

# Franciscan Parish Visit Takeaways



# Key Takeaways

- Jubilee awareness
- Opportunity to reinforce why St. Francis matters today
- Navigation, welcome, hospitality
- Experiential: Artwork, Inspiration (i.e. Jubilee Door), Events, Relics
- Misc. Franciscan cues & offertory observations

# Overview/Guides

**Lenovo**

## WELCOME

We are honored to welcome you as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of our patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi. This special year invites us to reflect on his life of simplicity, humility, and joyful devotion to Christ.

As you visit, we invite you to prayerfully explore the sacred artwork and relics displayed throughout our church. Each piece tells a story of faith and offers a glimpse into the spiritual legacy of St. Francis and St. Clare—saints who continue to inspire the Church and the world.

In this Jubilee Year, proclaimed in communion with Pope Leo XIV, may your time here be one of renewal, peace, and deeper encounter with Christ.

Welcome, and may the Lord give you grace.

Pray for the memory of our father and brother, for the praise and glory of Him who made us, among us and glorified him in the sight of angels. Pray for him, as once he asked us, "Pray to him that God may make us sharers with him of his holy grace."

### SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St. Francis of Assisi has long been one of the most popular saints in the Church. He was born in Bernardone, Italy in 1181, the son of Pietro and Pica di Bernardone. His father was a member of the new merchant class and made money in the textile trade. As a youth Francis spent money lavishly and partied well.

Serious illness brought him to see the emptiness of his life. His conversion reached a climax when he embraced a leper he met along the road. Soon thereafter he began to care for the sick and gave his money to the poor.

One day, while he was praying in the run-down church of San Damiano, he heard a voice coming from the crucifix that said, "Francis, go and repair my house, for it is nearly falling down. At first, he thought God wanted him to repair the church building. But soon he realized that God wanted him to bring to people the transforming power of the gospel.

Francis committed himself to prayer and to actively preaching the gospel. He really believed what Jesus said, "Announce the kingdom! Don't possess gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, sandals, staff."

During the last years of his relatively short life (he died at 44) he was half-blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death, he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

He died October 3, 1226 and was canonized two years later. His feast day is October 4.

## JUBILEE YEAR

### SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI


JANUARY 10, 2026-JANUARY 10, 2027

## CONTACT US

Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi  
5901 Olive Branch Road  
Greenwood, IN 46143  
ss-fc.org 317.859.4673



## 1 EAST ROSE STAINED GLASS WINDOW

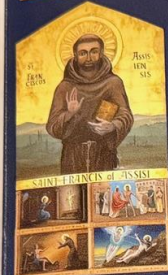


As you proceed up the main walk to our church, you are welcomed by our iconic **East Rose Stained Glass Window**, which beautifully depicts the spiritual bond of Saint Francis & Saint Clare of Assisi.

Inspired by events beginning on Palm Sunday in 1212, the window recalls the moment when 18-year-old Clare of Assisi courageously left her noble life to follow Christ. Kneeling before St. Francis at the Portiuncula, she renounced her wealth and dedicated her life fully to God, becoming the first member of the Poor Clares, with Jesus as her spiritual Bridegroom.


The imagery weaves together key Franciscan symbols: St. Francis preaching to the birds, reflecting his deep love for all creation, and palms offered to St. Clare, symbolizing her Palm Sunday conversion and complete surrender to God. Together, these images invite all who enter to reflect on radical faith, humility, and joyful discipleship. Throughout the artwork, you will also find the Wolf of Gubbio, Brother Sun representing St. Francis, Sister Moon representing St. Clare, and abundant animals honoring God's creation, and the sign of purity.

## 2 ICON OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI




The **Icon to Saint Francis** is decorated this year with gold bunting and flowers, and includes images of Saint Francis before the San Damiano Cross, the renunciation of worldly goods, the healing of a cripple, and receiving the stigmata. The flowers to honor Saint Francis can be thornless red roses for love of creation, white for purity, yellow for encouragement of faith, purple for his stigmata. Other flowers are lilies for purity, wild violets for modesty, daisies for simplicity and sunflowers that follow the sun, follow the light of Christ.

