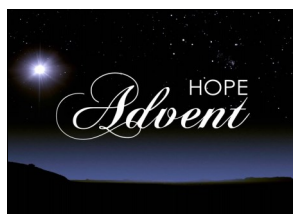




Mass Times and Changes in December

We hope you can join us! Park in the lower level lot if stairs are not a problem for you. Come through the Motherhouse front lobby if you need an accessible entrance or are dropping off a passenger.

- Sat., Dec. 23: **No 9:30 a.m. Mass**; 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent
- Sun., Dec. 24: **No 9:30 a.m. Mass**; 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass with carols at 3:40 p.m.
- Mon., Dec. 25: 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass
- Holy Hour 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and on the First Friday of every month. Please arrive no later than 3:55 p.m. so that you can be let in at the Front Desk; Sr. Ella also attends Holy Hour, so the front desk will be unattended after that time.



God is Our Hope

As we enter the blessed season of Advent, this quote seems appropriate. I always think of Advent as a quiet season. It is a time of reflection and stillness. In a season that can be crazy, we need to go to our inner sanctuary and be still. Of course, we can go there anytime or any season. What do we do during our stillness? We listen to our loving God to hear His voice. The first week of Advent focuses on the virtue of HOPE. One of the things everyone hopes for is ...

[Read More...](#)



A Santamental Christmas

Christmas – Ho! Ho! Ho! Here we go! Registration for our Santamental Christmas event is open! Although registration is not required, I highly recommend doing so to secure your time slot with the big guy himself – Santa! A fun-filled morning for the whole family, we invite you to join us as we gaze upon Nativity scenes from around the world, enjoy wintertime snacks, crafts, and stories, and of course, get your family photo with Santa. So much fun is to be had so register now! - *Vallerie Wonders*, Director of Development

[Register](#)



Youth Revival

We hope you enjoy this reflection (button at right) by Madeline Herbert, a member of our Young Adult Group that gathers on Zoom monthly.

[Youth Revival](#)

New members are always welcome. Join us on the fourth Monday of each month (excluding Christmas Day), **7:00-8:00 p.m.** Register on the YA webpage of our site for the January 22 Zoom gathering where we will continue a discussion on personal identity.

[YA Webpage](#)



Children's Orphanage in Nigeria Nearing Completion

Greetings from Nigeria Children's Paradise (Paradiso Dei Bambini) Gboko, Nigeria! God is good, all the time! I just moved from Mkar to Gboko, the site of the children's home (photo at left). This will be my permanent residence from now on. I am still unpacking and organizing my living and office spaces.

I am also coordinating the cultivation of a portion of arable land within the premises for crops and vegetables. We hope to be able to produce most of our food. I started

a little poultry farm in my old home, but here there's a lot of room to expand, so we'll hopefully produce our eggs and chicken meat. The God who never stops surprising us is always at work!

We have not accepted any children in the home yet. I'm still doing the paperwork but am so ready. I am beyond happy. I am joyful. This I believe is my true calling. I feel so at peace. All I do is thank God for your continuous support and companionship on this long journey. I am deeply grateful. Praying for you and bringing your needs and intentions before our God who always answers.

FSSH Associate Waren Tsafa



"Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. ...and should he come the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house knew the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You must be prepared, for at an hour you least expect it, the Son of Man will come."

- Luke 12: 37-40

Be vigilant. Be prepared. These are key words of this Gospel passage. I know I will be called home to God. The thing I do not know is when. The key is to always be prepared. I need to always be in a right relationship with God. Each day I need to live my life in a Christ-like way so that when I lay my head down

on my pillow at night I can say, "No regrets." — *Sr. Dominic Dybel*



Thank You for a Wonderful Fraternitas!

We had a lovely time with our neighbors and friends at "Fraternitas: With Open Arms" last month and want to thank you once again for sharing some time with us! Congratulations to our Grand Raffle winners and all those who won the beautiful centerpieces by The Flower Cottage. We are grateful for your generosity in supporting this important fundraiser!

