

September 26. Yom Kippur, Shared Christian/Jewish Heritage, St. Francis of Assisi.

Objectives:

1. Catechumens will begin to develop an understanding of shared Jewish/Christian heritage
2. Catechumens will develop understanding of the concept of forgiveness and redemption in the realm of Yom Kippur and Christianity.
3. Catechumens will begin to develop an understanding of St. Francis of Assisi and his philosophies of the divinity of creation.
4. Catechumens will compare the nature of happiness in a worldly and spiritual sense.
5. (videos, Beatitudes)

<https://www.skylinewebcams.com/en/webcam/italia/umbria/perugia/basilica-san-francesco-assisi.html>

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Saint Francis' [feast day](#) is observed on October 4. A secondary feast in honor of the [stigmata](#) received by Saint Francis, celebrated on September 17

Franciscan theologians view creation, the natural world, as good and joyous. Saint Francis expressed great affection towards animals and natural objects as fellow inhabitants of God's creation, in his work [Canticle of the Creatures](#). The Rule of Saint Francis calls for members to practice simple living and detachment from material possessions in emulation of Jesus' life and earthly ministry. The simple lifestyle helps members of the order to experience solidarity with the poor and to work for social justice.

## ***The Canticle of Creation (by Saint Francis of Assisi)***

*O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,  
to you belong praise, glory,  
honour and all blessing.  
Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation  
and especially for our Brother Sun,  
who brings us the day and the light;  
he is strong and shines magnificently.  
O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.  
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,  
and for the stars  
which you have set shining and lovely*

*in the heavens.*

*Be praised, my Lord,  
for our Brothers Wind and Air  
and every kind of weather  
by which you, Lord,  
uphold life in all your creatures.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,  
who is very useful to us,  
and humble and precious and pure.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,  
through whom you give us light in the darkness:  
he is bright and lively and strong.*

*Be praised, my Lord,  
for Sister Earth, our Mother,  
who nourishes us and sustains us,  
bringing forth  
fruits and vegetables of many kinds  
and flowers of many colours.*

*Be praised, my Lord,  
for those who forgive for love of you;  
and for those  
who bear sickness and weakness  
in peace and patience  
- you will grant them a crown.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,*

*whom we must all face.*

*I praise and bless you, Lord,*

*and I give thanks to you,*

*and I will serve you in all humility.*



**US FRANCISCANS**

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## Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

The pursuit of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) is one of the chief priorities of the Franciscans and flows naturally from the life of St. Francis and the Franciscan movement that he inspired in pursuit of the Gospel Life.

Francis's love of Jesus inspired him to public preaching, and to take on the concerns of others. He reached out to the leper, the poor, and the marginalized, recognizing Christ's presence in them. He proclaimed God's love and peace, actively fostering reconciliation between warring parties. In all of creation, he perceived God's love and beauty. His life was marked by intense religious experiences, which drew him deeper into the mystery of God. Francis made the message of God's love understandable to ordinary people.

" The violence of our world and the shattered lives of so many continue to cry out simply for peace. Franciscans and Franciscan-hearted people are needed more than ever to be entry points of God's healing peace.

### Modern Age Influence of St. Francis

During the World Environment Day 1982, John Paul II said that Saint Francis' love and care for creation was a challenge for contemporary Catholics and a reminder "not to behave like dissident predators where nature is concerned, but to assume responsibility for it, taking all care so that everything stays healthy and integrated, so as to offer a welcoming and friendly environment even to those who succeed us."

# **Our History**

## **How It All Started**

More than 800 years ago, St. Francis came upon a church outside of Assisi, Italy, that was in great disrepair. In the midst of the shambles, on a wall, was a crucifix. As he knelt in prayer, the image on the cross spoke to him, telling him to “Go repair my house.” Francis didn’t turn to a fundraiser to raise the money to get the job done. He assumed his rather wealthy family would help. He was wrong. His father disowned him. But like Jesus, Francis had an extended view of “family.” All of creation, all people, especially the poor, became his family. Francis didn’t know a thing about fundraising. But he knew how to work with his hands for the poor. If more was needed, then he begged. Eight hundred years later, Franciscans are still working with their hands and begging to help the poor in the name of the Lord.

## **Franciscan Missions Today**

Today, the Franciscan Missions provide direct financial support for missions of the Franciscan Order throughout the world. Funds have supported orphanages, soup kitchens, medical clinics, sustainable water projects, and the development of farms to feed and to teach others to farm. We have funded the education of Franciscan missionaries, the building of churches, housing for the poor, and formation housing for Franciscan students. The Franciscan Missions has also provided for humanitarian relief in Haiti, the Philippines, Syria and Ecuador.

