

The Council

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**Collection of
hats, gloves,
scarves and
socks for the
shelter will
continue
through the
winter.**



The Cord

St. Francis Fraternity
Hackensack, NJ



FRATERNITY GATHERING

On **Thursday, January 8, 2026** at **6:30 PM**

THIS MONTH:

THE EXTRACTION OF THE SAINTS and Examine our Commitment for 2026

See explanation on page 3

**Please see page 4 for information about
upcoming projects and events**

THANK YOU to Mimma and Rosellina for preparing our Christmas dinner. It was delicious!!

Leader Prayer: Lucy

Closing Prayer: Vivian

Sweet Reminder: Laura

Clean-up helpers: Alicia and Vivian

Please be ready to sign up to volunteer for the above and for the Statue!

Health and Welfare: Eileen Ferrara; Pat Franz; ; Angie Mariniello; Anthony Vasile; Cono Spinelli & Family; Iris Campillo; Ed Atwood

Special Intentions: Tumminia family; P. Moclaire; D. Menditto

Family Members: Sara Tripodi, Ryan L.; Cheyenne Travers; Jan Parker; Angela Panuccio; James McSweeney; John Casale; Frances Caruso (Domenica's niece); Ken Farkas; Vincenzo Demaio; Maria Rosaria & fam; Filomena Savoia; Cathy Champon; Robert Callahan; Anna Panuccio, Chrys Menakis

Apostolate of Prayer: Please pray for those on the [PRAYER LIST](#) and for their intentions.

Statue of Our Lady: **January:** Domenica; **February:** Josephine; **March:** OPEN; **April:** OPEN; **May:** OPEN; **June:** OPEN; **July:** OPEN; **August:** OPEN; **September:** OPEN; **October:** Alicia; **November:** OPEN; **December:** OPEN



BIRTHDAYS: **January 7:** Lucy Stamilla; **27:** Ed Atwood; **February 10:** Eileen Ferrara Jette

Correspondence:

Calendar:

Book Club: January 21st at 8PM on Zoom Chapters 5 and 6 of St. Clare Biography

Fraternity Brunch: June 7, 2026

Apostolate of Prayer list January 2026
For the health and well being of our members and families
Please keep our Candidate and Aspirants in your prayers

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Holy Father's Intention for January- For prayer with the Word of God. Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Dianne Ambrose	Genaro and Alicia	Nancy	Stigmata Prov Council & friars
Fr. Bill Arlia, OFM Cap	Carol Gentile	NEC	Mary Stronach (Bob)
Aspirants, Inquirers & Cands	GEORGE FAMILY INTS.	NEC intentions	Grayce Studely
Ed Atwood and fam	Fr. Giles	Fr. Nick (sp. Int.)	Jack Studely
Fr. John Aurilia, ofm Cap	Linda & Tim Griffith	NFC	Dawn Suplicki
Beacon friars	Rosa Marta Garza	OLA Region	Tara Suplicki
Zoila Blacio	Elsa H.	OLGEA prayer line ints. & REC	Syrian Christians and churches
Pete Blake.	Flora Hand	PAGE FAMILY INTENTIONS	Tau Cross Region (all ints.)
BLESSING BOARD INTS.	Hank's intentions	Padre Pio Friary friars	Cheyenne Travers
Br. Jay, OFM Cap.	Elaine Hedtke	Padre Pio Pr. Grps. Int.	Eileen Travers
BROS. & SISTS. OF PRAYER	Ralph & Frances Henry.	Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR	Kara Travers
Ralph Calise (Linda)	Holy Name Resp. Care Dept.	Angela Panuccio	Sara Tripodi
Pat Cantelmo	The Homeless & the Lonely	Anna Panuccio	Maria Trovini
Caroline and family	Hospital Intentions	Domenico Panuccio	Ukraine (all intentions)
John Casale	Trevor Howe	Joe Panuccio	USA
Josephine Cavallo (family)	Hurr, flood, fire, and earthq victs	Jan Parker	Anthony Vasile
CIOFS Formation Secretariat	Immigrant & refugee children	Paul and Sean (sp. int.)	Marie Vasta (All intentions)
Cathy Champon	IPRAY INTENTIONS	PEACE	Victims of abuse
Church in Nicaragua	Iraqi and Coptic Christians	Fr. Robert PA©rez, OFM Cap.	Victims of fires, floods, storms
Lucille Clapps	Debbie K.	PerA°	Victims of gun violence
Colleen.	Ellie Kittle	POOR CLARE prayer list	Victims of terrorism
Madge Cooke	Ryan L.	Pope Leo XIV	Victims of violence & hatred
Joe Coralluzzo's ints.	Lapsed OFS members	John and Marianne Previty	Viv and hub
Steven Cornfield	Larry	PRIESTS, FRIARS & SISTERS	Vocations
Ronnie Crispino	Laura	PUBLIC FIGURES	Bill & Carmel Watson Fam.
Denise Cubita	Peggy Ledger	Jo Puglisi	Carol Wickersheim
Sara (Rosa) Daddario (Pam)	Bro. Lombardo (sp. Int.)	Q committee	Willie
May D'Arminio	Joseph M.	Paul R.	Fr. Robert Williams, OFM Cap
Deacon Joe's group int.	Michael M.	REC	Anna Z's sp. intentions
Deceased family members	Madge (Sp. intention)	Regina Pacis (all ints.)	
Giuseppa Demaio	Patti Makely (Joe)	Region sp. Int.	
Vincenzo Demaio	Dcn. Joe Mantineo (Misty)	RJ (family)	
Eleanor DeRiso	Sr. Margaret	Nelson Roman	
Anne DeRose (Joan and Jane)	Angie Mariniello	Roman Catholic Church	
Disa (family)	Elide Marino	Maddie Romaine	
Mark Diverio	Tom Mason (Vickie)	Maria Rosario (family).	
Divine Mercy Fraternity Ints.	David Mauchly	Madeline Rousseau	
Dolores's Intentions	Hank Meditz (Liz)	Grayce S.	
Earthquake victims	Fr. Meena (Sp. Int)	Baby Sam.	
Diane Easton	Charity Menditto and fam	Debbie Saunders.	
Trish Endweiss	Diane Menditto (sp. Int.	Filomena Savoia	
Denise Erba (Joe, Matt)	Chrys Menakis	San Damiano Frat. Ints.	
Bro. Alex Escalera, OFM Cap.	Middle Eastern Christians	Fred Schaeffer, OFS	
FB friends/followers	MILITARY: LIVING & DECEASED	Peggy Southwell	
Karen Ferrari (sp. ints.)	Margaret Milizzo	St. Anne's Frat. Ints.	
Maria Ficken	Ministry of Caring	St. Francis Youth	
Bob Fitzsimmons (Patty and fam)	Misty's ints.	St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity Ints	
Flora's intentions	Pat Moclaire (Sp. Int.)	St. Joan of Arc OFS Region	
Pat Franz	MOG lapsed and excused	St. John Vianney frat.	
FRAZZA FAMILY INTS.	Jeanette Mortorano	St. Jos. Maint. Dept.	
GabriA©I	Mother Seton Grp. Ints.	St. Thomas More Frat. ints.	
Marie Faccione	Bill and Anne Mulqueen	Lucy Stamilla	



