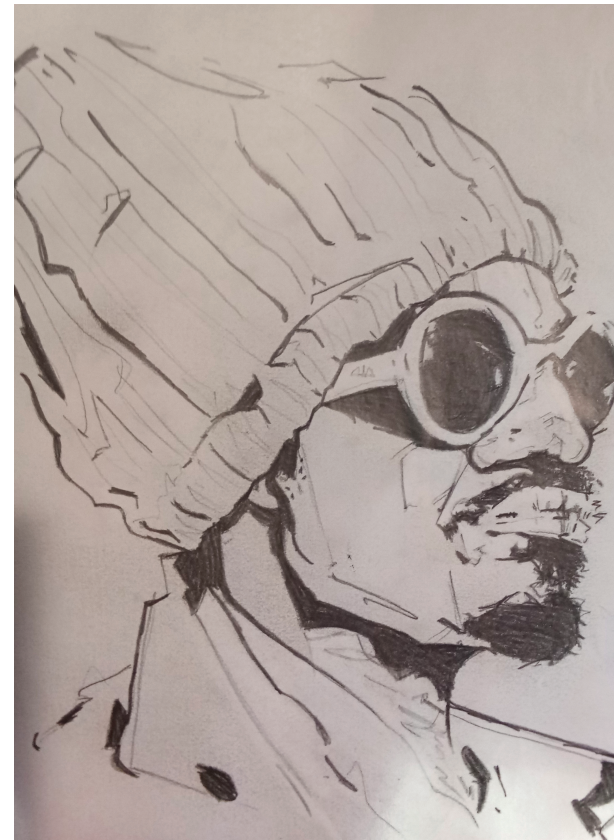


The greatest successes are often followed by great failures because with every failure, you learn and you grow. You become a stronger, more experienced person with a past of mistakes and learning lessons behind you that has manifested into wisdom. You take this newfound knowledge of life and the ways of the world and use it to guide you through every challenge presented to you. It's easy to doubt yourself when it feels like life isn't going your way and nothing is working out in your favor, but you have to remember that there is someone high above us with our best interests in mind. There is someone out there ensuring our protection and would never throw anything our way without purpose. You are in the process of learning all that you were meant to in this lifetime. You are becoming the person God intended you to be. Day-by-day you are slowly growing, gaining experience, and pushing through the storm you're in the middle of. Never lose faith in God and never lose hope that things will get better. Always keep in mind that some of the greatest minds humanity has ever seen struggled and fought and won. Through faith and perseverance, anything is possible.

- CORA SHAW



Drawing by Joey



When we think our energy is gaining on us, we want to run and run. When we believe someone wants what we have we squeeze the life right out of it. When we believe "they" are out to get us, we find "their trap" at every turn. Yet if we would just stop running, squeezing and suspecting we would understand who they really are. They are the thoughts that beat us down, causing us to behave in unproductive ways. They are the doubts and suspicions we carry within us, and take the life out of the very thing we want. They are the fears that we fall into showing us the very thing we don't want to see. They are us when we don't have faith because faithlessness is the greatest enemy. No one can get what is meant for you. The universe will not have it the way it should not be. We have been put on this earth to be a certain way, have a certain thing. Accomplished a certain task. Until we have been done and had what we came here to be, do and have, we are the only ones who can get in the way.

- REGINAD G

AS I look back at this past year and reflect on what was accomplished and what wasn't. I'm just so grateful for the new people and new connections I made along the way. It's been an up and down year, but that's the thing that lets you know you're alive and living. The blessing of not just having another day to do it again but a blessing to see another year. As the saying goes out with the old and in with the new. New resolutions, new goals, and new prayers. Lord, I thank you for all that you have brought me through this year. For walking with me and not leaving me alone or forsaking me. Thanks for all the new friends and great people that you have allowed to come into my life and help me. Thanks for giving me the strength to ask for and accept help. Continue to guide me and work on me and my faith. As the new year is upon us please keep my children and my family safe. Nourish us and feed us your words and blessings. Let those that can't hear: hear, those that can't see: see and those that can't feel: feel. Even for a minute oh Lord. Let your blessings and mercy keep raining down on me. I say this with praise in my heart and strength in my body Amen.

- JAE WEBB

STREET VOICES



St. Francis Breadline Franciscan Bread for the Poor COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

V5 N52 ■ DECEMBER 2025

If you have any content to share for our newsletter please see one of the breadline staff. **We are in need of content such as a poem, lyrics, writing, thoughts, questions, image of your artwork or anything uplifting or informative.** Anyone who contributes content for our newsletter will receive a \$10 gift card.

The St. Francis Breadline and this publication is made possible by the Our Lady of Guadalupe.

FRANCISCAN 360 IS OPEN!

WHAT: Case Management, Computer Access, Mailing Address

WHERE: 144 W. 32nd Street

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4pm
Scheduled appointments only on Friday from 9am - 4pm

WHO: All are welcome!

Happy New Year! This week we have work from James D., a message from Rodney Wise, scripture reflection from Mercedes Daniels, work from S.L., a piece from Kay Ri, work from Kyle Lyford, a piece from Kay A., writing from Cora Shaw, work from Reginald G., writing from Tony Ghorayeb and artwork from Honesty and Joey R.



JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Be the first person to correctly answer all three trivia questions and win a gift card.

Which Manhattan church hosts a decades-long tradition of a live Christmas nativity scene with real animals?

What Broadway theater district location erects a massive snowflake, also known as the UNICEF Snowflake, every holiday season?

