

March 2025



Our Gathering

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Schedule

- ❖ Candidates meet with their instructor
- ❖ Mass (in the church)
- ❖ Lunch
- ❖ Presentation by representatives of What is Your Voice, Inc.
- ❖ Business Matters
- ❖ Tribute to the McCarthy's
- ❖ On-going formation – *Franciscan Form of Examination of Conscience and Confession* by Rhona
- ❖ *The Promises Made at Profession* by Kate
- ❖ Evening Prayer



Soup for Lunch

No need to bring your lunch to our gathering!

A variety of soup will be served!

To ensure we have enough for all, we need more folks to contribute. If you're able contact Kathleen!!

2025 Theme

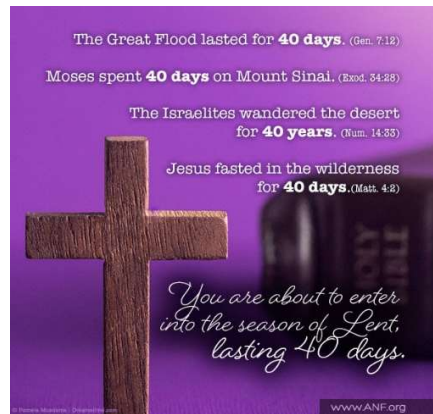
The Omnipresence of the Franciscan Way of Life

Minister's Message

What can we do in this Lenten season to actively cultivate virtue and really target our faults this Lent? How can we take our penances to the next level? We are saints in the making. I challenge you to:

1. Mortify your will through the practice of obedience
2. Attend especially to the tasks you don't like doing
3. Embrace annoyances
4. Impose a strict watch on your tongue
5. Check impulsive actions

Kathleen



EVENING PRAYER

Thursday in the 1st week of Lent

If you are using your phone, please use the *Divine Office* app.

(Printed copies will be available)

1 Vol. Page 754 & 283

4 Vol. (Vol. II) Page 1170 & 127

Hymn: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

1 Vol. pg. 1546, Number 94

4 Vol. pg. 33

Presider: Andrea Lipchak

Antiphonarian: Nicole Meringolo

Reader: Kate Meire

Formation, Formation, FORMATION!!!

By Rhona Prescott, Formation Director

Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is upon us. We can give up chocolate, which is, indeed a sacrifice for some. Or we can do something else...even better. Paging through my favorite dogeared prayer book, I noticed "A Short Way of the Cross", our Franciscan version. Remember when lots of people would leave their pews, walk around the Church, stopping and praying under stained glass windows or artfully reproduced Stations of the Cross? Now the sight is rare. So very rare. Let us consider bring it back this year. Let us honor our Jesus.

Tradition has Mother Mary, daily, revisiting the places where Jesus was tortured on His way to Calvary. In 312, Constantine marked that path, then called the "Via Dolorosa". St Jerome spoke of many pilgrims walking that path and praying, his observation while he lived in the Holy Land; people from all over the world. In 1342, the Franciscans were charged with keeping the Holy Shrines attended. But it was in the 16th century that a Franciscan: Leonard of Port Maurice, formally established the rite we follow today of venerating 14 "Stations". In 1742, Pope Benedict XIV ordered that all Catholic Churches where to display these Stations and declared them Indulged.

Here is our Franciscan Way...very short and practical for everyone. It should be a "walkaround" but can be done from one point if walking is hindered.

First Station:

Jesus is Condemned to Death

Oh Jesus, so meek and uncomplaining,
teach me resignation in trials.

Second Station:

Jesus Carries His Cross

My Jesus! This Cross should be mine, not Thine!
My sins crucified Thee.

Third Station:

Our Lord Falls the First Time

O Jesus! By this first fall,
never let me fall into mortal sin.

Fourth Station:

Jesus Meets His Mother

O Jesus! May no human tie, however dear,
keep me from following the road of the Cross.

