Upcoming at the Casa

Migrants and Justice and Bees, Oh My! Retreat
With Martin Marklin
Friday, January 17 — Sunday, January 19

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

Jesus As Prophet in Christian-Muslim Dialogue
With Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM Conv.
Thursday, February 20, 10 - 11:30 am or 7 - 8:30 pm
The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

What/Who did the Magi discover when they arrived at Bethlehem? (Mt. 2:1-12). The epiphany (manifestation) of the Son of God and the Son of Mary; God had become human; the Word made Flesh was present to them.

The search for the new born king of the Jews lead the Magi to Bethlehem. A star was a sign that guided them. What did they do when they saw the Child? They fell down and worshiped Him.

Are you and I alert to the signs that guide us to Him? How do we show our adoration for Him? Do we deliberately search for Jesus in our daily lives? Along the journey to find Him, there can be times/events when our tranquility and plans are disrupted in ways we would never imagined. Do we, however, not lose hope? Do we keep our eyes fixed on Him in our active search for Him?

Do we, (Isaiah 60:1-6) rise up in splendor, remembering that our light has come and the glory of the Lord shines upon us? Are we radiant at what we see? Do our hearts throb and overflow?

St. Paul (Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6) tells the community that God’s mystery (God’s age long plan was to call Gentiles as well as Jews to share in Christ’s redemptive work) was revealed, made manifest to him. He had an epiphany that everyone would be sharers of the promise through the preaching of the Gospel. How are you and I inclusive of others?

The Epiphany of the Lord: God made manifest to us; God revealed to us. After we experience the epiphany of the Lord, how can we not be changed? How can we not be different? We, like the Magi, must go about our journey via a different route.

Peace,

Fr. Page Polk, OFM
Pastoral Minister

RENEWAL is published weekly by the Franciscan Renewal Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
5802 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85253. Federal Tax ID 86-0720036
Printed by J.S. Paluch Company Inc. | Copyright 2019. All rights reserved.
A Blessing for the New Year

Creator God,
You who live outside of time,
and reside in the imperishable moment,
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 our days are for both
celebrating and contemplation,
for both giving and receiving love.
Bless us with peace and joy,
and grant to us, Lord,
the New Year’s gift of a year of love,
through, with, and in Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for
ever and ever. Amen.

All Are Welcome at the Casa

“Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have
unknowingly entertained angels.” (Heb.13:2)

We are blessed to have many visitors join us, and
we hope that each person who enters through our
doors feels like they have just come home. The Casa
is a warm place where all are welcome!

It is important that everyone realize we each have
a part to play in the welcoming environment at
the Casa. Instinctively, we already know how to
do this—it’s often the little things that can make a
big difference. Look around for opportunities to be
welcoming and demonstrate that we love visitors!
Even though our Hospitality Ministers are on the
job to welcome all our guests, truly the task belongs
to all of us.

Here are just a few ways we can each be welcoming:
1. Smile and greet people.
2. Hold the door open for the people behind you.
3. Slide over in the pews to make room.
4. Help visitors find the restrooms.
5. Help visitors find the water fountains (and
encourage them to stay hydrated!).
7. Encourage visitors to learn more about the
Casa at the “Discover the Vision” tour.
8. Invite visitors to a church art/architecture tour.
9. Invite visitors to come back to Mass at the
Casa.
10. Stay a few minutes with visitors after Mass and
help them mingle; introduce them to your
friends and acquaintances.
11. Look out for people who are sitting alone or
look sad—invite them to sit with you and help
them feel that this is exactly the right place for
them to be.

Pope Francis reminds us to be joyful witnesses.
May our lives and our hospitality reflect the joy we
find in Jesus!

For Those Families That Are
Undergoing Hardships...

The Gospel stories about the Holy Family during the
Christmas Season are wonderful examples to follow.
From the beginning, they had more than their share
of difficulties. Both Mary and Joseph were initially
unsettled by the news of her pregnancy. In the days
before Jesus’ birth, they had to take an arduous
journey to Bethlehem. They were refused proper
accommodations and Mary had to give birth in a
stable. Instead of returning home, they had to take
flight at night to a foreign land to keep the baby safe.
When they were finally able to return, they had to
proceed carefully for fear of the new king. Yet at
every step, God watched over them.