## 3 PAINTING OF SAINTS FRANCIS & CLARE OF ASSISI



Our painting of **Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi** in the south east corner of the church is also adorned with flowers and gold bunting. This painting originally belonged to the Sisters of Saint Francis in Oldenburg, and we are honored to display this work of art.


## 4 5 SAN DAMIANO CROSSES



There are two **San Damiano Crosses**—one in the glass of the south door of the church that leads out to the Resurrection Garden, and a large one in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Christ spoke to Saint Francis 821 years ago from the San Damiano Cross, telling him to "rebuild my church".

Make sure to pick up the **San Damiano Cross Images and Meaning Article** to learn more on the San Damiano Cross.

## 6 RELICS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL



Our reliquary in the **Blessed Sacrament Chapel**, holds several **relics**, including relics of Saint Francis and a relic of Saint Clare.

Veneration of these holy relics brings us closer to the saints, and to Christ himself.

Make sure to pick up the **Relics in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** pamphlet to learn more on the relics here at Saint Francis & Clare of Assisi.

# Overview/Guides

## LITURGY CONNECTION

### A Special Year Honoring St. Francis

This year, Catholics around the world are celebrating a special "Jubilee Year" dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi — an Italian from the 1200s known for his deep love of God, care for the poor, and respect for all creation. He is known as the founder of the Order of Friars Minor — the Franciscans.

Pope Leo has designated the year (from January 10, 2026, through January 10, 2027) as a time to mark the 800th anniversary of Francis' death and to reflect on how his simple, joyful way of life still speaks to our world today.

### What Is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee Year is a special time the Church sets aside for renewal — a chance to pause, reflect, and begin again. It's an open invitation to reconnect with God, no matter where you're starting from. It's not about being perfect or having everything figured out. It's simply about taking a step forward.

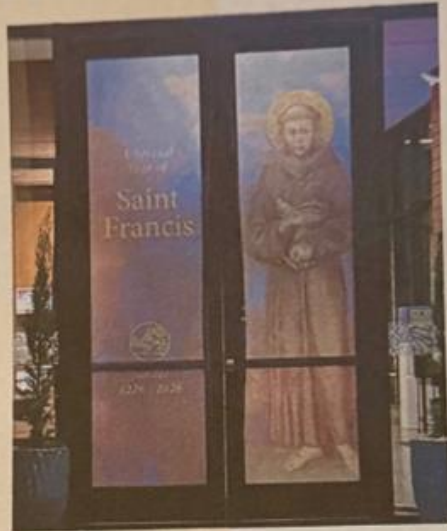
### Why St. Francis of Assisi Still Matters

Francis lived in a time not so different from ours—full of conflict, inequality, and distraction. He chose a different path: simplicity, humility, and care for others. Despite all he did, he remained deeply humble. He once said, "Let us begin again, for up

to now we have done nothing." It's a reminder that it's never too late to start over.

### An Invitation

Whether you come often or this is your first visit, this Jubilee Year is for you. Walk through the door. Take a moment of quiet. Ask questions. Begin again. And if you leave with even a small desire to be more peaceful, more compassionate, or more open to God — that's already a beautiful start.



### What Is a "Plenary Indulgence?"

This may be an unfamiliar term—and that's okay. A plenary indulgence is a deep spiritual reset: a chance to experience God's mercy in a complete way and begin again. We all carry

