

DECEMBER 2023

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



Welcome to Advent! Advent season is a time of joy-filled, anticipatory celebration of the arrival of Jesus Christ and a preparatory period of repentance, meditation, and penance. The word advent comes from the Latin term *adventus* meaning "arrival" or "coming," particularly the coming of something having great importance.

Advent is a season and a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. In Advent we start anew, and on purpose open ourselves to what Christ wants to reveal to us, and teach us, and give at Christmas, one more time.

With that in mind, we hope you will be celebrating the coming of Christ with us throughout the month of December. We have several activities planned and hope you will come out for each new event.

Our Cookie Decorating Party will start after the liturgy on December 3rd. Don't forget to bring your festive holiday aprons! Outreach is collecting toys 'For the Love of Children' till December 10th with a Christmas Giving Tree in the Commons, so make sure to stop on by and grab a tag to give to a child in need. Poinsettia flowers will be available to anyone who would love to memorialize or bless someone. Forms are located in the Foyer. Poinsettia Flowers will be a wonderful addition to our Annual Hanging of the Greens. We would love your help in making our building ready for our Christmas Eve Services, so stay afterwards on December 17th to make that happen.

We will have two services on Christmas Eve and would love to see you at both. At 10:30 am is our Morning Prayer Service for Advent. Our Christmas Eve Festal, Holy Eucharist, Rite II will start at 8:00 pm with Special Music at 7:45 pm. In these two celebrations we would love to emphasize our trust in the promises of Christ and the miracle of salvation he brings.

"No other day on the calendar catches the imagination of young and old alike as does Christmas. It's a high and holy day—a day when the veil is drawn back and we get a fresh view of eternity. Such a vision of truth should be spread near and far." - Billy Graham

"A Publication of St. Francis Episcopal Church—'Proclaiming the Good News in word and deed.'"

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Cookie Decorating	4	5 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	6 Morning Prayer Service 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am	7 Alanon 7:00 pm	8	9
10 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Potluck Sunday	11	12 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	13 Morning Prayer Service 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am	14 Alanon 7:00 pm	15	16
17 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Hanging of the Greens	18	19 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	20 Morning Prayer Service 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am	21 Alanon 7:00 pm	22	23
24 Sunday School 10:30 am Morning Prayer 10:30 am Christmas Eve Festal, Holy Eucha- rist, Rite II 8:00 pm Music at 7:45 pm	25	26 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	27 Morning Prayer Service 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am	28 Alanon 7:00 pm	29	30
31 Sunday School 10:30 am Morning Prayer 10:30 am	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>"Christmas is about Christ. When we forget that, we lose the true magic of Christmas." —Toni Sorenson</p> </div>					



Cookie Decorating Party during Coffee Hour

December 3



For the Love of Children (FLOC)

Christmas Tree Gift Drive

Donate till December 10



Hanging of the Greens - After the Liturgy

December 17



Poinsettia Flowers

Due by December 17



Christmas Eve Services

December 24

Morning Prayer Service - 10:30 am

Festal Holy Eucharist, Rite II - 8:00 pm

Special Music - 7:45 pm





Have a very Merry Christmas everyone! The vestry and staff wish you a joyful Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

"To catch the real meaning of the "spirit of Christmas," we need only drop the last syllable, and it becomes the 'spirit of Christ."
— Thomas S. Monson



December Birthdays

Stephan Graham on December 15

Brennan Catalan on December 16

Bill Clark on December 26

Jenny Catalan on December 30

If your name does not appear on our birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office.

Cookie Decorating Party



We will be decorating cut out Christmas cookies during coffee hour on December 3.

Cookies, frosting and sprinkles supplied.

Join the fun and plan on taking some home to share. Make sure to wear your cookie decorating clothes!

Supply Clergy

St. Francis would like to welcome and thank the DSO Supply Clergy who will generously celebrate worship with us in the month of December.

December 3 the Supply Clergy is the Rev. Dick Swan.

December 10 the Supply Clergy is the Rev. Elaine Silverstrim.

December 17 the Supply Clergy is the Rev. Dick Swan.

December 24 the Supply Clergy is the Canon Gregory Hinton.

December 31 there is no Supply Clergy.



On Sunday, December 17 St. Francis will have 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.

2023 Contribution and Reimbursement Deadline

Please remember that in order to claim a charitable contribution tax deduction for 2023, all contributions must be received in the parish office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2023.

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 2023, 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, 2023.

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

(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.

In Honor In Memory In Thanksgiving

In Honor In Memory In Thanksgiving

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In Honor In Memory In Thanksgiving

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 17.

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 31.
Thank you!





St. Francis Episcopal Church of Springboro Ohio

Join us
for

TOY DRIVE



Collecting till
December
10th

PLEASE BRING A NEW
UNWRAPPED GIFT

FLOC CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS
**BRINGING
SMILES for the
HOLIDAYS**

TOY'S WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON DECEMBER 22ND

TOY DONATION CENTER LOCATION
**FOR LOVE OF CHILDREN (FLOC)
FLOC ON FIVE, DAYTON, OHIO**



2023 St. Francis Outreach Christmas Ministry


Each year For Love of Children, Inc. (FLOC) organizes their annual Christmas For Kids event. This year St. Francis will be collecting toys until December 10.

