

November 2025

Our Gathering

November 13, 2025 11am**St. Edmond Church**

Schedule

- ❖ Orientation class meets
- ❖ Mass
- ❖ Lunch (in the church hall basement)
- ❖ Business Matters
- ❖ On-Going Formation – St. Joan of Arc by Andi Lipchak
- ❖ Evening Prayer

EVENING PRAYER

So that our prayer may be more cohesive...

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

If using your breviary,
please prepare it before coming to the gathering.
 (Printed copies will be available)

Memorial-St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

1 vol. - Psalms & Canticle pg. 974
 Reading, Responsory, Canticle, Intercessions pg.1446
 Prayer pg. 1318

4 vol. - Psalms & Canticle pg.1189
 Reading, Responsory, Canticle, Intercessions pg.1809
 Prayer, pg. 2024

Hymn: For All the Saints (song sheet provided)

Presider: Andi Lipchak
 Antiphonarian: Mary McKeon
 Reader: Kate Meire

2025 Theme

The Omnipresence of the
 Franciscan Way of Life

Minister's Message

God does not try us
 beyond our strength.
 When He sends difficulty,
 He adds the means of
 overcoming it.
Saint Léonie Aviat



**St. Leonie Aviat - Her motto was
 "Let us work for the happiness of other".**

In seeking to fill the important positions in our Fraternity namely Treasurer & Newsletter Editor – God always gives us the strength we need. Seek deep within and ask yourself what you can do. We all have talents and abilities. As Franciscans, we promise to live in this Order by following the Rule. Key values of Franciscan life include Faith, Service, Unity, and Humility, just to name a few. This requires self-sacrifice. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these openings, please do not hesitate to contact me. God Bless.

Kathleen

A gentle reminder...

If work, health issues or significant family obligations hinder you from attending the gathering, please contact our vice minister,
 Pepper Tully
 973-809-2344
 Pepper32738@gmail.com

Formation, Formation, FORMATION!!!

By Rhona Prescott, Formation Director

Today's world news is often overwhelming. Ever increasing natural disasters, wars, wars and more wars, corruption in government, road rage, terminal illnesses, etc. make it challenging to keep the spirit of Christianity alive. How do we cope? How do we cope as Catholic Christians? How do we cope as Franciscans? Well, we Franciscans look to today with hope. Our call to be Franciscan is a gift from a God who loves us. We have hope because God is faithful. We have hope because Jesus is with us. We have hope because the Holy Spirit dwells with us and empowers us in our weakness. The Trinity chooses to be with us. It is today that we see, not the thousands of years yet to come nor already past. Franciscans understand that today is only one day to deal with. Our charism is the tool that solidly leads us to another day and another until Sister Death calls us home. We wake each morning and raise our arms in thanksgiving to God. We thank God for this day and all it may bring. We praise God for light and that we may bring light to others. We wonder at the presence of God in the most insignificant creatures in creation. We take time for God early in the day and set our course in God's light and with His guidance. We know that nothing is impossible with God. Today we believe and follow that truth. We cultivate joy and bring it to others. As people yearn for peace, love and joy, we Franciscans are potters who mold the clay of life into vessels of love; love for ourselves and love for others. We have been especially blessed, and we bring blessings to others. We are a people of enduring hope, and we share that hope with everyone we meet today and every day.

Pax et Bonum!



Giving for November



Shepherd's Office

The Shepherd's Office has regular visits from the folks at United Church DE in Milford, who bring a mobile shower trailer to those who don't have any access to bathing. Let's lend our hand to this endeavor and bless them with our donations.

Bring what you can to our next gathering!

Men's Boxer Shorts (**Sizes L and XL**)

Hand Sanitizers (**Small**)

Body Washes (**Small**)

Shampoos (**Small**)

Deodorant Sticks (**Small or Regular**)

Disposable Razors

\$10 gift cards from McDonald's or Burger King

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention

November



Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

Open the link and pray with our Holy Father.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcME5i05LOg&t=16s>



