



# THE FLYER

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

March 2026

Third SUNDAY

The Lord gave me brothers  
and sisters.

**UPCOMING: Gathering at 2 pm, March 15.**

- ◆ 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/>

March 15, 2026

Rite of Admission for  
Ron Chrismer  
And  
Milande Watson



## Minister's Note

I walked out my door last week, and under the latest snow, there was a peek of spring. A small purple crocus has bloomed, and the bulbs that I planted last fall have sent up their early leaves with the promise of spring just around the corner. It has been a long winter this year, and the hope of something new arises.

I have thought about how are we connected to one another, and how does that last after we are no longer on the earth. On some of my hikes through the woods, I have run across an array of blooming spring bulbs. They are remnants of old homesteads that once existed. The people that planted them are no longer with us, but what they planted remains.

One tradition of the Church is that this Sunday is called Mothering Sunday. The faithful would visit the church of their baptism, or attended Mass and made offerings to the cathedral (Mother Church) on this particular Sunday. In this day and age, when so many of us move around from place to place, the thought that we are still connected to a larger spiritual family through our baptism also gives us a connection to all the people who were baptized there before us and after us as well.

Saint Francis and Saint Clare were connected to Assisi not only through their births, but also by their baptisms. Tradition holds that they were both baptized, though years apart, in the same baptismal font. On Mothering Sunday, they may have returned to the place of their baptism. That same font is at the Cathedral of San Rufino today.

What was planted in the baptismal font in Assisi still exists. It is still blooming for us. Through the ages, Mother Church has changed, and is still changing. Yet, much remains the same. The tradition of faith, handed down from generation to generation, continues to give life. The grace poured out at that font in Assisi continues to flow through Franciscans throughout the world.

We are fortunate to welcome two new candidates this Sunday, Ron and Milande. Let our prayers join with theirs as they are celebrating the Rite of Admission to the Franciscan life. They are now connected to that baptismal font in Assisi as well.

The bulbs planted long ago are gracing us with beauty still today.

Rejoice! We are officially halfway through Lent. We have a peek of what is to come. The joy of Easter is near!

Peace and love,

Melissa

(San Rufino Baptismal Font from Saint Mary's Press)



***Formation Thought of the Month:***

“What was it, in the gospel that attracted Francis to cleave to it so literally? It was the self-giving presence of Christ; Francis chose to live his life as close to the example Christ left behind as was humanly possible. It is this charism that we, the members of the Secular Franciscan Order, along with our brothers and sisters in the other Orders of the Franciscan family, are called to make present in the life and mission of our Church, a mission to be lived out in our world!”

Teresa V. Baker, SFO

**Events at the Shrine of Saint Anthony**

The Shrine has many upcoming events that you may want to attend:  
<https://www.shrineofstanthony.org/calendar>

**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.



**2025-2028 Council**

**CONTACT US AT [StJosephCupertinoofs@gmail.com](mailto:StJosephCupertinoofs@gmail.com)**

**Minister:**

Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer OFS

**Vice Minister:**

Charlie Heyden OFS

**Secretary:**

Ray Glennon

**Treasurer :**

Jerry Yu OFS

**Formation Director:**

Jeanne Kerins OFS

**Councilor 1:**

Will Potter

**Councilor 2:**

Ed Burgee

**Spiritual Assistant:**

Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM Conv.



## Treasurer's Report

February – 2026

**Beginning (running) Balance:** \$ 4,019.55

**Income:**

Common Fund (Cash)	\$ 90.00
Common Fund (Checks)	120.00

**Total Income** \$ 210.00

**Expenses:**

Spiritual Assistant	\$100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Celebrant's Stipend for the Profession Mass	100.00
Profession Dinner	45.99
Music Ministry	80.00

**Total Expenses** \$ 425.99

**Ending (running) Balance:** \$ 3,803.56

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.



Mick Michieli-Beasley 3/5

Deanna Williston 3/5

John Johnson 3/11

Cindy Mohler 3/13

Kelly Neale 3/13

Karen Beavers 3/21

Kathy Ford 4/6

### Pray for Deceased Members:

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

Marie Lindung 4/12/21

John McCrory 4/8/25

### 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

Harry Ford, OFS

Kathy Ford, OFS