# Overview/Guides

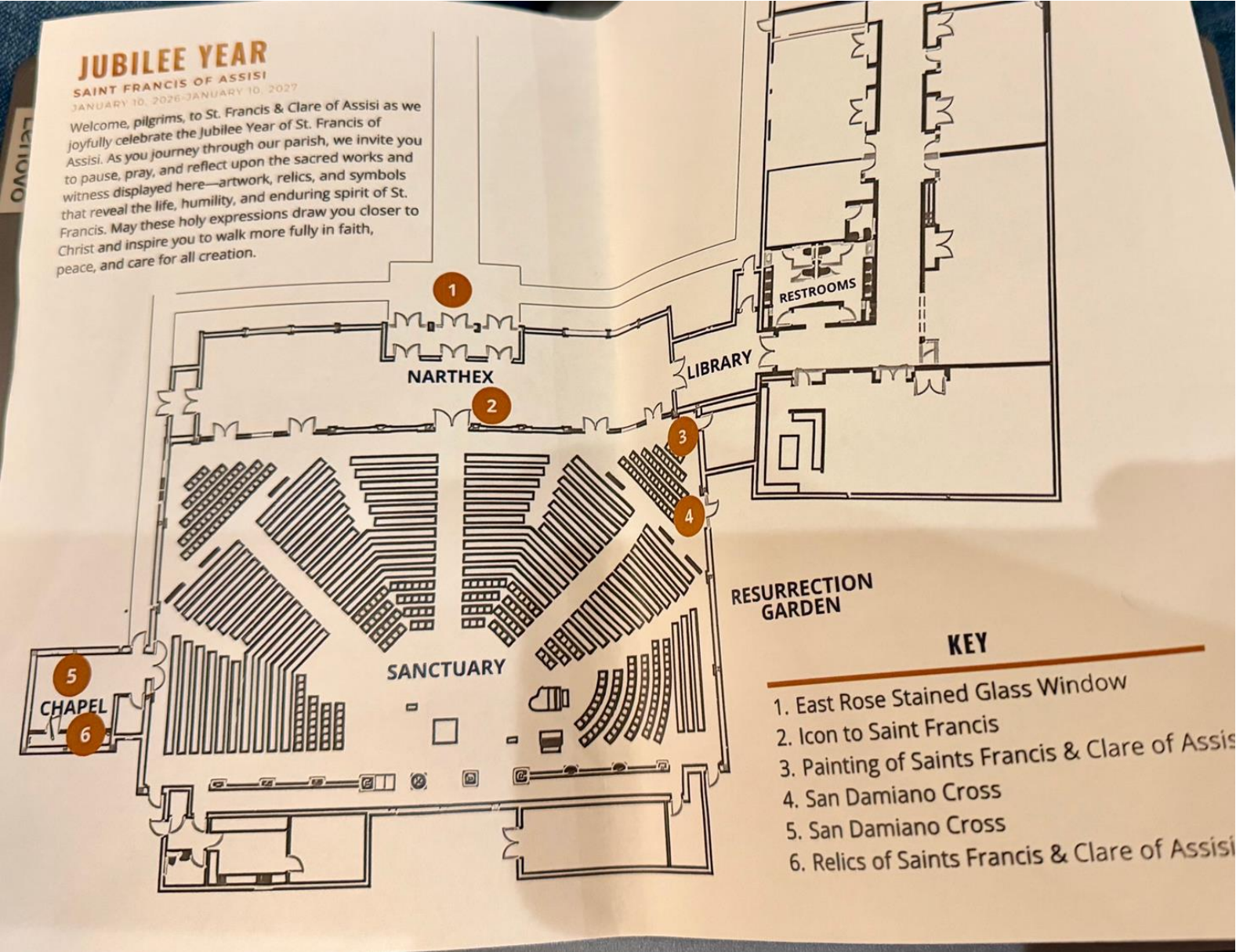
## JUBILEE YEAR

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

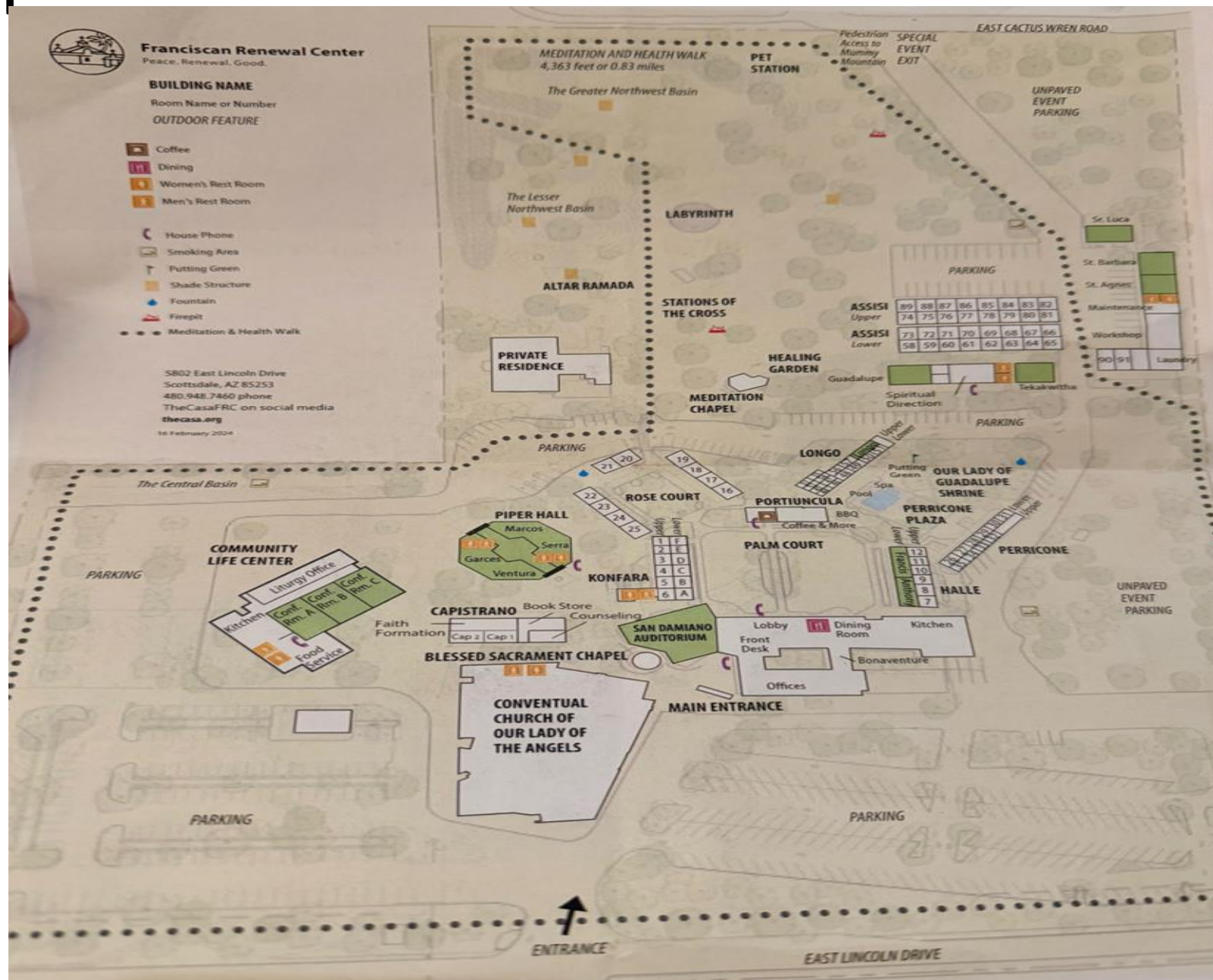
JANUARY 10, 2026-JANUARY 10, 2027

Welcome, pilgrims, to St. Francis & Clare of Assisi as we joyfully celebrate the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi. As you journey through our parish, we invite you to pause, pray, and reflect upon the sacred works and witness displayed here—artwork, relics, and symbols that reveal the life, humility, and enduring spirit of St. Francis. May these holy expressions draw you closer to Christ and inspire you to walk more fully in faith, peace, and care for all creation.

# Navigation



# Navigation



# Inspiration- Artwork

**TAKE A SELF-GUIDED ART TOUR**

Scan the QR code to download to your device, or ask the front desk for a printed copy.



Reco  
Taiz  
Art  
Spi  
Cor



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

**THE SAN DAMIANO CROSS IMAGES AND MEANING**

The largest figure is Jesus Christ, represented both as wounded and strong, standing upright and resolute. The bright white of the Lord's body contrasts with the dark red and black around it and, therefore, accentuates the prominence of Jesus. He projects the life of divine nature in a body pierced by nails in the hands and feet, by the crown of thorns on his head, and by the soldier's lance in his side. The representation contrasts with the regal Christ portrayed on the cross in earlier centuries and the crucified Christ depicted generally throughout the Church since the beginning of the 14th century.

