

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

# RENEWAL



**Franciscan Renewal Center**  
Peace. Renewal. Good.

5802 East Lincoln Drive  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85253

480.948.7460 phone  
TheCasaFRC on social media

**thecasa.org**  
*All are welcome.*

## PASTORAL REFLECTION



If you've lived in Arizona long enough, you know not to hike or have a picnic in the middle of an arroyo, basin, or wash during monsoon season. Arroyos, basins, and washes are dry and empty most of the year. But once a monsoon pours down suddenly, these watercourses become deadly, raging rivers. In a flash, the waters would come crashing down and sweep you away without warning.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear from Jesus that we don't know when the Day of Judgment is coming, but we do know that it is coming. Some out-of-state tourists may not be aware of how rainfall can turn dormant watercourses into deadly rapids. But the locals know, and that is why we don't hike, picnic, or even try to drive across a watercourse during a downpour.

Advent is a time when we remember our baptismal promises and Christ: both the child born at Christmas, who is Emmanuel ("God with us"), and also the Son of God present on the day of righteous judgment.

Our baptismal promises call us to do the following: to live among our fellow children of God, to preach the Gospel, to be the Eucharist for and with others, and to advocate for justice and peace in all the Earth. Which of these baptismal promises do you want to "renew" this Advent season?

Victor Jaimes  
Co-Manager of Faith in Action Ministry

*The Conventual Church of*  
**OUR LADY of the ANGELS**  
*at the Franciscan Renewal Center*

<b>Sunday Mass</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7:30 am; 9:15 am; 11:00 am</b>
<b>Daily Mass</b>	<b>Monday – Friday</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>

*Sat. 4 pm, Sun. 9:15 am, and Monday – Friday Daily Mass also available on [YouTube.com/theCasaFRC](https://www.youtube.com/theCasaFRC)*

<b>Taizé Prayer</b>	<b>1st Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>Reconciliation</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2:00 - 3:00 pm</b>
<b>Guest Services</b>	<b>Sun. – Sat.</b>	<b>6:00 am - 7:30 pm</b>
<b>Adoration</b>	<b>1st Friday</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>

<b>Bookstore</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>8:00 am - 1:00 pm</b>
	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Closed</b>
	<b>Tue. – Thu.</b>	<b>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</b>
	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>10:00 am - 6:00 pm</b>
	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>11:00 am - 5:30 pm</b>

Please see pg. 10 for this week's Mass Intentions.

For weekly readings, visit [bible.usccb.org/](https://bible.usccb.org/).

### Our Lady of the Angels Church Pastoral Staff

#### RECTOR

Fr. Page E. Polk, OFM      [fatherpage@thecasa.org](mailto:fatherpage@thecasa.org)      x145

#### VICE-RECTOR

Fr. Vincent Nguyen, OFM      [fathervincent@thecasa.org](mailto:fathervincent@thecasa.org)      x174

#### DEACON

Dcn. Hervé Lemire, OFM Affiliate      [deaconherve@gmail.com](mailto:deaconherve@gmail.com)

### Franciscan Renewal Center Executive Administration

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Charles Brown      [casa@thecasa.org](mailto:casa@thecasa.org)      x175

### Officers of the FRC Board

Diane Catlin, Chair      Richard Murphy, Secretary  
Linda Christian, Treasurer

Visit: [thecasa.org/frc-board-of-directors](https://thecasa.org/frc-board-of-directors) for all board members and bios

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To receive RENEWAL and other Casa news by email, [qr.thecasa.org/RENEWAL](https://qr.thecasa.org/RENEWAL)



## "Buon Natale, Greccio"

### *St. Francis & the Nativity*

#### Performances:

Saturday, December 20: 7 pm

Sunday, December 21: 1:30 pm

Join us for a joyful time of music, storytelling, and inspiration as we celebrate Saint Francis and his beautiful gift to the world — the beloved tradition of the Nativity scene, which continues to bring the story of Christ's birth to life for generations.

Travel with us in spirit to Greccio, Italy, the humble village where, 800 years ago, St. Francis first brought the story of Jesus' birth to life. Through uplifting music and moving stories, we'll relive that moment of wonder and rediscover the true heart of Christmas.

