

*...find the missing peace.*

# FRANCISCAN RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER



A spiritual oasis for people of all faiths seeking a deeper relationship with the Almighty.



## St. Anthony: a Saint for the Ages

by Fr. Jim Kent, OFM Conv., Director



St. Anthony's Basilica

I recently returned from some meetings in Padua, Italy. It's near Venice and the site of the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua, one of the great saints of the church. Each year more than a million pilgrims come to the basilica and its grounds seeking solace, prayer, and healing. People especially like to pray at St. Anthony's tomb.

While St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of Italy, St. Anthony (b. 1195) is known by its people as "the saint." What is remarkable about that is he was originally from Portugal and was, at first, an Augustinian friar. In his native Portugal, he met some early Franciscans who were headed to evangelize in North Africa. They were soon martyred, and when Anthony learned of their deaths he was inspired to become a Franciscan.



St. Anthony's Relic

While he hoped to go to North Africa himself, illness and then a fierce storm swept the ship off course and he ended up in Italy. There he attended a large gathering of Franciscans in Assisi and in time settled in northern Italy.

St Anthony was known as a powerful preacher and was much sought-after to speak

on many topics. Once while on the outskirts of Padua, so many people gathered to hear his words, he preached from a platform in a tree. He suffered

from Dropsy (Edema), which bloated his body with fluids. He died in 1231 at age 35. Anthony was held in such high esteem and holiness he was canonized a saint within a year.



Fr. Jim Kent

A number of miracles are attributed to St. Anthony, and he's long been known as the patron of sailors, fishermen, travelers, and of lost items. The basilica displays a number of his relics, including his incorrupt tongue, jawbone, and vocal apparatus.

I had traveled to Padua for a meeting of an association of friends and benefactors of St. Anthony. The association raises funds and awareness on behalf of the Franciscan friars, who oversee a large media ministry.

Keeping with the tradition of Anthony's communication skills, we evangelize through a global magazine and other publications to enhance the faith.



St. Anthony's Tomb

One of the most rewarding things we do annually is to award grants to religious organizations throughout the world. Through generous donations and bequests, this year we gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to grantees who had requested funds to create or improve clinics, churches, schools, food distribution, transportation, and needed equipment.

St Anthony traveled far-and-wide in his day at the service of the Gospel. This has inspired pilgrims to come to Padua for its graces, and grateful benefactors to search out the needy across the globe and help to be the hands of God to them.

Just around the corner...

### **Holy Week Retreats**

**Women's Palm Sunday Weekend**

**April 11-13**

(Silent Retreat - palms will be distributed)

### **Men's Holy Week Retreat**

**April 17-19\***

(Silent on Friday)

The silent periods of both late Lenten retreats set the table for ardent late Lenten reflections on the events at the very core of our faith.

### **Theme: *Finding God in Difficult Times***

In addition to the conference talks by our presenters, both retreats include opportunities for Confession, Holy Hour, Rosary, and Anointing.

\*Men, your Holy Week retreat is Thursday through Saturday at noon. You'll be back at your home parish for Easter Sunday services.

### **Women's Weekend Retreat**

**April 25-27**

### **Women's May Midweek Retreat**

**May 13-15**

To register call 952-447-2182 or visit our calendar at [franciscanretreats.net/calendar-1](http://franciscanretreats.net/calendar-1)



**Married couples renewing their vows**

## **Annual Christmas Appeal Update- Your Donation Dollars at Work!**

We are very pleased to say that we've exceeded our goal of \$15,700 for our 2024 Christmas Annual Appeal.

And the exciting project of removing dying Ash trees and replacing them with durable new trees, shrubs and decorative plants has already begun.

On March third and fourth, eight diseased ash trees were removed near the retreat center's main entrance and near threatened buildings further back. A spirited crew of 15 volunteers teamed up with professional tree removal technicians, felling the large trees, clearing away branches and feeding a chipper machine. We have much gratitude for this team of volunteers and the tidy job they did on a slightly disheartening task.

Now the fun aspects of our entryway facelift can begin. Stay tuned for more updates and photos of new trees, shrubs, plants and more as we refresh the inviting look retreatants first experience as they arrive for their weekend retreat.



**Volunteers helping with Ash tree removal**

You are invited to the

*55th annual*

# Franciscan International Award Dinner

THURSDAY MAY 8TH, 2025  
6:00 TO 9:00 PM

**Honoring**  **COMUNIDADES LATINAS UNIDAS EN SERVICIO**

At The Wilds Golf Club; 3151 Wilds Ridge Ct, Prior Lake  
Register by calling 952-447-2182 or at  
[www.franciscanretreats.net/franciscan-international-award](http://www.franciscanretreats.net/franciscan-international-award) or  
use the QR code to the right



Scan this

**Honoring:**



**Here is a look  
at 2025's Award  
Dinner recipient**

CLUES (a Spanish acronym for: Latino Communities United in Service) is Minnesota's largest Latino-led nonprofit organization, founded in 1981 by and for Latinos to provide culturally and linguistically relevant services. Our mission is to advance social and economic equity and well-being for Latinos by building upon our strengths and cultures, uplifting our community, and enabling leadership for systemic change.

Previous recipients of the **Franciscan International Award** include: the late Dr. Billy Graham for true Ecumenism (1972); the late Dr. Mildred Jefferson, M.D. – as a leader in the Pro-Life Movement (1978); Mary Jo Copeland - for Mobilizing Help to the Poor (2000); Sister Helen Prejean – for being an advocate for those on death row, their victims, their families, and the families of their victims (2003); Fran Heitzman, the founder of Bridging, for helping families to furnish homes with hope (2014) and last year, honoring pastors and pastoral teams.