What organization runs Operation Santa, which matches letters to Santa with people who would like to donate gifts?

Answers to last weeks trivia questions

What beverage company is widely credited with shaping the modern image of Santa Claus? Answer: Coca-Cola

In the Twelve Days of Christmas, what are there eleven of? Answer: Pipers Piping

According to Guinness World Records, the tallest cut Christmas tree was about how many feet tall? A) 100 B) 200 C) 300 D) 400
Answer: B) 200 (212 to be exact)

Petals of Enchantment

Pageants live on display, rotating an audience surrounding unique assortments as rose petals are in motion, mini flags of celebration, a state welcoming.

Capturing moments, royalty in layers, glowing with the crown in place as jewels.

Petals of Enchantment grand entrance enters the banquet, head at each row, balconies full ever so soft in the company of guests in excitement. Red carpet award finally.

Petals of Enchantment

Tull round about as petals project from the royal dress of silk for yards in the distance. Crystallize 3D effects shimmer more, the images drawing attention to the event, matching bracelet set of glamour, glory, fame, beauty in honor...

the Petals of Enchantment.

- KAY RI

It was a sunny afternoon in OKLAHOMA city. My friend and proud father Bobby Lewis was taking his two little boys to play miniature golf. He walked up to the man at the ticket counter and said, how much is it to get in? The young man replied, \$3.00 for you and \$3.00 for any kid who is older than 6. How old are they? Bobby answered the lawyers three and the doctor is seven, so I guess I owe you \$6. The man at the counter said, hey mister, did you just win the lottery or something? You could have saved yourself three bucks. You could have told me that the older one was six, I wouldn't have known the difference. In challenging times, when ethics are more important than ever before make sure you set a good example for everyone you work and live with.

- JAMES D (AKA STEVE)

BACK FROM THE DEAD

I think we all have been there, lost of employment, divorce, broken relationships etc. we have even gotten news that the situation is cancelled or just DEAD. But, when you stand and believe God for a miracle, nothing is impossible. Mark 5:21-43, demonstrates that even tho a situation might look like it's over, God can step right in. If you are facing a situation that looks like it's impossible to fix, don't give up, give it All to God. Just like the little Girl, God can bring it back to Life.

- RODNEY WISE

With life's up's and Down's, we should always be strong and faithful. We should always be ready to get close and comfortable in God's company. Because we are going to need him. He's reliable and trustworthy. We can always rely on his guidance. Jesus is really what we need in our daily life's to make it safely. We should never hesitate to ask for his help. He is there for us. He's there to guide us, to counsel us, to show us the road ahead. With his company, we are safe. We are at peace with ourselves. Then and only then we can be strong, confident and able to overcome life's difficulties. Jesus, our savior, is really our friend. Able and willing to show us right from wrong. How to avoid the wrong and how to pursue the right. His words to us are: be strong and determined, and you will live a peaceful and prosperous life. And should you feel weak on a given day, seek Jesus guidance. Share your weaknesses. We are fragile creatures. We are expected to make mistakes.

Amen...

- TONY GHORAYEB

A Holiday Prayer

Now I pray, my head bowed still,
Praying for the world You built,

For the homeless, the sick, and the children too,
Especially during the holidays too.

Please watch our backs and bless our food.

Let everyone know that the holidays are a beautiful time,
But they're also a sad time. For me, it's never easy around the holidays. I look at people and see what I used to have.

Everything happens for a reason,
And sometimes you don't realize what you had Until it's gone.

I know it takes time to get back there again,
And maybe it won't ever be the same, But good things will come To those who wait.

- SL

Happy
New Year
2026

I Believe

Jesus my supreme commander, lord of lords, king of kings, son of a man, the only one born without sin. Flesh of my flesh, kin of his kin, he can take one fish and grant your wish of feeding your starving village!! He shines like a diamond, doesn't make you wait or put your soul on consignment.

His mother Mary, the pure virgin, Queen of Peace. Joseph his carpenter mentor father had to believe the Holy Spirit that his wife was pregnant and did not cheat. What a feat and test of trust, of faith. It must of been to stand behind his wife and lead on in life, to not stress or strife or doubt even with others snickering, stammering and the devil sneering disbelief for relief.

- KYLE LYFORD

All in due time

Little steps, the path is long,
Just one small choice,
Today's the day, a chance to start
To heal the mind, to heal the heart.

Forget the past, it's in the haze,
Tomorrow's future, yet unmade.
Just focus now ,on this single breath,
A life transformed, defying death.

One kind word, a helping hand,
A wave of hope, across the land.
Each gentle act, bring a brighter sky,
One day at a time, reach stairway to heaven

- ANONYMOUS



Today's Bible verse is Isaiah 41:10.

ISAIAH 41:10: *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand."*

There's nothing to fear because God is with us. There's no need to be stressed or to worry about things because God is always protecting us. God knows what's best for us and he's making sure everyday that we're doing what we're supposed to be doing and that nothing is able to hurt us in this world so long as we follow his word.

- MERCEDES DANIELS



Drawing by Honesty

Inspire

"Life small of favor from seed to sprout each branch full of love and care."

"Tokens in place building friendships between companions each petal holding the key."

"Success measures growth the stage by levels of responsibility equal development."

"Honor granting those who extend to win values bonds so great."

"From seed to sprout trusting life small of favor beauty relies on a grand source."

"Rewarding self pride independence at peace an expression."

"Advancement of opportunity more is expected with achievements."

"Brave encouraging open arms to the world with an ego mastering its spark shows significant true importance."

Life small of favor from seed to sprout."

- KAY A.