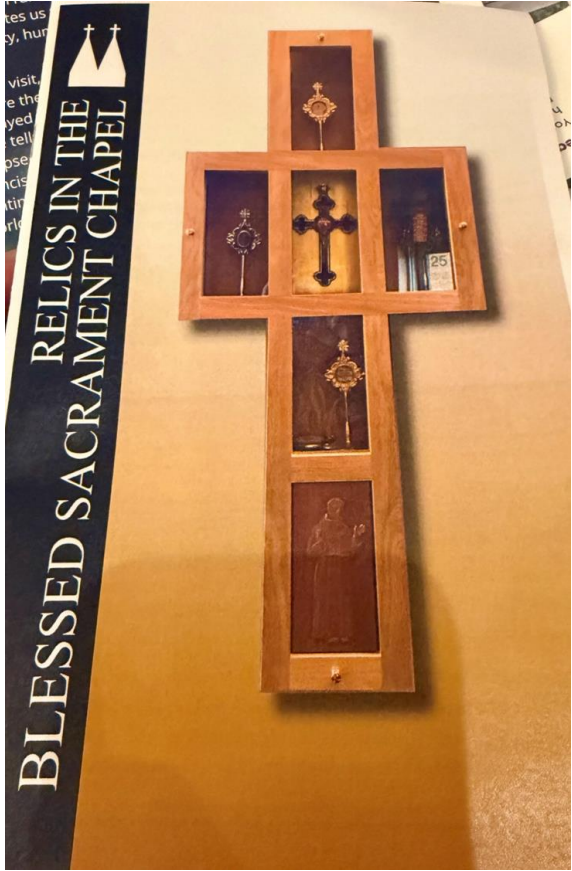
The next largest figures are five witnesses of the crucifixion and witnesses of Jesus as Lord. On the left side are the Virgin Mary and St. John the Evangelist, to whom Jesus entrusted his mother. On the right side are Mary Magdalene: Mary, Mother of James; and the centurion who in Matthew's Gospel account asks Christ to heal his son. Both Mary and Mary Magdalene have their hands placed on their cheeks to reflect extreme grief and anguish. The first four witnesses have halos because they are saints who gave their lives for the Lord.

The three smaller figures are represented as witnessing the crucifixion. On the lower left is Longinus, the traditional name of the Roman soldier who pierced the side of Jesus with a lance. In the lower right is Stephaton, the traditional name for the soldier who offered Jesus the sponge soaked in vinegar wine.

Peering over the left shoulder of the centurion is a small face. A close look reveals the tops of the heads of three others beside him. This represents the centurion's son who was healed by Jesus and the rest of his family to show that "he and his whole household believed." (John 4: 45-54)

