TAU FRATERNITY
OF THE SECULAR
FRANCISCAN ORDER
ST. MARGARET OF
CORTONA REGION

OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- Tau Christmas Gathering!Page 4
- Christmas CarolSurprisePage 5-7
- T.O.R. Sisters' Advent Retreat Page 9
- A Call To All To Be Servant Leaders Page 11

INSIDE THIS

Jubilee Year 2 Calendar

Gathering Recap 8

Apostolates & 10
Apostolate News

Committees 12-

Prayer 14 Intentions

Reflections 15-

16

Events & 17 Calendar

Next Gathering 18



https://tauofs.org/

DECEMBER 2025

Minister's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

Peace and all good!

As we enter December and the season of Advent, I find myself reflecting on the challenging year for many in our fraternity and across the greater Washington area. Job transitions, economic uncertainty, and health issues have tested our sense of stability. I include myself among those facing change: I know that my professional life will look very different by 2026, and the road ahead is still taking shape.

Yet, strangely enough, I find myself feeling more alive by this uncertainty. It's like Joseph Campell's Hero's Journey. Or like the shepherds or the Magi following a distant star, not knowing exactly where it will lead. But I trust the path. I sense God's hand in the unfolding, whether it leads to growing a new business or landing my dream role in a faraway city. Whatever comes next, it's less of crisis management and more embracing a call. God invites me to discover something deeper about faith, courage, and joy.

And through it all, I am surrounded by grace. I'm energized by the positive energy of those in my business network and by my brothers and sisters in Tau fraternity. And the unwavering love of my wife, my mother, and my two teenage children grounds me in what truly matters.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, I'm reminded that the Incarnation was God's own way of stepping into uncertainty — entering our world not with power or control, but in vulnerability, trust, and love. That same Christ walks with us in our own transitions and unknowns.

My prayer for you this Christmas is that you may find peace in the midst of whatever uncertainty you face. May you see your journey as holy, your struggles as part of God's unfolding story, and your relationships as living reminders of the Word made flesh among us.

Merry Christmas!

Josh





JUBILEE 2025

GENERAL CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024

24 December

Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica



JANUARY 2025

24-26 January

Jubilee of the World of Communications

FEBRUARY 2025

8-9 February

Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel

15-18 February

Jubilee of Artists

21-23 February

Jubilee of Deacons

MARCH 2025

8-9 March

Jubilee of the World of Volunteering

28 March

24 Hours for the Lord

28-30 March

Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy

APRIL 2025

5-6 April

Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers

25-27 April

Jubilee of Teenagers

28-29 April

Jubilee of People with Disabilities

MAY 2025

1-4 May

Jubilee of Workers

4-5 May

Jubilee of Entrepreneurs

10-11 May

Jubilee of Marching Bands

12-14 May

Jubilee of the Eastern Churches

16-18 May

Jubilee of Confraternities

30 May - 1 June

Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly



JUNE 2025

7-8 June

Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities

9 June

Jubilee of the Holy See

14-15 June

Jubilee of Sport

20-22 June

Jubilee of Governments

23-24 June

Jubilee of Seminarians

25 June

Jubilee of Bishops

25-27 June

Jubilee of Priests

JULY 2025

28 July - 3 August

Jubilee of Youth

SEPTEMBER 2025

15 September

Jubilee of Consolation

20 September

Jubilee of Justice

26-28 September

Jubilee of Catechists

OCTOBER 2025

4-5 October

Jubilee of the Missions

4-5 October

Jubilee of Migrants

8-9 October

Jubilee of Consecrated Life

11-12 October

Jubilee of Marian Spirituality

31 October - 2 November

Jubilee of the World of Education



NOVEMBER 2025

16 November

Jubilee of the Poor

22-23 November

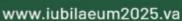
Jubilee of Choirs

DECEMBER 2025

14 December

Jubilee of Prisoners

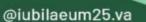












Organization

Tau Fraternity St. Joseph Catholic Church 750 Peachtree St. Herndon, VA 20170

Meetings every 1st Sunday of the month at: St. Joseph Catholic Church 750 Peachtree St. - Room 205



