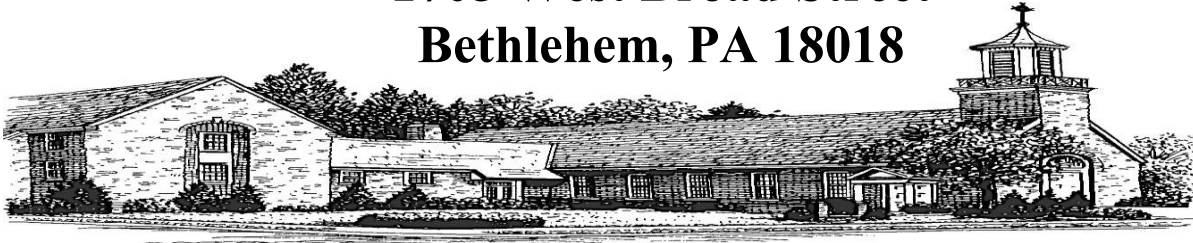


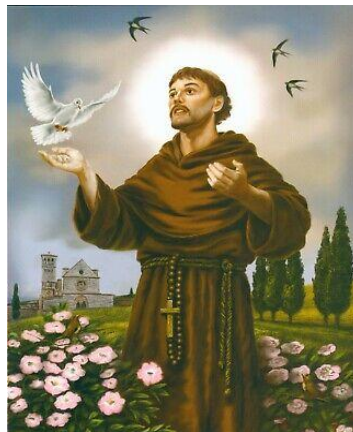
**BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
AT ROSEMONT**

**1705 West Broad Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018**



**LITURGY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE
THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

OCTOBER 5, 2025



OUR MISSION

Christ has called us together to do God's Work.

**Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont
is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of
race, creed, age, national origin,
cultural background, sexual orientation, class,
physical or mental ability.**

WELCOME

Lector Good Morning. My name is Gina Brockway.
A warm welcome is extended to all. Especially those who are gathering at BT@R for the first time or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together. Today we observe the 17th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday. Everything you need to follow along with the worship service can be found in your bulletin. Please join us for fellowship following the gathering.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR AND CARE CANDLES

The Altar and Care candles are lit.

Leader This flame is warm as the companionship of friends is warm.

Assembly Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

GATHERING MUSIC *Then Sings My Soul* – Swedish Melody arr. Gary Lanier
Korey Schaffer, Clarinet and Cello
Michael Schaffer, Saxophone

The assembly stands as they are able.

GATHERING WORDS

Leader God of all creation,
you open our eyes to the beauty of the world
and call us to live gently upon the earth.
Through the witness of Saint Francis,
teach us to delight in simple things,
to love all your creatures as our kin,
and to walk in the way of peace
full of compassion, courage and joy.



————— “If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a tent with a mosquito. – African Proverb

GATHERING MUSIC Hymnal 879

For the Beauty of the Earth



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor We pray: God of growth and promise,
you take the smallest of seeds and bring forth surprising life.
Plant your word deep within us, that our faith may take root,
grow strong in love and shelter others with your mercy.

Assembly **Amen! May it be so!**

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans) who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The assembly may be seated for the readings.

A READING Lamentations 3:19-26

Lector A reading from the book of Lamentations

- ¹⁹ The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is worm- wood and gall!
- ²⁰ My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
- ²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
- ²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end;
- ²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
- ²⁴ "You are all that I have," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in you, O Lord."
- ²⁵ You are good to those who wait for you,
to all that search for you.
- ²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY Psalm 148 – Christopher L. Webber tune, St. Peter

1 Praise to the Lord from all the earth:
Sea monsters, deep below,
Storm winds, all those who do his will,
Fire, hail, and fog, and snow;

2 Trees bearing fruit and cedar trees,
All hills and mountains steep;
Beasts of the wild and winged birds,
Cattle and things that creep;

3 All kings and peoples of the earth,
Princes and rulers, too;
Young men and maidens, old and young,
To him all praise is due.

4 His splendor spans all earth and heaven;
All those who come to dwell
With him receive both strength and praise:
His people Israel.

**Life speaks to us in new and vital and imperative ways.
With all the power we have been given,
let us be silent and open to listening...
for nourishment,
for comfort,
for challenge and new focus.**

A READING FROM THE WORLD AROUND US

Lector A reading from the world around us.
 The Longing of Nature by John O'Donohue

Celtic spirituality reminds us that we do not live simply in the thoughts, feelings or relationships.

We belong on the earth.

The rhythm of the clay and its seasons sings within our hearts.

The sun warms the clay and fosters life.

The moon blesses the night.

In the uncluttered world of Celtic spirituality there is a clear view of the sacrament of nature as it brings forth visible presence.

The Celts worshipped in groves in nature and attended to the silent divinity of wild places.