One of our specific goals is to educate the world, particularly in the United States, about the mission work of the Order. This is currently done by bringing in friar-missionaries to preach in parishes for the promotion of the missions and by a regular newsletter to donors informing them of the work of the missionaries throughout the world.

## **Franciscan Missions Tomorrow**

The future plan is to develop partnerships with laity in the United States, focused on youth and young adults, to educate and possibly support hands-on experiences of the mission work of the Order. The plan is also to maintain a “mission fraternity” in Waterford, a fraternity of international friar-missionaries, whose purpose will be to pray

for the missions and missionaries and to tell others about Franciscan missions through preaching and teaching.

## About Judaism and Christianity

The definition of Christianity varies among different Christian groups. [Roman Catholics](#), [Protestants](#) and [Eastern Orthodox](#) define a Christian as one who is the member of the Church and the one who enters through the sacrament of [baptism](#). Infants and adults who are [baptized](#) are considered as Christians. Jesus's Jewish group became labeled 'Christian' because his followers claimed he was 'Christ' the Greek equivalent of the [Hebrew](#) and Aramaic word for '[Messiah](#).' Judaism is the religion of the Jewish people, based on principles and ethics embodied in the Hebrew Bible ([Tanakh](#)) and the [Talmud](#).

[Christianity](#) began in 1st century AD [Jerusalem](#) as a Jewish sect and spread throughout the Roman Empire and beyond to [countries](#) such as Ethiopia, Armenia, Georgia, Assyria, Iran, India, and China. The first known usage of the term Christians can be found in the [New Testament](#) of the [Bible](#). The term was thus first used to denote those known or perceived to be disciples of Jesus. The [history](#) of early Christian groups is told in Acts in the New Testament. The early days of Christianity witnessed the desert Fathers in Egypt, sects of hermits and [Gnostic](#) ascetics.

Jesus gave the New Law by summing up the Ten Commandments. Many of the Jews did not accept Jesus. For traditional Jews, the commandments and Jewish law are still binding. For Christians, Jesus replaced Jewish law. As Jesus began teaching the twelve Apostles some Jews began to follow Him and others did not. Those who believed the teachings of Jesus became known as Christians and those who didn't remained Jews.

## Differences in Beliefs

The Religion of [Mary](#) and [Joseph](#) was the Jewish [religion](#). Judaism's central belief is the people of all religions are children of [God](#), and therefore equal before God. Judaism accepts the worth of all people regardless of religion, it allows people who are not Jewish and wish to voluntarily join the Jewish people. While the Jews believe in the unity of God, Christians believe in the Trinity. A Jew believes in divine revelation through the prophets and Christians believe it to be through Jesus and the prophets.

The Christian Religion encompasses all churches as well as believers without churches, as many modern practitioners may be believers in Christ but not active church goers. A Christian will study the [Bible](#), attend church, seek ways to introduce the teachings of Jesus into his or her life, and engage in prayer. A Christian seeks forgiveness for his or her personal sins through

faith in [Jesus Christ](#). The [goal](#) of the Christian is both the manifestation of the Kingdom of God on [Earth](#) and the attainment of [Heaven](#) in the after-life.

## Scriptures of Christianity and Judaism

Judaism has considered belief in the divine revelation and acceptance of the Written and Oral [Torah](#) as its fundamental core belief. The Jewish Bible is called Tanakh which is the dictating religious dogma. [Christianity](#) regards the Holy Bible, a collection of canonical books in two parts (the [Old Testament](#) and the New Testament) as authoritative: written by human authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and therefore the inerrant Word of God.

## The View of Jesus in Christianity and Judaism

To Jews, Jesus was a wonderful teacher and storyteller. He was just a human, not the son of God. Jews do not think of Jesus as a [prophet](#). Also, Jews believe that Jesus cannot save souls, and only God can. In the Jewish view, Jesus did not rise from the dead. Judaism in general does not recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

Christians believe in Jesus as a messiah and as the giver of salvation. Christians believe that all [people](#) should strive to follow Christ's commands and example in their everyday actions.

# Rosh Hashanah And Yom Kippur

## The Jewish New Year - Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

### Rosh Hashanah 2020

Rosh Hashanah is one of the holiest days in Judaism and is the Jewish New Year. The festival literally translates to “head of the year.” The Rosh Hashanah 2020 (as any other Rosh Hashana) is held during the starting of the month of Tishrei, the Jewish calendar’s seventh month.

The seventh month symbolizes Sabbath, referring to the day when God began to rest after creating the world. Like all the years, Rosh Hashanah is a time of celebrating mirth and joy. But as per [Jewish culture](#), the people are required to look back and introspect their past-selves.

