



SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- **New I&E  
Apostolate,**  
pg. 5
- **2022 Week of  
Prayer for  
Christian  
Unity,** p. 6
- **Litany of the  
Holy Name of  
Jesus,** p. 9

INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:

Election News 2

Gathering 3  
Recap

Apostolates 4

Committee 6  
News

Prayer Inten- 7  
tions

Reflections 8

Calendar & 10  
Events

Next Gather- 11  
ing

## Minister's Message

Peace and all good!

Is there power in simply saying the name of Jesus?

The Church gives it a feast day (January 3; the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus). There are societies devoted to it (Society of the Holy Name, since 1564). A litany can be offered to it (Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus). Multiple parishes bear the title, too.

But what does it personally mean for us? When we invoke the name of Jesus, what expectations can we have?

First, some etymology: As the website Catholic Tradition tells us, "The name 'Jesus' comes from the Greek 'Iesous' which was derived from the Aramaic, 'Yeshu'. It means 'Yahweh is salvation.' The name was not unique, even in biblical times, and today it is common in Arabic-speaking East and in Spanish-speaking countries."

Salvation, indeed. While the name was ordinary in Jesus' time, the One who bore it after His Incarnation carried it not only as a testament of Israel's faith, but as a promise to all of humanity — every person, region, and nation; then, now, and forever.

To say "Jesus" is perhaps the shortest and yet most effective prayer we can offer. It can be said as a plea: Help me. It can be said in gratitude: Thank you. It can be a question: Do you hear me?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "The invocation of the holy name of Jesus is the simplest way of praying always... This prayer is possible 'at all times' because it is not one occupation among others but the only occupation: that of loving God, which animates and transfigures every action in Christ Jesus" (CCC 2668).

As Franciscans, we are asked to keep a daily form of liturgical prayer, such as the Liturgy of the Hours. And that's good. But let's admit it: There are times — whether from exhaustion, illness or distraction — that structured prayer may not speak to us.

What then?

The name of Jesus. That one syllable contains all the richness, all the depth, all the intimacy of any other prayer we might offer — as long as we focus upon Christ in relationship. The name itself isn't some sort of magic incantation; it's the spiritual relationship that accompanies it which holds transformative possibilities.

The *Catechism* again: "To pray 'Jesus' is to invoke him and to call him within us. His name is the only one that contains the presence it signifies" (CCC 2666).

When we pronounce Jesus' name, He is present to us — in all of our trials and hardships; in all of our joys and triumphs. In short, in everything. So when you can say nothing else, say Jesus. It is not only enough — it is all.

A most blessed New Year to everyone.

Holding you all in prayer,

Kimberley



## Organization

**Tau Fraternity**  
**P.O. Box 51**  
**150 S. Sterling Blvd.**  
**Sterling, VA 20167**

**Meetings every 1st Sunday at:**  
**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
**750 Peachtree St., Room 205**  
**Herndon, VA 20170**

**Pace e Bene**

**The Tau Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order was canonically established on June 21, 1992. The Fraternity is affiliated with the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Tau Fraternity is in the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order.**

**The Tau Fraternity Council currently includes the following officers:**

- **Minister—Kimberley Heatherington, OFS**
- **Vice Minister—Josh Goldberg, OFS**
- **Formation Director—Walter Gawlak, OFS**
- **Secretary—Vera Stewart, OFS**
- **Treasurer—Cynthia Filan-Kim, OFS**



## Elections News

In accordance with the *General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order (General Constitutions)*, Tau Fraternity elections occur every three years. We will have the election of council officers in August 2022. Each month leading up to the election, the newsletter will feature information for your consideration. Article 50 of the General Constitutions describes the responsibilities of local fraternity councils:

1. It is the duty of the Council of the local Fraternity:
  - to promote the initiatives necessary for fostering fraternal life, for improving the human, Christian, and Franciscan formation of its members and for sustaining them in their witness and commitment in the world;
  - to make concrete and courageous choices, appropriate for the situation of the Fraternity, from among the numerous activities possible in the field of the apostolate.
2. The duties of the Council are also:
  - a. to decide on the acceptance and admission to Profession of new brothers and sisters<sup>33</sup>;
  - b. to establish a fraternal dialogue with members in particular difficulties and to adopt subsequent measures;
  - c. to receive the request for withdrawal and to decide on the suspension of a member from the Fraternity;
  - d. to decide on the establishment of sections or groups in conformity with the Constitutions and the Statutes;
  - e. to decide on the use of available funds and, in general, to deliberate on matters concerning financial management and economic affairs of the Fraternity;
  - f. to assign duties to the Councillors and to the other professed members;
  - g. to request from the competent Superiors of the First Order and the TOR suitable and prepared religious as Assistants;
  - h. to perform such other duties as are required by these Constitutions or which are necessary to carry out its proper purposes