Certain wells, trees, animals and birds were sacred to them.

Where and what a people worship always offers a clue to where they understand the source of life to be.

Most of our experience of religion happens within the walled frame of church or temple.

Our God is approached through thought. word and ritual.

The Celts had no walls around their worship.

Being in nature was already to be in the Divine Presence.

Nature was the theatre of the diverse drama trudges of the Divine Imagination.

This freedom id beautifully echoed in the lyric poem:

Ah blackbird it is well for you,
Wherever in the thicket you next,
Hermit that sounds no bell,
Sweet, soft fairylike is your note. (Trans. Myles Dillion)

The contemplative presence of nature is not ostentatious or cluttered by thought. Its majesty and elegance drift into voice in the single, subtle note of the blackbird.

Whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life
keep peace with your soul. With all its shame, drudgery and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

– *Seventeenth Century Anonymous*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Luke 17:5-10

Pastor Reading from the Holy Gospel + as written to us by Luke.

Assembly Glory to you O God.

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶ The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷ “Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ ”

Pastor This is Good News from the Lord.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated for the Sermon.

THE SERMON

Prayer of St. 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.

The assembly stands as able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Blessed Francis, Holy Father; tune, W. Zlobie Lezy*

Blessed Francis, holy father,
Now our hearts to you we raise,
As we gather round your altar,
Pouring forth our hymn of praise.
Bless your children, holy Francis,
Who your mighty help, implore,
For in heaven you remain
Still the father of the poor.

By your love so deep and burning
For your Savior crucified;
By the tokens which He gave you
On your hands, and feet and side:
Bless your children, holy Francis,
With those wounded hands of yours,
From your glorious throne in heav'n,
Where resplendently they shrine.

Humble follower of Jesus,
Likened to Him in your birth,
In your way through life despising,
For His sake, the goods of earth:
Make us love the priceless virtue
By our hidden God esteemed,
Make it valued, holy Francis;
By the souls of the redeemed.

Teach us also, dear Saint Francis,
How to mourn for ev'ry sin;
May we walk in your dear footsteps
Till the crown of life, we win.
Bless your children, holy Francis,
With those wounded hands of yours,
From the glorious throne in heav'n,
Where resplendently they shine.

CELEBRATION BLESSING AND REMEMBRANCE OF ANIMALS/PETS

(Adapted from statements of Chief Sealh, better known as Chief Seattle, from a speech delivered in 1854.)

Pastor Today we are surrounded by the animals we love.
We remember with gratitude the pets, protectors, and animal companions who have blessed our lives.

Lector We give thanks for our childhood pets, who taught us to love and to cry.
We give thanks for our children's pets,
who help us to teach them responsibility and relationship,
and we give thanks for the pets who brighten our days and comfort our nights.

Leader Today we are surrounded by the animals we love.
We acknowledge that many animals contribute to our lives.
We give thanks for all those animals who help us:
working animals who guard us and find our lost and guide the blind,
the animals who provide us food and clothing,
who tote our burdens and entertain us with their antics,
and for animals who give their lives to help us learn.

Lector But we also remember that many animals suffer.
We remember that some animals are hunted or deserted or tortured or hungry.
We remember that nature can be cruel, and that people can be mean.

(Silence)

You are invited to hold up a picture of your favorite animal for a blessing.

Pastor So today we bless + these animals...
Animals we love.
Animals who are the companions of our lives.

**Assembly We pledge to care for them tenderly and faithfully,
and to remember that we are not alone on the earth.**

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS PRESENTATION

CHOIR ANTHEM *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* – Daniel Kantor

The assembly may sit or kneel for prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING *The offering plates are at the front and back entrances.*

Use your phone's camera to scan this code
to give a gift to Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont
and to view our website and social media sites.



OFFERTORY MUSIC: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* – Johann Sebastian Bach

THE OFFERTORY HYMN



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



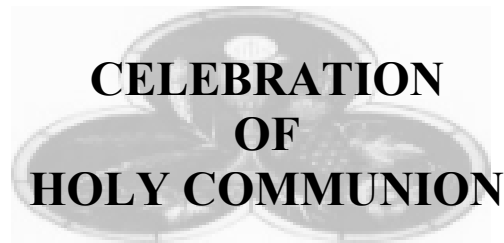
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

PRESENTATION

Pastor May our hearts be opened, our hands unclenched,
and our ears unclogged, that we may
feel and touch and taste and see
the breath and play of God around us.



THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Pastor Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
blessing us with gifts to share.

Assembly Blessed be God forever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor God's hope is in us.
Lift up your hearts.

Assembly We lift them up to God.

