

*Franciscan*  
*a monthly publication of*  
*St. Francis Episcopal Church*



**THE PILGRIM PRIEST PONDERES  
ADVENT**

Therefore we proclaim the Mystery of Faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again. (BCP, pg. 363)

Dear fellow Pilgrims,

As Fleming Rutledge reminds us in her book, “Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ”, Advent is NOT the “Countdown to Christmas”, but rather, Advent is the Season of the Church when our focus is on the three Comings of Jesus Christ:

His first Coming into Creation at Bethlehem.

His Coming into the hearts, minds, and souls of His followers after His Resurrection.

His second Coming at the end of Time.

Of these three Comings, the one most emphasized during Advent is His second Coming at the culmination of History. This second Coming will be unexpected (despite what false prophets have been saying for 2000 years), at the end of time when both the living and the dead will be judged by Christ. The message of Advent is quite simply :”Wake Up! Be Ready! Prepare for the Coming of the Lord!!!”

There is very little said in the season of Advent about a cute little baby. There is a lot said about a King who will judge all of us by the criteria He established during His earthly ministry. We summarize that criteria when we proclaim the Summary of the Law at each Eucharist, and hear the Great Commission as our Dismissal.

Words of course are easily spoken; it’s the action of carrying out of those words that should make us pause, pray and change direction.

The Patron Saint of Advent is surely John the Baptist. His teaching and actions point away from himself in two directions. First to Jesus, who is the example for us of how we are to act in the world, and secondly to us, asking if we are ready to follow His example.

So I ask all of you (and myself): Are you ready? WAKE UP!!!

Your fellow Pilgrim,  
David+

## **THE MISSION OF SAINT FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Mission of St. Francis Episcopal Church is to proclaim the healing and transformative power of Jesus Christ to a hurting world.

### **MISSION OF THE VESTRY**

The Mission of the Vestry is to lead the congregation (in harmony with the Clergy) in fulfilling the Mission of the Parish.

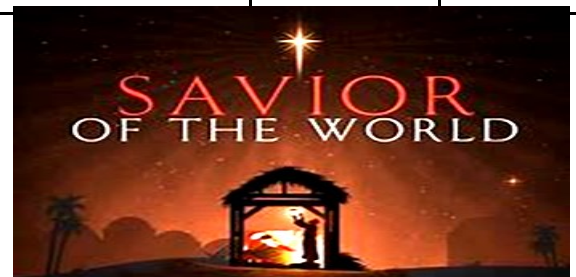
### **EXPECTATIONS OF VESTRY MEMBERS**

- Each Vestry member will endorse the Parish Mission.
- Each Vestry member will lead the members of the Parish in words and actions that will help fulfill the Parish Mission.
- Each Vestry member will make a generous pledge of time, talent and treasure to the Mission of St. Francis.
- Each Vestry member will pledge to work as a team member with all other members of the Vestry, and to serve as a team member or leader for one or more Ministry Teams.
- Each Vestry member will pledge to hold information shared in Executive Session as a private communication.
- Each Vestry member will assure that each ministry team in which they hold membership has backup leadership in order to maintain continuity in the ministry.
- Each Vestry member pledges to be regular in attendance at Sunday Worship.
- Each Vestry member pledges to be present at all Vestry functions unless previously coordinated by the Sr. Warden or Clergy.
- Each Vestry member promises to abide by the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, and the By-Laws of Saint Francis Episcopal Church.