2026—Time to Examine our Love and Commitment -- Let's Talk About It!

+How can I make some beneficial changes in my attitude about fraternity and fraternal life?

1-Prayerfully participate in electing and supporting my local Council.

- Pray for them every day.
- Use my God-given talents to collaborate on and assist with all projects.



+What are some ways I can support my Council?

+Do I have talents and abilities that call me to serve on the Council?

(We will have elections in the spring of 2025!)

2- Love my fraternity

- Be present at gatherings; offer to help out.
- Listen to my brothers and sisters.
- Reach out to excused members or to anyone who has missed a meeting. (Phone, email, card).
- Pray for our deceased members and for all those listed on your fraternity prayer list or prayer line
- Take note that for Franciscans, fraternity is a way of life (not just another “thing to do”).



+What talents do I have to offer my fraternity?

+Do I participate willingly in fraternity activities?

3- Love our Rule

- Be sure that I am aware of what I promised at profession.
- Read, pray and meditate on the Rule—perhaps one or two articles each day.
- Think about how the Rule leads me closer to Christ.



+When was the last time I read the Rule?

+Do I make the effort to relate the Rule to my everyday life?

4- Love Scripture

- Be aware that St. Francis based everything he said or wrote on Scripture.
- Resolve to read a little Scripture each day.
- Pray the Liturgy of the Hours because it helps us to pray in fraternity (with the entire Church) and is filled with Scripture.



+How can I make time to read Scripture every day, or most days?

+ How would I explain “Going from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel,” it to someone new or to a non-Secular Franciscan? (What examples can I give of how I do this?)

5- Strive for daily conversion

- Welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts to help us to change for the better each day.
- Make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Remember that we are the “Brothers and Sisters of Penance.”



+Do I review my actions & relationship with God each day? (What methods do you use?)

+How have I changed since I first became a Franciscan? How have I changed since last week?

6- Love the Eucharist and be changed by it

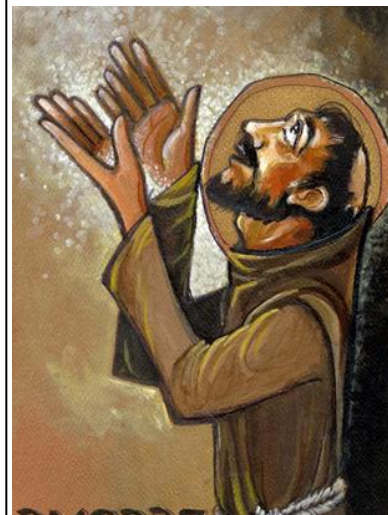
- Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days and every day if I can
- Take advantage of opportunities for Adoration—holy hours or just a visit to the tabernacle



+What is my relationship to Jesus in the Eucharist?