Come be a part of this special celebration of faith, tradition, and community — an evening sure to warm your heart and lift your spirit!

## Eucharistic Adoration

**Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at 6 pm  
in Our Lady of the Angels Church**

Come and adore Him who loves you unconditionally, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.



Director of Liturgy & Music  
Assistant Director of Liturgy & Music  
Executive Assistant to the Liturgy Office

Norbert Zwickl  
Richard Guerra  
Rosa Rodriguez-Saiz

[norbert@thecasa.org](mailto:norbert@thecasa.org) 480.355.0346  
[richard@thecasa.org](mailto:richard@thecasa.org) 480.355.0347  
[rosa@thecasa.org](mailto:rosa@thecasa.org) 480.355.5642

## Blessing of the Advent Wreath at Home

*God of love, may this wreath and its light  
remind us of your greatest gift — your Son, Jesus.*

*Guide us as we strive to walk in His love together as  
a family this Advent.*

*Be with us as we get ready for Christmas.  
Bring us closer to each other and to your Son.  
Give us the grace and strength we need each day,  
and help us to trust you in all things.*

*Bless this wreath  
and everyone who gathers around it.  
As we light each candle, may your light  
fill our hearts with hope, peace, joy, and love.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and fill our world  
with the light of your love. Amen.*

## Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas, this sacrament offers a profound opportunity to experience God's mercy, healing, and love. In addition to our regular Saturdays from 2 – 3 pm, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available:

Tuesday, Dec. 2	9 – 10 am
Thursday, Dec. 4	2 – 3 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 9	1 – 2 pm
Friday, Dec. 12	3 – 4 pm
Monday, Dec 15	6 – 7 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 17	11 am – Noon
Thursday, Dec. 18	10 – 11 am
Monday, Dec. 22	9 – 10 am
Tuesday, Dec. 23	1 – 2 pm

All are invited to come and experience the peace that comes from hearing the beautiful words of absolution.

## Place a Wreath for a Fallen Veteran Remember. Honor. Teach.

This Advent, the Casa Veterans Ministry is partnering with the veterans' ministries at Our Lady of Joy Catholic Church and La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church to place sponsored wreaths at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix. This partnership is called *Wreaths With Honor*.

The sponsored wreaths will be placed at  
the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona  
on National Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day  
**Saturday, December 13 at 9 am.**



We need your help in remembering and honoring our fallen veterans. To volunteer on National WAA Day, go to [qr.thecasa.org/waa](http://qr.thecasa.org/waa). We plan to place over 1,000 wreaths at the cemetery.

For questions, please reach out to [casaveteransministry@thecasa.org](mailto:casaveteransministry@thecasa.org) or call 480.306.4027.

Thank You!



## Direct Your Arizona Tax Credit to Help Those in Need

Support your favorite charity this 2025 tax season that helps low-income people and children in foster care by participating in one or more of the AZ Tax Credit programs.

Contributions to qualifying organizations of the low-income and foster care programs can be claimed as separate credits with separate limitations for each.

The maximum *Qualifying Charitable Organization* (QCO) credit donation amount for 2025: \$495 single, married filing separate, or head of household; \$987 married filing jointly.

Details and list of qualifying organizations are found on the State website:  
<https://azdor.gov/tax-credits/credits-contributions-qcos-and-qfcos>

*A Faith in Action Ministry that benefits directly from a tax credit contribution is the  
Casa Habitat Ministry.*

Visit our online Faith Formation portal: [casafaithformation.org](http://casafaithformation.org)





# It's here! CasaConnect has officially arrived



CasaConnect

Bridging Church, Grounds, Ministries, and Retreats

We're thrilled to share our brand-new community app—created to bring together everything we love about the Casa: Church, Grounds, Ministries, and Retreats, all in one place.

Be one of the very first to experience it.

Dive in. Explore. Enjoy.  
From events and retreats to community updates and ministry connections, it's all now just a tap away.

Ready to get started? Use the QR code to install CasaConnect on your phone or visit <https://casaconnect.thecasa.org> from your computer and join us as we begin this exciting new chapter together.

Welcome to a more connected Casa!



