



THE MORNING STAR

OCTOBER 2020

Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, Fr. Georges will again be offering a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, **October 3rd at 11:00am.**

Invite your family and friends to bring their fur babies for this special blessing. (Please have your animals on a leash or in a cage) Pictures of animals who cannot attend and stuffed animals are welcome!

Who Was Saint Francis of Assisi?

Born circa 1181, in Assisi, duchy of Spoleto, Italy, Saint Francis of Assisi, though revered today, began his life as a confirmed sinner. His father was a wealthy cloth merchant who owned farmland around Assisi, and his mother was a beautiful Frenchwoman. Francis was not in want during his youth; he was spoiled, indulging himself with fine food, wine, and wild celebrations. By age 14, he had left school and become known as a rebellious teenager who frequently drank, partied and broke the city curfew. He was also known for his charm and vanity. In these privileged surroundings,

Francis of Assisi learned the skills of archery, wrestling and horsemanship. He was expected to follow his father into the family textile business but was bored by the prospect of life in the cloth trade. Instead of planning a future as a merchant, he began daydreaming of a future as a knight; knights were Medieval action heroes, and if Francis had any ambition, it was to be a war hero like them. It wouldn't be long before the opportunity for warfare beckoned. In 1202 war broke between Assisi and Perugia, and Francis eagerly took his place with the cavalry. Little did he know at the time, his experience with war would change him forever.

Francis and the men of Assisi came under heavy attack, and in the face of superior numbers, they took flight. The whole battlefield was soon covered with the bodies of butchered, mutilated men, screaming in agony. Most of the surviving Assisi troops were immediately put to death. Unskilled and with no combat experience, Francis was quickly captured by enemy soldiers. Dressed like an aristocrat and wearing expensive new armor, he was considered worthy of a decent ransom, and the soldiers decided to spare his life. He and the other wealthy troops

were taken as prisoners, led off to a dank underground cell. Francis would spend nearly a year in such miserable conditions — awaiting his father's payment — during which time he may well have contracted a serious disease. Also during this time, he would later report, he began to receive visions from God. After a year of negotiations, Francis' ransom was accepted, and he was released from prison in 1203. When he came back to Assisi, however, Francis was a very different man. Upon his return, he was dangerously sick in both mind and body — a battle-fatigued casualty of war. One day, as legend has it, while riding on a horse in the local countryside, Francis encountered a leper. Prior to the war, Francis would have run from the leper, but on this occasion, his behavior was very different. Viewing the leper as a symbol of moral conscience — or as Jesus incognito, according to some religious scholars — he embraced and kissed him, later describing the experience as a feeling of sweetness in his mouth. After this incident, Francis felt an indescribable freedom. His earlier lifestyle had lost all of its appeal. Subsequently, Francis, now in his early 20s, began turning his focus toward God. Instead of working, he spent an ever-increasing amount of time at a remote mountain hideaway as well as in old, quiet churches around Assisi, praying, looking for answers, and helping nurse lepers. During this time, while praying before an old Byzantine crucifix at the church of San Damiano, Francis reportedly heard the voice of Christ, who told him to rebuild the Christian Church and to live a life of extreme poverty. Francis obeyed and devoted himself to Christianity. He began preaching around Assisi and was soon joined by 12 loyal followers.

Some regarded Francis as a madman or a fool, but others viewed him as one of the greatest examples of how to live the Christian ideal since Jesus Christ himself. Whether he was really touched by God, or simply a man misinterpreting hallucinations brought on by mental illness and/or poor health, Francis of Assisi quickly became well-known throughout the Christian world. After his epiphany at the

church of San Damiano, Francis experienced another defining moment in his life. In order to raise money to rebuild the Christian church, he sold a bolt of cloth from his father's shop, along with his horse. His father became furious upon learning of his son's actions and subsequently dragged Francis before the local bishop. The bishop told Francis to return his father's money, to which his reaction was extraordinary: He stripped off his clothes, and along with them, returned the money back to his father, declaring that God was now the only father he recognized. This event is credited as Francis' final conversion, and there is no indication that Francis and his father ever spoke again thereafter.

The bishop gave Francis a rough tunic, and dressed in these new humble clothes, Francis left Assisi. Unluckily for him, the first people he met on the road were a group of dangerous thieves, who beat him badly. Despite his wounds, Francis was elated. From now on, he would live according to the Gospel. Francis' embrace of Christ-like poverty was a radical notion at the time. The Christian church was tremendously rich, much like the people heading it, which concerned Francis and many others, who felt that the long-held apostolic ideals had eroded. Francis set out on a mission to restore Jesus Christ's own, original values to the now-decadent church. With his incredible charisma, he drew thousands of followers to him. They listened to Francis' sermons and joined in his way of life; his followers became known as Franciscan friars. Continuously pushing himself in the quest for spiritual perfection, Francis was soon preaching in up to five villages per day, teaching a new kind of emotional and personal Christian religion that everyday people could understand. He even went so far as to preach to animals, which garnered criticism from some and earned him the nickname "God's fool." But Francis' message was spread far and wide, and thousands of people were captivated by what they heard.

