



# THE FLYER

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

December 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY  
Our Theme for the Year:  
Franciscan Joy

**UPCOMING: December 17: Christmas Party!!**

- ◆ 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-Fraternities-Website>
- ◆ Check out our regional website: <https://SaintMargaretOfCortona.org/>
- ◆ Check out our national website: <https://SecularFranciscansUSA.org/>

## **Greetings from Brother Lawrence, OFM Conv.**

Hello everyone,

It is that time of year again, a wonderful time of year even if it snows. I am dreaming of a “White Christmas” even if I am not in Beverly Hills (that was how the song originally began). A time of year for visiting, giving, seeing the sights (especially the house decorations) like no other time of year. I prefer the lights on the houses rather than a hodgepodge of giant blow-up characters that really have no appeal at this time of year. This time of year is about one thing and only one thing—the birth of Our Savior.

It is a shame to say that I rarely find Christmas creches in front of houses, it is more Santa and reindeer, the Grinch and other things that have intruded on the real spirit of the season. I am very simple in my decor in that a Nativity set is all I really need. I have no need for secular decorations as that really have no meaning for me except that they take the real spirit away from what is being celebrated.

This year let’s remember the real meaning of the season and forget all the commercial hype that is nonsense. And so let us all remember whose birth we are remembering and really celebrate it properly with family and friends and without the hype. And so I remember the words of Dickens’ Tiny Tim, “God bless us everyone.”

Be. Lawrence

## Minister's Note

Usually, I am a little stressed by the holiday season. The idea of picking just the right presents for everyone, I find a little daunting. This year seems different. The past few weeks, I've had to slow down and rest. It has given me back not only time, but a sense of peace as well.

I think that is what Advent and the Christmas Season is all about. We need times of rest and peace to regenerate ourselves. Our spirits can long for time when we are just still.

This year, I am aiming for more time that is quiet and reflective. An Advent wreath and a Nativity scene will highlight the true meaning of Christmas in our home. As we celebrate 800 years of the miracles at Greccio, may we also continue to gaze at the newborn Christ. May we gather Him in our arms as Saint Francis did, and know that healing, grace, and peace are lying in the manger for us and the world.

May you have a wonderful holiday season. Don't forget to bring a small gift for the Christmas family at our next gathering.

Peace and goodness,

*Melissa*

*Do you have an article for the newsletter? Please send your input to Melissa. The word count should be under 500 words. Share your insights and thoughts with the fraternity.*

## **Christmas Family**

Jasmine and her son Au'Bren (age 11) and her daughter Allie (age 8)

### **Boy's wish List:**

Boy's winter coat – size 10/12  
Boys clothes – pants, shirts – size 10/12  
2 pack iphone charger  
Roblox and/or Toca Poca (phone games) gift cards  
Hoverboard

### **Girl's wish List**

Girl's winter coat – size 10/12  
Girl's clothes – pants, shirts, dresses  
Barbie doll and outfits  
Car seat for 18 inch baby doll  
Baby doll diapers (or cheap newborn diapers)

### **Mom's Wish List**

Electric can opener  
Full size blanket  
Set of tableware (knives, forks, spoons)  
Plastic plates & cups  
Dog items (10 lb support dog)– shampoo, All in one tick/flea/worm prevention meds (such as SimparicaTrio), dog food  
  
Giant, Walmart, or Amazon gift cards

### **Bring wrapped presents to the December gathering**

## **PRAY FOR ALL OUR DECEASED**

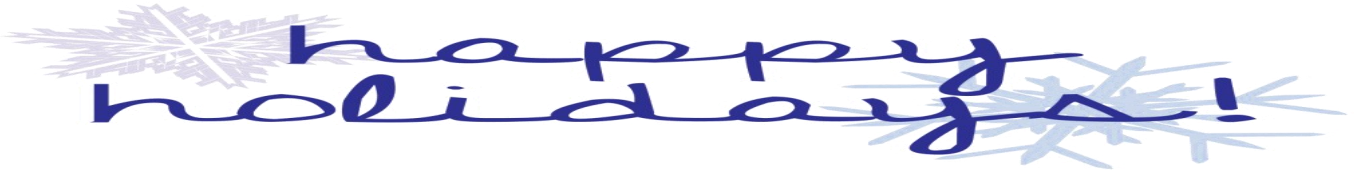
Name                      Date of Transitus  
Dolores Fritz, OFS December 27, 2013  
Robert (Bob) Lewis, OFS December 17, 2000

Jim Tebo, OFS December 25, 2022  
Carroll (Bud) Tenley, OFS December 27, 1997

*Formation Thought of the Month:*

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Upcoming Events at the Shrine

**December 9 at 7 pm Greccio (We will provide cookies and serve hot chocolate. Please help.**

**Christmas Masses**

December 24 4:00 pm Mass, 7:30 pm Caroling, 8 pm Mass

December 25 Noon Mass



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

**2022-2025 Council**

**Minister:**

Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer OFS  
410-552-5750  
Scoutsdouglas@yahoo.com

**Vice Minister:**

Charlie Heyden OFS  
410-215-9079  
CHeyden2@comcast.net

**Secretary:**

France Staudenmann OFS  
301-366-1769  
France.Staudenmann@gmail.com

**Treasurer (Acting):**

Jerry Yu OFS  
443-514-5007  
bravo0226@yahoo.com

**Formation Director:**

Jeanne Kerins OFS  
410-227-6497  
JMkerins12@gmail.com

**Councilor 1:**

Bob Longo OFS  
240-476-5796  
BLongoSFO@gmail.com

**Councilor 2:**

Ray Glennon OFS  
443-458-8044  
Ray.Glennon@1972.USNA.com

**Spiritual Assistant:**

Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM Conv.  
410-485-5000  
LLaFlame@ArchBishopCurley.org

*Bible quotes are from the Douay-Rheims translation, unless otherwise noted.*



## Treasurer's Report

November – 2023

<b>Beginning (running) Balance:</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,192.82</u></b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Common Fund Contributions	\$145.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$145.00</u></b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Spiritual Assistant	100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$200.00</u></b>
<b>Ending (running) Balance:</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,137.82</u></b>

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.**

What is true joy?

Think about what you have discovered over the last year that has tested you, strengthened you, uplifted you, challenged you.

Have you accepted it with patience?

### Book Share–

New Book Share coming in the New Year  
Thomas A' Kempis' classic Imitation of Christ.  
We'll take a January break and then start back up on February 3 at 1 pm

First Saturdays from 1-3 pm on ZOOM!  
Contact Geri Flynn OFS for details:  
[AngelBarty@aol.com](mailto:AngelBarty@aol.com)

# Happy Birthday!

*Ed Burgee 12/17*  
*Mark McPherson 12/23*  
*Will Potter 12/23*

## PRAYER LIST



### For Healing:

Gail Bunyan, OFS  
Lita Maisel, OFS  
Bill Siefken, OFS  
Teresa Lam, OFS  
Rosemary Whelan, OFS  
Michael Radcliff, OFS  
Patrick Caughy, OFS  
Will Potter, OFS