

## Liturgies and Mass Intentions ~ Week of January 15, 2017

### Sunday, January 15

9:00 am— Ann Rader (Paul Maiberger)  
11:00 am –For the Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

### Monday January 16

No Mass

### Tuesday, January 17

11:00 am – Westminster Thurber

### Wednesday, January 18

6:00 pm – For the Needs of the Parish

### Thursday, January 19

6:00 pm – Keenan/Dodd Family (Diane Keenan)

### Friday, January 20

6:00 pm – Continued Healing for Lorna Lisk

## Schedule of Sunday Liturgical Ministries

Thank you for your willingness to serve to make our Mass Successful

### Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

January 15 —9 am—Lorri Kuczynski, Jeanna Diederich

11 am – Tera Kovar, Gretchen Rivera

January 22– 9 am – Jeanna Diederich, Tera Kovar

11 am – Megan Murphy, Andrea Randel

### Servers

January 15—9 am—Kathleen Porter, 11 am – Gaetan O'Brien

January 22 – 9 am – Charlotte Maite, 11 am – OPEN

### Crucifers (Cross Bearers)

January 15—9 am—Skip Camerucci 11 am – Dan O'Brien

January 22 – 9 am – Bob Geoghegan, 11 am – Lori Tocorzic

### Lectors

January 15 —9 am—Elise Ryan, Louisa Celebrezze

11 am –Michel Hindeme, Diane Meves

January 22 – 9 am – Cecilia McAdams, Lynn Willford

11 am – Gary Snyder, Jon Murphy

### Eucharistic Ministers

January 15 - 9 am—Steve Hillyer, Jan Rosenfield, John Ryan

11 am – OPEN, Marilyn Smith, Mark Coleman

January 22 – 9 am – Frank Conway, MA Kercher, Chris Paisley

11 am – Louisa Celebrezze, Mark Coleman, Diane Lemay

**Gluten "Free"/Low Gluten Hosts**...are available for those who wish to receive them. If you would like to receive a low-gluten host at Communion, please notify one of the greeters before Mass. This will allow us to observe and maintain safety protocols for those who are sensitive or allergic to gluten. Any questions? Call the parish office (614-299-5781)/ [office@sfacolumbus.org](mailto:office@sfacolumbus.org) or see one of the Mass Coordinators.

**"Darkness can't drive out darkness;  
only light can do that.  
Hate can't drive out hate; only love  
can do that."**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Calendar of Events at St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Please check the St. Francis website for the full calendar of events

### Sunday, January 15

▶ 12:00 pm – Book Discussion Group

▶ 12:30 pm – Baptism Workshop

### Monday, January 16

▶ 5:00 pm – SVDP Restored Citizens

### Tuesday, January 17

▶ 11:00 am – Westminster Thurber Mass

▶ 7:00 pm – Leadership Team Meeting

### Wednesday, January 18

▶ 7:00 - RCIA

### Thursday, January 19

▶ 10:00 am – Westminster Thurber Bible Study

## Parish News and Information

A member of our Parish is seeking to supplement her family's income through **home and/or office cleaning**. Since English is not her native language, please call/text Andy Randel [614-216-8921](tel:614-216-8921) with **any one time or continual work** you may be able to offer. God bless all those who can help!

**Parish Town Hall Meeting** – On Monday, January 30, 2017, at 7:00 pm, there will be an all parish meeting to discuss some potential renovations to the church. Please join us to hear the ideas and presentations from the Diocese. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Conway.

**First Holy Communion preparation:** Our parish celebration of First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at the 11:00 Mass. Preparation sessions for children will be held in the parish hall education room (Atrium) from 12:30-2:00 p.m. each Sunday from January 22–April 2 (**except 2/26/17**). We strongly encourage children to participate each week in this time of shared reflection and prayerful work.

Please call the parish office at [614.299.5781](tel:614.299.5781) if your child will celebrate First Communion with our parish family. Contact Therese Terndrup at [terndru@kent.edu](mailto:terndru@kent.edu) or stop by the Atrium on Sunday morning between Masses if you have any questions. Registration forms will be available at the first session on Jan. 22, 2017.

**A joint Social Justice Group/BREAD/St. Vincent de Paul** meeting will be held in the church hall starting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 23. Come to hear about recent and upcoming activities of St. Francis of Assisi's various social justice ministries including BREAD and take part in a St. Vincent de Paul monthly meeting.

## Next Week's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

1 Corinthians 1:10 – 13, 17

Matthew 4:12 - 23

## December Financial Report

Total Income	\$36,156.55
Total Expenses	\$22,853.40
Net Income	\$13,303.15

## Pastoral Reflection – January 15, 2017

This week we are beginning the long series of the “ordinary time Sundays”. This category refers to the 34 Sundays that do not belong to those that fall during the special liturgical seasons like Advent, Christmas, Lent and the Easter season. These Sundays are important as they allow us to follow Jesus step by step and to listen to his every word, watch his every move and be exposed to all the facets of his fascinating personality. During this time the Church will make us walk with him, witness all his actions and listen to all his words. But before doing so, she wishes to make sure we know who he really is: The anointed one.

Today we see a little more on his identity. For this we are blessed with a reading from Prophet Isaiah and then by John the Baptist's inspirational words in the Gospel. Jesus is described as a suffering servant sent to show God's glory to the people of Israel and we see that the scope of his mission is expanded. “I will make you a light of the nations that my salvation may reach to the end of the world.”

