

Pastor's Desk

I am excited to be celebrating my first Christmas at St. Francis. As I look back over my life, I have great memories of the Christmas celebrations I have enjoyed over the years with my family, the friars and the parishes I was privileged to serve at. Each celebration was special, but one sticks out in particular.

It was my first Christmas I celebrated without my grandmother. Grandma lived the last 17 years of her life with us in our home. She loved Christmas and would start preparing for it the day after Thanksgiving. She truly embraced the spirit of Christmas, so the first Christmas after her death was difficult for us as a family. To be honest, we were dreading Christmas. A close friend of mine who knew my grandmother well, and our apprehension, sent me a poem that changed our apprehension into joy and saved our Christmas that year.

The poem is entitled, "My First Christmas in Heaven." I want to share it with you so if you have lost a loved one this past year, it may help you as it did for me and my family.

My First Christmas In Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear,
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart,
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.

So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear
and be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above,
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.

After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold,
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do
For I can't count the blessings or love he has for each of you.

So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear,
Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

On behalf of Fr. Charley, Fr. John and the entire staff of St. Francis, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked so hard to make our Christmas liturgies so special. I would especially like to thank Fr. John and his group of volunteers who did all the decorating and Janet Sarsfield and the music ministry for the wonderful music that began with the Festival of Praise Concert and continued throughout all our liturgies. We are truly blessed as a parish and have much to be grateful for.

Merry Christmas!



Coming Home this Christmas season... To those of you who have been away, we are happy that you have come to our Christmas celebration. If something in you says that you would like to talk about reconnecting, **visit the parish office or call Joe Mitcho at 703 967-9959.** We'd love to hear from you! Peace to you during this beautiful season.

The Folks at St. Francis of Assisi in Triangle

The Christmas Flowers were donated in memory of the following families: Traywick and Bagley; Halpin and Gillespie; Badami; Taravella; Ryan and Hermann; Reidy and Lussenden; Conway and Marino.



And the following individuals: Amy Granville-Smith; Mary Kaminski; Joseph Carroll; Joseph and Julie Flood; Linus and Erika Schmidt; Russell and Joyce Conrad; Ed and Edna Bumbaugh; Carl Whitney; Thomas M. Cox, SR.; Joseph and Anna Tarantino; John D. Renzo; Julie Anne Cadugan; Claire Mignon Plemeng; Robert, Cecelia and Ann Annan; Joanne Weikert; Richard Wright; Louis and Cherrie Takacs; Mae Gogle; Marco and Candida Imbarlina; Lorenzo Manno; Gerry Bouchard; Lee Dixon; John and Marry Flynn; Thomas Flynn; Fran and Lucille Connolly; Dan Morris; Lawrence and Thomas Larke; Rosemary and John Wenzel; Dorothy and Arthur Peitler; Donna J. Nance; Jeanne and Dominic Carbone; Mary Jo Pirko and David John Butts; Lois M. Feller; Theora Widner; Juanita Chacon; Florence and Stanley Rezler; Irene and Raymond Wagner; Helen Baron and Jennie Fenton; Raymond Michalak and Kristen Michalak; Denyse Slovick; Marilou O'Neil; Robert T. Feller; Carmella and Ralph Oropallo; Agnes and Joseph Harrison, Sr.; Ralph Boots; Ray Saibini; Edo Daibini; Eugene Abts; Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Palm; Doris Abts; Stanley and Josephine France; Vernon and Gloria Unger; Trudy Unger; Winnie Golden; Catalina and Salustiana Lim; Thomas and Ellen Sheehan; James Gudenkauf; Robert and Noreen Otto; Winfire and Evelyn Taylor; Mary and John Misyak; Jack Rozier and Larry Rozier; Mel and Alice Tossell; John Francis Carpino; Joseph and Helen Spilman; Suzanne Elizabeth Smith; Thomas J. Smith, Jr.; Bryan Richardson; George and Yvonne Beck; Elizabeth Dart; Jean Pritchard; Catherine Maloney; and Martha Vierheller.

BIBLE STUDY FOR ADULTS—The Evening Session of Winter Bible Study will continue to cover the psalms. It will be offered on **Monday evenings, (ongoing) from 7:15 pm till 8:45 pm.** We will continue to use the same text book, from Littlerock: *The Psalms*. The next section we will cover is on pages 77-85. Please call or email **Fr. John at 703-221-4044 or Sr. Janice at 703-221-4978 or to register** – or just come by on January 9th. Hope you can enjoy this prayerful study of these ancient texts.