May we know the same consolation throughout our
trials.
The Journey Continues…

Sacrament Preparation sessions will resume next Sunday
January 12 at 10:45 am.
Session is for both parents and students.

**Topic:**
*The Gifts of the Holy Spirit!*

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

January 5 Epiphany

**REFLECTION:** Epiphany is all about the Magi. What can the Three Wise Men teach us today?

**First** — They began this journey after watching the stars and looking for signs of the birth of the extraordinary King. When they saw the Star, they followed it. Do we watch for signs of Christ in the world today?

**Second** — They were willing to go into unknown territory, outside their country and comfort zone. Can we have the courage to forgo our own comfort zone for the sake of the Gospel?

**Third** — The Three Wise Men were committed to the journey, no matter where the Star led them. Trust and commitment—how well are we doing?

**Finally** — They brought gifts. Gold for the King. Frankincense for a priest. Myrrh given to someone about to die. All of us have gifts to give—what gift can you give to Christ today? Their greatest gift was that the Three Wise Men were the first Gentiles to recognize that Jesus belongs to everyone. How can we share that gift with the world around us? Follow the Star!

**CONVERSATION:** What is the greatest gift that God has given you?

**PROCLAMATION/DISCUSSION:**
Read Matthew 2:1-12

- How do the Three Wise Men find their way to Jesus?
- What do the Magi do when they find Jesus?
- What gifts do the Three Wise Men bring to Jesus?

**ACTION:** The Star led the Magi to the place where Jesus was. With your family, cut out several yellow construction paper stars. On each star, write either a way you can find Jesus or the name of a person who has helped you find Jesus. Create a mobile of your stars using coat hangers and yarn or string. Hang your stars in a place where all family members will see them.

**CONCLUDING PRAYER:** God of wonder, lead us down the right paths and help us to recognize Jesus in the people that we meet as we travel through life. Amen.

---

Following the Star... to the Waters of Baptism...

This year, we have eight children and teens preparing to receive **Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist** at the Easter Vigil.

These students celebrated the **Rite of Acceptance/Welcome** in December.

Older students are being dismissed to break open the Word with the adult candidates and catechumen at the 9:15 am Mass.

Younger students participate in the **Liturgy of the Word for Children** at the same Mass.

**Please keep these children and teens, along with their families, in your prayers as they journey to the Easter Sacraments.**

Michael Miller  Sofia Armenta
Luke Miller      Tommy Miller
Jackson Grant   Matthew Sheade
Eliana Sheade   Calvin Sheade

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
In the New Year, Resolve to Volunteer!

For many of us, New Year’s Resolutions are simply a “to-do” list for the first week of January. If you resolve to volunteer in the New Year, here are some tips.

**Be realistic.** People set lofty goals with every good intention, but quickly abandon them when the amount of time or the actual task at hand is not realistic.

**Choose wisely.** You are much more likely to stick with something that is of interest to you or if it is in your comfort zone.

**Talk about it.** Tell others what your plan is. It will hold you accountable and make you more liable to stick with it.

Volunteering is a very good thing and worthy of a resolution for 2020. If you want to—you can do it. Happy New Year!

— Pat Bennier, Director of Volunteer Services

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

---

**Books and Blessings**

*bookstore & spiritual boutique at the Casa*

**Thank you for your stewardship!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Offerings</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas 2019</td>
<td>$68,471.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas 2018</td>
<td>$74,796.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas 2017</td>
<td>$88,022.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas 2016</td>
<td>$75,834.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

---

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

---

*Thank you for your stewardship!*

*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.*

*Monday - Wednesday 10:00 am - 6:30 pm*
*Thursday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:30 pm*
*Sunday 8:30 am - 2:00 pm and 5:30 - 8:30 pm*

*Please stop by. We look forward to serving you! Visit us online at Booksandblessingsgiftshop.com.*

---

For more information about our Counseling Ministry, please call 480.948.7460, ext. 134 or email: counseling@thecasa.org
Café Justo Coffee
Next Sale, January 11 & 12

Time to restock after the Christmas season?

