



THE FLYER

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

December 15, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY

“Gaze upon Him; consider
Him; contemplate Him, as
you desire to imitate Him.”

Saint Clare

UPCOMING: December 15 Christmas Party at 1:15 pm

- ◆ 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/>

Brother Lawrence, OFM Conv. Will return next month

Christmas greetings!

It is time to commemorate and celebrate the day and event that I believe is the greatest day and event of history — the day on which the greatest event of all of history took place in a small town in the Middle East over two millennia ago — the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who was sent by God. Everything looks a bit different because of that day and that singular event and for that very reason all of humanity should be rejoicing!

I do think that so much has been said and written about this day that anything said now would be nothing more than repetitious to us. I do not wish to go further since it would be redundant here. Still, I would like to point out that the day is really of such importance because it changed everything on earth for the better. We know who was born. We are aware of what he came to teach and do, but we are also aware that we are much wiser for what he taught to us and what he did for us. That brings us to a better understanding of this event and its results for us.

It is this event that changed all of history since then. It can also be seen by anyone even those who have been away from the Church; one can get a fresh start once again celebrating this truth of history. So, let us begin by celebrating the very birth of the Christ Child and for ourselves to make Christmas 2024 a new beginning of this wonderful day and this history changing event!

Peace of Jesus bless us all and let us greet each other “God bless us, everyone”!!

Br. Lawrence



Minister's Note

The Greccio celebration will begin at 7 pm December 14 at the red barn at the Shrine..

This month is our Christmas celebration. We begin after the noon mass, at 1:15 pm instead of our usual 2 pm. Please bring a dish to share: small plate type dishes and desserts. Also, please bring a gift for our Christmas family. See the newsletter for more details.

Next month we will have our annual drawing of saints. Meeting is 2 pm.

We are midway through the season of Advent. It is often a time of anticipation. We anticipate the visitation of relatives. We anticipate holiday parties. We anticipate giving and receiving gifts. We may even start to anticipate the upcoming new year.

Another word for anticipation is **hope**. For centuries, the Israelites waited in hope for the Messiah. They were not necessarily expecting Him to come in the form of a tiny, helpless infant lying in a straw bed. Yet, He did come as one of the greatest gifts to mankind.

Even as newborn, Jesus gave hope. When we hold a newborn baby, we anticipate all that is to come. We look at their tiny features and wonder who they will take after. We wonder what their future will be like. We know that they have already begun to make a difference in the lives of their family and eventually, the world will be impacted by their arrival.

Mary and Joseph knew that wonder in newborn Jesus. The shepherds knew Him when they saw Him in the manger. Both Simeon and Anna were filled with joy when He was brought to the temple soon after His birth. The wise men would travel a great distance and bring Him gifts. All those gathered to celebrate His birth sang "Glory to God in the highest..." (Luke 2:14)

At the first Greccio, Saint Francis wanted to remind the people that He is our baby too. He wanted us to experience the deep intimacy of the family gathered to celebrate the birth of a newborn. He wanted us to experience the overwhelming love that was outpoured in that humble manger surrounded by animals. He wanted us to know that the Messiah is living and real.

Like Simeon and Anna, we can rejoice in His birth. Like Saint Francis, we can take Him into our arms, and into our lives. All the joy and hope and love that newborn babies bring is lying there in the manger waiting for our embrace.

May the Christ Child be with you.

Peace and love and joy outpoured to you and your families.

Melissa



Formation Thought of the Month:

“ It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open the doors of hope.”

Pope Benedict XVI

CHRISTMAS FAMILY:



This family of four has basic needs. The mother and father were in a car accident last year. They are hard working, but have limited funds for Christmas for their family.

Mom and Dad wear size large

17 year old girl wears a medium

8 year old boy wears a children’s large

The family can use gift cards for groceries, and other needed items.

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.

2022-2025 Council

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



Treasurer's Report

November – 2024

Beginning (running) Balance:	<u>\$ 2,438.19</u>
Income:	
Common Fund Contributions	\$ 85.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 85.00</u>
Expenses:	
Spiritual Assistant	\$ 100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Fr. Emmanuel	100.00
Music for the November Mass	85.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 385.00</u>
Ending (running) Balance:	<u>\$ 2,138.19</u>

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.

Pray for Deceased Members:

James Tebo 12/24/2022
Charles Ferrara 1/1/2010
Yvonne Proch 1/1/2013
Betty Taylor 1/1/2011
Regina Yeager 1/1/2007
Mary Ferrara 1/16/2018



Happy Birthday!

This month:

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

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

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