CHRISTMAS

When Did I See You Hungry, Lord? **St. Francis has the privilege and the challenge of providing dinners at the Winter Shelter on New Year's Eve.** A complete list of needs as well as directions and sign-up sheets are available on the Outreach board.



Thanks to your generosity, the UNTRIM A TREE program was a huge success AGAIN this year! Over 130 gift bags were delivered to Envoy Nursing Home in Woodbridge.

Complete numbers will be available next week.

93 families were assisted at the Food Pantry last week.

We are in constant need of:

Cereal, peanut butter, jelly
Canned fruits and vegetables
Pasta and sauce
tuna
Boxed dinners (Hamburger Helper..) e



Please help by donating food in unbreakable containers.

Couldn't Have Done It Without You!!! KUDOS to the Knights of Columbus, the Spanish Prayer Group, Fr. John's Bible Study, RCIA, the Finance Council, the Parish Council and all the Parishioners who made our week at the Hilda Barg Shelter a success yet again!!!

If you or a family member is in the hospital or homebound, please call the parish office at 703-221-4044 if you would like a visit from one of the friars. The hospitals are not permitted to give out the names of patients, so the only way we will know if you are in the hospital is if you or a family member informs us.

Our Senior Lunch Bunch will meet on January 5th at noon in the St. Catherine Room. Donate a "TREASURE?" that you no longer need and join our "Auction for Francis House!" Bring a brown bag lunch and dessert and beverages will be provided.



MANY THANKS to our Knights of Columbus and their families for purchasing, assembling and delivering 65 brimming Christmas food baskets to our clients at Francis House.

ADVOCACY

Mark your calendar for two important dates next month

January 23rd—The MARCH for LIFE in Washington, DC

January 26th—Catholic Advocacy Day in Richmond

Transportation will be provided

Anuncios y Noticias

Charlas bautismales - la próxima será, el 8 de enero. Ambos padres y padrinos (si ellos viven en esta área) deben asistir a esta charla. La charla es en la sala Júpiter Room después de la misa dominical a la 1:30 p.m. La charla dura dos horas. Como su atención es esencial, recomendamos no traer a sus niños. Por favor **registrarse** en la Mesa de Información **antes** de ese día. Por favor, **traigan el formulario completo con mínimo de una semana de anticipación**

Preparación Matrimonial – Un Curso de Convalidación y unión de parejas: preparación para el Sacramento de Matrimonio dentro de la Iglesia Católica, para aquellos ya casados civilmente. El curso comienza día 7 de enero (sábado) a las 10:00 hasta medio día, y continúa los días 14 y 21 de enero. Se pide que **no traigan los niños** al curso. Nos ubicamos en la Oficina Parroquial, la Sala Juniper.

Colecta de comida – cada domingo – no es solo para los niños! Ayudamos a algunos de 90 familias cada semana. Siempre se necesita cereal, pasta de maní, mermelada, fruta y verduras en lata, pasta y salsa, atún, hamburger helper y cheese macaroni.

Biblias – se vende biblias de pasta dura y pasta ligera. Son \$17 y \$5 dólares, Piden al Señor Felipe en el vestíbulo.

Baloncesto – para jóvenes – inscripciones han comenzado. Se puede conseguir solicitud en el Grupo Juvenil o en Ed Religiosa. Primer ejercicio es el 17. Es por los alumnos en high school, pero no participando en su equipo escolar.

El directorio con fotos parroquial va a incluir nombres y direcciones de todas personas inscritas en la parroquia. Si NO quiere esta información suya, tienen que avisar a la oficina. Gracias por su entendimiento.

Recordatorio: Hay velas disponibles en la iglesia, al lado de las estatuas de San José y María. Donación: \$ 1 cada una. Por favor, coloque el sobre con el dinero en la caja general, ubicada en el vestíbulo.



"We cannot separate what we believe from how we act in the marketplace."

Bishops, 1983

Thank you to all who made the Global Bazaar a huge success. **Almost \$5000. in crafts, coffee and chocolate was sold and \$1190 was raised through the Heifer Project.**

Look for the FAIR TRADE symbol and continue to make a difference in the lives of third world farmers and artisans.