The Tau Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order was canonically established on June 21, 1992. The fraternity is affiliated with the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Tau Fraternity is in the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Tau Fraternity Council currently includes the following officers:

- Minister Josh Goldberg, OFS
- Vice Minister Cynthia Filan-Kim, OFS
- Formation Director Gil Donahue, OFS
- Secretary William Richey, OFS
- Treasurer Joe Boyle, OFS
- Councilor-At-Large Kimberley Heatherington, OFS



Monthly Tau Contemplative Prayer & Franciscan Spirituality Zoom Discussion led by Gil Donahue, OFS



The Tau Contemplative Prayer & Franciscan Spirituality discussion group will take place Monday, December 15 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The theme will be "St. Francis and the Incarnation"

Contact Gil to receive a Zoom link (no need to e-mail if you're already on his list)



TAU GATHERING

DECEMBER 7, 2025

1:30pm - Welcome Guests, Opening Prayer & Advent Reflection

2:00pm - Grace before Meals | Eating & Social Time

2:30pm - Trivia Game

3:30pm - Raffle of Centerpieces

4:00pm - Liturgy of the Hours & Closing Praye



please bring your favorite holiday dish to share!

A CHRISTMAS CAROL SURPRISE!

On Saturday, December 6, members of Tau Fraternity and students from the Catoctin School of Music surprised our Franciscan friends Carole and Dick Clarke, both OFS, with a Christmas carol concert on their front lawn — and while Sally White, OFS, humbly hesitates to take any credit, it was her idea and initiative that accomplished this dose of holiday happiness!





A CHRISTMAS CAROL SURPRISE!







A CHRISTMAS CAROL SURPRISE!





RECAP OF NOVEMBER 2 GATHERING

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE FOR THE DECEASED

Thanks to Sally White, OFS, Walter Gawlak, OFS, Vera Stewart, OFS, Joe Boyle, OFS, our minister Josh and others, our gathering remembered and prayed for the following deceased members of Tau, all professed Secular Franciscans:

Tony Del Popolo, Martha Ureke, Bill Obenauer, Edith Thomasini, Diana Caputo, Ron Kauffman, Ed Geiger, Karen Sawtell, Marie Fitzgerald, Marjorie O'Conner, Edna Henke, Mary McCarthy, Frank Mullin, Anna Seymour, Deacon James Sheehan, Isabel Bartlett, Catherine Williams, Helen Martin, Kay Flynn, Joe Messina, Bill Brewster, Irene Naveau, and Gayle Dowling.

The gathering then recited *The Canticle of the Sun*, followed by praying the Franciscan Crown Rosary, which was led by Jim Haynes, OFS.

CONTINUING ONGOING FORMATION

Tau formation director Gil Donahue, OFS, shared a handout with instructions on praying the Franciscan Crown Rosary, the story of its origins in the 1400s, and a lovely "Suggested Morning Prayer for Secular Franciscans" from our sister fraternity in Triangle, Virginia.

All this information came from the Saint Margaret of Cortona website.

Gil pointed out that for our Remembrance Service, Sally White, OFS, had kindly lent her burial shroud, cord, and scapular with print of Saint Francis, all ready for her burial with a copy of the *Rule*.

Gil reminded us that we can request a Franciscan Wake Service (which can be held at church or in a funeral home), that we can request Franciscan-themed hymns for our funeral, and that our region suggests that we keep our local fraternity informed concerning our wishes.

Gil further noted that when we inform our family members about these plans, this creates an opportunity for us to share our Franciscan faith and practice with them.