*Adopted by Vestry at the November 8, 2022 Stated Meeting*

# DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Alanon 7:00 pm	2 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	3
4 <b>Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am</b>  <b>Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am</b>	5 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	6 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	7 <b>Bible Study 10:30 am</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	8 Alanon 7:00 pm	9 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	10 Jazzercise 8:30 am
11 <b>Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am</b>  <b>Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am</b>  Cookie Decorating  FLOC Gift Card Deadline	12 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	13 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm  <b>Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm</b>	14 <b>Bible Study 10:30 am</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	15 Alanon 7:00 pm	16 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	17
18 <b>Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am</b>  <b>Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am</b>  Hanging of the Greens	19 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	20 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	21 <b>Bible Study 10:30 am</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	22 <b>Office Closed</b> Alanon 7:00 pm	23 <b>Office Closed</b> Jazzercise 4:45 pm	24 <b>Festal Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:30 pm</b>
25 Christmas Day <b>NO Sunday Salon</b> <b>NO Holy Eucharist, Rite II</b>	26 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	27 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	28 <b>Bible Study 10:30 am</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	29 Alanon 7:00 pm	30 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	31





**For the Love of Children (FLOC)**



**Christmas Gift Card Drive**

Donate till December 11



**Cookie Decorating Party during Coffee Hour**

December 11



**Hanging of the Greens - After the Liturgy**

December 18



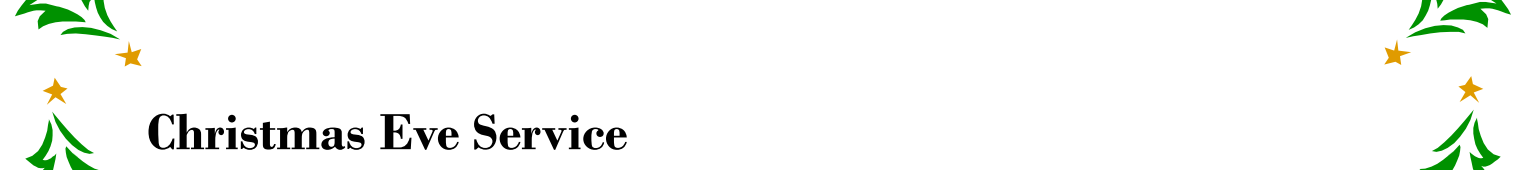
**Poinsettia Flowers**

Due by December 18



**Holiday Franklin Food Pantry Drive**

Donate till December 18



**Christmas Eve Service**

December 24



Special Music - 5:15 pm

Festal Holy Eucharist, Rite II - 5:30 pm





## December Birthdays

Stephan Graham on  
December 15

Brennan Catalan on December 16

Bill Clark on December 26

**If your name does not  
appear on our birthday  
or anniversary list,**

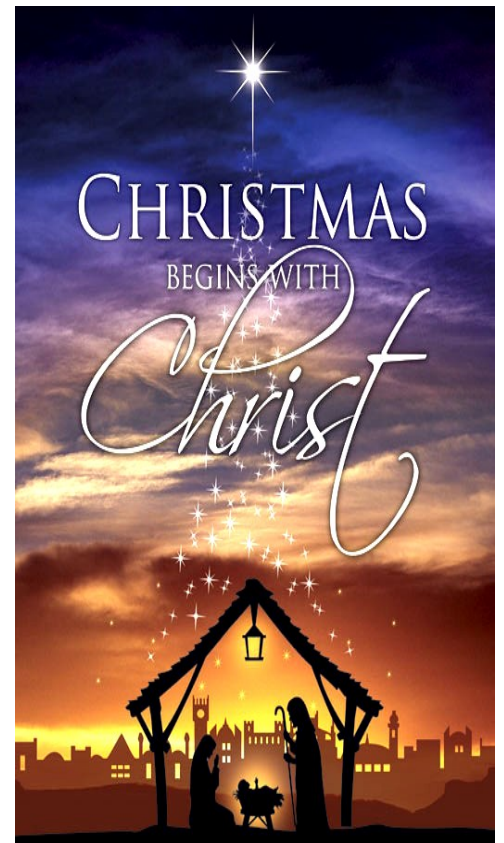


Wear your cookie decorating clothes to fellowship hour on Sunday, December 11, when you'll be able to decorate cut out Christmas cookies you can take home to share. Please come and enjoy!



Don't forget that the office will be closed on December 22 and December 23.