In 1224 Francis reportedly received a vision that left him with the stigmata of Christ — marks resembling the wounds Jesus Christ suffered when he was crucified, through his hands and the gaping lance wound in his side. This made Francis the first person to receive the holy wounds of the stigmata. They would remain visible for the rest of his life. Because of his earlier work treating lepers, some believe that the wounds were actually symptoms of leprosy.

As Francis approached his death, many predicted that he was a saint in the making. When his health began to decline more rapidly, Francis went home. Knights were sent from Assisi to guard him and to make sure that no one from neighboring towns would carry him off (the body of a saint was viewed, at the time, as an extremely valuable relic that would bring, among many things, glory to the town where it rested).

Francis of Assisi died on October 3, 1226, at the age of 44, in Assisi, Italy. Today, Francis has a lasting resonance with millions of followers across the globe. He was canonized as a saint just two years after his death, on July 16, 1228, by his former protector, Pope Gregory IX. Today, Saint Francis of Assisi is the patron saint for ecologists — a title honoring his boundless love for animals and nature. In 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio chose to honor Saint Francis by taking his name, becoming Pope Francis.



PRAYER CORNER



Francis of Assisi

Peace



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be
consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life. Amen.



ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT AT ST. PETER'S



It has been recognized for many years that the library on the second floor of the Parish House was virtually unusable during the summer months. The large A-frame glass window in the front of the building allowed the hot, afternoon sun to enter the room and to heat it to very uncomfortable temperatures. The strong sunlight was fading the furniture and carpet and, more importantly, the books and other print materials that are housed in the library were being adversely affected.

With funds from our Pumpkin Festival booth, we were able to make a significant improvement to the library and remedy these problems. A shade has been purchased that blocks a great deal of the sunlight from entering the room. The room now remains somewhat cooler and our valuable materials are protected from the strong sunlight. As evidenced from this photograph, we are still able to see easily through the shade and it is barely detectable from the outdoors.

We hope you agree that this was a necessary and desirable addition to the library. Our efforts at Pumpkin Fest made this possible and the monies have been wisely spent.

Larry Dirst

ALL SOULS' DAY

On Sunday, November 1st we will celebrate All Souls' Day. On this day we pray for and remember those who have died. Please be sure to get the names of those you wish to be remembered to the office by Sunday, October 25th.



CAREGIVERS COMMITTEE

The Caregiver's Committee began to meet again in September. Members continue to monitor the status and needs of St. Peter's parishioners during Covid-19, and keep very busy visiting and staying in touch with people on the "shut-in" list. Help with prayers and cards for those individuals would be appreciated. The next in-person meeting will be on November 16, 6:30pm in Waterman Hall. Please feel free to join us!

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

HOPE HAVEN

Thank you to parishioners who contributed their time and cooking talents to help prepare and deliver a meal to Hope Haven on September 23. Your efforts to prepare St. Peter's Savory Tator Tot Casserole, salad, fruit, rolls and dessert were appreciated by Hope Haven clients.

CHRISTMAS 2020 PROJECTS

Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry

The Outreach Committee will again sponsor Christmas projects this year. Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry gives directions for filling a box for a child in a third world country, and is responsible for transporting the boxes. Our boxes, along with suggested gift items for each gender and age group, will be available for pick-up in Waterman Hall beginning the 18th of October. Boxes will be due back in the week of November 8th. Please consider packing a box and surprise a child in a third world country.

Salvation Army Tag Tree

The Outreach Committee will also sponsor the Salvation Army Tag Tree. The tree will be up in Waterman Hall the week of Thanksgiving, and unwrapped gifts will be due back into Waterman Hall the second week of December. From St. Peter's the gifts will be picked up by the Salvation Army and end up in a "store" for area parents to shop for their children. All donated gifts will be given to local children in the DeKalb/Sycamore area. Please consider buying a gift for a local child and make Christmas morning a special occasion.

VIRTUAL CROP WALK 2020

The 2020 DeKalb Crop Walk will take place this year, but with a few twists to accommodate Covid-19 restrictions. It will primarily be a "virtual walk" with the majority of fundraising being done on-line. The Outreach Committee is asking for parishioners to walk, bike or swim on their own or in small family groups, beginning now through the end of September. St Peter's Episcopal Church team has four members, and hopes to add a few more before the end of the virtual walk. Funds raised need to be in the office by October 4th. Donations to individual team members or the entire team can be made online at www.crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil Donation checks can be written to St. Peter's Episcopal Church with DeKalb Crop Hunger Walk 2020 on the memo line. The September

Red Bowl Offering is also designated to the 2020 Virtual DeKalb Crop Hunger Walk.