[See Photo Gallery](#)



Collection for Immigrants in Chicago

This past month we collected items here at St. Francis Woods for immigrants. Our congregation also sent a monetary donation to Father Homero, OSA, who is heading this effort. Those who attend Mass at the Motherhouse were very generous in bringing in toiletries, hats, gloves, and socks. We thank all those who gave with such generous and open hearts. - *Sr. Kim Marie Wolf*

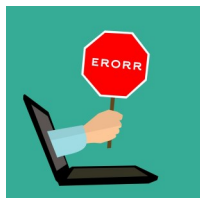


Sr. Nancy Shares Her Vocation Journey in New Podcast

Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoy this podcast that I recorded through a program called "Go Forth" sponsored by the USCMA, The United States Catholic Mission Association, a community of faith leaders engaged in networking, formation, and advocacy for God's mission. — *Sr. Nancy Roberta Schramm*

["Go Forth" Podcast](#)



Broken Links?

As we update our website, your browser will try to bring up the old version of pages you've visited before, which can cause an error or blank page. To remedy this, type in the search bar "clear cache chrome" (or your specific browser), and you will get instructions on how to clear the cache. After doing this, the latest version of the website page will come up. Deleting browsing history does not necessarily delete your cache. Thanks for visiting our website. We are excited for you to see what's new!

Spiritual Direction Offered at St. Francis Woods



Share ordinary life experience and be guided to listen for how the Divine is speaking through the twists and turns of your faith journey. Spiritual Direction is an hour-long session, usually scheduled monthly and offered either in-person or over Zoom. The fee is \$55.00 per session or \$40.00 per session for anyone on retreat at The Portiuncula Center for Prayer on campus.

Norma Janssen, OSF 815.545.0183
Joyce Shanabarger, OSF 815.464.3803

Janice Keenan, OSF 815.469.4883
Mary Shinnick, OSF 815.464.3807

Nancy Roberta Schramm, OSF 224.565.1460

Prayer Requests

Your private prayer intentions will be held lovingly in prayer by our Sisters and Associates.

[Prayer Request](#)

Mass Cards

We have a beautiful selection of Mass cards available at our front desk for the living as well as for the deceased. Stop by or call our front desk at 815.469-4895, ext. 0.



A Franciscan Christmas

December 17
4:00-5:00 PM
 Queen of Angels Chapel

Be inspired by St. Francis' love of Christmas and how it affected the way he lived.

Be calmed in spirit by allowing the harmonies of the carols to wash over you.

Be comforted by praying before/touching a relic of St. Francis and blessed straw from the manger at Greccio.

RSVP Online

Register at fssh.net

St. Francis Woods, 9201 W St Francis Road, Frankfort, IL 60423

Associate Applications Accepted Online

Learn more about the Associate relationship and orientation classes.

Learn More

Scripture Reflections

Whether you live down the block or an ocean away, you can join Sr. Marilyn Renninger for Scripture Reflections on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. No registration for in-person attendance. To receive a Zoom link, just submit your name and email address on our website. Looking forward to seeing you!



Zoom Signup

Three Job Openings at St. Francis Woods

Explore the three job openings currently available on St. Francis Woods' campus.

Learn More

Franciscan Spirituality Program



At any time, new registrants can join the monthly conversation already in progress about Franciscan spirituality using the book (purchased by registrants), *In*

the Footsteps of Francis and Clare by Roch Niemier, OFM.

Register

Upcoming Events at the Port

See Events



Curious About Religious Life?

A visit to St. Francis Woods can be arranged with complimentary accommodations. Vocation companioning is offered for discerning God's call. Explore what life is like as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart.

Come and See

Gift Certificates Available

Gift-giving season is here. Finish your shopping early with gift certificates for either the Portiuncula Center for Prayer or the Poverello Holistic Center. Call **815.464.3880** or stop by the Portiuncula Center for Prayer, 9263 W. St. Francis Road, Frankfort, Illinois 60423.

Hermitages Available for Private Retreats

Simplicity and solitude are the hallmarks of our hermitage retreats. We offer five dwellings for our hermits.

See Hermitages



Subscription Preferences

Do you have subscription preferences, wanting to subscribe to some emails but not others? Use our Preferences page (see button below at right) to let us know! Then please add us to your Contacts. If instead you unsubscribe using the green link at the end of an email sent to the subscribers of our newsletter, be aware that you can no longer receive *any* emails from our no-reply address.

Subscription Preferences