

ANNOUNCEMENTS
23 DECEMBER 2018

☼ **HOME COMMUNION** – If you or someone you know would like to have a home visit or the Sacrament brought to you at home, please call Fr. Dan or Rev. Pam at 625-1370. We bring the Sacrament to those who are ill or to anyone who cannot attend services for any reason.

TODAY

DECEMBER 23 – ADVENT IV

8:00a Holy Eucharist II
10:00a Holy Eucharist II
2:00p Centering Prayer – Chapel

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30p A Musical Offering
5:00p The Holy Eucharist
8:30p A Musical Offering
9:00p The Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

9:00a The Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

9:00a Holy Eucharist
– No Service today

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

No Parish events scheduled.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:00a Bulletins – Library

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

No Parish events scheduled.

NEXT SUNDAY

DECEMBER 30 – CHRISTMAS I

8:00a Holy Eucharist II
10:00a Holy Eucharist II
2:00p Centering Prayer – Chapel

☼ **PLEASE NOTE** – There will be no Morning Prayer on Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve); Morning Prayer will resume Monday, December 31 (New Year's Eve), at 9 AM. What a wonderful way to prepare for the New Year!

☼ **NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS** – Our new St. Francis website is up and running AND it has a new address: www.stfrancisgvaz.org. Check it out!

☼ **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** – We are fortunate to have professional individual Spiritual Direction available to us at St. Francis. For an appointment please call Charlotte Neyland at 720-298-2750.

☼ **HEY KIDS, WHAT TIME IS IT?** – No, not Howdy Doody time. It's time for all of us who are responsible for Annual Reports to start working on them; otherwise we won't meet the deadline, Monday, 14 January 2019, will we? Please email your report—in either the body of an email or in Word format—to the Parish Administrator: gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org.

☼ **REV. PAM'S WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY** – Rev. Pam's in-depth study of the Lord's Prayer on Wednesday evenings is taking a break for the holidays. The class will resume January 2, 2019.

☼ **GIFT FOR BISHOP AND LAURA SMITH** – On January 13 Bishop Smith will be making his last Episcopal visit to St. Francis before his retirement. We'd like to present the Bishop and Laura with a monetary gift for their years of ministry and leadership. If you'd like to contribute to a purse for them please clearly mark your donation "Bishop Smith." Please submit your donation by January 6.

☼ **MEN'S GROUP** – The Men's Group will be having its quarterly breakfast on Tuesday, January 8 at 7:45 AM in the Parish Hall. A sumptuous full breakfast prepared by chef Mark will be served. Men of the church join us in Christian fellowship.

☼ **TALENTS UNLIMITED BOUTIQUE** – We have many new, beautiful Christmas items for sale and all our Fall merchandise is on sale at 50% off **and** we have pecans. Please keep in mind that when you buy items in the Boutique, you are helping others in need because all profits go to our Clergy Discretionary Funds. We are open following both services each Sunday. Come see! *Jylene Wright*

☼ **OUR THANKS** – Jan Koltun, Arliene Stremming and Jim and Pat Richey have

offered to take our gifts of food to the Food Bank after the ten o'clock service starting January 6, 2019. It would be wonderful to have one more volunteer so we could schedule these folks just once a month. And if we had two more that would be peachy. Please email behook@aol.com or call Barb Hook at 648-7949.

☼ **TAX CREDIT FOR YOU** – 'Tis the season to demonstrate your commitment to educating Arizona's most vulnerable children—at no cost to you. The Arizona Private School Tuition Tax Credit Program allows you to put your state tax dollars to work changing lives through education at Tucson's Imago Dei Middle School. Learn more at www.az-esf.org. Merry Christmas, and Thank You from the good folks at Imago Dei Middle School.

☼ **WARM CLOTHES FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS** – Many families fleeing violence in their home countries, especially tropical countries in Central America such as Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, have arrived at the U.S. border in Nogales to seek asylum with clothing that isn't sufficient to keep them warm in our winter climate. Donations of warm clothes are needed, especially warm jackets, hats/beanies, scarves, sweaters, long pants/jeans, socks, sneakers and slippers. Backpacks are also needed so that the migrants can carry these clothes with

them when they leave the shelters. Items are also needed for the shelters, including blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, and hotel shampoo/soap/lotions. St. Francis is collecting these items to donate through Cruzando Fronteras – bring in new or clean, gently used items and drop them in the box in the Parish Hall, or put a check made out to St. Francis with “Cruzando Fronteras” in the memo line into the offering plate or bring/mail it to the church office.