CasaConnect

The Conventual Church of  
**OUR LADY of the ANGELS**  
at the Franciscan Renewal Center

## Mass Attendance

11.16.25 1,394  
11.17.24 1,468

## Mass Offerings

11.16.25 \$22,997  
11.17.24 \$24,934

## DISCOVER THE VISION

*A one-hour introduction to the Casa's mission and ministries.*

Upcoming dates:

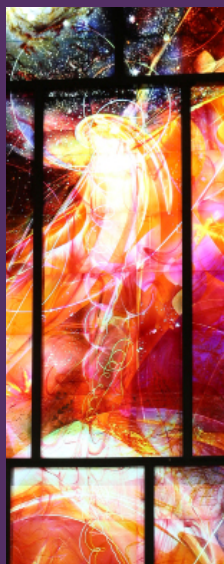
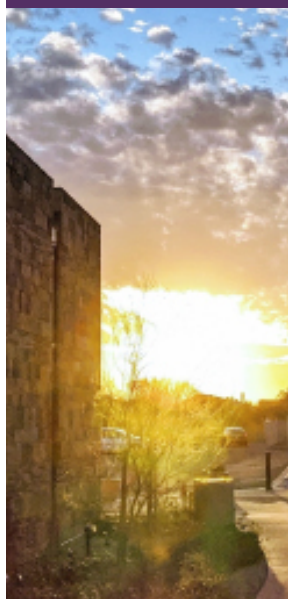
December 4	11:00 am
January 8	11:00 am
February 5	11:00 am

## Reserve Your Spot Today

online: [thecasa.org/discover-the-vision](https://thecasa.org/discover-the-vision)

phone: 480.355.5631

email: [rsvp@thecasa.org](mailto:rsvp@thecasa.org)



## ART DOCENT TOURS

*"Treasures of Franciscan Art"*

Through its commissioned art and architecture, the Conventual Church of Our Lady of the Angels tells the story of Christ through a Franciscan lens. There's so much to discover in its symbolism, natural building materials, and liturgical art glass!

Please visit [thecasa.org/art-docent-tours](https://thecasa.org/art-docent-tours) for dates and registration. To request a private tour, email [churchtours@thecasa.org](mailto:churchtours@thecasa.org)

## The Franciscan Lecture Series with the Franciscan School of Theology

**Sunday, December 14, 9 – 10:30 am | Auditorium**  
*"Pope Francis, Ecology & the Eucharist: A Franciscan Liturgical Vision of Caring for Our Common Home"*  
with Professor Chris O'Brien, PhD

Director of Development  
Development Manager

Christopher Meyer  
Paula A Tobin

[christopher@thecasa.org](mailto:christopher@thecasa.org)  
[paula@thecasa.org](mailto:paula@thecasa.org)

480.355.5634  
480.355.5631



## Franciscan Advent Conversations: *Waiting in Joyful Hope*

Sunday, November 30, is the last day to register!

**Mondays, December 1 & 8 | 6:30 – 8:15 pm**

We “wait in joyful hope” as we allow this Advent season to surprise us. Our time together will include contemplative prayer, reading Scripture, and conversation.

We will use the *Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas: Waiting in Joyful Hope* 2025-2026 pocket booklet, published by Liturgical Press.

Registration closes this Sunday (Nov 30) at 7 pm.

See FIA *LinkTree* for detailed Flyer: [tr.ee/EnlCOdPgdj](https://tr.ee/EnlCOdPgdj).

**Fee: \$10**



## Casa Advent Blanket Drive

**Can You Help?** We are currently looking for volunteers to serve on the following weekends after Mass:

**December 13– 14 or 20 – 21**

To sign up as a Collection Volunteer, visit:  
[qr.thecasa.org/blanketdrive](https://qr.thecasa.org/blanketdrive).

Questions? Email: [faithformation@thecasa.org](mailto:faithformation@thecasa.org)  
or Call 480.355.0359

## Hunger Action (HAM) Service Opportunity

DINING ROOM  
**St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP)**  
**Saturday, December 6,**  
**10 am – 1:30 pm**



Sign up here <https://tr.ee/V1BWu-k7Kz>  
or on FIA *LinkTree*.