Starting next month, each newsletter will include information about duties of one of the council members. Professed members, please prayerfully consider running for a position. Information about nomination and election procedures will be included in the July newsletter.

# Recap of Last Gathering

December 5, 2021

## OPENING PRAYER:

Offered by Joe Boyle, OFS

“The council now beginning rises in the Church like the daybreak, a forerunner of most splendid light.”

“It is now for the Catholic Church to bend herself to her work with calmness and generosity. It is for you to observe her with renewed and friendly attention.”

“Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.”

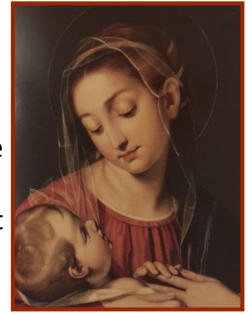
Pope Saint John XXIII

Convened the Second Vatican Council

## PRESENTATION:

Kimberley Heatherington, OFS led a presentation entitled “A Mary Christmas” based on the book of the same title by Kathleen Carroll. The presentation included scripture and reflection that correspond with the Franciscan Crown Rosary:

- The Annunciation
- The Visitation
- The Nativity of Our Lord
- The Adoration of the Magi
- The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple
- The Appearance of the Risen Christ to His Mother
- The Assumption and Coronation



## CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Following the presentation, the Fraternity enjoyed fellowship in celebration of Christmas. The celebration included individually wrapped foods and a fun holiday trivia game, courtesy of Sally White, OFS and moderated by Walter Gawlak, OFS. Thank you to Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS and Sally for providing individual bottles of wine for persons attending in person!



# APOSTOLATES

## MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE COOKING APOSTOLATE

Thanks to our Brothers and Sisters who support the apostolate at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. The next food drop off will be in February. See update in the next newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Veronica O'Donnell, OFS or Joe Boyle, OFS.

Pace e bene!

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Help to feed the hungry. Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS volunteered to shop and deliver food to the St. Vincent DePaul Society chapter at St. Timothy Catholic Church. Food donations may be dropped off prior to the Tau Gathering in the stairwell on the right at St. Joseph School. Tau Fraternity will continue to also give a monetary donation to the pantry. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please provide it to Cyndy.

Thank you!

For more, info, see [St. Vincent DePaul - St. Timothy Parish \(saint-timothy.org\)](http://saint-timothy.org)

## POOR Clares of New Jersey

Tau Fraternity supports the Monastery of St. Clare in Chesterfield, NJ with a biannual monetary donation. The monastery is home to Sister, Karen Stapleton, OSC, who began her Franciscan journey with Tau Fraternity. The main work of the Poor Clares of NJ is to provide altar bread to parishes in the diocese of Trenton.

For more information, or to submit a prayer intention to the Poor Clares, see [The Poor Clares of New Jersey — Joyfully Embracing the Gospel Way of Life .\(poorclaresnewjersey.com\)](http://poorclaresnewjersey.com)

## Franciscan Mission Service

Tau Fraternity provides a biannual monetary donation to Franciscan Mission Service. The organization prepares and supports lay Catholics for mission service opportunities around the globe.

For more information, see [Home | Franciscan Mission Service](#)

**FAITH without WORKS is dead**

**James 2:17**

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# APOSTOLATES CONT'D

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## Tau Fraternity Interfaith and Ecumenical Apostolate

Tau Fraternity is partnering with the First Baptist Church of Herndon in coordinating efforts to assist the recent Afghan refugees with two other Herndon, Virginia churches - The Persian Church and Trinity Presbyterian Church. The First Baptist Church has established a Refugee Mission Group which includes a member of Tau Fraternity.