Casa Grounds for Solidarity ministry sells Café Justo Fair Trade–Plus Coffee. In 2019, Casa Grounds sold over $12,500 of coffee. **We surpassed our sales goal and are so grateful for everyone who supports our ministry.** By purchasing the Café Justo coffee throughout the year, you help the Casa support an extended family of coffee farmers at the Café Justo cooperative to make a living wage while remaining on their family lands.

This excellent, pure, organic coffee tastes even more exquisite when you know that you are reducing poverty for Mexican families, in the spirit of justice.

If you would like to join the ministry and help sell our tasty coffee, contact Eileen Waldron at: casagrounds@thecasa.org.

Happy New Year!
Treat yourself to Scripture Discussion.

**Just Scripture**

January 12, 9 - 10:30 am
Ventura Room in Piper Hall

If a New Year's resolution is to spend more time reflecting on the Bible, we invite you to join **Just Scripture** next Sunday morning.

No previous study of Scripture is needed.

Discuss how the Sunday readings connect with our daily life. No biblical training is necessary. All are welcome.

For more information, contact: kgarast@aol.com.

Reduce Single Use Plastics with a FRC Stainless-Steel Water bottle.

The Care for Creation Ministry team has created a new FRC stainless-steel water bottle to support the effort to reduce single-use plastics. Why worry about plastics:

1. Creating single-use plastic items uses up significant fossil fuel and water resources.
2. Single-use plastics take anywhere from 20 to 1,000 years to break down.
3. Single-use plastics most often end up in landfills or polluting oceans.

You can show your support for God’s Creation and the FRC with this purchase. Cost is only $10. You can find these water bottles at the Front Desk, in Books and Blessings, and periodically from the Care for Creation team in the Hospitality area.

As the year gets started...

If you have not quite found your way to put your faith into action, explore the Faith in Action (FIA) Ministries. Our goal is to match a person’s passion with a way to act. The FIA Ministry teams are made up of groups of volunteers who want to respond to hurting people in our local community and find joy in working with other committed volunteers to bring hope and compassion into our world.

Follow the link to the Faith in Action Ministry page on the FRC website and peruse the various ministry teams to see if there is one that touches your heart. [https://thecasa.org/faith-in-action/](https://thecasa.org/faith-in-action/).

For more information on a specific ministry team, send an email to the ministry team’s contact, which is found on their individual web page.

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.
Happy New Year! Looking Ahead...

Jan. 6  T'ai Chi/Qigong
Jan. 11 Your Story, Your Legacy: Exploring Your Spiritual Legacy
Jan. 17 - 19 Migrants and Justice and Bees, Oh My! Retreat
Jan. 19 Introduction to the Nonviolence Leadership Certificate Program Luncheon
Jan. 31 Introduction to Biblical Archaeology

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 required.

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.

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

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.

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.

For more information or to register for any of these programs please visit thecasa.org or call 480.948.7460 ext. 132
Jesus As Prophet in Christian-Muslim Dialogue
Offered Twice:
Thursday, Feb. 20, 10 - 11:30 am
Thursday, Feb. 20, 7 - 8:30 pm
Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM Conv.

Jesus has been seen as the obstacle to the relationship between Christians and Jews. This presentation focuses on how contemporary scriptural studies and theology challenge this belief. Jesus’ role as prophet may be a bridge to a more profound relationship between Christians and Muslims.

Fee: $20 per person; daytime or evening sessions. Pre-registration required.

God's Mercy: Reflections
Offered Twice:
Friday, Feb. 21, 10 - 11:30 am
Friday, Feb. 21, 7 - 8:30 pm
Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM Conv.