FRANCISCAN SISTERS' ADVENT RETREAT



ADVENT HEALING RETREAT



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

SCHEDULE FOR THE RETREAT:

8:00 am EST: Registration **8:30 am EST:** Welcome

8:45 am: Mass with Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR

9:45 am: Break

10:20 am: Talk by Sr. Rita Clare, TOR

11:10 am: Adoration, guided healing prayer, music, healing prayer ministry **Approx. 12:30 pm:** Close retreat, depart or continued prayer ministry

www.franciscansisterstor.org/events/advent-retreat-2025

FREE! - WATCH IT LIVE (OR LATER!) HERE:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLg4JDmHfjY

APOSTOLATES

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE

Thanks to our brothers and sisters who support the apostolate at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. The next food delivery will be on **Saturday, December 13.**

The menu will be Polish cuisine. If you have not previously participated, please consider doing so. Also, if you want to come along to the Missionaries of Charity Hospice in DC to help with delivery of food and supplies, let Joe and Veronica know.

POOR CLARES OF NEW JERSEY

Tau Fraternity supports the Monastery of St. Clare in Chesterfield, NJ, with a biannual monetary donation. The monastery is home to Sister Karen Stapleton, OSC, who began her Franciscan journey with Tau Fraternity. The main work of the Poor Clares of NJ is to provide Altar Bread to parishes in the diocese of Trenton.

For more information, or to submit a prayer intention to the Poor Clares, see The Poor Clares
of New Jersey — Joyfully Embracing the Gospel Way of Life .(poorclaresnewjersey.com)

Watch their YouTube video <u>A Quiet Joy: New</u>
<u>Jersey's Monastery of Saint Clare</u>

ECUMENICAL APOSTOLATE

Tau Fraternity partners with the First Baptist Church of Herndon to provide English lessons to students. Tau members volunteer time and talent to teach at Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced levels. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Bill Bouffard.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Help to feed the hungry. Joe Boyle, OFS, volunteered to shop and deliver food to the St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter at St. Timothy Catholic Church. Food donations may be dropped off prior to the Tau Gathering in the stairwell on the right at St. Joseph School. You can also provide a monetary donation to Joe, who is Tau Treasurer. Thank you!

For more information, see:

https://sttimothyparish.org/outreachand-ministries/st-vincent-de-paul/

FRANCISCAN MISSION SERVICE

Tau Fraternity provides a biannual monetary donation to Franciscan Mission Service. The organization prepares and supports lay Catholics for mission service opportunities around the globe. For more information, see Home | Franciscan Mission Service

PRAYER SHAWL APOSTOLATE

Tau Fraternity provides handmade prayer shawls to individuals in the Diocese of Arlington. Currently, shawls are being provided to pregnant women participating in the Gabriel Project. For more information, please contact Sharon Goldberg, OFS.



James 2:17

FRANCISCAN SERVANT LEADERSHIP

A Call To All To Be Servant Leaders

Professed members have accepted to live a "Gospel life," following the example of our founder St. Francis, and also inspired by the example of St. Clare. Candidates in initial formation have taken the first step in this process. As a result, we fraternity members all participate in a family of Franciscan followers. As we recognize in our own individual families, there are various jobs that need to be done: shopping for groceries, preparing and serving meals, cleaning up afterwards, running errands, etc. We can appreciate, therefore, there are similar needs in our fraternity.

Having elected a new council in September, fraternity members can recognize and appreciate the specific tasks our fellow fraternity members have accepted. We are thankful to have been able to fill all council positions. However, the council cannot by itself do everything that needs to be done to ensure the fraternity continues to flourish. All fraternity members can pitch in.

You will notice that our newsletter names the various committees that work on the fraternity's behalf in our own and the wider community. These committees are an important assist to the council. Committee leads provide depth to our programs. Currently, there are several vacancies for our committee chairs: Cultural Diversity, Recruitment and JPIC. These are all vital elements of the fraternity's overall program and they should be filled by those who have the interest and drive to take them on.

We are all busy with family and work matters, of course. However, we want our fraternity to continue to be vibrant and lively, all the better to attract new members, and to play an active role in the wider community. Therefore, I ask every one to prayerfully consider responding to this call and take on one of these responsibilities.