There will be a few Christmas trees located in the Commons with cards that anyone can take home and find gifts for our local area kids. Please make sure to bring them back unwrapped and place them near or under the trees.

Every donation FLOC receives helps a child that will go without in one way or another. 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. Holiday giving is truly a magical time for children and that's what we hope to provide every year with Christmas for Kids.

Questions: contact Mary Harris at (937-672-7993) or Betsy Hoobler (937-748-1840). Want to give a donation? Please make checks out to FLOC and put them in the alms or give it to Mary Harris.





December 24th

**Come and enjoy two services
with us on Sunday!**

Christmas Eve

Worship Celebration Service

**A Morning Prayer Service will be scheduled at
10:30 am Sunday morning.**

**A Christmas Eve Festal Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
will be held at 8:00 pm with special music
starting at 7:45 pm on Sunday evening.**

**SEE YOU
THERE !!**



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

Dear congregational leaders,

Blessings to you! As your diocesan Transition Committee prepares for the ordination of our Tenth Bishop on February 17, 2024, we are writing to ask for your help with two requests from Bishop-elect Kristin White:

We have been asked by Bishop-elect White to create a video presentation of the ministries we share together to be shown at ordination weekend events. We need approximately five action photos from each of our parishes taken in the last year that show members and friends living into their call as Christians. Please send people pictures, not building pictures! You can email photos to Greg Said at greg@saidiT-communication.com as soon as possible.

If you have a parish banner with a stand, please plan to bring it to the convention center on February 17 for display and for the processional of the ordination service. Please label your stand with your congregation's name to avoid mixups.

Finally, a request from us: We would love to welcome Bishop-elect White with as many cards and notes as possible, signed by as many of us as possible. We ask that each congregation send a welcome card or letter in time for her arrival in Cincinnati on December 5. Cards from individuals and groups are also welcome. **Let’s show her our Buckeye hospitality!**

Send the cards to:
Bishop-elect Kristin White
Diocese of Southern Ohio
412 Sycamore Street
Cincinnati OH 45202

Thank you so much for your efforts! We know this request comes with short notice, and we are trying to get a lot of items completed before your busy seasons of Advent and Christmas. We appreciate you!

Blessings,
Your Transition Team
Mr. Matthew Adeyanju, All Saints, New Albany
Ms. Beth Benson, St. Thomas, Terrace Park
Mr. Jeff Brunson, St. Margaret’s, Trotwood
The Rev. Cortney Dale (Co-Chair), St. Patrick’s, Lebanon
The Rev. Meredith Day Hearn, All Saints, Cincinnati
Mr. Clifton Flemister, St. Matthew’s, Westerville
Ms. Karlah Gibbs, St. John’s, Worthington
The Rev. Gene Hallahan, All Saint’s, Portsmouth and Christ Church, Ironton
Mr. Mike Kennedy (Co-Chair), St. Patrick’s, Dublin
The Rev. Deniray Mueller, St. John’s, Columbus
Mr. Gregory Said, St. Anne, West Chester
Mr. Mark Sesler, Church of the Redeemer, Cincinnati
Ms. Nancy Talley, All Saints, New Albany
Mr. David Thomson, Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati
Mr. James Wright, St. Luke’s, Marietta



ST. GEORGE'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Enjoy your Christmas favorites,
performed by faculty and students
of Sand Dollar Music!

LIVE NATIVITY, LUMINARY WALK
& HOT CHOCOLATE FOLLOWS

Free admission!

Sunday, December 17
5:00 PM

St. George's Church
5520 Far Hills Avenue

Questions?
associate@stgeorgeohio.org

stgeorgesdayton.org sanddollarmusic.com



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

GATHERING TIMES

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

Wednesdays at 9:00 am - Morning Prayer and Healing Service

Wednesdays at 10:30 am - Bible Study

PRAYER DECEMBER

Father, thank you for the grace you have blessed us with. Thank you for the seat of royalty you have given us. Energize and bless this month. Fill us with your love and joy, that your spirit will emanate through us and be a blessing to others. This Christmas come to the manger of our hearts. Invade our souls like Bethlehem. Dwell within and around us. Keep us close to You. Amen.

STAFF

Senior Warden - Tom Phillips

Junior Warden - Jacqui Parker

Vestry Clerk - Allison Ferriell

Treasurer - Beth Phillips

Financial Secretary - Sue Starner

Parish Secretary - Alisha Minamyer

Organist - Diana Graham

Sunday School - Jenny Catalan

Vestry Members - Tom Phillips, Jacqui Parker, Allison Ferriell, Beth Phillips, Virginia Culp, and Diana Ledford.