God’s mercy has been the subject of the papacy in recent years, especially that of Pope Francis. The concept of mercy also appeared in medieval theology and spirituality. This presentation focuses on how God’s mercy appears in the works of such women as Hadewijch, Angela of Foligno, and Catherine of Siena.

Fee: $20 per person; daytime or evening sessions. Pre-registration required.

Spirit & Life: New Spiritual Insights of the Writings of St. Francis of Assisi
Thursday, Feb. 22, 9 - 11:30 am
Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM Conv.

The Writings of Francis are the focus of several recent studies among Italian Franciscan scholars. This presentation brings to light the fruits of this writing on Francis’ two “Chartula” (parchments) that are in Assisi and Spoleto (that contain the Praises of God and the Blessing for Brother Leo), and the Canticle of Creatures. One will see that these writings of Francis can still convey to us “Spirit and Life.”

Fee: $25 per person. Pre-registration required.

Franciscan Vision Series: St. Francis, Master of Prayer, part 2
Saturday, Mar. 21, 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. 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. Pre-registration required.

Emmaus Retreat for Grieving Parents
Friday, Mar. 27 — Sunday, Mar. 29
Marianne Gouveia & Fr. Peter Kirwin, OFM

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.

Fee: $135 commuter, includes meals; with lodging $225 single, $135 double per person. Pre-registration 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.
Happy New Year!

As we head into the New Year, whether you're setting goals or opting out, please consider what role the Casa plays in your life. A previous Vision Corner article mentioned feeding the things that feed us, how beautifully put. Does the Casa feed you? Does it help sustain you? If so, please consider how you help sustain the Casa. It's up to each of us to decide how to use our time, talent and treasure. How will you use yours to help sustain the Casa?

Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year.

—Colleen Rogers, Donor Relations, 480.306.4914

A GIFT THAT PROVIDES SECURE, STABLE INCOME FOR YOU

Great news for those looking for a way to increase retirement income! A charitable gift annuity with the Casa can give you a guaranteed stream of income for the rest of your life, and allow you to make an outright gift to the Casa at the same time.

Here's how it works:

• You give cash or marketable securities to the Casa.
• The Casa then pays you a fixed amount of money for your lifetime.
• At the end of your life, whatever funds remain in your annuity account become a gift to the Casa.

Consider the advantages:

• In addition to receiving fixed payments for life, you are entitled to an income tax deduction for the charitable portion of your gift.
• Your capital gains tax liability is reduced if you are transferring long-term appreciated assets.
• A large portion of the income you receive from the annuity is non-taxable.

A charitable gift annuity is a wonderful way to endow what you love at the Casa. And, the remainder of your gift annuity may be designated for the endowment fund of your choice, allowing you to support, in perpetuity, the ministries that have held special meaning in your life. For more information, or to get started, contact Mary Dunn at 480.355.0345, mdunn@thecasa.org, or visit our legacy website: http://www.frclegacy.org/.
Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

© Copyright 2023 J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.
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.

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: Fridays, 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.

The Epiphany—January 5, 2020

"God chose us before the world began to be holy." God has chosen each person in Christ for a particular vocation. If He may be calling you to be holy through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office at 602.284.9343 or dphpx.org/vocations.

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

- Jan. 18, 19: Gospel of Life
- Jan. 25, 26: Guaymas Mission Appeal
- Feb. 1, 2: CDA

Mass Intentions

January 5, 2020 – January 11, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass Intentions</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Benefactors FMU</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pro-populo</td>
<td>9:15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Shikany</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julie Martin</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Shayna Mansfield</td>
<td>7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>John J. Smith</td>
<td>7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mary A. Smith and Family</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Peter Reilly</td>
<td>7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Dr. Timothy Kuberski</td>
<td>7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>David Gardos</td>
<td>7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christian Munz</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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.

Like us on Facebook facebook.com/TheCasaFRC
Subscribe to YouTube youtube.com/TheCasaFRC
Follow us on Twitter twitter.com/TheCasaFRC

thecasa.org • RENEWAL