November BIRTHDAYS

Ellen Oneto 23rd

December BIRTHDAYS

Marty Rendon 1st
 Jim Mullen 5th
 Pepper Tully 12th
 Joe O'Neill 25th

November PROFESSIONS

Elena Spitzer 11/10/2011
 Kate Meire 11/30/2001

December PROFESSIONS

Loretta Hanley 12/12/2019
 Andi Lipchak 12/12/2019
 Nela Wintjen 12/12/2019
 Maureen Ciano 12/9/2021
 Patty Derrick 12/9/2021
 Kathleen Murphy 12/9/2021
 Pepper Tully 12/9/2021



**Thank you so much for
 volunteering to bring
 dessert to our gathering!**

***Pauletta Riley
 Fran Butler
 Sandy Paulen***

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

Fran Butler, ofs
 Bonnie Coté, ofs
 Rhona Prescott, ofs
 Pepper Tully, ofs
 Nicole Meringolo, ofs
 Judy Bennett, ofs
 Carolyn Protin, ofs
 Bev & Ron Stoner, ofs
 Joe O'Neill, ofs
 Kathleen Murphy, ofs
 Sandy Paulen, ofs
 Maureen Ciano, 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



Autumn Psalm of Fearlessness

By Fr. Edward M. Hayes

I am surrounded by a peaceful ebbing,
as creation bows to the mystery of life;
all that grows and lives must give up life,
yet it does not really die.

As plants surrender their life,
bending, brown and wrinkled,
and yellow leaves of trees
float to my lawn like parachute troops,
they do so in a sea of serenity.

I hear no fearful cries from creation,
no screams of terror,
as death daily devours
once-green and growing life.

Peaceful and calm is autumn's swan song,
for she understands
that hidden in winter's death-grip
is spring's openhanded,
full-brimmed breath of life.

It is not a death rattle that sounds
over fields and backyard fences;
rather I hear a lullaby
softly swaying upon the autumn wind.

Sleep in peace, all that lives;
slumber secure, all that is dying,
for in every fall there is the rise whose
sister's name is spring.



Pre-Profession Retreat November 17, 2025

Delizabeth Diaz-Martinez
Mary-Anna Harvie
Mary McKeon
Sandy Paulen
Diane Zell

In preparation for profession of promises in the Secular Franciscan Order these candidates will be spending the day with Rhona and Mary M. to reflect on their journey towards Profession. Pray for these sisters!!

Advent

Beginning Sunday November 30th



The world will try pressing mightily in on us during the weeks of Advent. With all the hustle and bustle it seems to demand from us we can choose to focus more on the meaning of the season. Take time NOW to ponder and discern how you will “show up” for Advent this year.

On the Internet



Fr. Manuel

I became enamored with this priest/friar (from India and who is with a province in Austria) the first time I saw him pop up in my Facebook feed! He's comical and a wonderful singer too. But mostly he's encouraging! His focus is the youth so I thought his work may be helpful to those of us who long to see our children and grandchildren come back home to the catholic faith. I shared with my son.

This first link is to a song he wrote and sang about St. Carlo Acutis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8j4FYVutOk>

This second link is him singing Be Not Afraid.

<https://youtu.be/99Z2RHevWkU?si=3zauDRWx9ZRFHyGz>

You can search for him on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



Thank you...

for your continued support of our Common Fund.

Each month we donate:

\$200. to Shepherd's Office in Georgetown, DE

\$50. to Nurses & Neighbors in Rehoboth, DE

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

**Mary Ellen Tully
32738 Harburg Dr.
Lewes, DE 19958**

Future Fraternity Gatherings

2nd Thursday of each month

Please make note!

2025

December 11th

2026

January 8th

February 12th

March 12th

April 9th

May 14th

June 11th (St. Jude)

July 9th (St. Jude)

August 13th (St. Jude)

September 10th (St. Jude)

October 8th

November 12th

Council Members

Minister: Kathleen Murphy 301-535-7011

Vice Minister: Pepper Tully 973-809-2344

Secretary: Mary Moran 302-644-1448

Treasurer: Vacant

Formation Dir: Rhona Prescott 302-864-7280

Councilor: Tom Carter 302-344-1414

Laughing With St. Sarah

(Patron saint of laughter)



November and Remembering the Deceased

(Taken from a homily of Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S., November 2014)

Deacon Dave is part of the Franciscans of the Prairie region which primarily consists of Illinois.