I am especially concerned to have the JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) position filled. Our regional JPIC Animator Pat Boye has an active agenda for 2026 and our fraternity should play a leading role in those initiatives. I held this position at the regional and fraternity level for several years. Many of us expect that Pope Leo XIV will continue Pope Francis' emphasis on these areas of social justice; we anticipate a new encyclical in 2026.

Therefore, we should prepare ourselves to move ahead on these important social issues. Finally, all Secular Franciscans are expected to be servant leaders — to each other, as well as in our secular circles of family, friends, work, and the parish. Let's come forward and reactivate these committee positions for the benefit of the fraternity, and to spur our own individual spiritual growth. Please pray on this. Thanks and Peace to all.

©Gil Donahue, OFS Formation Director, Tau Fraternity November 2025

TAU COMMITTEES

If you are interested in participating actively in a Tau Committee, take a moment to chat with the chair:

Cultural Diversity Committee (ESL) — Vacant
Hospitality Committee — Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS
Interfaith/Ecumenical Committee — Kimberley Heatherington, OFS
Infirmarian Committee — Sharon Goldberg, OFS
JPIC (Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation) — Vacant
Recruitment Committee — Vacant
Technology Committee — John Ata, OFS



TAU COMMITTEES: INTERFAITH/ECUMENICAL

2025-2026 INTERFAITH CALENDAR KEY

Baha'i Buddhist Christian

Hindu Jain Jewish Muslim

Federal Holidays Sikh Zoroastrian (Zartushti)

*Indicates holidays start at sundown the day before

Scan here to learn about IFC Religious and Cultural Workshops.



Visit www.ifcmw.org for more information about the faith communities represented on this calendar.

Aug 2025

8/3: Tisha B'Av* 8/15: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8/20-8/27 Paryushan Parva 8/27 Samvatsari

8/28-9/6 Das Lakshan Parva

Sep 2025

9/1 Scriptures installed at Darbar Sahib 9/5 Mawlid an-Nabi* 8/28-9/6 Das Lakshan Parva 9/8 Josei Toda's Declaration for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons 9/12 Pehla Parkash Sri Guru Grapath Sahib II

9/22-10/2 Navratri

Oct 2025

9/22-10/2 Navratri 10/2 - Yom Kippur* 10/2 Mehregan Celebration (Autumn Festival) 10/2 Dussehra 10/7-10/13 Sukkot* 10/13 Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day 10/14 Shemhin Atzeret* 10/15 Simchat Torah* 10/20 Gurgaddi Diwas 10/20-10/27 Diwasi

10/21 Mahavir Nirvana 10/23 Twin Births of the Bab and Baha'u'llah

Nov 2025

11/1 All Saints Day 11/5 Birth Anniversary of Guru

11/8 Jain New Year 11/8 Bandi Chhor Divas 11/11 Veterans Day 11/24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur

11/24 Parkash Purb Sri Guru Nanak

Dec 2025

12/8 Bodhi Day 12/14 Shaheedi Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji

12/14-12/22 Hanukkah* 12/21 Chelleh (Yalda) Night (Winter Solstice) 12/25 Christmas 12/26 Zarathustra's Celebration of Life

Jan 2026

1/1 New Year's Day 1/2 Birth anniversary of Daisaku Ikeda 1/6 Epiphany 1/7 Orthodox Christmas Day 1/14 Orthodox New Year 1/17 Adinath Swami Jayanti 1/19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1/20 Birth-Anniversary of

1/20 Birth-Anniversary o Guru Gobind Singh 1/30 Sadeh Celebration

Feb 2026

2/2 Tu Bishvat*
2/16 Presidents Day
2/16 Birth anniversary of
Nichiren Daishonin
2/18 First Day of
Ramadan*
2/18 Ash Wednesday

March 2026

3/3 Purim*
3/4 Holi
3/4 Hola Mohalla
3/14 Sikh Environment Day
3/18 Last Day of Ramadan
3/20 Eid al-Fitr*
3/20 Nowruz (New Year) @10:46
AM EST
3/21 Naw-Ruz
3/26 Zarathushtra's Birthday

