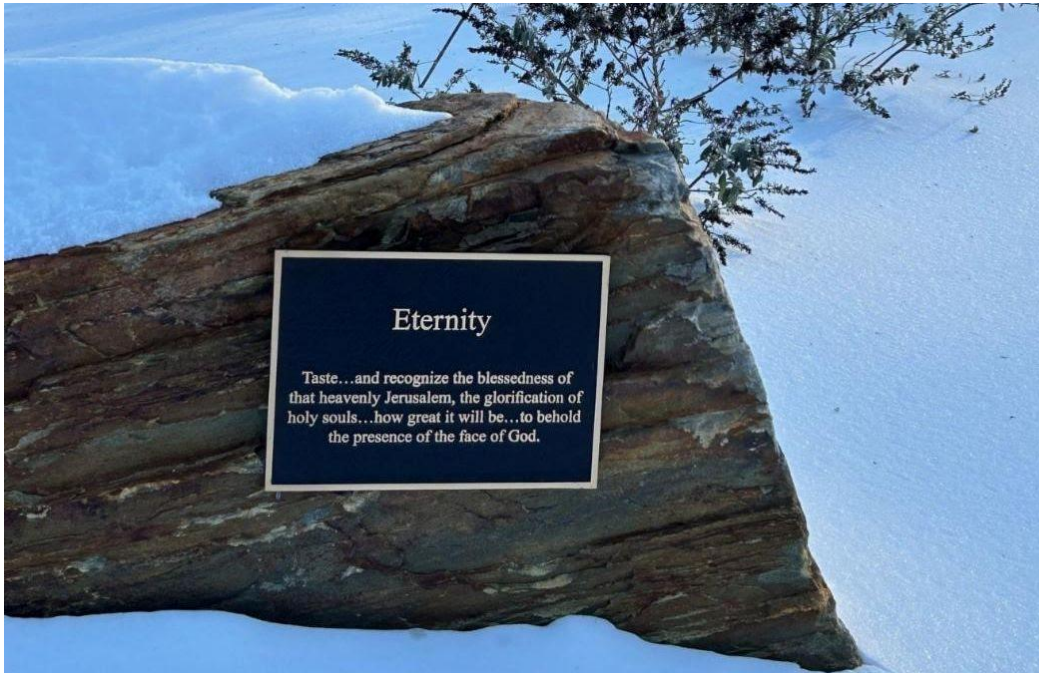


The Shrine of St. Anthony

A MINISTRY OF THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS CONVENTUAL
Ellicott City, MD
ST. ANTHONY



This Lent, as we begin what our Church refers to as, 'our ascent up the mountain of Easter,' I'd like to highlight a central moment in the conversion of St. Francis of Assisi, whose jubilee year we are celebrating in special way here at the Shrine.

Perhaps you have heard the famous saying, "There is nothing as constant as change." We might also say that "There is nothing as unsettling for our lives as change." I think Francis would agree. A change began to happen in him that he describes as when, "what had seemed bitter to me was turned into sweetness of soul and body." For those not familiar, this is when Francis "changed," or "turned," to see a person suffering with leprosy, not as someone to flee from, but as a child of God who required compassion.

During Lent, our Liturgies and our Scripture readings invite us to turn – to return – to change. This invitation is not simply just for novelty's sake, just so we might experience something new. And this is not something we can accomplish just by trying harder.

Change in Lent is the movement of persons whose encounter with Jesus Christ and whose encounter with those in need of compassion are united in special way. United in us. Strengthened by Jesus to share His strength.

Just as for St. Francis, this is a call for us to see as God sees and to respond accordingly. May our acts of penance this Lent be met by Jesus's healing grace. Might our "turn" be accompanied by a true desire to share the compassion of Jesus with those who we encounter.

Peace,

Friar Gary

Friar Gary Johnson, OFM Conv.

Fr. Timothy Dore, OFM Conv., in Assisi



For the first time since 1978, St. Francis of Assisi was exhumed from his tomb beneath the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy. Last week began the longest period in history in which his body is available for public viewing and veneration.

Our very own Fr. Timothy Dore, OFM Conv., was present with other friars from Our Lady of the Angels Province and around the world when St. Francis was first moved out of the tomb. Fr.

