Upcoming at the Casa

The Art & Text of The Saint John’s Bible
With Paula White
Thursday, March 19, 10 - 11 am

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

Building the Beloved Community
With Mark Klym and Albert Celozza
Friday, March 27, 6 - 9 pm &
Saturday, March 28, 9 am - 4:30 pm

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
Holy Day Masses
as announced
Reconciliation
please call for appointment
Rosary
Tuesday 6:00 pm
Thursday 7:45 am
Centering Prayer
Tuesday 8:00 pm
Centering Prayer
Thursday 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
A Time of Self-Reflection

Lent is a time for self-reflection and to see if God is asking us to make some changes in our lives. On Ash Wednesday, our friars called us to focus this Lent on our relationship to our planet. Pope Francis asked for the same self-assessment in his encyclical Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home. In that document, Pope Francis called for all of us in wealthy countries to review our lifestyle and for most of us to consume less. Sometimes, I feel like the prophet of doom when speaking about our planet and the crisis in which we find ourselves. We have all heard about or seen the photos of the devastating fires in Australia, the melting ice sheets in Antarctica, or the floods, both at home and abroad. So, maybe Lent is actually a very good time to take stock of one’s relationship with the rest of God’s creation and assess if there is something that needs to change. I recently spoke to a Women's faith sharing group and shared ideas of what individuals could do to reduce their impact on the rest of nature. They were appreciative of the ideas, so I will share some with you:

- Go meatless once or twice a week.
- Look at your investments and divest from fossil fuels.
- Offset travel by donating to organizations that plant trees.
- Consider how you shop. Shop at companies that have made a commitment to reducing their carbon footprint.
- Purchase clothes and items at a resale/thrift shop.
- Encourage local, state and national elected leaders to prioritize God's Creation when crafting laws and policies.
- Purchase an FRC stainless steel water bottle and go plastic free.
- As our environment changes and brings new challenges, do something extra to support our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters who are less resilient.

Lastly, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, plan now to participate in Earth Week activities at the FRC from April 19 - 26. More details coming soon from the Care for Creation Ministry on all the events.

Peace,

Patti Sills-Trausch
Director of Faith in Action Ministry
**Reconciliation Opportunities**

Lent is a good time to celebrate the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation: the Church’s proclamation of God’s great love for us, specifically through the forgiveness of our sins.

The point of Lent is to change our hearts, turning toward living a life following the Gospel of Jesus more closely. You can express that commitment more deeply through the celebration of Reconciliation and experience the peace that comes from hearing the beautiful words of Absolution.

Many people see in penance only its difficult side, and its emphasis on sorrow. But it also has a joyful side, and it looks more to the future than to the past. Through this Sacrament, God gives us a new beginning. We can find true freedom as God’s sons and daughters. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Christ the Forgiver becomes present to us, opens His heart to us, and bathes us in His love and kindness.

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**Some Thoughts on Mercy**

In this Sacrament, God is willing to be with us in the chaos of our lives, so that we can know we are never alone. And, knowing that we are not alone, we can be set free from fear and guilt. Then, being free from fear and guilt ourselves, we can be more present and willing to enter into the chaos of the lives of others, to remind them that they are not alone and, in so doing, set them free from fear. This fulfills our destiny by acting in the image and likeness of God—being merciful as God is merciful—forbiding others as we are forgiven—and becoming holy, as God is holy.

**Hospitality Ministers and Eucharistic Ministers are Needed for Holy Week**

Many extra ministers are needed for the various Holy Week liturgies. Hospitality and Eucharistic Ministers are asked to sign up as soon as possible. You will find the sign-up book in the Hospitality Area and/or the Working Sacristy.

**Palm Sunday, April 5**
7:30 am, 10 am

**Holy Thursday, April 9**
7 pm

**Good Friday, April 10**
Stations of the Cross 12 noon
Celebration of the Lord’s Passion 7 pm

**Holy Saturday, April 11**
7:45 pm

**Easter Sunday, April 12**
6:45 am, 8:45 am & 11 am

Hospitality is very important to us at the Casa. The men and women who serve in this ministry each week—smiling and greeting everyone, giving out song sheets and bulletins, helping those who require assistance, giving directions, etc—are among our strongest assets. However, the needs are obviously much greater during Holy Week. Please consider serving in this honorable and important ministry.

You can also sign up by emailing norbert@thecasa.org.

**Fridays During Lent**

“Prayer, Fasting, & Almsgiving”

5:45 pm Stations of the Cross
6:15 pm Simple Soup Supper
7:00 pm Taize Prayer Around the Cross
The Power of Prayer and Little Ones *(Big Ones Too)!*

Here are some ideas on how to bring the power of prayer into your family life!

**The five-finger prayer:** Great for all ages, but especially our littlest ones.
- Thumb (people who are close to you): These are your close friends and family.
- Pointer (people who point the way): These are leaders in your life.
- Tall Finger (people in authority): Ask God to give wisdom to all leaders in the world.
- Ring Finger (people who are weak): Pray for others who are sick, live in poverty, or are treated badly.
- Little Finger (your own needs): God wants to hear your needs, too, especially when you put others first. Pray for your own growth in mind, body, and spirit.

