec. 24
4 & 6 pm outside in Palm Court
8 & 10 pm inside the Church

Christmas Day Wednesday, Dec. 25
9 & 11 am inside the Church

New Years Day / New Years Eve
Feast of Mary the Mother of God and World Day of Prayer for Peace

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020 ~ 11 am
Vigil Mass: Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019 ~ 5 pm

Come start the New Year with this wonderfully festive community liturgy. January 1 is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. It is also designated by the Church as the World Day of Prayer for Peace, a time when the whole Church prays for the peace of the world.

Creator God, we ask Your blessing this New Year upon your gift to us of time.
Bless this new year—its days, weeks, and months, its holy days, holidays, fasts and feasts—each of its 365 days and nights.
May we remember that all of our days are for celebrating and contemplation, for giving and receiving love.
Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, bless us with peace and joy, and grant to us the New Year's gift of a year of love. Amen.
May your family feel the love, peace, and joy that comes with the spirit of Christmas—*From the Family Faith Formation Team!*

**FAMILY CATECHESIS, SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION & YOUTH MINISTRY**

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.

**FAMILY CATECHESIS ADVENT RETREAT**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN**

**DIA DE LOS MUERTOS**

**SACRAMENT PREPARATION**

**FRIENDS OF FRANCIS**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE**

**HIGH SCHOOL LIFE TEEN**

**Calling all High School students!**

Check out our Life Teen High School Program! Meetings are on Sundays in our new Youth Ministry Room—the La Verna Room. Meet new friends, enjoy fun activities and continue to grow as a disciple of Christ. Weekend and day retreats too!

*If you have not attended before, join us for the 2020 year.*

*Next session is on Sunday Jan. 12 from 10:45 - 12 pm!*

Contact James Whitaker at youth@thecasa.org.
Since announcing the planned auditorium and lobby renovations in September, the Building Committee has been hard at work completing the construction documents for the auditorium.

The approx. three-month permitting process for the auditorium begins this month, with construction scheduled to begin in mid-March 2020. Stay tuned…!

Thank you for your stewardship!

Mass Offerings

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<td>12.10.17</td>
<td>$21,768.50</td>
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We received 258 collection envelopes.

Books and Blessings

**bookstore & spiritual boutique at the Casa**

Featuring original art, gifts, jewelry, statuary, greeting cards and books that feed the heart and soul. Located in the Capistrano building.

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

For more information about our Counseling Ministry, please call 480.948.7460, ext. 134 or email: counseling@thecasa.org
Mindfulness and a Balanced Brain
From Reactive to Responsive

A Veterans Reconnect Event
Thursday, January 30, 2020 7-8:30 pm

Are you an active duty military member, veteran or veteran supporter? If so, come join Jamie Valderrama, lecturer and undergraduate coordinator for the Integrative Health Initiative at Arizona State University as she takes members of the military and their friends through a journey of self-awareness and empowerment via the growing field of mindfulness. This is a highly entertaining and educational presentation. Jamie knows the military. Her husband is a retired Command Sergeant Major.

Fee: Free. Pre-Registration is greatly appreciated. Register at frc.retreatportal.com.

In 2020, Let Love Lead
Service/Outreach Opportunities

The Hunger Action Ministry is offering these winter 2020 service opportunities. Serve with/at Desert Mission Food Bank on January 17, February 10 and March 20, and serve at Saint Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Family Dining Room and Dream Center on January 28 (4-6:30 pm). Watch the bulletin and contact Dolores or Kathy for details and more information, at: hungeraction@thecasa.org.

The Casa Grounds for Solidarity Ministry, fair trade coffee ministry, is always in need of new volunteers to help sell Cafe Justo coffee once a month. Next sale is Jan 11 & 12. Contact Eileen: casagrounds@thecasa.org.

The Casa Habitat Ministry needs builders at 7:30 am for Saturday, January 8 and January 25; February 8, Feb. 15 and Feb. 29. March, April and May dates to be announced. Wear closed-toe shoes, and regular work clothes in layers. The construction crew must be at least 16. To build, email: thecasahabitat@thecasa.org.

Look for more details in upcoming bulletins, flyers in the lobby/Narthex and visit the thecasa.org website pages and Faith in Action pages.

BLANKETS FOR ANDRÉ HOUSE
December 24 & 25

Homelessness in Maricopa County increased for the 6th straight year to a total of 6,614 according to the yearly homelessness count. Rising rental rates is one factor leading to the increase. While it will take more than a blanket to solve this problem, we can still help the individuals who live on the streets with a warm, comforting blanket. Two ways you can help:

1. Plan to volunteer for 15 minutes after Mass collecting and transporting blankets to the storage room. If you can volunteer, contact Patty Tafolla at dcm@thecasa.org.

2. Donate a blanket for those experiencing the cold Arizona nights. Blankets can be new or used. You can use it at an outdoor Mass and then fold and place in the bins. Or donate new blankets and place in bins.

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.
Still looking for a great Christmas gift? Many programs to choose from...

Jan. 30, 2020  A Veterans Reconnect Event: Mindfulness and a Balanced Brain
Jan. 31        Introduction to Biblical Archaeology
Feb. 1         Balancing Body, Mind & Spirit
Feb. 8         Peace Within & Walking Labyrinth Meditation

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 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.

T'ai Chi/Qigong
Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Jake Zinn
T’ai Chi and Qigong are easy to learn movements recommended by the American Medical Association for reducing stress while increasing one’s natural energy and health. Improve your range of motion! Do this while learning an exercise that will help you relax. Wear loose clothing and comfortable shoes.

