

# The Carpenter's Helper

*This Week...*

## St Francis of Assisi

Patron Saint of  
Animals and  
Ecology

## Weekly Parish Schedule

Add your group's event to  
the calendar: email  
stthomassooffice  
@googlegroups.com

## Fr Howie's Installation

SAVE THE DATE

Weds, October 9th, 6pm  
*reception to follow*

*St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and environment could be viewed as the original Earth Day advocate. Francis' devotion to God was expressed through his love for all of God's creation. St. Francis cared for the poor and sick, he preached sermons to animals and praised all creatures as brothers and sisters under God.*

After a wild youth and a brief career as a soldier, Francis had a conversion experience that inspired him to renounce his family's wealth and devote his life to God. His dedication to poverty, humility, obedience, patience and compassion soon attracted followers and, in 1209, he received permission from Pope Innocent III to form a new religious order known as the Friars Minor (commonly called the Franciscans).

Francis' deep love of God overflowed into love for all God's creatures—expressed not only in his tender care of lepers and his (unsuccessful) attempt to negotiate peace between Muslims and Christians during the fifth Crusade, but also in his prayers of thanksgiving for creation, his sermons preached to animals and his insistence that all creatures are brothers and sisters under God.

In 1224, Francis became the first saint in history to receive the stigmata (the wounds of Christ crucified). On October 4, 1226, Francis died in the town of Assisi and was quickly canonized by Pope Gregory IX. Today, over three million people a year make a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Francis, revealing him to be one of the most popular and beloved saints of all time.

The earliest books about Saint Francis were written by Thomas of Celano, a member of Francis' religious order who knew the saint personally. Thomas' books reveal Francis' love for animals and his conviction that religious faith and care for God's creatures go hand-in-hand. These touching and inspiring stories of a gentle man are worth a read.

Every year on or around October 4, Christians throughout the world celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with prayers for creation and a blessing of the animals. **Please join us next Sunday, October 6 at 2pm in the Grove, for a blessing of the animals.** ALL God's creatures are welcome. Join us in this gathering, even if you do not bring an animal, as we come together to praise God for his wonders, thank him for his blessings, and pray that we may be good stewards of the creatures of the world.



The language of the church can sometimes be strange, and the term "installation ceremony" when used for welcoming a new priest is certainly one completely inadequate to describe the deeply personal and spiritual festival that involves all members of the church, some with "key" roles as they come one by one to present the candidate with the tools of his work. The tools presented included a Bible, water, a stole, a Prayer Book, oil, a symbolic key to the church, the Canons and Constitution, and bread and wine.

The Celebration of New Ministry service is a cherished tradition of our church. The liturgy is from our Book of Common Prayer and other liturgical supplements. It is a time when the parish stands as a united community before the bishop to request that the new Rector be installed.

On October 9th, at 6pm, we will celebrate the installation of Father Howie Sasser as the 22nd Rector of our beloved Parish. A reception will follow in the Great Hall. Please mark this important event on your calander.

Fr. Howie has been with us for a short while now, but let us gather together at this blessing as we make it official. In the short time that he has been here, there has already been so much excitement: new educational programs and religious offerings, a push towards utilizing social media, literally pounding the pavement (in a race between services!) reaching out to our larger community, and of course his incredible sermons, that are now available on YouTube. Let's make this an evening to remember.



# PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 29

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite 1  
 9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation  
 9:15am (P) Adult Education  
 9:15am (U) Nursery  
 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II  
 Family church Sunday,  
 no separate childrens worship  
 11:45pm (GH) Coffee, Fellowship,  
 and Back to School Pizza Party  
 2:00pm (C) Girl Scout Troop 513  
 7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

Monday, September 30

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA  
 7:30pm (GH) Scottish Dance

Tuesday, October 1

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA  
 4:30pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 719  
 5:00pm (CO) AIDS Delaware  
 6:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513  
 7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance  
 8:00pm (U) KIS AA meeting

Wednesday, October 2

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA  
 10:30am (C) Bible Study Group  
 4:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty  
 5:00pm (C, N) Episcopal Campus  
 Ministry  
 5:45pm (P) Centering Prayer  
 8:30pm (GH) South College Speakers AA

Thursday, October 3

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA  
 10:00am (U) Newark Music Makers  
 7:30pm (MR) St Gregory's Choir

Friday, October 4

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA  
 12:00pm (C) Al-Anon  
 6:30pm (P) Women's AA

Saturday, October 5

4:00pm available

Sunday, October 6

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite 1  
 9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation  
 9:15am (P) Adult Education  
 9:15am (U) Nursery  
 9:30am (GH) Breakfast Club  
 9:45am (U) Children's Worship  
 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II  
 11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship  
 12:00pm (C) C.R.E.W. Youth  
 2:00pm (C) Girl Scout Troop 513  
 7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

location key:

(C) Classroom	(MR) Music Room
(GH) Great Hall	(U) Undercroft
(N) Nave	(DO) Deacon's Office
(P) Parlor	(RO) Rector's Office