Fifth Station:

Simon, the Cyrenian Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Simon unwillingly assisted Thee; may I,
with patience suffer all for Thee.

Sixth Station:

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

O Jesus! Thou didst imprint Thy sacred features
upon Veronica's Veil; stamp them also
indelibly upon my heart.

Seventh Station:

The Second Fall of Jesus

By Thy second fall, preserve me, dear Lord,
from relapse into sin.

Eighth Station:

Jesus Consoles the Women of Jerusalem

My greatest consolation would be to hear Thee say:
"Many sins are forgiven thee,
because though hast loved much."

Ninth Station:

Third Fall of Jesus

O Jesus! When I am weary upon life's long journey,
be Thou my strength and my perseverance.

Tenth Station:

Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

My soul has been robbed of its robe of innocence;
clothe me, dear Jesus,
with the garb of penance and contrition.

Eleventh Station:

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Thou didst forgive Thy enemies; my God, teach me to
forgive injuries and to forget them.

Twelfth Station:

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Thou art dying, my Jesus, but Thy Sacred Heart still
throbs with love for Thy sinful children.

Thirteenth Station:

Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross

Receive me into Thy arms, O Sorrowful Mother, and
obtain for me perfect contrition for my sins.

Fourteenth Station:

Jesus is Laid in the Sepulcher

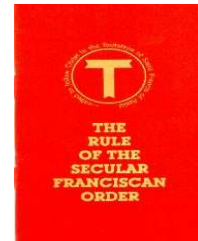
When I receive Thee into my heart in Holy
Communion, O Jesus, make it a fit abiding place
for Thy adorable Body.



**We're still in need of
On-Going Formation presenters for
May, June & July.
Please, contact Rhona!!**



In observance of Lent, we will not have desserts.



The Rule – What we have promised

Chapter Two - *The Way of Life*

19. Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.

Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.

Reflection – A particularly Franciscan ministry is peace-making. Peace grows out of the search for personal integrity and harmony with others and the discovery of God’s presence everywhere. It is built up by affirming oneself, seeing others as revealers of God’s love, taking a positive approach to solutions, and communicating constantly with the Lord. It is putting aside all thought of violence and embracing a largeness of heart. The result of peace is joy and hope. A special application of this ministry of peace-making is preparation for death at which time a person arrives at that ultimate encounter with God and an eternal peace in his presence that fulfill the earthly quest for peace.

*From Gospel to Life
The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order with Commentary*

Giving for March



Shepherd’s Office

Lines never seem to stop forming at The Shepherd’s Office in Georgetown. So many folks in need right here in our midst. And it’s still cold!! Below are some very much needed items. Bring what you can to our gathering next week.

- Thick white tube socks**
- Thermal underwear**
- Gloves**
- Hats**
- Blankets**

\$10.00 gift cards to fast food restaurants



Our Fraternity Library

The library is open during each fraternity gathering.
Where: Top floor of the parish hall.
Time: 9:30am – 3pm



We’ve all received new prayer partners, special saints & admonitions.
Let’s fully embrace them!!!



March BIRTHDAYS

Kathleen Murphy	3/11
Pat Dubois	3/25
Nicole Meringolo	3/29

April BIRTHDAYS

Andi Lipchak	4/4
Bev Stoner	4/6
Patty Derrick	4/15

March PROFESSIONS

None

April PROFESSIONS

Rhona Prescott 4/20/2010



(Thank you, Mary-Anna Harviel!)