Fee: $60 for 5 week sessions. Space is limited. Pre-registration is required.

Migrants and Justice and Bees, Oh My! Retreat
Friday, Jan. 17—Sunday, Jan. 19
Martin Marklin
Honey bees offer us a model of Christian living through their highly social communities that labor in harmony for a common goal. This unique and interactive retreat blends lively presentations, reflections, discussions, engaging prayer, and hands-on workshops. Come be inspired by observing a live beehive, savoring fresh honey, and taking home a handcrafted beeswax candle.

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

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

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.

Part I: Your Story, Your Legacy: Exploring Your Spiritual Legacy
Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, 9 am - Noon
Mary Dunn
Reflect on the values and experiences that have defined your life, the wisdom you want to pass on to others, and your hopes for the future generations.

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

No Fee. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required.

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.

Franciscan Vision Series: St. Francis, Master of Prayer, part 2
Saturday, Mar. 21, 9 - 11 am
Fr. Michael Higgins, TOR
Part II: The writings of St. Francis and the legends about the saint demonstrate the important place of prayer in his spiritual journey. The second 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.

Emmaus Retreat for Grieving Parents
Friday, Mar. 27— Sunday, Mar. 29
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.

EMFGP (EMMAUS Ministry For Grieving Parents) is a unique ministry that serves the spiritual needs of grieving parents whose children of any age have died by any cause, no matter how long ago. We focus on the promise of eternal life and the rich teachings of our faith to help these terribly broken parents.

The retreat is offered by grieving parents who have lost children of their own, and is supported by spiritual leaders who understand this ministry. Together, we provide an opportunity for parents to gather in a sacred, warm, and compassionate space with others who know their pain. Many parents find peace and comfort, at least for a time. All faiths are welcome.

For additional information contact Eric’s Mom Marianne Gouveia at 602.549.8932 or Paul’s Mom Diane Monaghan at 617.542.8057.

Fee: $135 commuter, includes meals; with lodging $225 single, $135 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
All Are Welcome

When my wife, Cathy, first brought me to the Casa for Mass, it was Oct. 9, 2005, and Father Larry Dolan was preaching. His topic was “All Are Welcome.” As his homily evolved, I realized that he was speaking directly to me. As a lapsed Lutheran, I had only recently begun to miss being a member of a spiritual community. That Sunday was an awakening for me and on April 11, 2009, after completing RCIA, I formally joined at the Easter Vigil. It was then that our commitment began to ensure that the Casa could remain a place where all would be welcome for years to come.

At the Casa, “All Are Welcome” is more than just a tag line or a postscript; it is the foundation of our faith. It is not only a song we sing, it is our soul that we proclaim. We recognize that being so is a manifestation of Christ in our world. It means inviting and gathering everyone to participate, even the most vulnerable. It is a place where there is no hidden “asterisk” or “but”; no one is excluded here. It means being hospitable, helpful, encouraging and charitable to all who come. And it is the foundation that we, as a couple, want to preserve.

So, we have done as many other members are doing and have attended the Legacy Workshop, made our pledge, signed the forms and joined the La Verna Society. We have worked with Mary Dunn, Director of the Endowment Initiative, to designate a portion of our estate to ensure that the Casa will always have the means to be the place of welcome that we value so highly.

Won’t you join us?

— Cathy and Doug Olesen

THE ULTIMATE GIFT

As we celebrate the birth of Christ with wonder and delight, I pause to reflect on the many ways Christ is born into our daily lives moment by moment. The workshops, ‘Your Story, Your Legacy’, have been filled with the grace of ordinary people sharing their sacred stories, their strengths and vulnerabilities, their blessings and losses, their hopes for the future, and so much more. One of the biggest questions we come together to explore is, how will we pass our legacy on to future generations?

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

Leaving a legacy reminds family and community of all that you have loved and valued in your life, and allows you to pass on the grace of all those moments Christ was born into your life.

It is the one gift your loved ones will never outgrow!

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU CREATE A LEGACY. CONTACT ME TO LEARN MORE.

Blessings of peace and joy!

Mary Dunn
Director of the Endowment Initiative
mdunn@thecasa.org, 480.355.0345.
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H E A R T H '61
Faith Sharing Groups

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

**Casa Rosary Prayer 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.

**New Nonprofit Meetings and Conferences**

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.

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

**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.

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

**Mass Intentions**

**December 22, 2019 – December 28, 2019**

**Sunday**
- Pro-populo
- Cal Crane
- Mitchell and Emily Osiol
- Dan Welch

**Monday**
- Mary Murrillo Rivera

**Tuesday**
- Sean Tessmer
- Esmaragdo Cassillas
- Mike Flinn
- Emanuella De Rosa

**Wednesday**
- Mary Murrillo Rivera
- Donna O'Donnel

**Thursday**
- Kellen McMillin

**Friday**
- Peter Osiol

**Saturday**
- Lester Eschenbaum
- Sean Tessmer

For weekly readings, please visit usccb.org.

**Mass Intentions for Next Week**

**Sunday**: Pro-populo; Lawrence Wolf; Cathie Nelson; Joseph (Joe) Clements. **Monday**: Larry Schwietz. **Tuesday**: Loretto Walace (91st Birthday). **Wednesday**: Mary Murrillo Rivera. **Thursday**: Maureen Gedert. **Friday**: Stephen Stark. **Saturday**: Catherine Rossi; Rosemary Lawlor.

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 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. Discover more at TheCasa.org.