## Find Divine Chocolate and Café Justo coffee and other Fair Trade items.



## Plan to Shop Fair Trade for Christmas

**Sunday, December 7, morning only**  
In the Hospitality area after all Masses.

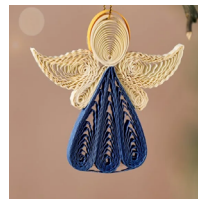
Through fair trade, every purchase matters.  
It's the easiest way to do the most good, every day.

- **Casa Grounds for Solidarity Ministry** offers varieties of *Café Justo* organic, fair trade, shade-grown coffee for \$10 per one-pound bag.
- *Divine organic, fair-trade chocolate* is sold by the **Casa's Peace Ministry**, \$5 per bar or 5 bars for \$20.
- The **WHEAT** Fair Trade Store in Central Phoenix is offering ornaments, holiday cards, stocking stuffers, and fair trade honey.
- **Care for Creation Ministry (C4C)** will offer creation friendly reusable items like the FRC insulated water bottle and seed packets.

Cash personal check or credit card accepted.

See the flyer with ALL the details:  
<https://qr.thecasa.org/50eea469>

Fair Trade makes great holiday and hostess gifts.



**WHEAT** ~ Ending Hunger & Poverty at the Root ~

Co - Manager, Faith in Action

Victor Jaimes

[victor@thecasa.org](mailto:victor@thecasa.org)

480.306.4027

Co - Manager, Faith in Action

Laura Libertore

[laura@thecasa.org](mailto:laura@thecasa.org)

480.355.5645

For volunteer opportunities and FIA events, visit: [linktr.ee/socialconcerns](https://linktr.ee/socialconcerns)



## COMMUNITY CONNECTION



One of the best things about volunteering is getting to know people who I otherwise might not meet. Maybe they're staff from organizations like St. Vincent de Paul or the Desert Mission Food Bank, or fellow volunteers from the Casa. Or I may serve beside volunteers who come from all over the Valley. I've also had opportunities to meet the clients we serve, and one particular story has had a great impact on me.

I was serving with the Casa's Hunger Action Ministry at St. Vincent de Paul's Phoenix dining room, cleaning tables during lunch. I greeted a man sitting at one of the tables, and we exchanged the usual, "Hi, how're you doing today?" I could tell he wanted to talk a little more, so I sat as he told me his story.

He had moved to Phoenix for a job that fell through, so now he was in a strange city with no job, little money, knowing no one. He was living at the shelter until he could get back on his feet. It sounded awful, and yet he said, "I'm really thankful. I have a place to live, I get hot meals here, and with the people at the shelter, the staff, and volunteers like you, I feel like I have a family again."

I know what I do as a volunteer isn't going to change the world. But if I can bring some kindness, a feeling of connection, and maybe even a little hope to someone who needs it, then I know I'm right where I'm supposed to be. — Gina Bridgeman

*Your Annual Appeal gift supports our outreach ministries that extend compassion, a hand up, and hope to people in need.*

# Annual Appeal 2025

*Making God's Love Visible*

Gifts can be made:

**Online:** [thecasa.org/donate](https://thecasa.org/donate)

**Drop off:** The Casa's Guest Services Desk

**Mail:** Franciscan Renewal Center  
5802 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

- Cash, Check, Credit/Debit Cards, DAFs, and ACH Online
- IRA Required Minimum Distribution can be directed to the Franciscan Renewal Center.
- Gifts of Stocks and Bonds

If you would like to speak with someone about your gift, please call 480.355.5634.

*The Franciscan Renewal Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. All gifts must be postmarked or received by December 31, 2025. Please consult your tax advisor. Tax ID#: 86-0720036.*



***Making God's Love Visible***

***Scan the QR code to give online***



#### WORKSHOP

### Humming the Holiday Blues When You Want to Be Singing "Joy to the World"?

**Wednesday, December 3 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

*Christine Dove*

We will gently acknowledge the sadness, loss, and longing this season can bring. Together, we'll create space to share our stories, honor what we're missing, and find comfort in community and healing.

**Fee: \$40.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



#### RETREAT

### Emmaus Retreat for Grieving Parents

**December 5 – 7, Friday – Sunday**

*Marianne Gouveia and Greg Eckerman*

The Emmaus Ministry offers a faith-based weekend for parents grieving the loss of a child, no matter the age, cause, or how long ago the loss occurred. Through prayer, reflection, and shared understanding, parents are gently guided to explore their grief, seek healing, and find hope in the promise of eternal life.

