

FRANCISCAN - JANUARY 2019

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



Dear Saint Francis Family and Friends,

I hope you all were showered with Christmastide blessings and will be blessed over and over again during all the days in 2019 and beyond. What will the new year bring? This cartoon reflects a wonderful truth. The new year brings to us 365 days for opportunities.

Advent is a season filled with the expectation, anticipation and preparations for the One hoped for - Emmanuel – God with us.

Christmastide underscores the reality that the Word of God became flesh. The world has come to know the nature of God by seeing, hearing and witnessing the good news of Jesus through scripture. God has wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature by humbling Himself to share the life and death of humanity. Praise be given to Jesus, the Son of God.

January first marks the beginning of the New Year. Also, the first day of the year is the Feast of the Holy Name. Eight days after Jesus' birth it was the custom to gather family and friends to witness the circumcision and the naming of the child (Luke 2:21). The name, Jesus, was given and explained to Joseph by an angel saying that this child would "save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). In Hebrew Jesus means "Savior" or "Deliverer." The Name of Jesus reflects the true freedom which is yours and mine given to all through Jesus Christ. Praise be given to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

January 6th is the Sunday of the Children's Epiphany Pageant, choreographed by Jenny Catalan, our Sunday School's wonder worker and teacher. The story will be told and hymns sung in celebration of the arrival of the Three Kings who followed a bright star to Bethlehem, brought gifts and worshiped the Greatest King over all creation. The pageant celebrates the manifestation of Salvation to the gentiles, to all of creation. Praise be given to the Christ Child who was born to change the direction of mankind.

January, the season of vision, revelation and the manifestation of God has begun. The Sunday gospel stories will describe events that make clear that God is with us: the coming of the Magi; the Baptism of our Lord; the wedding at Cana; the calling of the disciples; reports of miracles and the teachings of Jesus; and Christ's appearance in radiant glory. Praise be given to Jesus Christ, God with us.

Epiphanies, moments of sudden revelations or insights, are not limited to science, literature or philosophy. In every day experiences, our own life changing epiphanies are born in the heart – deep within our very being at the center of life and love. Be alert. Grace is manifest at the dawn of a new day, at the sight of a new born child. God is present at the passage of pain, in sorrow and when healing occurs. Divine peace is felt in the warmth of the noonday sun shining through a frosted window. God's love is found in laughter, an unexpected kiss, in a thank you from a stranger or within a delightful memory that may even bring a tear. These are examples of epiphanies of God with us born from above and placed in the manger of your heart 24 seven 365 days of the year.

+May new year epiphanies bless you and your loved ones, *Fr Frank*

JANUARY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Office Closed Jazzercise 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	2 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	3 Jazzercise 5:30 pm Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm	4 Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	5 Jazzercise 7:00 am & 9:15 am
6 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Epiphany Pageant Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	7 Office Closed Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	8 Office Closed Jazzercise 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm	9 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	10 Jazzercise 5:30 pm Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm	11 Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	12 Jazzercise 7:00 am & 9:15 am
13 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	14 Office Closed Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	15 Office Closed Jazzercise 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	16 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	17 Jazzercise 5:30 pm Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm	18 Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	19 Jazzercise 7:00 am & 9:15 am
20 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Chili Cook-Off	21 Office Closed Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	22 Office Closed Jazzercise 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	23 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	24 Jazzercise 5:30 pm Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm	25 Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	26 Jazzercise 7:00 am & 9:15 am
27 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	28 Office Closed Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	29 Office Closed Jazzercise 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	30 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	31 Jazzercise 5:30 pm Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm		

Parish Health Ministry 2019

On behalf of the Parish Health Ministry our wishes for St. Francis is a very happy, healthy and safe New Year! But all of our wishes will be in vain without your help and the Lord's good grace.

BODY

Make your steps carefully placed. When you see a sign that says, "Slippery When Wet," take heed my friends. But it also doesn't have to be wet for you to fall. The older we get the easier it is to fall with damage. It should be important to all of us to keep ourselves healthy. We can do that by taking vitamins, drinking plenty of water juice (the kind with little or no sugar). Caffeine free teas are good to drink, as well. Limit any alcohol. Try to keep active especially at this time of year even if it is inside. And the most important thing to stay healthy is to stay away from others who are sick. I wash my hands clean and wash them at least 6 times a day. One way to keep track is to wash at each meal, after you play with your animals, and when you shake hands. Give it a try, it will keep your minds active, too. "I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." Romans 12:1.

MIND

This is a good time of year to read good books. Jigsaw puzzles are wonderful to keep your minds active and also crosswords, solitaire, word finds, sudoku, whodunits and the list goes on. Think about your hobbies. Everyone has them; painting, crafts, knitting, baking, cooking, bike riding, hiking, etc. I like to walk and what better way to get that in then to give your dog some exercise, too. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment." Mat 22:37-38.

SPIRIT

A great way to start your day is by a daily devotion or getting into the Word. Please read the prayers that Mary Martin writes for us either in the newsletter, bulletins or left on the foyer table. Give your days to the Lord. That's where you got them from in the first place. Read about St. Francis. He can tell us about his journey in the Spirit and he has given us timeless prayers. "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17.

So, let the Lord guard, guide and protect us this year.

Your Parish Health Committee:

Teena Baldrige

Allison Ferriell

Mary Martin

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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Holy Eucharist, Rite II10:30 am
Sunday School 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

Bible Study.....10:30 am



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

James Taylor, Jr.	1/9
Marilyn Haugen	1/11
Chase Marshall	1/18
Pam Kock	1/21
Mary Martin	1/31
Heather Marshall	1/31

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


Epiphany Pageant

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, January 6. The children will present the Epiphany Pageant during the service. It will be one last opportunity to sing Christmas carols! Please come and support our youth at St. Francis!

Outreach Ministry Jars

Please look for jars around the church to throw your loose change in. They will be located on the table in the foyer, near the coffee pots in the kitchen, and on the table during coffee hour. The donations for January and February will benefit the soldiers on our prayer list. St. Francis will be sending them Easter packages this year.

Every 2 months there will be new charity that money will be collected for; please look forward to new charities in the future. This will be another great way for the Outreach Ministry to serve the community.



Hanging of the Greens

The Altar Guild would like to thank everyone who helped with the Hanging of the Greens. The nave and sanctuary looked beautiful for the Christmas season, and we could not have done this without everyone's help.

The Altar Guild is asking once again for folks to stay after church on Sunday, January 6 to help take down the Christmas decorations. Your help is so much appreciated and it is great to know we can count on you.

SAVE THE DATE

Time for fun, fellowship and food for all. The annual St. Francis Chili Cook-off will be held after church on Sunday, January 20. Please let Ron Thomas (937-748-2436) know if you would like to be a contender for this event.



Pictorial History of Egypt

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 26 at 6:00 pm. Allen Johnson will present a pictorial history of Egypt at St. Francis. Please come to enjoy a meal of soups, salads, and fellowship!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

St. Francis will have its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 10 following the 10:30 am Liturgy. During this meeting Delegates will be chosen, new Vestry Members will be announced, and a presentation of the budget and finances will be given. As well as a list of brief reports from all Ministry Chair persons. All Ministry Leaders should submit their reports from 2018 into the office by February 7.