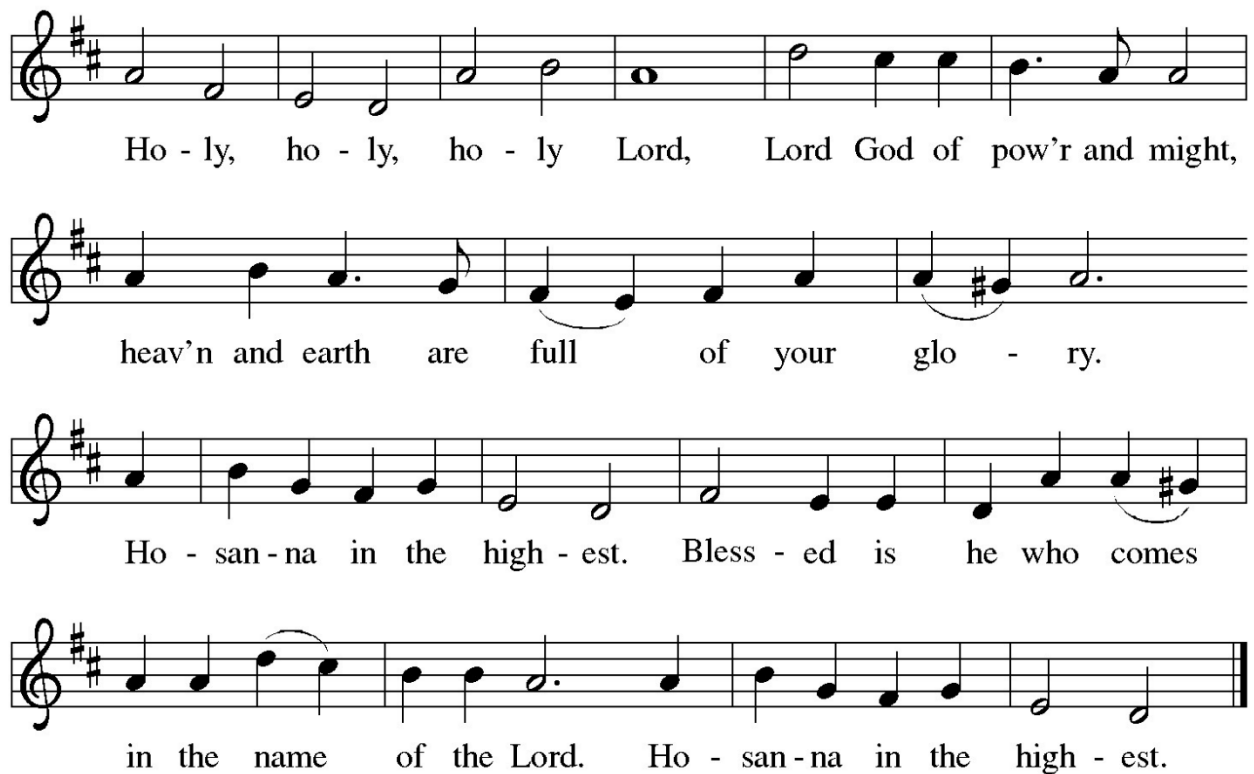
Pastor Let us give thanks to the God of peace.

Assembly It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Pastor It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the witness of your saints
you show us the hope of our calling
and strengthen us to run the race set before us,
that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.

And so, with Saint Frances and all the saints,
with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn ...



Pastor On the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread,
And gave thanks; broke it,
And gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper,
He took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people
For the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Each day may we be transformed so we become
more human, more friendly
towards our neighbor and all of creation.
May it be so.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Pastor We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

Assembly **God here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.**

THE INVITATION

Pastor Come to this table of grace. Here there are no barriers, no requirements, no tests of worthiness. No matter your faith, your doubts, or your background – All are welcome, all are loved, all are fed. Come, taste and see the goodness of God.

ALL ARE INVITED TO SHARE BREAD AND WINE

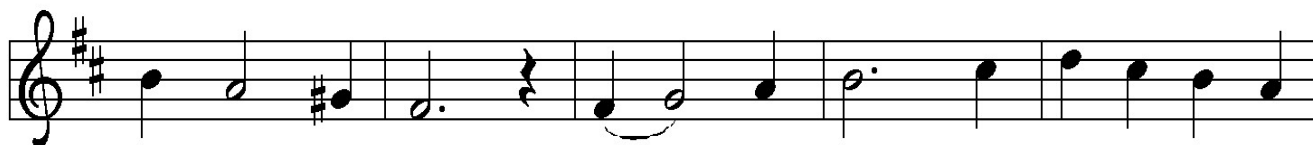
All are welcome to come and receive the bread and wine. There are gluten free wafers; ask the Pastor or Communion Assistants to provide one to you. A chalice of wine will be offered to you - simply touch the wafer to the wine. If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come forward simply let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.



