

St. George's-by the-River Rumson, New Jersey

THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



Nicholas Roerich's St. Francis - 1931

The Rev. Jeffrey Roy, *Rector*
The Rev. Micah Cronin, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Ophelia Laughlin, *Rector Emerita*
The Rev. Dr. James Jones, *Associate*
Ms. Nicole Houston, *Youth & Family Minister*
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**THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

October 6, 2024

Welcome/Announcements

Leader The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Leader Let us pray.

**All 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; and
where there is sadness, joy.
O, God, grant that I may not so much seek to be con-
soled as to console;
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.**

The Ministry of the Word

Genesis 1:20-25

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Psalm 148:7-14 (in unison):

7. Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
8. Fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
9. Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
10. Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged birds;
11. Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
12. Young men and maidens,
old and young together.
13. Let them praise the Name of the LORD,
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.
14. He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

Reflection

The Prayers

Leader: Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely
bestowed upon us and for the beauty and wonder of your creation,
in earth and sky and sea;

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Leader: For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Leader: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women;

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Leader: For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Leader: For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Leader: For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Leader: That each pet here may be treasured with care;

All: **We pray to you, Lord.**

Leader: That we may love and honor all your works, O God;

All: **We pray to you, Lord.**

Leader: That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment
of your abundant creation;

All: **To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord.
Amen.**

Final Prayer

Dearest God, Heavenly Father
maker of all living creatures,
we ask you to bless our pets,
who bring so much joy into our lives.
By the power of Your love,
enable them to live according to your plan.
May we always praise You for all Your beauty in creation.
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
Blessed are You, God, in all Your creatures! **Amen.**

The Blessing

Dismissal: Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Saint Francis of Assisi (born Giovanni Francesco di Bernardone; 1181 – died: October 3, 1226) was an Italian Catholic friar and preacher. He founded the men's Franciscan Order, the women's Order of St. Clare, and the lay Third Order of Saint Francis. Though he was never ordained into the Catholic priesthood, Francis is one of the most venerated religious figures in history.

On July 16, 1228, he was pronounced a saint by Pope Gregory IX. He is known as the patron saint of animals, the environment, and one of the two patrons of Italy (with Catherine of Siena), and it is customary for Catholic and Anglican churches to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his feast day of 4 October. He is also known for his love of the Eucharist, his sorrow during the Stations of the Cross, and for the creation of the Christmas creche or Nativity Scene.

Welcome!

We invite you to come and see if you would like to worship with us here “by the River” on Sundays at 8am and 10am on Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. and on the second Saturday of the month at 5:00 p.m. for our Pet Friendly service.

Who are we? We are traditional and progressive, longtime and brand new, single and partnered, young and old, Episcopalians and people from many religious backgrounds who are guided by the Holy Spirit to live our lives as followers of Jesus.

Please note that St. George's makes provision for the burial of pets' ashes in a special section of our Memorial Garden. If you have pet ashes for burial, please consult the clergy.

ST. GEORGE'S-BY-THE-RIVER
**Pet Friendly
Worship**
SATURDAYS AT 5PM

**October 12th
November 9th
December 14th
January 11th**

**February 8th
March 8th
April 12th
May 10th**

The Canticle of the Creatures

Although Francis left behind relatively few written documents, his Canticle of the Creatures (also known as The Canticle of Brother Sun) is included within the *Catholic Catechism* and was considered by Pope John Paul II to be a beautiful reminder that everything from God bears significance.

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessing.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no man is worthy to mention Your name.
Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather
through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.
Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.
Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living man can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.

—from *Francis of Assisi*, "The Canticle of Brother Sun," Regis J. Armstrong, OFM CAP and Ignatius C. Brady, OFM, trans., *Francis and Clare: The Complete Works* (New York: Paulist Press, 1982), 38-39.