The responsorial psalm describes Jesus as one who says: “Here I am, I come to do your will.” As we listen to John the Baptist, we grow further in the understanding and the love of Jesus, whom he called the Lamb of God.

It is this Jesus that we are called to worship, love and follow. With him, everything is made new! Don't hesitate to point out Jesus to others and let our passion for him be translated into a passion for building up our community. If we hear God's voice to do that this year, please harden not our hearts.

## Catholic Education Section

Who was St. Francis of Assisi (continued from last week)?

Francis never wanted to found a religious order -- this former knight thought that sounded too military. He thought of what he was doing as expressing God's brotherhood. His companions came from all walks of life, from fields and towns, nobility and common people, universities, the Church, and the merchant class. Francis practiced true equality by showing honor, respect, and love to every person whether they were beggar or pope.

Francis' brotherhood included all of God's creation. Much has been written about Francis' love of nature but his relationship was deeper than that. We call someone a lover of nature if they spend their free time in the woods or admire its beauty. But Francis really felt that nature, all God's creations, were part of his brotherhood. The sparrow was as much his brother as the pope.

In one famous story, Francis preached to hundreds of birds about being thankful to God for their wonderful clothes, for their independence, and for God's care. The story tells us the birds stood still as he walked among him, only flying off when he said they could leave.

Another famous story involves a wolf that had been eating human beings. Francis intervened when the town wanted to kill the wolf and talked the wolf into never killing again. The wolf became a pet of the townspeople who made sure that he always had plenty to eat.

Following the Gospel literally, Francis and his companions went out to preach two by two. At first, listeners were understandably hostile to these men in rags trying to talk about God's love. People even ran from them for fear they'd catch this strange madness! And they were right. Because soon these same people noticed that these barefoot beggars wearing sacks seemed filled with constant joy. They celebrated life. And people had to ask themselves: Could one own nothing and be happy? Soon those who had met them with mud and rocks, greeted them with bells and smiles.

Francis did not try to abolish poverty, he tried to make it holy. When his friars met someone poorer than they, they would eagerly rip off the sleeve of their habit to give to the person. They worked for all necessities and only begged if they had to. But Francis would not let them accept any money. He told them to treat coins as if they were pebbles in the road. When the bishop showed horror at the friars' hard life, Francis said, “If we had any possessions we should need weapons and laws to defend them.” Possessing something was the death of love for Francis. Also, Francis reasoned, what could you do to a man who owns nothing? You can't starve a fasting man, you can't steal from someone who has no money, you can't ruin someone who hates prestige. They were truly free.

Francis was a man of action. His simplicity of life extended to ideas and deeds. If there was a simple way, no matter how impossible it seemed, Francis would take it. So when Francis wanted approval for his brotherhood, he went straight to Rome to see Pope Innocent III. You can imagine what the pope thought when this beggar approached him! As a matter of fact he threw Francis out. But when he had a dream that this tiny man in rags held up the tilting Lateran basilica, he quickly called Francis back and gave him permission to preach.

Sometimes this direct approach led to mistakes that he corrected with the same spontaneity that he made them. Once he ordered a brother who hesitated to speak because he stuttered to go preach half-naked. When Francis realized how he had hurt someone he loved he ran to town, stopped the brother, took off his own clothes, and preached instead.

Francis acted quickly because he acted from the heart; he didn't have time to put on a role. Once he was so sick and exhausted, his companions borrowed a mule for him to ride. When the man who owned the mule recognized Francis he said, “Try to be as virtuous as everyone thinks you are because many have a lot of confidence in you.” Francis dropped off the mule and knelt before the man to thank him for his advice.

Another example of his directness came when he decided to go to Syria to convert the Moslems while the Fifth Crusade was being fought. In the middle of a battle, Francis decided to do the simplest thing and go straight to the sultan to make peace. When he and his companion were captured, the real miracle was that they weren't killed. Instead Francis was taken to the sultan who was charmed by Francis and his preaching. He told Francis, “I would convert to your religion which is a beautiful one -- but both of us would be murdered.”

Francis did find persecution and martyrdom of a kind -- not among the Moslems, but among his own brothers. When he returned to Italy, he came back to a brotherhood that had grown to 5000 in ten years. Pressure came from outside to control this great movement, to make them conform to the standards of others. His dream of radical poverty was too harsh, people said. Francis responded, “Lord, didn't I tell you they wouldn't trust you?”

He finally gave up authority in his order -- but he probably wasn't too upset about it. Now he was just another brother, like he'd always wanted.

Francis' final years were filled with suffering as well as humiliation. Praying to share in Christ's passion he had a vision received the stigmata, the marks of the nails and the lance wound that Christ suffered, in his own body.

Years of poverty and wandering had made Francis ill. When he began to go blind, the pope ordered that his eyes be operated on. This meant cauterizing his face with a hot iron. Francis spoke to “Brother Fire”: “Brother Fire, the Most High has made you strong and beautiful and useful. Be courteous to me now in this hour, for I have always loved you, and temper your heat so that I can endure it.” And Francis reported that Brother Fire had been so kind that he felt nothing at all.

How did Francis respond to blindness and suffering? That was when he wrote his beautiful Canticle of the Sun that expresses his brotherhood with creation in praising God.

Francis never recovered from this illness. He died on October 4, 1226 at the age of 45. Francis is considered the founder of all Franciscan orders and the patron saint of ecologists and merchants.

Source: [http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php? saint\\_id=50](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php? saint_id=50)