Celebration 3/31 Mahavir Swami Jayanti

April 2026

4/1-4/9 Passover*

4/3 Good Friday

4/5 Easter

4/8 Farvardingan Celebration

4/12 Orthodox Easter 4/13 Vaisakhi

4/13 Vaisakhi 4/14 Sikh New Yea

4/21 First Day of Ridvan*

4/29 Ninth Day of Ridvan* 4/28 Nichiren Buddhism Established

May 2026

5/1 Vesak

5/2 12th day of Ridvan's 5/3 Soka Gakkai Day

5/8 Pentecost

5/21-5/23 Shavuot*

5/24 Declaration of the Bab* 5/25 Memorial Day

5/26 Day of Arafat*

5/27 Eid-al-Adha* 5/29 Ascension of the Baha'u'

June 2026

6/16 Muharram* 6/19 Juneteenth 6/26 Ashura*

July 2026

7/1 Tirgan Celebration (Summer Festival) 7/4 Independence Day 7/9 Martyrdom of the Bab















PRAYER INTENTIONS

HEAR US, LORD!

Please keep the following intentions in your prayers:

For Pope Leo XIV.

For the physical and spiritual healing of Sylvia Capurso; Cynthia Filan-Kim's sister; Sally White; Sally's husband Gary; Richard & Carole Clarke; their grandsons Liam and Rory. For peace in the Middle East.

For the patients and Sisters at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House.

For the people affected by Coronavirus and their caregivers.

For the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic and its patients.

For all peoples who suffer persecution.

For the country of Myanmar and its citizens.

For the victims of natural disasters and terror attacks.

For refugees and migrant workers.

For Russians opposing the war in Ukraine.

For all those who have lost their jobs, and are in need of employment.

For all those who have received shawls from the Tau Prayer Shawl Ministry.

For an end to political violence, and for unity in our country.

For all those who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

Please send prayer requests to Josh Goldberg, OFS.

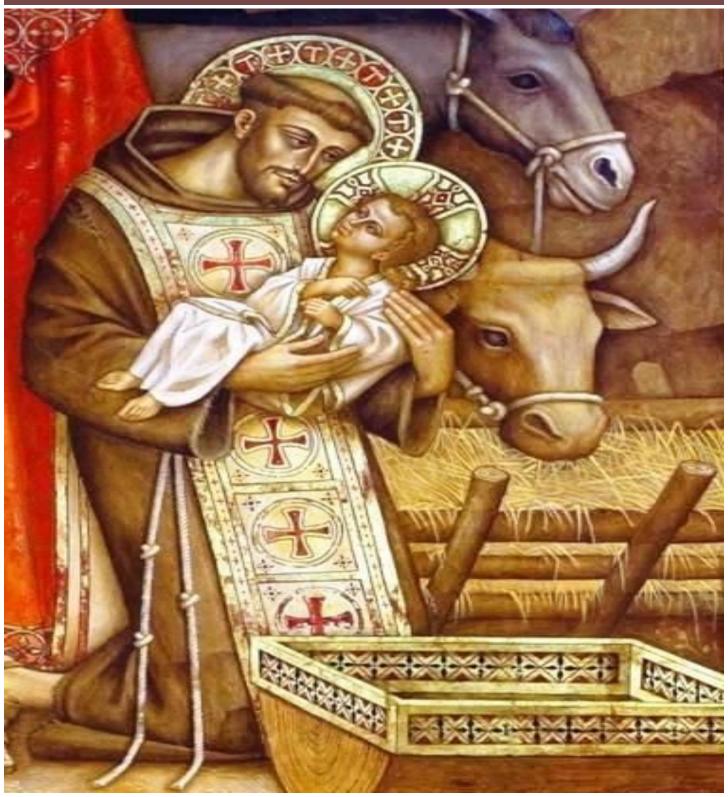
Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.