+Do I often visit with Jesus when there is an opportunity to attend Adoration?

*"My God and
my all."*



Artist--Sister Victoria Masil of
Franciscan Sisters of
Christian Charity

*"Let us begin, for up to
now we have done so
little..."*
St. Francis of Assisi



This Month: THE "EXTRACTION" OF THE SAINTS

The Extraction of the Saints is one of the older traditions of the Franciscan community. We believe that God speaks to us in many ways, not the least of which is through the example of His saints, and through the inspired words of Scripture and other pious writings.

On or near the Feast of Epiphany, the Holy Spirit is invoked, and a saint is randomly selected for each member of the fraternity. We will also select the name of a member for whom we will pray in a special way this entire year. Your patron for the year might be a special source of inspiration in the challenges you might be facing during the year. Read the life of the saint; what does the message of his/her life have to say to you? Would you like to be more like this person? In what ways would you like to imitate them?

Many of the names we will choose from are Secular Franciscan/Tertiary "blesseds," waiting for sainthood. During this year, we hope that some (or all) of you will volunteer to tell us a little about your "patron" saint and how learning about them and praying for their intercession has had an effect on your life.

For Your Information

- The gifts for **the Hearts Program** were given to Rocco in person and were very much appreciated. Thank you to **Maureen Menakis** and **Lucy Stamilla** for organizing this project! Even though the number of gifts increased this year, and sometimes changed at the last minute, as always, you were very generous, and we met our goal of providing gifts for all the children! This year we also provided a Target gift card to the parents living with the children.
- **Fraternity Book Club 2026** begins on **Thursday, January 21st at 8PM. Biography of St. Clare chapters 5-6.**
- **Our Brunch is scheduled for June 7th!**

Please bring pp. 5-6 of the Prayer Service to use at our gathering.

Treasurer's Report

Common Fund

Balance forward: \$ 3084.94
Income 183.00*
Expenses 1,112.62**

Ending Balance \$ 2155.33

* Includes Christmas dinner raffle.

**Includes \$450 contribution to parish;
Gift cards for Hearts Program; Christmas
dinner expenses.

Good & Welfare

Previous balance: \$ 207.75
Fraternity Donations 0

New balance: \$207.75

Fair Share

For **2026** our goal was based on
21 professed + 2 candidates

23 x \$45=\$1035

The Fair Share for 2025 (always based on the
year ending on December 31st) was:
21x45=\$945.00

We will be sending that amount
to the region in March.

We will be paying our Fair
Share to the region soon!
You can begin contributions
for 2026 next month!

The Drawing of Patron Saints at Epiphany

Introduction: This is one of the older traditions of the Franciscan community. We believe that God speaks to us in many ways, not the least of which is through the example of His saints, and through the inspired words of Scripture and other pious writings.

Your patron for the year might be a special source of inspiration in the challenges which might be facing you during the year. Read the life of the saint; what does the message of his/her life have to say to you?

On or near the Feast of Epiphany, the Holy Spirit is invoked and a saint is randomly selected for each member of the fraternity. We will also select the name of a member for whom we will pray in a special way this entire year.

The Rite

Opening Hymn: “Come, Holy Ghost”

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, And in our hearts take up thy rest; Come with your grace and heavenly aid To fill the hearts which thou has made. (Repeat)	O Comfort blest, to thee we cry, Thou heavenly gift of God Most High, Thou Fount of life and fire of love, And sweet anointing from above. (Repeat)	Praise be to thee, Father and Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One; And may the Son on us bestow The Gifts that from the Spirit flow. (Repeat)
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LUCY: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

All: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

LUCY -Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, we celebrate that day when your word became flesh for all the world to see. In becoming one with our human family He sanctified human activity and made us holy through His life-giving word. Through the ages, His message has continued to touch the hearts of men and women of every place, taking flesh in their lives through Christian service. May these holy men and women stand as shining examples of Christian virtue and the Gospel life, for each one of them, reflects a unique aspect of Your divine love. Be with us today, Lord our God, as we choose one of these saints as our patron for this new year. With the help of your spirit may the saint give us today serve as a special reminder of our call to holiness. May his or her teaching and example serve to inspire us to exercise Christian virtue and to follow your Son more closely in our Franciscan Family. We ask this through our Christ your Son.

All: Amen

After the invocation, the names of the saints and a prayer partner will be chosen at random for each person present. (Excused members will be included and informed of the saint and the prayer partner chosen.)

After the Drawing: The following psalm is prayed aloud by those indicated. Everyone else prays silently.

Psalm 150

Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his powerful deeds,
praise his surpassing greatness.

Alicia

O praise him with sound of trumpet,
praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.

Josephine

O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.

John

LUCY: The Lord is the Honor of His saints.

All: He has heard those who cry to Him.

LUCY: Let us pray. O God you have raised up men and women outstanding in holiness as examples to your people in following in your footsteps. Grant that we may ever look to the example and teaching of your saints, imitating their virtue, and thus merit to arrive at your heavenly banquet. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Hymn: Joy to the World

Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.	Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.	He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love
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