The Refugee Mission Group meets every two weeks and discusses ways to help the refugees. During these meetings the group members discuss chapters in the book, *The Newcomers*, by Helen Thorpe. This reading assignment helps the readers to understand the human side of resettlement. The Afghan resettlement efforts are going slowly because the Resettlement Agencies, government sanctioned non-profits, severely reduced staff when the last administration significantly reduced refugee admissions. As a result refugees may remain on military bases for up to eight months. Therefore the current need is for donations of clothing items. At Ft. Pickett in Virginia, the urgent need at this time is underwear.

As of December, **700 pairs of underwear** were collected by the Tau Fraternity and the First Baptist Church and were delivered to the refugees at Ft. Pickett with the assistance of the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Herndon. Going forward, the group will continue to collect underwear and other clothing items.

Beginning in January, the Refugee Mission Group will use Settle In, a free APP designed for refugees to explain the resettlement process. The plan is for the group to review one of the eleven chapters of the APP at each meeting. Each group member will select a refugee camp and take the role of a refugee entering the US. The purpose is help the group members not only understand the rather complex resettlement process, but help understand with compassion the cultural issues of the refugee. At the end of the review of the APP, the group will assess its use in other areas.

The ongoing plans of the Refugee Mission Group include:

- Developing an understanding of the worldwide refugee problem and of the refugee experience in order to understand how to help.
- Assisting with current refugee resettlement needs, expanding the clothing needs donations.
- Assisting resettlement agencies who are moving families into our community with household donations.
- Seeking volunteers for Cultural Awareness Training.
- Exploring the possibility of providing Cultural Awareness and/or Citizenship classes to resettled refugees in the community.

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## UNDERWEAR DRIVE

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Tau Fraternity is participating in the "Undie Sunday" apostolate led by the First Baptist Church of Herndon. The underwear drive serves the 7,000 refugees at Fort Pickett in Blackstone, VA.

Immediate needs for NEW Items only are:

- Women's regular or maternity underwear in all sizes
- Women's regular or maternity bras in all sizes
- Men's underwear in all sizes
- Children's underwear in all sizes (both boys and girls)

If you wish to help, please bring NEW items to the Tau Gathering in February. Vera Stewart, OFS will transport them to Sally White, OFS. Or if you order online, you may have them delivered directly to Sally White, OFS.

**This Apostolate  
is also an  
Interfaith &  
Ecumenical  
Activity!**

# COMMITTEES

If you are interested in participating actively in one of our Committees, take a moment to chat with the chair:

Hospitality Committee – Veronica O'Donnell, OFS  
Interfaith/Ecumenical Committee – Kimberley Heatherington, OFS  
Infirmarian Committee – Sharon Goldberg  
Recruitment Committee – Vacant  
Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS

15 December 2021

## INTERFAITH & ECUMENICAL

### Church leaders warn against threat to Christian presence in Holy Land



**Christian leaders in Jerusalem join forces to warn against the growing threat posed to the Christian presence in the Holy Land, and call for local civil authorities to confront the problem through dialogue.**

By Devin Watkins

Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant leaders in Jerusalem have released an appeal to the civil authorities in Israel, Palestine, and Jordan regarding the Christian community in the Holy Land.

The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem signed a joint statement on 13 December on “the Current Threat to the Christian Presence in the Holy Land.

They note that “fringe radical groups” have stepped up pressure on the local community through “frequent and sustained attacks.”

The aim is to drive Christians out of Jerusalem and the rest of the Holy Land, according to the Church leaders.

Integral part of Holy Land community

Despite the growing anti-Christian violence, the religious leaders recognize the declared commitment of the Israeli

government to provide a “safe and secure home” for Christians, while preserving the community as an “integral part of the tapestry of the local community.”

However, the heads of Christian Churches say this commitment is “betrayed by the failure of local politicians, officials, and law enforcement agencies” to put a stop to activities of radical groups threatening Christians.



File photo of the vandalization of the Basilica of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes in Tabgha in 2015.

### 2022 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: January 18-25

“We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him” (cf. Matthew 2:2) is the theme for the 2022 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It was discerned by the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) in Beirut, Lebanon, and finds its origins in the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 2:1-12).

The theme reminds Christians worldwide to pray for closer communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as for greater solidarity with all of creation.

The traditional period in the northern hemisphere for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is January 18-25. Servant of God, Fr. Paul Wattson, SA, founder of the Society of the Atonement, who initiated observance of the first “Church Unity Octave” in 1908, proposed those dates, which span the original days of the feasts of the Chair of St. Peter (Jan. 18) and the Conversion of St. Paul ([Jan. 25](#)), due to their symbolic significance.