Last year this area made over \$29,000 for organizations fighting hunger. 25% of funds raised will be kept in the community. Bethlehem Lutheran Feed My Sheep Food Pantry in DeKalb, Safe Passage, Sycamore Food Pantry at the United Methodist Church in Sycamore, and VAC/Meals on Wheels are 2020's designated organizations for this area. We hope the 2020 Crop Walk will be as successful in a "virtual" state!

Below are a few contact people and the DeKalb Crop Walk 2020 Hunger Walk Website.

www.crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil

Father Dustin Lyon dustin.lyon@gmail.com
Jean Evans jeanned431@gmail.com
Lynne Roberts LKR415@aol.com

NEXT OUTREACH MEETING

The next in-person meeting for the Outreach Committee will be on Wednesday, October 21, 1 pm in Waterman Hall. Please feel free to join the committee as we discuss end-of-the-year plans and possible community donations.

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE DAY

What did St. Francis of Assisi do when he encountered a leper?

The answer is on the next page.



**ST. PETER'S "THINKING OF YOU" LIST
OCTOBER 2020**

CAROL WELLS
3298 RESOURCE PARKWAY #109
DEKALB, IL 60115

HARRIET GEORGE
1217 LOREN DRIVE
DEKALB, IL 60115

CYNTHIA DORBAND
1600 NORTH FOURTEENTH STREET #204
DEKALB, IL 60115

BETH KROGMAN
2499 GREENWOOD ACRES DRIVE
DARC HEALTH CARE CENTER – W104
DEKALB, IL 60115

CAROL QUITNO
2675 ROBERTS CIRCLE
DEKALB, IL 60115

DICK BALSTRODE
1133 NORTH 7TH STREET
APT 801
ROCHELLE, IL 61068

BUD GREGORY
2600 NORTH ANNIE GLIDDEN ROAD
ROOM 203
DEKALB, IL 60115

PAT KNUDSEN
1228 BELLVUE DRIVE
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MIKE BLAKESLEE
111 EAST LINCOLN STREET
SYCAMORE, IL 60178

BILLY CLEM
PO BOX 4559
SYCAMORE, IL 60178

JAN FITZHENRY
2944 GREENWOOD ACRES DR.
NE203
DEKALB, IL 60115

October Birthdays

- 1 Jacquelynn Drake
- 2 Joseph Brown
- 3 Kristen Borre
- 4 Nancy Castle
- 4 Ann Zimmerman Wilt
- 5 Barbara Hulseberg
- 14 Larry Dirst
- 18 Danielle Blakeslee
- 21 Henry Burgweger III
- 21 Philip Montgomery
- 23 Heather Laub
- 23 Cynthia Vain
- 23 Hannah Hill
- 26 Michael Blakeslee
- 26 John Hulseberg
- 27 Gerald Dettloff
- 27 John Vain II
- 28 Bob Drake
- 29 Tamara Newquist
- 30 Bill Nicklas

Wedding Anniversaries

- 3 Nick & Amanda Klein
- 4 Joshua and Beata Boies
- 12 Ryan and Kristin Hill
- 21 John and Laura Hulseberg



Trivia question answer:

St. Francis embraced and kissed the leper.

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Georges Jallouf Rector
918-859-5877/ Rector@sycamorestpeters.org
Fr. Mark Geisler Assistant to the Rector
Desiree Goodale Deacon
Sarah Mendenhall Organist
Larry Dirst contributing Organist

Judy LaPorta Admin. Assistant
office@sycamorestpeters.org
Days in office: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Jean Erlenborn Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@sycamorestpeters.org
Days in office: Monday, Tuesday

Parish Office Hours: 9am-1pm Monday-Friday

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Newsletter Staff

Judy LaPorta Editor
Circulation: Barbara Weaver and Nancy Franke

Deadline for submission of articles

5:00 PM on the 20th of each month. Email office@sycamorestpeters.org. **All articles must be submitted electronically** and are subject to editing for length and content.



The Vestry of the Parish

Phil Montgomery, Sr. Warden	847-702-7445
Anita Biletzky, Junior Warden	815-793-5500
Lynne Roberts	815-895-4196
John Boies	815-353-9703
Donna Hill	815-739-1493
John Vain	815-899-1124
Liane O'Keefe	815-501-7798
Henry Burgweger	815-751-8248
Varsie Geisler	815-766-1127
John Vain, Treasurer	815-899-1124
Judy LaPorta, Vestry clerk	815-970-2015

FALL IS HERE!



Although Pumpkinfest has been “canned” for 2020, hope you all enjoy carving pumpkins and decorating for fall.



Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
218 Somonauk Street
Sycamore, IL 60178
www.sycamorestpeters.org

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The Morning Star



The newsletter of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

The Parish Vision Statement:

*To be an inclusive fellowship growing in the Holy Spirit, Nurturing the burdened and the joyous,
Reaching out to our communities and God's world*

"...until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" 2 Peter 1:19