**Fee, incl. meals: \$250 single room; \$135 commuter.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



#### WORKSHOP

### Experiencing God in Christmas Movies

**Saturday, December 20 | 9 am – 4 pm**

*Fr. Rick Malloy, SJ*

God communicates to us through all of created realities. Fr. Rick Malloy, S.J. will lead us in praying through popular Christmas movies and help us experience the Advent of Emmanuel appearing to us through the medium of films that touch our hearts and enlighten our minds.

**Fee, incl. lunch: \$75.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



#### RETREAT

### New Year's Retreat

**December 30 – January 1, Tuesday – Thursday**

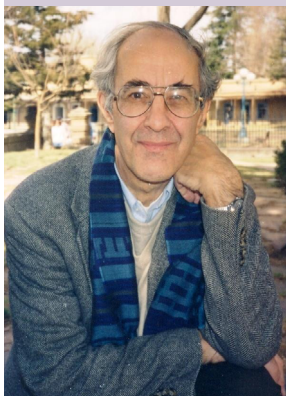
*Peter Pearson, MDiv, ThD*

The start of a new year is more than fresh calendars and fleeting resolutions—it's a chance to reflect on where you've been, where you're going, and what truly matters. Step away from the busyness, take time to breathe, and begin the year with intention, clarity, and a renewed sense of purpose.

**Fee, incl. meals: \$325 single room; \$175 commuter.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)

To see all upcoming programs and to register, visit [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com). Registrations can also be made by visiting or calling our Guest Services Desk, or by emailing [lora@thecasa.org](mailto:lora@thecasa.org).





### RETREAT

## Henri J. M. Nouwen: Being the Beloved and Becoming the Beloved January 9 – 11, Friday – Sunday

*Michael Powell*

Experience a grace-filled retreat centered around the teachings of Henri Nouwen and his work “The Life of the Beloved.” Through prayer, contemplation, reflection, conversation, gentle activities, and silent exploration, we will immerse ourselves in the generative and soulful energy of love as illuminated by Nouwen’s spiritual vision.

**Fee, incl. meals: \$325 single room; \$175 commuter.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



### CLASS

## T'ai Chi

**Mondays: Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9 and 16 OR**

**Wednesdays: Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11 and 18 | 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

*Jake Zinn*

Experience the health benefits of Qigong and T'ai Chi. These exercise systems, based on Chinese martial and healing arts, engage the body and mind in slow, fluid movement and relaxed, full breathing. Often described as “meditation with movement,” the relaxed breathing and gentle dance-like movements of T'ai Chi serve to calm the mind.

**Fee: \$70 for 6-week session.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)

### TWILIGHT RETREAT

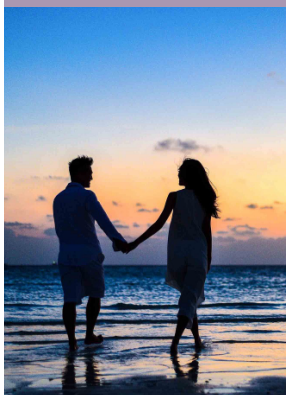
## Not Who's Who...But...Who Is *That*?

**Thursday, January 8, 2026 | 6 – 8:30 pm**

*Fr. Page Polk, OFM*

Come hungry—for food, fellowship, and discovery! Gather in fellowship for a shared meal and meaningful conversation as we explore the lesser-known figures of Scripture. We'll uncover how their faith, courage, and obedience reveal God's quiet work through ordinary people—and inspire us to recognize His providence in our own lives.

**Fee, incl. dinner: \$25.** Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)



### RETREAT

## Marriage: It's Not for the Faint of Heart

**January 30 – February 1, Friday – Sunday**

*Erica Tatum-Sheade, LCSW and Ryan Sheade, LCSW*

Deepen communication, trust, and connection in your marriage during a meaningful weekend for couples. Guided by licensed therapists, you'll explore new ways to grow together with authenticity, purpose, and lasting intimacy.

**Fee, incl. meals: \$200 per person, double room; \$175 per person, commuter.**  
Register: [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com)

To see all upcoming programs and to register, visit [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com). Registrations can also be made by visiting or calling our Guest Services Desk, or by emailing [lora@thecasa.org](mailto:lora@thecasa.org).



