



Blessing of the Animals October 2, 2021



The annual Blessing of the Animals was held on October 1, 2022, in the Santo Niño

Shrine with Fr. Tamil, Fr. Tim, and Fr. Morley celebrating their blessings with the pets and their parents. Sponsored by the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry, the shrine was filled with all types of animals from tiny pocket pets, parrots, and cats to our beloved much larger puppies.



Our Regular Events

- ◆ *Weekly Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction*
8 PM Monday evenings
- ◆ *Monthly Meeting – Second Saturday at 9 AM – St. Michael Building @St. Paul’s*

Upcoming Calendar of Events

- ◆ Coffee & Donuts, Dec. 4, 8 AM – 12:30 PM, St. Paul’s Family Center
- ◆ Pet Photos with Santa, Dec. 10, 10 AM – 1 PM, St. Paul’s Peace Path
- ◆ Prayer Service – May 2023, location TBA

Priesthood Sunday September 25, 2022

Priesthood Sunday is a special day set aside to honor priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one. It was established by Pope John Paul II in 2002 to encourage priests to reflect upon the importance and dignity of the gift of priesthood they received from Christ.

During coffee and donuts this year, the St. Francis Ministry provided cards for parishioners to write words of appreciation and prayers. The response from the priests was they were overwhelmed with gratitude and blest to be one of our priests at St. Paul’s Church.

Coffee & Donuts Anyone? How about some Coffee and a St. Francis Mug?

Join us for coffee & donuts on December 4th after the 7:30, 9:00, and 10:45 Masses at St. Paul’s. While there, pick up one of our new St. Francis of Assisi coffee mugs for sale for \$10 and have coffee with St. Francis every morning.



PEACE PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS
Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may never again
be troubled by anger,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Pet Photos with Santa St. Paul Peace Path

The third annual Pet Photos with Santa will be held on December 10, 2022, on the Peace Path of the St. Paul Church campus. Bring your pets and your family and make it a group shot. For \$10, you will receive photos via email for printing which makes a great gift for Christmas. Photo opportunities will be from 10 AM until 1 PM. Be sure to wear your favorite Christmas outfit.



68 Hours of Hunger St. Francis donates to Auction



Continuing with our connection and outreach to 68 Hours of Hunger, the local food pantry providing weekend food to local students, St. Francis contributed a beautiful barbecue basket

sponsored by Station House BBQ of Lutz, FL. Thank you to Anthony and Allison Fonseca, owners of Station House BBQ, for helping us help 68 Hours of Hunger. Station House BBQ is very supportive of local charities. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.stationhousebbq.com/> or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stationhousebbqff>.

Blankets Needed - Created Women

In conjunction with the St. Paul's SOS (Speak out on Slavery) Ministry, the St. Francis Ministry is collecting blankets for Created Women of Tampa. To donate, contact Becca Petrilak, res05dgx@verizon.net.

Created Women Tampa is a non-profit, non-denominational Christian organization committed to the restoration of vulnerable women involved in the sex industry to an understanding of their value, beauty, and destiny in Jesus Christ.

They believe that a growing, thriving relationship with Jesus is the context in which vulnerable women will find hope for emotional, physical, and social healing from the wounds that sexual exploitation and their involvement in the sex industry has inflicted.

By offering new life through a relationship with Jesus Christ, a message of identity (a name), a place for belonging and community (a place), and advocacy for the women (a voice) they hope to bring light, hope, and transformation to women caught in prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation.

For more information about Created Women, visit their website at CreatedWomen.com.

St. Francis Outreach Ideas Following in the footsteps of St. Francis

As we all know, St. Francis is the patron saint of animals, thus the reason for this ministry. However, many are not aware that he is also the patron saint of the poor and the environment. That said, the St. Francis Ministry is reaching out to provide our help in these areas. As a ministry, we are offering an opportunity to volunteer our services as either a group or an individual. If you are interested in volunteering with us in any of the following opportunities, please send an email to st-francis-ministry@stpaulchurch.com.

Created Women – Human Trafficking Outreach
Empowered to Change – Human Trafficking Outreach
Hope Children's Home
68 Hours of Hunger
Feeding Tampa Bay Community Food Pantry
Humane Society of Tampa Bay
Hillsborough River Cleanup
Pinellas County Beach Cleanup
Metropolitan Ministries
Habitat for Humanity
VISTA Gardens
Carrollwood Village Park
Great Port Cleanup

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Nov. 7 - Marlene and Dennis Barletta anniversary

Nov. 8. - Laura and John Gregory anniversary

Nov. 19 - Peg Huey

Nov. 23 - Val Tridico

Dec 24 - Jim Dremsek

Jan 26 - Jan Hoyt

Crete priest partners with his dog to engage with parishioners online.

Journalstar.com

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in the spring of 2020, churches across the nation had to get creative to serve their congregations in the era of social distancing. For one Southeast Nebraska priest, that meant enlisting the help of a four-legged friend.



The Rev. Allan Phan of Sacred Heart Church in Crete began speaking to his parishioners through his "Devotions with Daisy" blog on Facebook, where he filmed his reflections with his dog Daisy.