**Build a family heritage of prayer:**
- Start a family prayer journal to keep track of prayers and answers!
- Take turns praying for each other. Try “Round Robin Prayer” where you pray from oldest to youngest or vice versa.
- Create a family altar—a place dedicated to prayer.
- Create a Prayer Box that contains prayer books, story books, candles, pencils and paper, rosaries, etc. This way you have the prayer resources you need at hand.
- Prayer Bowl—using small cards, write your intentions for other people and place them in the bowl to be prayed for.

*How does your family pray? Share your ideas with the RCIA candidates and catechumen at the RCIA/Family Catechesis table in the Hospitality area.*

**Family Faith Activities March 8 Second Sunday of Lent**

**REFLECTION:** Jesus takes three of His disciples up a mountain for a time apart. In this place, Jesus changes before their eyes—becoming radiant and glorious. Being on the mountain was a wonderful experience! In this presence of God, the Light that is in Jesus shines out—and His glory is revealed. We are so like the disciples. We might have the grace of a profound faith experience that lifts us out of our daily lives: a liturgy that transports us, a retreat that gives us new life or a piece of music that seems to fill our souls. We want to build a tent right there and stay there on that mountain top, leaving our “regular life” below. But Jesus came down the mountain to be with the people, with us, in our pains and sorrows, fears and sickness. We, too, are called back to “normal” life—but we have been transformed and can bring this experience to those around us in how we live our daily lives.

**CONVERSATION:** Share a time that you felt particularly close to God or Jesus.

**PROCLAMATION/DISCUSSION:** Read: Matthew 17:1-9.

What happens to Jesus on the mountaintop? Who appears to Jesus and the disciples? What does the Voice of God say? What do the disciples do?

**ACTION:** Bring the story to life by making a “coke float.” Fill each child’s cup with 3 spoonfuls of ice cream (one each for Jesus, Moses and Elijah) and pour cola over the top to create a “cloud” as in the story.

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, thank You for Your love and friendship. Help us to grow as Your followers during Lent. Amen.
SAVE THE DATE

VOLUNTEER FIESTA

May 5, 2020—6 – 8:30 pm

A celebration to honor all volunteers at the Franciscan Renewal Center.
Look for more information coming soon in the bulletin and by email.

Thank you for your stewardship!

Mass Offerings

2.23.20 $20,716.50
2.24.19 $22,969.00
2.25.18 $26,199.50

We received 264 collection envelopes.

Books and Blessings

bookstore & spiritual boutique at the Casa

Meet Markelle, as she will be appearing for a book signing on March 8, after the Sunday Morning Masses, just outside of Books and Blessings. Markelle, is a local Theology teacher and author. She will be signing her book, “Jesus Wants to be Your Buddy,” a kid’s book that is so sweet and wonderful.

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
The Casa Habitat Ministry
Home Is Where the Heart Is

Baked Goods for donations: visit Casa Habitat’s Hospitality table after the morning Masses on Sunday, March 22. Home-baked goods will be available for donation.

Help to support the Casa Habitat Ministry; not only the work of building homes, but also the lunches provided for the builders, and the housewarming-dedication gifts given to our Habitat Home-Owner Families.

Would you like to help build the 14th Casa Habitat Home with our fellow builders from the Caritas Catholic Coalition? Contact thecasahabitat@thecasa.org—there are many more dates available to build this spring. Stop by the table in Hospitality after all Masses for more information.

Creation Connection Movie Night
April 3, 6 - 9 pm
The Human Element

Nature is made up of four elements: earth, air, water, and fire. But now there is a fifth element, and it’s changing everything: humans. In an arresting new documentary, from the producers of "Racing Extinction" and "Chasing Ice," environmental photographer James Balog and director Matthew Testa capture the lives of everyday Americans on the front lines of climate change. The "Human Element" relays captivating stories from coast-to-coast, inspiring us to re-evaluate our relationship with the natural world.

Fee: $10 includes a light dinner, movie and discussion. Pre-registration is necessary.

April 22 Is the 50th Anniversary of the First Earth Day Celebration

Plan now to take part in the Casa’s Earth Week Events. Here are some of the events that are being planned by the Care for Creation Ministry team:

- Sunday, April 19 - Blessing of the Earth
- Tuesday, April 21 - Rosary for Creation
- Weds., April 22 - Taize Prayer for Creation
- Saturday, April 25 - Education for Peace wkshp
- Sunday, April 26 - Ecological Action Fair after Sunday morning Masses.

Look for a flyer in the lobby and in upcoming bulletins for more information.

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...

April 2     The Art & Text of The Saint John’s Bible
April 5 - 8 Holy Week Retreat—Part 1
April 9 - 12 Holy Week—Triduum
May 7 - 10 Brush with God
June 5 - 7 Grief and Loss Retreat
June 5 - 7 Divorced and Separated Retreat

Please visit the online registration portal to learn more about these and other upcoming programs. You can read about the presenters, and register online at:

frc.retreatportal.com/events

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.