Have a very Merry Christmas everyone!  
Fr. David Bailey, Vestry, and Staff  
wish you a joyful Merry Christmas  
and a blessed New Year.







On Sunday, December 18 St. Francis will complete having its annual “Hanging of the Greens” after the church service.

Please make plans to help beautify the church for the Christmas Eve service on December 24.



A Christmas Eve Festal Holy Eucharist, Rite II, will be held at 5:30 pm on Saturday evening, December 24, with Special Music before the service which starts at 5:15 pm.

This Festal Mass will have The Rev. Dr. David Bailey presiding over the liturgy. Please bring family, friends, and neighbors to experience this joyful celebration of our Lord’s Nativity on this festive day!

## Christmas Flowers

If you are interested in contributing flowers in memory or thanksgiving for someone, please make out your check to St. Francis and in the memo notate "Christmas Flowers". Please put it into the alms by December 18.

Christmas Flower forms are also located on the table in the Foyer. If by chance, someone is unable to get a donation in on time, the names will be published in a later list on Sunday, December 25.

Thank you!

## **2022 Contribution and Reimbursement Deadline**

Please remember that in order to claim a charitable contribution tax deduction for 2022, all contributions must be received in the parish office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2022. The IRS has strict guidelines regarding this matter and no exceptions can be made. If you need to be reimbursed for any authorized church-related expenses that occurred in 2022, please complete a check request form (available in the parish office), attach your receipt, and turn it in to the parish office no later than December 31, 2022. Your promptness is greatly appreciated!

## Christmas Flowers Form

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one or friend, or express thanksgiving for God's many blessings through your gift of Christmas Flowers, please fill in the needed information and place this form with your check in the offering plate.



Please make your check payable to **Saint Francis Church** and mark the memo "Christmas Flowers".

Thank you.

Your name

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(as you wish it listed in the bulletin)

Please list name(s) as you wish it (them) printed in the bulletin and circle the appropriate designation.

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In Honor                      In Memory                      In Thanksgiving

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In Honor                      In Memory                      In Thanksgiving

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In Honor                      In Memory                      In Thanksgiving

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In Honor                      In Memory                      In Thanksgiving

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In Honor                      In Memory                      In Thanksgiving



Through the season of Advent and the rest of the liturgical year, our Sunday Gospel readings will come primarily from the Gospel of Matthew.

The Salon Series will focus on an overview of Matthew, and how it became a dominant Gospel in the Christian tradition.

We meet in the library, starting at 9:00 am and ending at 10:00 am SHARP. No previous knowledge of the Gospel is necessary, but it will be helpful to bring your Bible to our discussions.

## **Outreach Ministry Jars**

St. Francis is collection donations for the **Christmas Food Drive** in the month of December. All donations will go to the **Franklin Food Pantry**.

Please look for jars around the church to throw your loose change in. They will be located on the table in the Foyer, near the coffee pots in the kitchen, and on the table during coffee hour.





The Holidays are rapidly approaching, and that means it's time For the Love of Children (FLOC's) Christmas Drive. **This year St. Francis will be holding a gift card drive from now until Sunday, December 11th to collect gift cards for families in need, it's one of their favorite gifts!** Please give all donations to Mary Harris or the church office.