represented as marveling over the event of

# Inspiration- Relics



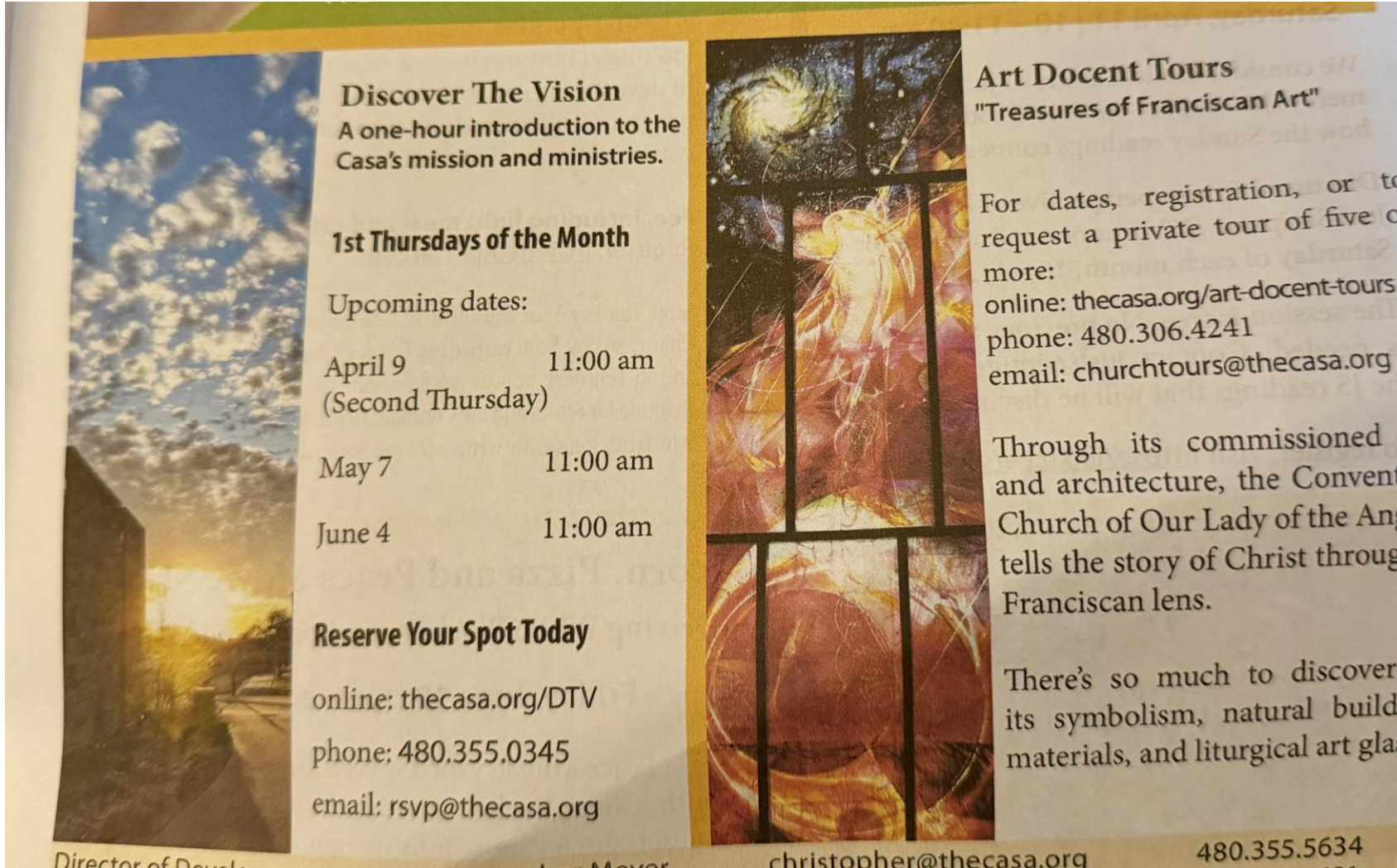
# Inspiration- Jubilee Door



## What Is the "Jubilee Door?"

Here at our church, you'll see a designated "Jubilee Door." It's a simple but meaningful symbol. Jesus once said, "I am the door," meaning he is the way to a new kind of life. Walking through this door is a physical way of saying: "I want a fresh start. I'm open to change. I'm ready to begin again." You don't need to have all the answers. Just coming with an open heart is enough.

# Inspiration- Events



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

**1st Thursdays of the Month**

Upcoming dates:

April 9 (Second Thursday)	11:00 am
May 7	11:00 am
June 4	11:00 am

**Reserve Your Spot Today**

online: [thecasa.org/DTV](http://thecasa.org/DTV)  
phone: 480.355.0345  
email: [rsvp@thecasa.org](mailto:rsvp@thecasa.org)

**Art Docent Tours**  
"Treasures of Franciscan Art"

For dates, registration, or to request a private tour of five or more:  
online: [thecasa.org/art-docent-tours](http://thecasa.org/art-docent-tours)  
phone: 480.306.4241  
email: [churchtours@thecasa.org](mailto:churchtours@thecasa.org)

Through its commissioned art and architecture, the Convent 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.

Director of Development: Christopher Meyer  
[christopher@thecasa.org](mailto:christopher@thecasa.org) 480.355.5634

# Franciscan cues



# Offertory example

## THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*Christ is Risen, Alleluia! Your Easter gift shares God's love in real and lasting ways—helping our community welcome the broken, feed the hungry, and bring hope to all who seek healing and transformation. Give in love today!*



# Do we have opportunities to maximize our Jubilee plans & aspirations?

- Jubilee awareness?
- Opportunity to reinforce why St. Francis matters today?
- Navigation, welcome, hospitality?
- Experiential: Artwork, Inspiration (i.e. Jubilee Door), Events, Relics?