During the summer and early autumn of the year 1226, as Saint Francis knew that he was about to end his earthly pilgrimage, our Seraphic Father composed one final verse to his *Cantico delle Creature*, his Cantic of the Creatures or Cantic of Brother Sun: "*Laudato sie, mi Signore, per sora nostra morte corporale, da la quale nullo homo vivente puo skappare* – Praised be you, my Lord, through our sister Bodily Death, from whom no living person can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin. Blessed are those whom death will find in your most holy will, for the second death shall do them no harm." Article #19 of our Secular Franciscan *Rule of Life* assures us that it is our immersion in the resurrection of Christ "which gives true meaning to Sister Death." We, as faithful Catholics, believe in the Communion of Saints which we commemorate every time we come together to celebrate Liturgy and which we especially emphasize during the month of November. This is all the more true of us as Secular Franciscans. Article #27 of our *General Constitutions* exhorts us that we "should be firmly convinced that the community of those who believe in Christ and who love one another in Him will go forward into eternal life as the 'communion of saints.'" On November 1st we celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints, those who have died in God's grace, who have been perfectly purified of any vestiges of sin from their lives on earth, and who now live forever with Christ, seeing God face to face. Some of them have been formally canonized by the Church; countless others whose names are known only to God live also as saints in heaven. On November 2nd we celebrated the commemoration of all the Faithful Departed, All Souls' Day. As much as we would like to think of all our deceased loved ones, friends, parishioners and fraternity members as being with God in heaven right now, the truth is that we simply cannot know with certainty the state of a person's relationship with God at the moment of his or her physical death. And so the Church has always observed the practice of offering prayers and sacrifices for its deceased members, especially during this month of November, a time of year when with the approach of winter our thoughts just naturally turn to the end of physical life on earth. It makes sense, doesn't it, that to live in the presence of Absolute Holiness and Utter Perfection that we must be holy and perfect? And what if we fail to live up to the Lord's call to holiness and perfection in this life? What about those who die having lived basically good and decent lives but not perfectly purified from small attachments to sin or from sin's effects in their lives? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* has this to say about such persons: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name *Purgatory* to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God." Today we celebrate the truth that God gives us every possible opportunity for accepting the gift of salvation made available to us through Christ in baptism. If there were only Heaven and Hell, it would make no sense to pray and offer sacrifices for the dead: if they were in Hell, our prayers could not help them; if they were in Heaven, they would not need our help. Even if we don't get the business of being God's Holy People exactly right during our lifetime here on earth, we still have the opportunity for final purification after our death. The Church invites us to pray and to do penance for those in Purgatory, and to give alms to the poor and offer indulgences for the souls in Purgatory. What is an indulgence? According to Blessed Pope Paul 6th, it is the removal of punishment due to sins already forgiven, which the Church grants to a person from the treasury of satisfaction won by Christ and the saints. This means that the process of purgatorial purification can be reduced by our gaining an indulgence and applying it to the Poor Souls. Although indulgences were abused in the 16th century, the Council of trent and subsequent statements by the Popes have emphatically taught that the proper use of indulgences was to be continued in the Church. Many indulgenced works are available to us, especially as Franciscans: making a simple sign of the cross, praying the Franciscan Crown, spending some time during the day reading from Sacred Scripture, and making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. All we must do is to meet the required conditions: to receive Eucharistic communion, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to offer prayer for our Holy Father the Pope and for his intentions. In addition to helping us grow in holiness, the merits of these faith-filled actions can be applied to the souls in Purgatory. The Church-approved documents which give us guidance in living our Franciscan way of life also exhort us to pray for our departed sisters and brothers. In describing the characteristics of our life in fraternity, article #24 of our *Rule*

reminds us that the communion of life and love which we forge within fraternity in this life “continues with deceased brothers and sisters through prayer for them.” The same essential point is made in article #54 of our *General Constitutions*: “The fraternity remembers with gratitude its brothers and sisters who have passed away and continues its communion with them by prayer and in the Eucharist.” As we remember with love and affection all those sisters and brothers of ours who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, marked with the sign of the TAU, and as we commend them anew to the love and mercy of God, let us renew our own commitment to be faithful to our Christian and Franciscan vocations in the hope that we may be found among “those whom death will find in God’s most holy will.” Then perhaps, one day, the brothers and sisters of our Franciscans of the Prairie Region will gather at a Memorial Mass to remember us.