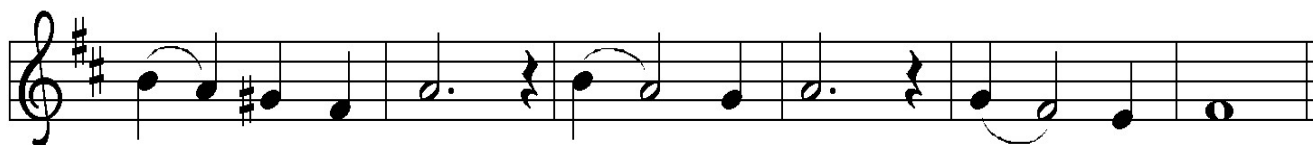
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

I Come with Joy – Hymnal 482

God of the Sparrow – Hymnal 740

The assembly may stand as they are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader Risen Christ, whom we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands;
the word of life in whom our joy is complete:
send us out to declare your truth,
your unshakeable faith in the world you love.

Assembly Amen.

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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PARTING WORDS

Leader Lead us from death to life,
 from falsehood to truth.
 Lead us from despair to hope,
 from fear to trust.
 Let peace fill our hearts,
 our world, our universe.
 Let us dream together,
 pray together,
 work together,
 to build one world
 of peace and justice for all.

The Altar Candles and Care Candle are extinguished.

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor - ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen - dor
grain: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur - dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

WORDS OF BLESSING

Pastor May you walk in the light of God's love and laughter all the moments of your nights and days. And may the blessings of God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit Be with you this day and always.

Assembly **Amen. May it be so!**

You are invited to be seated for a special postlude.

POSTLUDE *Heavenly Sunlight* – G.H. Cook

Thank you for worshiping with us at BT@R today.
We are grateful for your presence and pray that you were blessed
by the service.



BT@R

FELLOWSHIP

Morning coffee and tea are now served.

You are invited upstairs to Laros Hall to share in this time of fellowship.

You are invited to keep this copy of the liturgy and take it home with you
to share with another member of your family, or with a friend



Use your phone's camera to scan this code
For upcoming events at
Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont



Fascinating Facts About Saint Francis

When most people think about Saint Francis, one of the first images that come to mind is the ubiquitous Saint Francis garden statue; peaceful and serene and gently holding animals in his hands. But the real Saint Francis was so much more interesting than that. He was an ex-party animal soldier who renounced his wealth, lived his new life in radical poverty, went on daring missions to hostile lands, and experienced mystical ecstasy.

Here are 7 fascinating facts from the life of Saint Francis:

1. His Name Was Originally John

At his birth in 1182, his mother had Saint Francis baptized John (Giovanni), after St. John the Baptist. However, when his father, a rich cloth merchant names Pietro di Bernardon, returned from business travels, he renamed him Francis (Francesco) because France was where he made his livelihood.

2. He Was a Party Animal

Before his conversion, Francis, who was wealthy and good looking, lead a life full of partying and frivolity. His partying buddies even called him “dominus”, because he was the King of Partying, paying for lavish parties full of food, wine, and women.

3. He Wanted to Be a Warrior Like King Arthur

Francis was enamored with the Arthurian legends of France, and desired to be knight in the same vein. Francis even fought in two wars, one a civil war in Assisi, and the other as a mounted soldier against the city-state of Perugia. In the second battle, he was captured and was a POW for over a year.

4. He Traveled into Muslim Territory to Convert the Sultan

During the 5th Crusade, Francis traveled to Egypt to convert the Sultan Malik al-Kamil. He even challenged the Islamic religious leaders to a trial by fire where he would walk through fire with them to prove the truth of Christianity. Though the Sultan did not convert, Francis and Sultan became true friends, and ten years later, al-Kamil freely gave Jerusalem to the Christians.

5. He Was the First Record Person to Receive the Stigmata

During a 40-day retreat, dedicated to the Archangel Michael, he had a vision of a six-winged Seraph attached to a cross. He miraculously received at the same time a painful wound in the heart, which seemed to pierce it. When the vision ended his

own hands and feet bore the marks of the angelic crucifixion which he had seen in the vision.

6. His Grave Was Lost for Many Years

Saint Francis died on October 3, 1226. His body was originally placed in a Basilica, but not long after, out of fear that it would be lost in raids by invading Saracens, his body was hidden. The secret location was forgotten and not rediscovered until 1818.

7. The Franciscans Got Papal Approval After Innocent III Had a Vision

Francis' biographer, Saint Bonaventure, recounts that Pope Innocent III had a dream in which he saw the Lateran Basilica almost ready to fall down. A little poor man, small and scorned, was propping it up with his own back bent so that it would not fall. "I'm sure," he said, "he is the one who will hold up Christ's Church by what he does and what he teaches." After having this dream, Innocent III approved the rule of Francis and the founding of the Franciscan order.