The Roman Catholic Church, which is an observer in the World Council of Churches, celebrates the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

See the brochure for prayers and reflections: <https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/WPCU-2022-English-A5-1.pdf>

# PRAYER INTENTIONS

HEAR US, LORD!

Please keep the following intentions in your prayers:

For physical and spiritual healing of Walter Gawlak's daughter-in-law; Sylvia Capurso; Melissa, Ben, and Baby Levi; Valerye Milleson; Bill Brewster and his son Richard Lee; Cynthia Filan-Kim's sister; Sally White and her husband Gary; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; Helen Broxmeyer and her daughter Susan; and Irene Naveau. For the patients and Sisters at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. For the people affected by Coronavirus and their caregivers. For the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic and its patients. For all peoples who suffer persecution. For the country of Myanmar and its citizens. For the victims of natural disasters. For refugees and migrant workers. For all those who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

Please send prayer requests to Kimberley Heatherington, OFS.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God..*

*Philippians 4:6,7*



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# REFLECTIONS

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## Poetry, Devotion, and Prayer

### Technology and the Humanities

The Humanities, having been pushed to the edge of the drama,  
Watched technology unfolding center stage,  
Chanting words of warning to the main characters:  
“You think you’re gods,” they said—“Masters of the Universe.”  
But where greed was proclaimed to be a civic virtue,  
The sound & silence was like snow falling in winter.

Helen Broxmeyer, OFS  
December 17, 2021

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Divine Infant Jesus, I know you love me and would never leave me. I thank you for your close presence in my life. Miraculous Infant, I believe in your promise of peace, blessings, and freedom from want. I place every need and care in your hands. Lord Jesus, may I always trust in your generous mercy and love. I want to honor and praise you, now and forever. Amen.

[Prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague | Shrine of the Infant Jesus \(shrineofinfantjesus.com\)](http://Prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague | Shrine of the Infant Jesus (shrineofinfantjesus.com))



## THE INFANT OF PRAGUE

SUBMITTED BY CLARI CLAUS, OFS

In the Church of Our Lady of Victory in Prague, Czech Republic, under the care of the Discalced Carmelites, is the Miraculous Statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague. The statue is only 18 inches high, made of wood covered in a layer of thin wax, and wears the vestments in the liturgical colors of the corresponding season. The garments are exquisitely made in velvets, damasks, silks and other fine fabrics. Many are embroidered with gold thread and pearls. All show the great love that the faithful have for the Infant, being donated by religious sisters, private citizens and many anonymously. Countries the world over are represented in these little outfits for the Holy Child. The statue shows the young Jesus, more the age of a very young boy, rather than an infant. In His left hand is a globe topped with a cross to signify His Kingship. His right hand is raised in blessing. The first two fingers are raised to symbolize His two natures while the thumb and last two fingers touch each other in a representation of the Trinity.

The origin of the statue has many legends. What is known is that the statue was brought from Spain to Prague in 1556 by Maria Manriquez de Lara when she married a Czech nobleman. As a result of the destruction of the church during the 30 Years War, the statue was lost in the rubble. A Carmelite priest, Father Cyril of the Mother of God found the statue. Sadly the hands of the Infant were broken off. During prayer, Father Cyril heard the Infant say, “Have pity on Me, and I will have pity on you. Give Me My hands, and I will give you peace. The more you honor Me, the more I will bless you.” Father Cyril

prayed to Our Lady for the money needed to repair the statue. After several failed attempts, the money was obtained and the statue was repaired.

In time more and more cures and favors were obtained by the faithful as devotion to the Infant increased, hence the addition to “Miraculous” to His title. The Infant of Prague is the special patron of vocations, good family life, children, schools, peaceful life, safe travels, the missions and finances. His statue is displayed and venerated in schools, hospitals, homes and churches. Devotion to the Infant is widespread and fervent. There are many prayer, litanies, novenas and consecrations to the Infant. A special time to pray to the Infant is in the form of a novena from the 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> of any month. This prayer can be used.

