

Pip's Squeak

October 7, 2018

This Week: October 7—13

***** Sunday 8am & 10am **Blessing of the Animals** *****

Monday 10am 2nd **Monday Book Group** - *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng

Wednesday 10:30am **"JESUS: A Pilgrimage" Book Group**

Thursday 5pm **Food Pantry**, Narthex

Friday 11am **Meditation** Sanctuary

Friday 12pm **Building & Grounds Meeting - Space Planning** Church Office

Saturday 5 pm, **FCS Overnight Guests**, Parish Hall etc.

(October 13, **FCS Dinner made by San Agustin**)



Save the Date

October 14 **RYM Art Meditation**

October 24 **Vestry Meeting**

Nov. 2 **RYM Día de los Muertos** Cristo Rey/All Saints

Nov. 30-Dec. 1, **No Room at the Inn**

December 19 **Lessons & Carols**, San Agustin

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:29-30)

Dear people of St. Philip's,

Prayers of peace to you as we spend our weekend remembering one of Christ's most dedicated Christian peace-makers: St. Francis of Assisi, 1181–1226. St. Francis has such a colorful and compelling story to tell of his adult conversion from wealth to poverty, an intentional sign of giving his *entire being* over to the will of God to follow Christ, the peacemaker Son of God.

Francis gave up an upper-middle class life to go throughout the world expressing love for all God's creatures: healing lepers by kissing them on the mouth, taming a wolf who threatened a village, offering food to birds who stopped to listen when no one else cared, clothing and feeding the poor and so much more. Drawing his inspiration from the Gospels, especially the Gospel of Matthew, Francis learned to encourage people to literally take the burdens of their lives and lay them at foot of Christ's cross.

One of my recent insights regarding the meaning of Christ's invitation to "find rest for your souls" came to me when I was reciting Reinhold Niebuhr's "Serenity Prayer": *God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.* Jesus' call to "take my yoke upon you...you will find rest for your souls" is an invitation to SHARE the BURDENS of our lives with Jesus—if we do so, we will likely find the *grace* to accept what we cannot change, the *grace of courage* to take action to change what we can, and the *grace to receive wisdom* to know whether to act or not.

Francis faced many more difficulties than I have ever faced: fighting in a war, surviving being a prisoner of war, traveling throughout the countryside with villages struggling to survive famine, exposing himself intentionally to life-threatening disease to bring healing to others, living through the dangers of Christian crusades attempting to reclaim Jerusalem from Islamic rule, surviving a shipwreck on his journey to Jerusalem, living through a trial before the Sultan of Egypt—in fact being received with hospitality rather than hostility...and so many more adventures. Francis received the grace of God to live a full and effective life founding whole new orders of Christian community for both men and women, and grew to be a living representative of Christ's peace in the world that was so strong, so powerful, so visceral that we are able to celebrate his life and teachings nearly 800 years later.

Some witnesses say that the Egyptian Sultan gave Francis permission to visit the sacred places in the Holy Land and even to preach there. All that can safely be asserted is that Francis and his companion left the Crusader camp where they embarked for Italy in the latter half of 1220. Drawing on a 1267 sermon by Bonaventure, later sources report that the Sultan secretly converted or accepted a death-bed baptism as a result of the encounter with Francis. The Franciscan Order has been present in the [Holy Land](#) almost uninterruptedly since 1217*.

While in Jerusalem, David Sanguinetti and I saw an unusual mural painted in the Franciscan section of the Old City (depicted here in part of a photo of us walking the Rampart of the City of Jerusalem.) The image shows the Sultan, receiving St. Francis with a warm greeting. This image is painted high for all to see, right at the conjunction of the Christian quarters



butting up against the Muslim quarters along St. Francis Street in the Holy City of Jerusalem. This is one of the most profound images I witnessed while in Israel: an effort for contemporary Muslims and Christian Franciscans showing that historically God's grace allowed the powerful Muslim Sultan and St. Francis to be two holy men of different religions reconciling as persons of peace.

This is our call today: to share with Jesus our burdens of fear of enemies, trusting that God can bare our burdens and lighten our load with grace which brings hope.

Peace to you in Christ,
Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing

* <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscans-and-muslims-eight-centuries-of-seeking-god/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_of_Assisi#Travels



SEASON OF CREATION *September 2 - October 7*
Reflected in preaching during this time



Dinner for Our Overnight Guests

We are still looking for people to sign up for the Saturday Night Shelter dinners for November 10 and December 29. There is money available to help defray costs. Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer or contact me to let me know you are volunteering. Instructions are on the bulletin board next to the sign-up sheet. Thank you so much for participating in this important ministry.

Kaye Olivier
virjesna@comcast.net
831-600-8259



Let the Rains Come!

Kudos to Clive Ellis and our contractor, Kevin Maurer, whose herculean efforts, along with some help from Jim Blessing, made the flat section of the roof watertight before the rain came last week! This turned out to be a much trickier project than anticipated and they worked unbelievably hard to get done in time! Thanks, guys!

A Small But Valiant Crew



Thank you to the half-dozen volunteers who came to help with the work day on September 29th, cleaning up the lawn and patio area ready for the Blessing of the Animals and Tamale fundraiser. Special thanks go to Lori and Hayley Kintz, who worked the whole day, while others came and went! They were

amazing!

Worship Planning

Are you interested in helping to shape how our worship and music will be during the Advent and Christmas period? Pastor Mary is looking for a team to help her plan out this special season in the liturgical calendar. If you would like to give your input, please contact Pastor Mary at pastormary@stphilip-sv.net or at 438-4360.

Richard Morris Fundraising for St. Philip's Food Pantry!

Richard is running today!

It's not too late to help Richard reach his goal to support our Food Pantry. He is running the Oxford Half Marathon with his dad today. Here is his link to make a contribution:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/richard-morris39>