Philippians 4:6-7



DECEMBER: MONTH OF THE INCARNATION

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER



DECEMBER: MONTH OF THE INCARNATION

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER



- 1 Faith Father God, it is to
- Father God, it is by Your grace we have been saved, and through our faith this is not from ourselves, but a gift from you not by our works. Ephesians 2:8-9
- 2 Hope
- May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in Hope. Romans 15:4
- 3 Love
- Help us to love because You first loved us. 1 John 4:19
- 4 Forgiveness
- Thank you for being faithful and just in forgiving us our sins and thus purifing us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1.9
- 5 Mercy
- Let us be merciful, just as our Father is merciful. Luke 6:36
- 6 Kindness
- Let us be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as through Jesus, You forgave us. Ephesians 4:32
- 7 Generosity
- Let us be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, and to give the glory and thanks to you Lord! 2 Corinthians 9:11
- 8 Compassion
- Let us live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic and compassionate, love as brothers, and be humble. 1 Peter 3:8

- 9 Joy
- Let us be joyful in hope, patient in afflication, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12
- 10 Salvation
- Thank you for providing Jesus who is the way , the truth, the life and the only way to You. John 14:6
- 11 Obedience
- Help us to not merely listen to Your Word, and so deceive ourselves. Help us do what it says. James 1:22-25
- 12 Life
- Thank you for coming that we may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

https://catholico.wordpress.com/2013/12/24/12-christmas-prayer

CALENDAR: ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

December is the Month of the Incarnation*

Dec. 3	Feast of St. Francis Xavier
	Sylvia Capurso & Richard Clarke's Professions

- Dec. 5 Jim Haynes' and Liz Welborn's Professions
- Dec. 6 Feast of St. Nicholas
- Dec. 7 Tau Christmas Gathering Second Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
 Holy Day of Obligation
 Frank Bowen's Profession
- Dec. 12 Discovery of the Tomb of St. Francis Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Patricia Riggles' Birthday
- Dec. 13 Memorial of St. Lucy
 Missionaries of Charity Food Drop Off
- Dec. 14 Third Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 15 Mary, Queen of the Seraphic Order
- Dec. 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 25 Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Holy Day of Obligation
- Dec. 26 Feast of St. Stephen
- Dec. 27 Feast of St. John the Apostle
- Dec. 28 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

*See the Franciscan Calendar for more dates:

https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/traditional-franciscan-calendar.html

December 2025

Su	Мо	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026

Su	Мо	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass



Friday, December 12 @ 7:00 PM St. Joseph Catholic Church

Simbang Gabi Filipino Mass with Bishop Burbidge



Sunday, December 21 @ 5:00 p.m. Our Lady of Good Counsel 8601 Wolftrap Rd. - Vienna

NEXT TAU GATHERING

DECEMBER 7, 2025

CHRISTMAS PARTY

1:30 PM Welcome Guests

Opening Prayer & Advent Reflection

2:00 PM Grace Before Meals

Eating & Social Time

2:30 PM Trivia Game

3:30 PM Raffle of Centerpieces

4:00 PM Liturgy of the Hours & Closing Prayer

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

St. Joseph Room 205

Room 20

During Advent, we will precede the Liturgy of the Hours with The Angelus

The Angelus

- V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
- R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
- ---- Pray The HAIL MARY ----
- V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,
- R. Be it done unto me according to your Word.
- ---- Pray The HAIL MARY ----
- V. And the Word was made flesh,
- R. And dwelt among us.
- ---- Pray The HAIL MARY ----
- V. Pray for us, Oholy Mother of God,
- R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

--- LET US PRAY ---

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ Your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



INITIAL FORMATION

Candidates:

Ch. 12 in The Franciscan Journey

ONGOING FORMATION

We'll have a special Advent Reflection during our Christmas Party!

LITURGY OF THE HOURSThe 2nd Sunday of Advent

Midday Prayer

See here or

https://divineoffice.org/adv-w02-sundp2/?date=20251207

Evening Prayer

Psalms: Week 2 Evening Prayer II: pg. 787 Everything else: Second Sunday of Advent Evening Prayer II: pg. 68

Hymn: TBD

Contact
Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS,
to volunteer for
Scripture Reading &
Responsory, Opening Prayer,
& Presentations