

## The Clarion



St. Clare Fraternity

DECEMBER 2021

“FOLLOW JESUS BY WALKING IN THE STEPS OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI, AND IMITATE HIS JOYFUL LOVE”

MINISTER: Tom Carter 302-945-9392  
VICE MINISTER: Kevin Mumford 302-245-4247  
INFIRMARIAN: Judy Bennett 302-260-9300

**GATHERING DATE**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021**

### **ATTENDANCE AT GATHERINGS**

**ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS ARE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND OUR MONTHLY GATHERING.**

**If you are unable to attend due to illness, work, or family emergency, please contact Kevin Mumford at 302-245-4247**

Thank you for continuing to support the Common Fund. If you are unable to attend our Gathering please send your donation check, payable to St. Clare Fraternity, to:

Andrea Lipchak, ofs  
41 Tiffany Drive  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

**\*\*\*Please remember to bring your Ritual Book, Christian Prayer Liturgy of the Hours, and non-perishable food items for the Food Bank that St. Edmond Parish supports.\*\*\***

- 10:00: Candidates and Inquirers meet with their instructor**
- 11:00: Rite of Profession to the Gospel Life Within the Mass**
- 12:00: Lunch, beverages & dessert will be provided**
- 1:00: Ongoing Formation: Importance of Commitment and the Tau  
Presenter: Fr. Rigo**

### **EVENING PRAYER**

Advent Week 2 Thursday

1 vol. pg. 830 & 80

4 vol. pg. 886 & 240

Hymn: Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

1 vol. pg. 1529 #56 4 vol. pg. 122

Presider: Kevin Mumford

Antiphonarian: Joe O'Neill

Reader: Ellen Oneto



### **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Christmas! The name evokes many things in us, depending on our faith and cultural perspective. For many, it means family gatherings, gifting, and good times with friends. Others see it as one of the days to go to church (a very strong pull, as evidenced by the large attendance on Christmas Day). Children are delighted by the magic of the day with the smell of fresh-cut Christmas trees with piles of presents under them, the music, the special desserts, no school, and much more. Franciscans also experience much of the spirit of the season, but there's *the* gift we know well – the joy of the birth of the Messiah, He who was prayed for by many generations in Israel and Judah. In His time and mercy, God lavished His love on His people, sending His Son to redeem us - to bring us to the Kingdom. Let us go to Bethlehem on that night, where our Savior burst upon the world in human form. Travel to Greccio where our humble Seraphic Father sighed over the Presepio Francescano, his representation of the first manger scene. Rejoice over the gift with no equal! Maranatha!

In Francis and Clare,  
Tom

## OUR FRATERNITY GATHERINGS IN 2022

January 13

February 10

March 10

\*April 21

May 12

June 9

July 14

August 11

September 8

October 13

November 10

\*\*December 8

\*3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday is

Holy Thursday

\*\*Possible date change

We pray for our deceased relatives and friends and especially:

John Zell, ofs  
Mary Lou Zell, ofs  
Deacon Buddy Bianco, ofs  
Deacon Bob Leonizo  
Barbara Petrisko, ofs  
Bill Farrell, ofs  
Bill Walker, ofs  
Dee Matthews, ofs  
Laraine Hofmann, ofs  
Florence Bianco, ofs



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Marty Rendon, ofs | 12/1  |
| Jim Mullen, ofs   | 12/5  |
| Pepper Tully, ofs | 12/12 |
| Joe O'Neill, ofs  | 12/25 |

## DECEMBER PROFESSIONS

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Jerry Krauss, ofs   | 12/08/1956 |
| Loretta Hanley, ofs | 12/12/2019 |
| Andrea Lipchak, ofs | 12/12/2019 |
| Kevin Mumford, ofs  | 12/12/2019 |
| Nela Wintjen, ofs   | 12/12/2019 |

*We will be selecting new prayer partners at our January Gathering*

**Please continue to pray for all of our sisters and brothers and for the special intentions of:**

Janice and Dick McCarthy, ofs  
Linda Sciallo, ofs  
Lucy Deiacco, ofs  
Bonnie Coté, ofs  
Celine Mallonee, ofs  
Nicole Meringolo, ofs  
Rhona Prescott, ofs  
Jeri Pierce, ofs  
Andy Zampini, ofs  
Bev Stoner, ofs

## *The Story of Christmas at Greccio*

*What better way to prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child than to take a brief journey to Greccio, the spot in central Italy where Saint Francis of Assisi created the first Christmas crib in the year 1223.*

*Francis, recalling a visit he had made years before to Bethlehem, resolved to create the manger he had seen there. The ideal spot was a cave in nearby Greccio. He would find a baby, hay upon which to lay him, an ox and an ass to stand beside the manger. Word went out to the people of the town. At the appointed time, they arrived carrying torches and candles.*

*One of the friars began celebrating Mass. Francis himself gave the sermon. His biographer, Thomas of Celano, recalls that Francis "stood before the manger...overcome with love and filled with a wonderful happiness..."*

*For Francis, the simple celebration was meant to recall the hardships Jesus suffered even as an infant, a savior who chose to become poor for our sake, a truly human Jesus.*

*As we pray around the Christmas cribs in our homes, we welcome into our hearts that same Savior.*

**Christmas Blessings to All!**