## An Invitation to Spiritual Growth

Our Spiritual Direction Ministry offers one-on-one listening and support for finding God in our lives and deepening that relationship. Spiritual direction or companionship is not

counseling, it is holy listening and discernment of God's voice in our lives.

To set up an appointment with one of our directors, contact Cathy Olds, Coordinator of the Spiritual Direction Ministry, at [spiritualdirection@thecasa.org](mailto:spiritualdirection@thecasa.org).

## Faith Sharing Groups at the Casa

**Centering Prayer** meets Wednesdays at 8:45 am in the Meditation Chapel. [SpiritualDirection@thecasa.org](mailto:SpiritualDirection@thecasa.org)

**Contemplation in the Desert** gathers in the Healing Garden on Mondays at 11 am. [CareforCreation@thecasa.org](mailto:CareforCreation@thecasa.org)

**Cornerstone Contemplative Meditation** meets Wednesdays, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, in the Spiritual Direction room between the Guadalupe and Tekakwitha conference rooms.

**Interfaith Healing Prayer Group** meets Fridays following 8 am Mass in the back of the church. Send prayer requests to [HealingPrayers@thecasa.org](mailto:HealingPrayers@thecasa.org)

**Just Scripture** meets on Zoom on the second Saturday of each month from 10–11:30 am. Sign up at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/vkh5twxv>. [JustScripture@thecasa.org](mailto:JustScripture@thecasa.org).

**Men in Spirit.** Christian men meet on the first Saturday of the month at 8 am for breakfast in the dining room, followed by discussion. Zoom available. [MeninSpirit@thecasa.org](mailto:MeninSpirit@thecasa.org)

**Rosary Group** meets Tuesdays at 6 pm in the Meditation Chapel and on Zoom. Requests for meeting information, Zoom link, and prayer intentions, contact: [Rosary@thecasa.org](mailto:Rosary@thecasa.org)

**Singles40plus** is a social group for singles, widows, widowers, and divorced individuals 40 or older. We meet on the second Friday. For more information, email us at [Singles40plus@thecasa.org](mailto:Singles40plus@thecasa.org).

**The Order of Secular Franciscans (OFS) Peace Fraternity** meets on the second Sunday of the month. This Canonical Order of the Catholic Church is open to lay Catholics. Contact: John Elder, OFS, at [johnelder@gmail.com](mailto:johnelder@gmail.com) or 480.580.7750.

## Mass Intentions November 30 – December 6, 2025

<b>Sunday</b>	
<i>Lillian Onesti</i>	7:30 am
<i>Norbert Benz</i>	9:15 am
<i>Maria Nguyen</i>	11:00 am
<b>Monday</b>	
<i>Bob White</i>	8:00 am
<b>Tuesday</b>	
<i>The Sherbert Family</i>	8:00 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	
<i>Roger Nelson</i>	8:00 am
<b>Thursday</b>	
<i>Mike Mansfield</i>	8:00 am
<b>Friday</b>	
<i>Maria Nguyen</i>	8:00 am
<b>Saturday</b>	
<i>Nate Payne</i>	4:00 pm

The intentions listed here will be the intentions of the priest and will not be announced to the gathered assembly.

## About the Franciscan Renewal Center

The Franciscan Renewal Center, affectionately known as the Casa, is a Christ-centered, compassionate place where hearts are opened, lives are transformed, and the Spirit of God is encountered in profound ways. Founded in 1951 by the Order of Friars Minor, the Casa is rooted in Catholic tradition and the rich spiritual heritage of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, whose lives of humility, simplicity, and deep love for Creation continue to inspire all.

Nestled in the beautiful Sonoran Desert on 25 acres of sacred grounds, the Casa offers a serene and prayerful environment for joyful worship with Franciscan friars; private, sponsored, and hosted retreats; and ministries that serve the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized. It welcomes seekers of all faiths who long for peace, love, belonging, and healing, and a deeper relationship with God, self, others, and the Earth.

Located in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Casa is part of and contributes to the 800-year Franciscan movement and the work of the Church in the world.

Discover more at [thecasa.org](http://thecasa.org).

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE CASA ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

@TheCasaFRC



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