

October 3 at 1:30 pm near the Marion Shrine



History of St. Francis and Blessing of Animals

Born in Italy circa 1181, St. Francis of Assisi was the son of a wealthy silk merchant and lived the high-spirited life typical of a wealthy young man of that time. Around 1202, he joined a military expedition against Perugia and, after fighting in a battle between Assisi and Perugia, Francis was captured and imprisoned for ransom. He spent nearly a year in prison awaiting his father's payment and, according to legend, began receiving visions from God. After his release from prison, Francis heard the voice of Christ, who told him to repair the Christian Church and live a life of poverty. Consequently, he abandoned his life of luxury and became a devotee of the faith, his reputation spreading all over the Christian world. Later in life, Francis reportedly received a vision that left him with the stigmata of Christ, marks resembling the wounds Jesus Christ suffered when he was crucified making Francis the first person to receive such holy wounds. He was canonized as a saint on July 16, 1228. During his life he also developed a deep love of nature and animals and is known as the patron saint of the environment and animals; his life and words have had a lasting resonance with millions of followers across the globe. Each October, many animals the world over are blessed on his feast day, which is on October 4th.

On Sunday October 3 at 1:30, we invite parishioners and friends to bring their family pets for a blessing by Fr. Bill. This will take place in the upper field.

Please make sure that animals are on leashes or in a cage.