*O Infant of Prague, who said, “The more you honor Me, the more I will bless you,” give us the strength to bear the burdens of daily life in this sinful world. Help us embrace change and resolve to lead a better life. Help us endure our afflictions and sorrows with patience and courage.*

*Finally, O beloved Infant King, if it be your will, grant my petitions. (Mention them here.) But whatever you choose, give me the strength to submit to Your will in all things. Amen.*

Sources:

*The Infant Jesus of Prague* by Rev. Ludvik Nemeč

Brochure from the Franciscan Mission Associates of Mt. Vernon, NY





# CALENDAR

## Upcoming Activities and Events

### January is the Month of the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Childhood \*

- Jan 1—Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- Jan 2—Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus  
Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (celebrated)  
Tau Fraternity Gathering  
Vicki Shanholtz' Birthday
- Jan 4—Feast of Blessed Angela of Foligno  
Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Veronica O'Donnell's Profession
- Jan 5—Feast of St. John Neumann
- Jan 6—Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan 11—Bob Calderon's and Kimberley Heatherington's Profession
- Jan 12—Baptism of the Lord  
Gail Dowling's and Walter Gawlak's Birthday
- Jan 15—Barbara Sliver's Birthday
- Jan 16—Jennifer Rothwell's Birthday
- Jan 18 – 25—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Jan 23—Feast of the Marriage of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Tambra Riggs-Gutierrez' Profession
- Jan 24—Feast of St. Francis de Sales  
Paola Larin's and Vera Stewart's Profession
- Jan 25—Carole Clarke's Birthday
- Jan 27—Irene Naveau's Birthday
- Jan 28—Bob Calderon's Birthday
- Jan 29—Feast of St. Francis de Sales  
Gil Donahue's Profession
- Jan 31—Feast of St. John Bosco  
Richard Clarke's Birthday

\* See the Franciscan Calendar for more dates: <http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/traditional-franciscan-calendar.html>

### JANUARY 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### FEBRUARY 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

### What does IHS mean?

IHS is a Christogram - a combination of letters that represent the holy name "Jesus." Early scribes would abbreviate the sacred names of Jesus by using the first two letters of the name, or the first and last letters, with a line over the letters. For example, the Greek letters Chi-Rho (which looks like our English X and P) was an abbreviation for the name "Christ." Likewise, I (iota) and H (eta) are the first two Greek letters for "Jesus." Sometime in the second century, the third letter, S (sigma), was added, thereby rendering IHS. These Christograms, such as XP or IHS, served as secret codes, whereby inscribed on a tomb, they indicated a deceased Christian, or on a doorpost, a Christian home.

St. Bernardine of Siena (1380-1444) and his student St. John of Capistrano (1386-1456) used the Christogram IHS to promote devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus.

For more, see [What does IHS mean? - The Arlington Catholic Herald](#)

# NEXT TAU GATHERING

January 2, 2022

## SCHEDULE

1:30 pm – 1:32 pm Opening Prayer **TBD**  
1:32 pm – 2:12 pm Presentation **Vera Stewart, OFS**  
2:12 pm – 2:22 pm Break  
2:22 pm – 3:02 pm Ongoing Formation  
3:02 pm – 3:12 pm Break  
3:12 pm – 3:22 pm Angelus & Liturgy of the Hours  
3:22 pm – 3:32 pm Business Meeting  
3:32 pm Closing Prayer

See emails for link  
to virtual meeting

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to health and safety concerns, the January 2022 Tau Gathering will be virtual.

## THE ANGELUS

During Epiphany, we will precede the Liturgy of the Hours with the Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with Thee.

Blessed art thou among women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.  
Hail Mary, etc.

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.  
Hail Mary, etc.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises  
of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

## INITIAL FORMATION:

Senior Candidates - Chapters 25 and 32 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Candidates - Chapter 12 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Aspirants - Chapter 1 in *The Franciscan Journey*

## ONGOING FORMATION:

We will conduct an open discussion of what kind of ongoing formation we need to nurture us in 2022.

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Epiphany of the Lord

Hymn: #81 – As With Gladness Men of Old:  
pg. 1596 (Verses 1 and 2) or  
“Quem Pastores Laudavere” from the Divine  
Office podcast.

Everything: Epiphany, Evening Prayer II:  
pg. 214

Readers: **TBD\*\***

\*\*Contact Kimberley Heatherington, OFS to volunteer for:

- ◆ Opening Prayer
- ◆ Scripture Reading and Responsory