☼ **BIBLE CHALLENGE** – We’d like to challenge YOU to read the whole Bible all the way through in a year! If you’ve never read the whole thing, it’s a wonderful thing to do. Some smart folks have developed a workable program for reading the whole Bible in one year, and Rev. Pam is inviting any and all who are interested in joining her to take on the challenge of reading the whole book in 2019. If you’re interested, email Rev. Pam (pam@stfrancisgvaz.org) to let her know you will be participating, and go to <http://thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org/read-the-bible-in-a-year/>, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Download the One Year Read for the daily schedule of readings. She will facilitate a discussion once a month for all the participants who wish to gather together and talk about what they’ve been reading. This may be the best New Years resolution you ever made!

☼ **CELTIC PILGRIMAGE AND RETREAT** – Rev. Pam and her husband Doug have learned of an upcoming opportunity in May 2019 to participate in a pilgrimage to Scotland, including the island of Iona, led by The Very Rev. Paul Kennington, Dean-Emeritus of Montreal. This should be a wonderful opportunity to trace the footsteps of some of the Celtic saints and learn of their rugged spirituality. Dates are April 30 – May 9, with a \$500 deposit due by December 31 (deadline has been extended!) to secure a space. Contact Rev. Pam (625-1370 or pam@stfrancisgvaz.org) for more detailed information.

☼ **SEEKERS DISCUSSION GROUP** — The Seekers group will not meet December 27. At the next meeting, January 3, we will begin the windup of our discussion of *Unbelievable*. The meeting is from 12:30 PM to 1:50 PM in the Conference Room. All are welcome at any meeting.

☼ **NEED A RIDE TO A PARISH EVENT?** – Our Men’s Group offers rides to those in need of transportation to Parish events. If you are unable to provide your own transport and would like to schedule a lift, call the Parish Office, 625-1370.

☼ **STEPHEN MINISTRY** – Stephen Ministers: just what are they, who are they, and what do they do? Simply put we are lay people from the Parish who are trained to walk beside someone who is going

through a difficult time in his or her life. We meet, we listen, we provide a compassionate heart, a shoulder to lean on, and confidentiality.

If you think you might like to explore becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact one of us: Marybeth Bates (206-259-0361 or emmymex@yahoo.com), BrandE Faupell (435-512-0286 or bfauPELL@gmail.com) or Judy Craig (520-237-0466 or judyismynname@zoho.com).

☼**PRAYER CHAIN** — For Prayer Chain requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at jnrats@gmail.com.

☼**CLERGY DISCRETIONARY FUNDS** – Donations to the Rector and Assistant Rector Discretionary Funds are always welcome and help us to offer assistance to people in our community who are struggling. Because of your generosity, we've been able to help people with such things as food, gas, utilities, rent, school clothing, school supplies, unexpected medical bills and burial expenses. As we see it, it's not the clergy being able to help people in need, it's all of us, together, touching the lives of people who feel like they've hit a dead end because of adverse circumstances in life. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Fr. Dan & Rev. Pam

☼**ALTAR FLOWERS** – Would you like to have flowers on the altar on a certain Sunday? Flowers can be given in loving memory of someone or in thanksgiving for persons or for a special date and occasion you wish to celebrate. Call the Parish Office or Carol Berg (373-5770) with your request. Donations are \$35.

PRAYER REQUESTS

THE DIOCESE OF ARIZONA – St. James the Apostle, Tempe

SAINT FRANCIS MINISTRIES – The Prayer Chain

PRAY FOR THOSE SUFFERING IN MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT: Neil Turner, Olive Clapp, Rod Thompson, Stephanie Huszar, Mac McPhetres, Rae Turberg, Jason and Denny Osgood, Mason Fletcher, Steve Walker

FOR ALL THOSE SERVING IN HARM'S WAY: Mike Davis, Matthew Day, Brandon Brownlee, Shane Gunderson, Issac Noone, Ian Gunderson, Chase Helgeson, Jackson Vaughn

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Ernie Harrelson

A complete calendar of Parish and Non-Parish events, as well as other news and information about the Parish, is available on the St. Francis website: www.stfrancisgvaz.org. You can also access the Diocesan website from there. Check it out!