The video below was taken on 2016, on a Slichot prayer held at the Western Wall plaza in Jerusalem, before Rosh Hashanah. Tens of thousands of people sing the most famous piyyut (religious Jewish poetry) “Lord of Forgiveness”

### Rosh Hashanah in the Bible

Rosh Hashanah is derived from three Hebrew words, “Rosh” meaning “head,” “Ha” meaning “the” and “shanah” meaning year. Hence, the entire word means The Head of the year.

The mention of Rosh Hashanah is made only once in the Bible (Ezekiel 4p:1), but the meaning is different and it translates to “beginning of the year.” In [Jewish holy books](#), Rosh Hashanah is also referred to as Yom Hazikaron or the day of remembrance. In Hebrew culture, Rosh Hashanah marks the celebration of God’s largest creation, the creation of Man.

### When does Rosh Hashanah start?

Rosh Hashanah is going to vary each year. Every year, it is celebrated on the 1st and 2nd day of Tishrei (7th month).

- 2021: 6 September (sundown) to 8 September (nightfall)

## **Why is Rosh Hashanah important?**

As stated earlier, Rosh Hashanah is said to be celebrated on the day when God sat down to rest after shaping one of his best creations, The World. Furthermore, it celebrates the “creation of mankind.”

The Jewish people perform “teshuvah” or repentance from the day of Rosh Hashanah until the day of Yom Kippur. It is said that during this time, the Jews reflect on their good and bad deeds of the past, repenting and trying to make changes for the later one.

## **Rosh Hashanah meaning**

Rosh Hashanah means “the Head of the year” or ‘first of the year,” marking the beginning of one of the most important and holiest days for the Jews.

## **How is Rosh Hashanah celebrated?**

The celebration of Rosh Hashanah begins with the people attending services at the synagogue (Jewish church). In these services, the Jewish people are praying from the High Holidays’ prayer book. Shofar blowing, however, happens to be one of the most important events of Rosh Hashanah. In Torah, Rosh Hashanah refers to “the day of the blast,” hence, the blowing of the shofar suggests the blast.

Since it is the beginning of a new year, family members come together to celebrate the Holy day. The Rosh Hashanah afternoons are reserved for people who participate in Tashlich, a practice in which people throw bread crumbs in flowing water as a gesture for acceptance and getting away from their sins that they have committed in the past year.

## **Yom Kippur**

Yom Kippur video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGrK2Zzvjew>

## **Confirmation and Sacraments**

### **Sacraments of Initiation**

These sacraments lay the foundation of every Christian life. The sacraments are given by the grace of God.

“Grace” is the most important concept in the Bible.. It is most clearly expressed in the promises of God revealed in Scripture and embodied in Jesus Christ

### **What is grace and what are some ways people have defined grace?**

In this very busy and lustful world that we live in today, there is a need for more and more grace in our lives. Grace is an absolute necessity in our day-to-day activities.

Grace is a free gift from God to man. There is nothing man can do to deserve grace, because it is a gift.

Grace is most needed and best understood in the midst of sin, suffering, and brokenness. We live in a world of earning, entitlement, and merit. There is always a price, resulting in judgment. That is why everyone wants and needs grace. Judgment weakens our relationships with God and one-another. Only grace makes alive. There is no price for grace.

### **Sacrament**

Christ acts through the sacraments he instituted to communicate his grace." While human beings are creatures of both body and soul, they rely primarily on the senses to understand the world. Grace as a spiritual gift rather than a physical one is something that the recipient cannot see:

## **Lesson Plan**

*Students will divide into 2 or 3 groups. They will have 15 minutes to read the assigned article and take notes. They will appoint a spokesperson to report on the article. Among the information recorded, the following questions will be answered and opened to discussion in large group.*

### **1. St. Francis**

Summarize the life and spiritual development of St. Francis.

What does the “Canticle of Creation” celebrate?

Summarize the role of Franciscans in today's society.

What do the blessings of animals, performed before Mass today, have to do with St. Francis?

### **2. Christianity and Judaism**

Summarize the differences between Christianity and Judaism.

What are each faith group's Holy Scriptures called, and what do they express?

How is the concept of forgiveness and redemption expressed?

**3. Catechumens will be introduced to the concepts of grace and sacraments of initiation.**

**4. Catechumens will view videos describing the concept of happiness, then read “The Beatitudes”. They will compare the nature of happiness within the two frameworks. (develop a comparison chart on whiteboard) One catechumen will read “The Beatitudes”. Matthew 5:1-12**

***Heritage***  
***Catechism***  
***Life Choices***

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