Phan was serving at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Crete when he first began his daily reflections.

He said he enjoyed being able to serve his parishioners through the videos, but he thought his dog could help engage more people.

And it did, as views, likes and comments began to spike. "I most definitely did not think many people would watch it, let alone enjoy it," Phan said. "It's been wild seeing how many people recognize Daisy or will stop and ask, 'Are you that priest that prays with their dog?'"

To view Fr. Phan's devotions, go to <https://www.facebook.com/DevotionsWithDaisy>.

Will I See My Pet in Heaven?

An Excerpt

Jack Wintz, OFM

FranciscanMedia.org

How do we answer children when they ask: "Will I see my dog in heaven?" As I see it, this question is not only an urgent concern for the children. I believe that most adults also have a deep desire to know if, in the next life, we will see our pets and all the other lovely creatures alongside whom we now inhabit this planet.



I feel more comfortable, however, if we pose the question a little more broadly: Namely, does God's plan of salvation include all creatures? In the reflections below, I think I have lined up a good bit of evidence—from Scripture, from the example of St. Francis and from the teachings of the Church—which shows that God wishes other creatures besides humans to be included in the plan of salvation. Consider the following:

The creation story of Genesis suggests that God's care and love extend to all creatures. Would not God's very act of creating the earth, as well as the plants and animals, imply an unwritten covenant that the Creator will not suddenly stop loving or caring for them?

The story of Noah's ark leaves little doubt in my mind that God wants all creatures to be saved, not just the humans. For me, the ark is a wonderful symbol of God's desire to save the whole family of creation. The story suggests to me that it is not God's plan to save humankind apart from the other creatures. We are all in the same boat, so to speak. As St. Paul writes to the Romans (8:22), "All creation is groaning" for its liberation.

After the waters of the flood go away, God makes a covenant with all living creatures. The covenant is not simply between God and the humans, but also, as the Bible says, with “all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals....Never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood” (Genesis 9:10-11, italics added).

God’s putting a rainbow in the sky emphasizes the point one more time. God tells Noah: “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all mortal creatures that are on earth” (9:17). Isn’t it interesting that God takes much more care than we humans to include the animals and other creatures in the plan of salvation?

In the Book of Psalms, we find prayers in which other creatures are called upon to praise God along with the humans, suggesting that creatures are meant to share our prayerful journey into the presence of God. These are very inclusive kinds of prayer. Listen to Psalm 148. It is a Hymn of All Creation to the Almighty Creator: “Praise the Lord from the heavens....Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars....Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all depths; Fire and hail, snow and mist, storm winds that fulfill his word; You mountains and all you hills, you fruit trees and all you cedars; You wild beasts and all tame animals....Let the kings of the earth and all peoples....Young men too, and maidens, old men and boys, Praise the name of the Lord...” (v. 1-13).

A similar hymn of praise to God is sung by the three youths in the fiery furnace in the Book of Daniel (Chapter 3). In the midst of their distress, they invite the whole family of creation to praise the one Lord of all. Just to give a little sampling of this long hymn, the three youths sing: “Sun and moon, bless the Lord....Every shower and dew, bless the Lord....All you winds, bless the Lord....All you birds of the air, bless the Lord....All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord” (v. 52-81).

Do not biblical prayers of this kind suggest that all of us creatures are meant to walk side by side in one common journey to God? Do these prayers not imply that all creatures are included in God’s saving plan?

In the final book of the Bible—the Book of Revelation—the inspired writer presents to us a heavenly vision in which all creatures are standing before the throne of God. Obviously, that glorious gathering is not composed exclusively of saved humanity: “Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the

universe, cry out: ‘To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever’” (Revelation 5:13). In this picture of heaven all creatures are present and praising God together.

And so we come back to our original question—the question our children ask so earnestly: Will I see my dog in heaven? The question may sometimes sound a bit naïve and simplistic.

But from all the evidence shown above, I believe we can make a good case for the hope embedded deep in each human heart, namely, that the whole family of creation will someday share in the fullness of salvation won by Jesus Christ. The more we see the full implications of our belief in the resurrection of the body and understand the biblical vision of God’s inclusive love, the easier it is for us to give a hopeful answer to our children’s questions.

In the final analysis, how many of us are truly satisfied with a vision of heaven that does not include the whole family of creation? We take comfort, therefore, in St. Paul’s words that “all creation is groaning” for its freedom and redemption (Romans 8:22). More than that, we embrace the great apostle’s “hope that creation itself would... share in the glorious freedom of the children of God” (Romans 8:21).

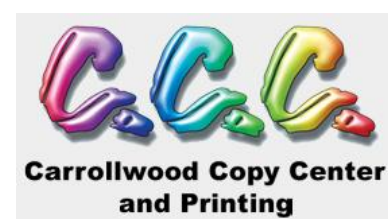
For the complete article, go to

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/will-i-see-my-pet-in-heaven>



For more information about the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry at St. Paul’s Catholic Church, email st-francis-ministry@stpaulchurch.com.

Also check out our web page at <https://stpaulchurch.com/345>.



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