The Art & Text of Saint John’s Bible
Thursday, Mar. 19, 10 - 11 am
Paula White

The major Illuminations are presented in this special gathering. Discussion will be about how the images and the Word of God bring understanding to the Biblical text.

No Fee. Pre-registration required.
Celtic Spirituality
Wednesday, Mar. 25, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Richard Groves

This evening workshop will inspire and offer a wealth of insight into a way of relating to God that transcends many of today's political, cultural and religious tensions.

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

Building the Beloved Community
Friday, Mar. 27, 6 - 9 pm & Saturday, Mar. 28, 9 am - 4:30 pm
Mark Klym and Albert Celoza

This interactive and inspirational training introduces how Nonviolence is a courageous way of life and a powerful strategy for uplifting our community. Special emphasis is given to the Six Principles and Six Steps of Nonviolence according to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and their use during various civil rights campaigns.

Fee: $95, includes workbook, dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday.
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.

Franciscan Vision Series:
The Naked Truth: Why St. Francis Took Off All of His Clothes in Front of the Bishop of Assisi
Saturday, Apr. 4, 9 - 11 am
Fr. Ryan Thornton, OFM

This episode sheds some light on why Francis defined poverty as he did in the Rule for the Friars and why that understanding and this particular action of his have continued relevance for us today.

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

Gifted and Called Retreat
Friday, Apr. 24—Sunday, Apr. 26

This retreat affirms love and acceptance for gay and lesbian persons by moving beyond labels into the profound truths of identity, mission, and the dignity of every human person.

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

Education for Peace
Saturday, Apr. 25, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Elizabeth Ursic, Debbie Holexa, Brian Dille with Albert Celoza as Moderator

Developing Skills & Capacities for Peacemakers.

Fee: $45, per person, includes lunch. Student fee: $40, includes lunch. Call Amy, 480-948-7460, ext. 132 for student fee.
Pre-registration required.
How I Got to the Casa in the First Place

Back in 2001, I met Father Larry Dolan as we were the scheduled speakers at a recovery meeting in Scottsdale. The hosts of our dinner before the meeting told me that he was a friar at the Franciscan Renewal Center down the street. I was in my silk suit and heels and he was in his cargo shorts, T-shirt, flip flops and Big Gulp. Once past my initial shock at his attire, he became a person that I was very comfortable with and I became a “project” for him.

Every time I saw him, we would end up having a conversation about my faith, which I believed to be quite strong and genuine. It continued this way until 2007 when I was diagnosed with cancer and I called him in total fear. He was calm and told me that he would pray for me as would all the other friars. Being an Episcopalian at the time, I did not know what that meant but it was strangely comforting.

I went through all my healing process and the next time I saw Father Larry, he mentioned that RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) was beginning in the fall. I reminded him that I was an Episcopalian, and he reminded me that that it was I who had come to him when I was scared, not the Episcopal pastor from the church that I went to on Easter and Christmas—maybe.

As a courtesy to this friar, I entered RCIA in the fall of 2008 with the intent of being polite but walking out the door. I never left and I was confirmed by Father Larry at Easter Vigil in 2009. I will be forever grateful for his consistent shepherding of me for those seven years, for he never gave up on me. My hope is that he knew how much his “project” loved him and needed him as a reminder to not get so caught up in the external trappings of the people that I meet. Father Larry died May 15, 2018 leaving behind many who are still saddened by his sudden passing. For me, I miss you, Father Larry, and I thank you for getting me to where I needed to be—with my community here at the Casa.

—Sarah Privée, Community Member, 602-319-7627

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

INVITATION TO
DINNER WITH THE FRIARS

Learn About Sowing Your Legacy
Growing the Casa’s Future

Please join the friars and the La Verna Legacy team for dinner at the Franciscan Renewal Center.

Sunday, March 22, 2020
4:30 pm

Enjoy friendship and a complimentary dinner.
(This is an educational event with no obligation.)

Seating is limited, so reservations are required.

RSVP by March 13
to endowment@thecasa.org or 480.355.0345
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 Casa@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.

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

Mar. 21 & 22: Catholic Relief Services
Apr. 25 & 26: Catholic Home Missions
May 30 & 31: Franciscan Missionary Union

Mass Intentions
March 8, 2020 – March 14, 2020

Sunday  Pro-populo  7:30 am
Rich Roncaglia  9:15 am
Mary Liskin  11:00 am
Dan Peterson  7:00 pm

Monday  Stella Olive Muzicka  7:00 am

Tuesday  Mary Hagan  7:00 am

Wednesday  Sherman Unkefer  7:00 am

Thursday  Xavier M. Castro  7:00 am

Friday  Bill Forrest  7:00 am

Saturday  John Michael Tryon  7:00 am
Richard Rupnow  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.

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.