Celebrating Advent

The Christmas season is filled with hustle and bustle, shopping and parties, caroling and decorating, stress and fatigue. This year take time to consider what the season truly means and give thanks to our Lord for sending us the greatest gift of all—his son Jesus Christ. How?

- Take time to pray and reflect
- Plan to attend one of St. Francis’ Christmas Masses on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. or Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.
- Contribute to JOIN’s annual gift card collection to brighten a teen’s holiday
- Help a friend in need
- Light a candle and pray for peace and understanding.

Parishioner Profile: Kathy Dancey

Kathy Dancey has deep ties to St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Her family lived in the neighborhood, and she attended the parish school taught by the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs. Kathy’s mother, Louise Reilly, was a very devoted volunteer at St. Francis. Kathy continues that tradition as an extremely valuable member of the parish.

If you attend 11 a.m. Mass and look up at the choir loft you will see Kathy. She has been a member of the choir for at least 15 years. Kathy sang with the Columbus Symphony Chorus for 25 years. The highlight of this experience was singing at Carnegie Hall in New York City in April 2001 as part of the Symphony’s 50th Anniversary celebration.

Those who have gone through the RCIA process or participate in RCIA always think lovingly of Kathy. In 2002 Kathy assumed leadership of RCIA and has had a strong presence ever (Continued on Page 2)
As we look forward to our parish’s 125th year, it has been suggested we give some thought to conducting a capital campaign. The intent is to address some maintenance items that have been under consideration for several years. The projects are intended to ensure the continued beauty of our church, not to make changes or modernize the structure. In the life of a parish, it is often necessary to conduct a capital campaign, which is basically a concentrated effort to raise significant funds over a period of time.

The projects that have been suggested are:
- Restoring the church’s stain glass windows;
- Refinishing existing wood floors in the church;
- Restoring existing pews and kneelers;
- Restoring plaster and painting the interior of the church;
- Removing abandoned radiator covers and replacing them with oak wainscoting;
- Replacing windows in the parish hall;
- Repairing the roof and painting the fascia and soffits on the exterior of the church.

On October 25 a joint meeting of the Finance Council, Pastoral Council, Stewardship Council and the Leadership Team was held to review potential capital projects and to provide information on the process and the diocese’s involvement with any capital project. Binders with a cover sheet “St. Francis Projects” contain more detail information on the proposed projects. They are available in the parish hall located on the kitchen serving counter.

Projects listed will be open for discussion with the parish, to collectively determine which, if any, will be conducted, or if other items should be added for consideration.

Of the capital projects noted work is currently being done to repair the church fascia and soffits, however additional work needs to be done to fully complete this item. Also, the Parish has received a grant from the Catholic Foundation for $6,000.00 to replace the windows in the Parish Hall. The Fly Town Men’s group has donated $1,000.00 towards this project. The estimated cost for the Parish Hall window replacement is $13,000.00.

The proceeds from the upcoming pasta dinner and the 2017 garage sale will be used towards this project, as well as income from a couple of pancake breakfasts. A meeting with the parish will be scheduled after the first of the year to discuss these capital projects.

since. She travelled to Altoona, PA, to attend a week-long program of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate and she earned a Certificate in Pastoral Studies after four years of course work.

From 2005-2007 Kathy was a Pastoral Associate at St. Catharine Church. But since then she has been with us at St. Francis. As the head of the RCIA program Kathy is a formal staff member of St. Francis.

Kathy works as John Glenn’s – and Annie’s, too - Executive Assistant in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at OSU. Kathy’s husband, Bill, has always encouraged her to pursue her passion, and St. Francis definitely falls into that category. Kathy and Bill have had the opportunity to travel to Rome and visit the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi, as well as many other places. Kathy volunteers in many capacities at St. Francis and is a valuable member of our community.
October Celebrations at St. Francis of Assisi
Charity and Social Justice Go Hand in Hand

St. Francis of Assisi Church’s strong commitment to charity and social justice is reflected by parishioner’s participation in several of its ministries—BREAD, Creation Care, Saint Vincent de Paul/Voice of the Poor, Kairos. The Columbus Diocese Office of Social Concerns recently distributed a reminder that as Catholics we are called on to heed the call for charity and social justice. (See Page 5). Says the U.S. Catholic Bishops:

“The roots of this call to justice and charity are in the Scriptures, especially in the Hebrew prophets and the life and words of Jesus... Over the last century, these biblical mandates have been explored and expressed in a special way in Catholic Social Teaching. The central message is simple: our faith is profoundly social. We cannot be called truly ‘Catholic’ unless we hear and heed the Church’s call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace. We cannot call ourselves followers of Jesus unless we take up his mission of bringing ‘good news to the poor, liberty to captives, and new sight to the blind’ (cf. Lk 4:18).”

-- U.S. Catholic Bishops, Communities of Salt and Light

SVdP Thanks Parishioners for Their Support

St. Francis of Assisi St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Conference is in business to help improve the lives of individuals in need. It does so in two ways—by providing tangible assistance either directly or through related organizations—to those who need it and by fostering systemic change to minimize the need for direct charity.

But SVdP not just about charity and social justice. Rather, the main goal of the group is to increase the spirituality of its members. Vincentians believe that their spiritual growth is nurtured by ministering to those in need. It is this marriage of spiritual growth for members with providing charity and pursuing social justice that distinguishes SVdP from other groups doing good works.

The charitable work of St. Vincent de Paul is not possible without the support of parishioners and other donors. The St. Francis SVdP conference is particularly fortunate in that members of our parish have maintained strong support for SVdP over the years. This past year SVdP has received the following contributions from parishioners: 5th Sunday collections --$2,731; Walk for the Poor pledges--$1,812; special donations from parishioners--$1,250.

In addition, parishioners have generously contributed Thanksgiving baskets, gift cards for the JOIN Christmas Gift Tree, and school supplies for the McArthur Center. Further, every month parishioners help make sandwiches for St. Lawrence Haven.

As a result of parishioners’ generosity, this past year St. Francis’ SVdP has made the following donations:

- $1,068 to JOIN
- $1,000 to the McArthur Center
- $1,170 to NNEMAP
- $300 to SOAP
- $500 to Women Affirming Women.

An additional contribution of $200 was made to an individual to meet an emergency need; $80 was utilized to purchase Pasta Dinner tickets to give to individuals in need; $796 was used to buy supplies to make sandwiches for St. Lawrence Haven; and $438 was used to purchase items and gift cards to supplement Thanksgiving baskets.

Members of St. Francis SVdP thank their fellow parishioners for their generosity and invite them to join us. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the church.
Upcoming Social Justice Meetings at St. Francis:
• Creation Care—Sunday, Jan. 8, 12 noon
• Social Justice/SVdP/BREAD—Monday, Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m.