Timothy will be in Assisi for the next month to assist with Confessions as hundreds of thousands of pilgrims are expected to visit Assisi to venerate the relics.

To see and learn more about the Basilica of St. Francis during this special Jubilee Year, The Shell, a virtual pilgrimage app from the Franciscan Voice, has added two new ways to experience the Basilica from afar.

[More information and free downloads of the app are available here.](#)

New Workshops Added for the Year of St. Francis

Spiritual workshops and Bible Studies offered in the Shrine Classroom are livestreamed on the Companions of St. Anthony YouTube page. If you plan to attend in person, please let us know at the links below so we can adequately plan.

Heaven, Hell, Purgatory and Indulgences

Hosted by Friar Jude Winkler, OFM Conv., this session will offer an insight into the final realities that await us all. Given the Year of St. Francis and the possibility for plenary indulgence, the course will also speak to the meaning of indulgences.

Saturday, March 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

The Peace Prayer, Explained

Hosted by Friar Douglas McMillan, OFM Conv., this session will the famous "Make me an instrument of your peace" prayer and explore how we apply this prayer to our lives today.

Wednesday, April 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

[Register Here](#)



Catch up on Lenten Workshops

Friar talks in the Glassroom are livestreamed and saved on the Companions of St. Anthony YouTube channel. [Subscribe today](#) and never miss a new video.

Watch: Understanding and Living a Fruitful Lent

Friar Jude Winkler, OFM Conv.

[Watch Here](#)

Watch: Pathways to Contemplation, Session 1 & 2

Friar Terence Bateman, OFM Conv.

This workshop is ongoing. New sessions and materials will be posted as they become available.

[Watch Here](#)

Still to Come ...

If you plan to attend in person, please register at the links below.

Bring a Bible!

The Passion Accounts

Friar Jude Winkler, OFM Conv.

Wednesday, March 18 from 9:30 a.m.— 3:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

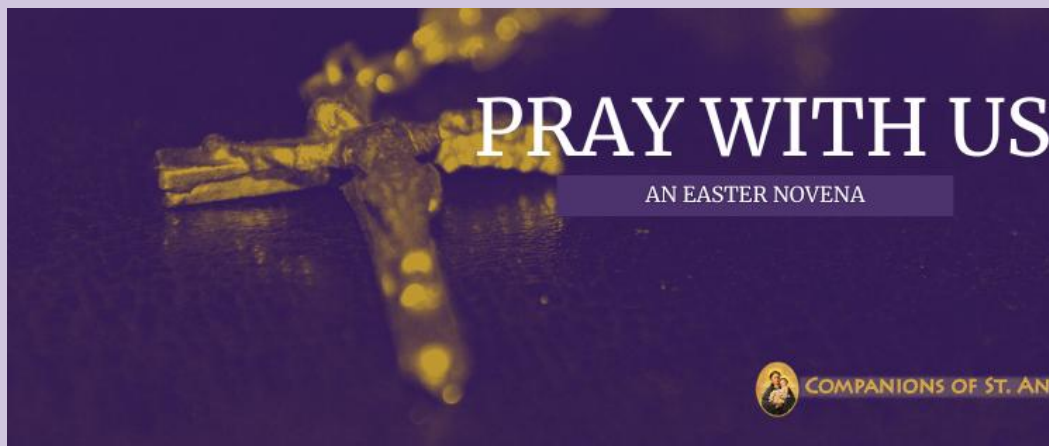
The Resurrection Accounts

Friar Jude Winkler, OFM Conv.

Saturday, April 11 from 9:30 a.m.— 3:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

Free will offerings accepted. All gifts support future programming at the Shrine of St. Anthony.



The Companions of St. Anthony will be praying an Easter Novena in the nine days leading up to the Great Feast. To receive the daily prayers to your inbox, [please sign up here](#).

[RSVP: Annual Easter Egg Hunt](#)



The Shrine's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be the morning of April 4. Join us at 10:30 a.m. for an egg hunt and picnic with your family on the grounds.

Don't forget to let us know your coming! it helps us ensure we have enough eggs (and candy!) for all!

[RSVP Here](#)



HOL WEE

Holy Thursday
Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m.


Outdoor Stations of the Cross
Friday, April 3 at 12 p.m.
(indoor option available)

Good Friday Veneration
Friday, April 3 at 3 p.m.

