



THE FLYER

**Newsletter for the St. Joseph Cupertino
Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans USA**

November 17, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY

“Gaze upon Him; consider
Him; contemplate Him, as
you desire to imitate Him.”

Saint Clare

UPCOMING: November 17: Remembrance Mass at 2 pm

- ◆ Meetings are third Sunday of the month at 2 pm. (See website for date changes and updates)
- ◆ Check out our website: <https://StJosephCupertino.SFOUSA.org/Welcome-To-Our-Fraternity's-Website>
- ◆ Check out our regional website: <https://SaintMargaretOfCortona.org/>
- ◆ Check out our national website: <https://SecularFranciscansUSA.org/>

Brother Lawrence, OFM Conv.



The church year is rapidly winding down and it is a good time for us to do two things.

First, we should spend some time in meditating on this past year and how we were able to express our Franciscanism during the past year. It is not just a consideration of how we ourselves did during the year but how others perceived you as a Franciscan.

Second, we then need to meditate and pray for improvement in the following year. Remember, not a one of us is always perfect so there are always ways in which we can become a better Franciscan.

Peace,

Br. Lawrence

Minister's Note

This month we will remember our brothers and sisters who have gone before us and joined all the angels and saints. Please join us for Mass Nov 17th at 2 pm. Father Emmanuel will be the celebrant.

Next month will be our Christmas celebration. We begin after the noon mass, at about 1:15 pm instead of our usual 2 pm. Please bring a dish to share: small plate type dishes and desserts. Also, please bring a gift for our Christmas family. See the newsletter for more details.

This past week, Father Jude Winkler in third lesson on the Gospel of Luke mentioned that how we experience God is based on what we have seen, heard, tasted, or felt in the past. What art we see, what hymns we hear, what smells invade our senses- all have an impact on how we receive the infinite mercies and tenderness of God.

My family lived in Europe when I was in high school. My sense of church was influenced by ancient stone churches with candles, incense, stained glass windows, and soaring steeples. Quiet, dimly lit sanctuaries called to us to ignite a candle in remembrance of those no longer with us or for prayers sorely needed. On ancient wooden pews, we sat and as my hands ran over the stiles and rails, the prayers of others penetrated me deeply uniting my prayers with theirs.

At times, I have been overwhelmed with the thought that where I have walked true Saints have walked. That is particularly easy here in the Baltimore area as many Saints have walked the aisles of nearby churches. We can trace the steps of Saint John Neumann, Saint Mother Maria Kaupas, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Saint Pope John Paul XXIII, Venerable Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange and Blessed Michael McGivney (and others that I don't know.) Many relics of saints are venerated in nearby sanctuaries including our own Shrine of Saint Anthony.

All of this reminds me that the Saints and dear Souls are not far away. They are near us. We can readily call on their intercession to God *on our behalf*. Also, it is important for us to pray for our brothers and sisters, our spouses, our children, our friends and other loved ones. We need to lift each other up for both things known and unknown. Wherever we are, the doors we walk through, the stones we cross, the vistas that we see – these are sacred places where we can intercede for others. Our Father knows the needs of our brothers and sisters. He knows our hearts and our needs.

As you sit on ancient pews, or walk the pathways of Saints, or gaze on the photos of a family member, remember them to our Father. May our prayers be united with theirs, and the unending Grace fill us all.

May all the Saints, Angels, and friends surround you with their prayers. May you be uplifted in healing, joy, and peace. And most of all, may the abounding love of the Father be outpoured and overwhelm you.

Peace and goodness and love,

Melissa

Formation Thought of the Month:

It is clear that St. Clare spent a great deal of time in contemplation with God...
In the third letter to Agnes of Prague, Clare urges her to:
Place your mind before the mirror of eternity.
Place your soul in the brilliance of heaven.
Place your heart in the figure of the divine substance.
Transform your entire self into the image of the Godhead so that you too may feel and taste the hidden sweetness that God has reserved for his lovers.

The St. Clare Prayer Book by Jon M. Sweeney pg. 27



CHRISTMAS FAMILY:

This family of four has basic needs. The mother and father were in a car accident last year. They are hard working, but have limited funds for Christmas for their family.

Mom and Dad wear size large

17 year old girl wears a medium

8 year old boy wears a children's large

The family can use gift cards for groceries, and other needed items.

A separate email will go out once we have more specifics for the family as well.

Volunteer to help Little Portion Farm at <https://www.LittlePortionFarm.org>

Food grown helps those in need.



Help at the Shrine: Volunteer as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, Usher, especially before our gatherings. Help staff a table to invite interest in the Secular Franciscan Order. Email Melissa.

2022-2025 Council

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Bible quotes are from the Douay-Rheims translation, unless otherwise noted.



Treasurer's Report

October – 2024

Beginning (running) Balance:	<u>\$ 2,618.19</u>
Income:	
Common Fund Contributions	\$ 110.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 110.00</u>
Expenses:	
Spiritual Assistant	\$ 100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Books for Formation	90.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 290.00</u>
Ending (running) Balance:	<u>\$ 2,438.19</u>

If you are unable to attend the gatherings, you can send your contributions to the fraternity.

Contributions are tax deductible.

Direct Donation checks to: **St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity**

Mail donations to:

Jerry Yu
2812 Green Shade Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042

You may use your bank's **BILL PAY**. Direct payment to **St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity** C/O the address above.

NOTE! FOR BILL PAY, THE ADDRESS HAS CHANGED.

Pray for Deceased Members:

Charles Ferrara 12/2/10
Jean Manning 12/11/16
Jean Singleton 12/8/21

Happy Birthday!

This month:
Ray Glennon 11/22

Next month:
Ed Burgee 12/17
Will Potter 12/23

**Remember those who have gone before us.
Grant them peace, Lord. May they reign in
paradise with you. Through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.**

Happy Anniversary

Lita Maisel and Michael Radcliffe
11/16/97

Book Share--

Thomas A'Kempis' classic Imitation of Christ.

First Saturdays from 1-3 pm on ZOOM!
Contact Geri Flynn OFS for details:
AngelBarty@aol.com

PRAYER LIST
For Healing:

Gail Bunyan, OFS
Lita Maisel, OFS
Bill Siefken, OFS
Teresa Lam, OFS
Rosemary Whelan, OFS
Patrick Caughy, OFS