For 65 years the Franciscan International Award Dinner has been an opportunity for retreatants and friends of Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake MN to gather and support the ministry of the retreat house as well as honoring a person or an organization who embodies the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.



## Featuring raffle items again this year

### Dinner ticket options

\$75.00 – Individual ticket

\$150.00 – Two-person ticket (2 People)

\$250.00 – Patron level

(2 People, includes an extra donation to the retreat center.  
Your name will be mentioned in the evening's program)

\$600.00 – Benefactor level

(2 People, includes an extra donation to the retreat center  
plus sponsors a friar, priest, or religious community guest to attend the FIA dinner.  
Your name will be mentioned in the evening's program)

\$600.00 – Table Sponsor

(8 people - please send us your guest's names by May 4th)



Register for the Franciscan International Award Dinner online: <https://www.franciscanretreats.net/franciscan-international-award>, or with the QR code or by calling our office at 952-447-2182.

## Parish Ambassador Program

Does being the face of the retreat center at your parish sound fulfilling to you?

- Be the retreat 'answer person' at your parish
- Encourage the use of your name in parish bulletin postings about Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center
- Seek approval from your pastor or communications director to post notices about the retreat you attend in the print and digital bulletins at your parish
- If you feel moved, invite a group from 2 to 12 from your parish to attend your retreat with you.

### Support/tools we provide:

- Professionally designed custom graphics about your specific retreat for you to publish in your bulletin, and share through personal emails, texts, or in-person conversations. Custom printed brochures.
- Easy registration techniques
- Details/updates on who has registered to you by phone, email or during in-person visits here

### Rewards to you!

- Parishioner friends (or friends to be) with you on retreat
- Knowing you help support the retreat center in this most elemental and essential manner
- Connecting more deeply to your home parish in a unique way

Contact one of the Friars while you are on your retreat, or email: [marketing@franciscanretreats.net](mailto:marketing@franciscanretreats.net) or call: 952-447-2182 to explore this unique and rewarding volunteer position.



## Garden Party

Sunday July 20th; 1-3 PM

Garden Party at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake



On Sunday, July 20th from 1 to 3 PM the friars, staff and volunteers of Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake will share refreshments and fellowship as visitors stroll the assorted garden and prairie areas and visit with the gardeners themselves. This is also an opportunity for those of you who have visited the retreat center only during the winter to experience the retreat center during summertime.

Come on your own or with family and friends to experience our eight garden plots or all of our 60 acres of trails, pond and prairie. Leashed pets are welcome too.

There is no charge for this event.

## Garden Volunteers

Call for Gardeners - While we have many gardeners returning to their assigned garden plots in 2024 there is room for more volunteers. Please call Bob Beck if you would like to nurture the beauty of God's creations by getting your hands in the holy soil at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center. Some tools are provided - you are encouraged to bring your own favorites as well.



# Retreat Schedule

through December 2025

**Step aside** from all the challenges and uncertainties of this time for a weekend of spiritual connection and renewal at **Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center** in Prior Lake.



## 2025 Retreat Calendar

April 4 - 6	Married Couples	October 31 - November 2	Women's Weekend
April 11 - 13	Women's Palm Sunday	Wednesday, December 3	Advent Day of Prayer
April 17 - 19	Men's Holy Week	December 5 - 7	Serenity Retreat
April 25 - 27	Women's Weekend	Wednesday, December 10	Advent Day of Prayer
May 13 - 15	Women's Midweek	December 12 - 14	Men's Weekend Retreat
June 10 - 12	Women's Midweek	Wednesday, December 17	Advent Day of Prayer
June 19 - 22	Men & Women's Silent		
August 7 - 10	Men & Women's Silent		
September 9 - 11	Women's Midweek		
September 25 - 28	Men & Women's Silent		
October 3 - 5	Women's Weekend		
October 17 - 19	Women's Weekend		
October 24 - 26	Friends of Francis		

**We are pleased to fulfill your Mass intentions throughout the year. Call 952-447-2182.**

## Register for Retreats

Call 952-447-2182

Online [www.franciscanretreats.net/calendar-1](http://www.franciscanretreats.net/calendar-1)

*or*

Complete **Registration Form** below

### Registration Form

Retreat Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$40.00\* Payment Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: Visa Discover MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Approval \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:** Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center, 16385 Saint Francis Lane, Prior Lake, MN 55372-2220

**\*A non-refundable registration fee of \$40.00 per person is required and must be received in order to reserve a room. The suggested retreat offering of \$200 (\$285 for three-night retreats) can be paid while you are here on retreat.**

# Just a reminder—

We are pleased to fulfill your mass intentions throughout the year.

Call our office: 952-447-2182

*...find the rising peace.*  
**FRANCISCAN**  
RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER  
16985 Saint Francis Lane  
Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372-2220  
952.447.2182

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## Recipe

### Rhubarb Torte – by Franciscan Retreat Center baker extraordinaire – Donna Schreiner

#### Crust

½ C shortening  
½ C butter  
2 C flour  
2 Tablespoons sugar

Combine all ingredients as for pie crust into 9x9 pan. Bake at 350 for 10 minutes.

#### Filling

6 egg yolks  
2 C sugar  
1 C milk  
4 Tablespoons flour  
½ Teaspoon salt  
4 C rhubarb – cut fine

Combine all ingredients, pour over crust. Bake at 350 for 30-40 minutes.

#### Meringue

6 egg whites  
¾ C powdered sugar  
¼ Teaspoon cream of tartar

Beat egg whites till soft peaks form. Add sugar gradually. Beat until stiff. Spread on top of filling. Bake at 350 until the Meringue is browned.



Donna Schreiner



Rhubarb Torte