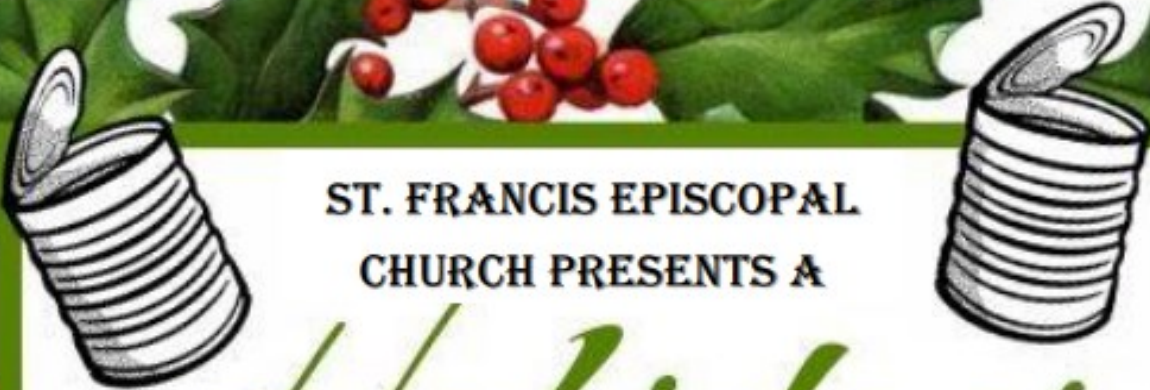
Christmas for Kids is one of their biggest fundraisers. They serve thousands of children Christmas joy. Children attending two local area schools, and those represented through Montgomery County Children's Services are given the chance to have their own presents from Santa with your help. Every donation we receive helps a child that will go without in one way or another. Holiday giving is truly a magical time for children and that's what we hope to provide every year with Christmas for Kids. Make your gift today and help us put a smile on each of our student's faces this season!

## SAVE THE DATE

Time for fun, fellowship and food for all. St. Francis will be having our Chili Cookoff Contest during coffee hour on Sunday, January 15. Practice up on making your best chili –See if you can beat last year's champion, Beth Phillips.

Please let Virginia Culp (937-409-2893 or [vculp@sprynet.com](mailto:vculp@sprynet.com)) know if you would like to be a contender for this event.





ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH PRESENTS A

# *Holiday* Food Drive

**Collecting until December 18th**

**Place your items in the baskets in the Foyer.**

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**JOIN US TO HELP FIGHT AGAINST  
HUNGER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

## WHAT WE NEED:

**Suggested donations include boxed mashed potatoes, canned yams, boxed stuffing, cranberry sauce, jars of gravy, cans of corn and green beans, large bottles of juice, and boxed cookies.**

**All donations will go to the Franklin Food Pantry.**



## Diocese of Southern Ohio News

*News around the Ohio area*

*“It’s our connection to God and each other that gives meaning to our lives.”*

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### **Bishop Smith's Address, Nominating Committee Report and Convention Recap**

Clergy and lay delegates gathered at Christ Church Cathedral and on Zoom for the 148th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio on Saturday, November 19.

The convention elected various leaders, considered nine resolutions and six changes to the constitution and canons of the diocese. Convention business results are available on the convention website at <https://dsoconvention.org/>

The Bishop Nominating Committee produced a video to report on its work. Learn more and watch the video on the bishop search website at <https://southernohiobishop.org/>

**Watch Bishop Smith's Address to the Convention at  
<https://vimeo.com/773852217>**



Saint Francis Episcopal Church  
The Episcopal Church in Springboro  
225 N. Main Street, Springboro, OH 45066  
(937) 748-2592 [www.saintfran.org](http://www.saintfran.org)

## Gathering Times

Sundays at 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Wednesdays at 10:30 am - Bible Study

## Prayer for December

Lord our God, as the whole world celebrates your birth this Christmas, we pray that your spirit shall not depart from us. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation. We pray that you restore your love and peace to the world. As we are preparing for the new year, we pray that you shall uphold every member of our family and that your presence shall go with us into the new year. **Amen.**

## Staff

**Priest-in-Charge** - The Rev. Dr. David Bailey

*fr.david@saintfran.org* - (513) 310-0127

**Senior Warden** - Stephan Graham

**Junior Warden** - David Culp

**Vestry Clerk** - Virginia Culp

**Financial Secretary** - Sue Starner

**Parish Secretary** - Alisha Minamyer

**Organist** - Diana Graham

**Sunday School Director** - Jenny Catalan

**Vestry Members** - Stephan Graham, David Culp, Jenny Catalan, Barb Roy, Chuck Oduah, Mary Harris, Virginia Culp, and Tom Phillips.