Fox Nation streaming service offers a series “**Martin Scorsese Presents: The Saints**”. Two seasons: fall 2024 episodes are Joan of Arc, John the Baptist, Sebastian, Maximilian Kolbe; spring 2025 episodes are Francis of Assisi, Mary Magdalen, Moses the Black, Thomas a Becket. Cost is \$4.99/month if paid yearly; 1 year free for veterans, first responders, and active military. Here's the website: <https://nation.foxnews.com/>

We pray for all our fraternal sisters and brothers and for the special intentions of:

Bonnie Coté, ofs
 Nicole Meringolo, ofs
 Carolyn Protin, ofs
 Kathleen Murphy, ofs
 Judy Bennett, ofs
 Fran Butler, ofs
 Pat DuBois, ofs
 Rhona Prescott, ofs
 Jackie Boyd, ofs
 Joe O'Neill, ofs
 Ron and Bev Stoner, ofs

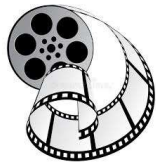


We pray for our deceased relatives and friends and especially:

John Zell, ofs
 Mary Lou Zell, ofs
 Deacon Buddy Bianco, ofs
 Deacon Bob Leonzio
 Barbara Petrisko, ofs
 Bill Farrell, ofs
 Bill Walker, ofs
 Dee Matthews, ofs
 Laraine Hoffman, ofs
 Florence Bianco, ofs
 Celine Mallonee, ofs
 Alicia Bourne, ofs
 Fr. Ronald Pecci, ofm
 Lucy Deiaco, ofs
 Maury Robb, ofs
 Diane Barbacano, ofs
 Dick McCarthy, ofs
 Linda Sciallo, ofs
 Janice McCarthy, ofs



Looking Ahead...



Movie, Lunch & Fellowship

(Thank you, Mary-Anna Harvie!)

When: Thursday, March 20th
Time: TBD

Where: The Movies at Midway on Rt. 1
Rehoboth Beach

Cost: Pay your own way

Fraternity members are coming together to see "The Last Supper". After the movie, we'll meet at Midway Cafe (practically next to the theater) for lunch, fellowship, sharing of reactions to film, or any other discussion. Here's the website for the film, where you can watch a trailer: <https://thelastsupper.movie/>
More info by email as we draw closer.

Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates

All Are Invited

March 29, 2025
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Franciscan Monastery
of the Holy Land in America
1400 NE Quincy St.
Washington, DC

Br. Michael Meza, OFM-Cap will guide and teach us about this deeply spiritual step that you are about to make in your relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. What does your commitment mean? How does Franciscan spirituality and charism effect your everyday life? What is the Franciscan way of Life? What is the "radical internal change" that the Rule speaks about? Come to intensify your understanding and reflect on this direction for your life.

Deadline to register is MARCH 21, 2025

Register online at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/March29Reflection/>

You can pay electronically online or at the door. If paying at the door by check please make it payable to: St. Margaret of Cortona OFS Region. For more information or assistance with registration contact: Rita Colleran OFS, Regional Formation Director rcolleran10@gmail.com 703-310-9958

Future Fraternity Gatherings

2nd Thursday of each month

Please make note!

2025

April 10th

May 8th

June 12th (St. Jude's)

July 10th (St. Jude's)

August 14th (St. Jude's)

September 11th (St. Jude's)

October 9th

November 13th

December 11th

2026

January 8th

February 12th

March 12th



Pennies & Nickels



Thank you...

for your continued support of our Common Fund.

If you are unable to attend the gathering,
send your donation check,
payable to St. Clare Fraternity,
to our treasurer:

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

Laughing With St. Sarah

(Patron saint of laughter)



Council Members

Minister: Kathleen Murphy 301-535-7011
Vice Minister: Pepper Tully 973-809-2344
Secretary: Mary Moran 302-644-1448
Treasurer: Andrea Lipchak 302-644-4434
Formation Director: Rhona Prescott 302-864-7280
Councilor: Tom Carter 302-344-1414

A GENTLE REMINDER...

*IF WORK, HEALTH REASONS OR SIGNIFICANT
FAMILY OBLIGATIONS HINDER YOU FROM*

ATTENDING THE GATHERING,

PLEASE CONTACT OUR

VICE MINISTER, PEPPER TULLY

973-809-2344

PEPPER32738@GMAIL.COM