



“All Creatures Great and Small” – Blessings of the Animals on St. Francis Day

On **Saturday, October 3 at 12 noon** we remember and honor the life and ministry of Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan Order and patron saint of all God’s animals, flowers, and fauna. In honor of St. Francis, we will celebrate this feast day with our annual Blessing of the Animals **again in a NEW WAY!** We will offer a brief liturgy with prayer and blessings for your special furry, or slimy, family members **OUTSIDE** in the Grove adjacent to the church, weather permitting! If weather is **NOT** permitting, we’ll move into the Great Hall. There **WILL NOT** be a celebration of Holy Eucharist for we human types, but there will be “communion” treats for the special pets you bring. On Sunday, October 4, the calendar Feast Day of St. Francis, we will bless all those special critters in our life of the **stuffed animal variety**, so bring your favorite friends to church with you for this special blessing, and you are welcome to bring a stuffed variety on October 3 if you wish!

You are invited to bring those special friends and members of your family we call our pets for a blessing. I ask that you leash or cage as needed, and do not bring your friend if they usually do not play nicely with other pets or humans. My preference is that they do not bite or slither too much, but the more the merrier! And special sweet treats will be available after the service provided by Mister Softee right in our parking lot!



Come and join us in this festive celebration of St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, October 3, and share in the blessings we receive from our special family members. *Fr. Paul+*