Easter Vigil
Saturday, April 4 at 7 p.m.

Sunrise Mass
Sunday, April 5 at 6 a.m.

Easter Sunday Mass
Sunday, April 5 at 12 p.m.



Gift Shop Hours in Holy Week

Stop by the Shrine Gift Shop to browse a large selection of items to support your Lenten journey or fill Easter baskets for loved ones.

The Gift Shop will be closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Easter Monday, with limited hours on Holy Saturday (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Please see our [event calendar](#) on the website for more information.



SAVE THE DATE



Feast of Bl. Giles of Assisi Thursday, April 23

Join Friar Gary Johnson, OFM Conv., and Little Portion Farm staff and volunteers for a special blessing of the farm in honor of Bl. Giles of Assisi, a contemporary of St. Francis and patron of the farm. All are welcome to attend Mass in the Shrine Chapel at 12 p.m. and then the blessing at 1 p.m. down on Little Portion Farm. Light refreshments will be served.

ST. ANTHONY FESTIVAL

June 13, 2026



featuring **Laura Kelly Fanucci**
award-winning author & speaker

We welcome more than 500 pilgrims to this festival every year, and expect even larger crowds given the Year of St. Francis in 2026. To help keep this festival free for the public, we are seeking sponsors for the 2026 festival. All sponsorships come with advertising opportunities at the festival. For more information and to find out what sponsorship level might be right for your or your business, please contact Anna Jones at anna.jones@olaprovince.org.



Open Tours of Carrollton Hall

Carrollton Hall, an historic site on the grounds of the Shrine, tells the inclusive history of all the people who have inhabited our site. Monthly tours will be available after the Noon Mass.

Tours are limited to 20. Please reserve your space at the links below.

- [Monday, March 16 at 1 p.m.](#)
- [Monday, April 21 at 1 p.m.](#)



Volunteers Welcome

Volunteers work on **Little Portion Farm** all year round to plant and harvest food for people in need. Even during the colder months, volunteers are cultivating the land and working in the greenhouses. No prior experience is necessary.

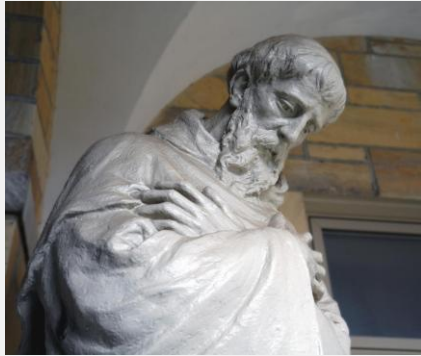
[Learn More](#)

It's Year of St. Francis!

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed the Jubilee Year of St. Francis, a special Holy Year of grace (Jan. 10, 2026 to Jan. 10, 2027). This year's Jubilee is in recognition of the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's death, and his powerful witness to living the Gospel that is still relevant today. The Shrine of St. Anthony is a Pilgrimage site where visitors may experience



spiritual renewal and seek plenary indulgence. We welcome all hopeful pilgrims from near and far to visit the chapel and grounds throughout the year. [Learn more ...](#)



Follow along for more

Every week, we'll be sharing short anecdotes like this from St. Francis's life and ministry that relate to the Sunday Gospel. Tuesdays will similarly be dedicated to St. Anthony. Follow us on our social channels for more!

[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)



Daily Reflections with Friar Jude Winkler, OFM Conv.

Friar Jude offers food for thought every day on his daily podcast, available on Soundcloud. Click the link below to listen and subscribe.

[Daily Reflections with Friar Jude](#)



Franciscan Soy Candles Handcrafted at the Shrine of St. Anthony

Custom labels
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12 oz and 6 oz sizes
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Discerning?

For more information about vocations and discerning life as a Franciscan Friar Conventual, please get in touch.

[Learn More](#)

The Franciscan Friars Conventual have owned, lived, and ministered on this 236 acres of land in scenic Howard County, Maryland since 1928. What once was a private novitiate for friars in formation, is now a thriving campus of activity, with opportunities for visitors to find space for contemplation, reconciliation, companionship, service, and renewal.

The ministries of the friars in Ellicott City, including the Shrine, are embodiments of Franciscan values, as the friars live in and serve the community through evangelization and corporal works of mercy.