Faith Formation Office
Phone: 703-221-4978 Fax: 703-221-3246
Office Hours: 8:00 am-3:00 pm

Jan 5 Thursday RE Sessions I&II
7 Saturday RE Session
8 Sunday RE Session
12, 14&15 **NO RE – MLK Holiday**
19 Thursday RE Sessions I&II
21 Saturday RE Session
22 Sunday RE Session
26 Thursday RE Session I&II
28 Saturday RE Session
29 Sunday RE Session

SCRIPTURE STUDY FOR ADULTS— Our Study of the Scriptures will begin with the week of January 8th. It will be offered on Monday evenings, from 7:15pm till 8:45pm and again on Tuesday mornings from 9:15am to 10:45am. The Monday evening sessions will continue by treating the second half of the Psalms and the Tuesday morning sessions is titled *A Quick Journey Through the Bible*, and 8-part Introduction to the Bible Timeline. Please call or email Sr. Janice at 703-221-4978 or Fr. John at 703-221-4044 to register.

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Keith Scott, Jr., Dotty Stephens, Carol Hrabsky, Wilma Jean Strati, Arsenia Tayamen, Patricia Luneburg, Kathy Morelli, Don McVay, Georgiann Hudson, Ellen Gil, Ellison Rio, Matthew James Rose, Christine Macleod, Margaret Draper, Richard Durbin, Ofelia D. Casupang, Sarah Perrelli, Cirio Baytan, Linda Schott, Mary Winnett, Judy Curtiss, Mary Milella, Christine Sarna, Irene Boots, Annelies Gendron, Alexia Uribe, Connor Carroll, Amy Busia, Leroy Dyas, Loretta Frankowski, Marie Chery, Jacob Tyler Burns, Janet Sarsfield, Mary Loretta Jacobsmeyer, Barbara Arcuni, James Peer, Joanne Del Gatto; Bob Williams, Amy Wilking, and Melissa Massouh.

And for those recently deceased: Sarah Jakielski.

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way: Gene Montague, Andrew Smithey, Randy Liller, Scott Jones, John O'Sullivan, Katie O'Sullivan, Jimmy O'Sullivan, Joseph Reiner, Brian Page, Joseph Place, William Place, Marc Gendon, Darryl Saungweme, Derek McVay, and Matthew Byron.

End of Year Statements: Parishioners will be provided with a statement of their donations for 2011. Statements will be mailed by the end of January. It is not necessary to request a statement.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
EASTGATE APARTMENTS
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Year I Confirmation

Children enrolled in the **Seventh Grade** Religious Education class or in **CYM** and interested in being Confirmed. The Confirmation process is a two year Preparation Program. However, **this enrollment does not come automatically with RE registration.**

We are holding a final meeting on January 8, 2012 at 3:30 in the School Library. **If you are planning on having your child receive Confirmation at our next Confirmation Celebration in the spring of 2013, a parent and/or adult family member, accompanied by the child-applicant seeking Confirmation, must attend this meeting to enroll them into the Confirmation Program.** If your family is not represented at this meeting, we will put your child on the list when we prepare for the next Confirmation. Any Questions please contact Beth Benham at bethb@stfrncis.org

Year I Sponsor Forms are due in now.



Confirmation Candidates looking for services hours remember to check the Holy C.O.W (Catholics out working) hotline it is up and running. Call **703-583-3545** for service opportunities.

Year I Retreat is January 28, 2012 mark your 2012 calendar **Parent and Candidate.**

2012 First Communion Reminder:

Parents of children preparing for the 2012 First Communion Celebration please remember to turn in Baptismal Certificates to Beth Benham in the Faith Formation Office.

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry office will be closed until January. Keep your eye on the bulletin for future dates and events.

Merry Christmas And Happy New Year!

Open AA Step Study Group Friday night Group meets 7-8:00 p.m. in the St. Catherine Room. Come study the 12 Steps to Recovery.

Centering Prayer Tuesdays 11-12 noon in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the church. **All are welcome.**

Baptismal Preparation Class

Our next class will be held this **Sunday, January 8, 2012 from 1:15pm—2:00 p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**

CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY December 24—Advent Weekday
4:00 PM +Bill, +Kelsey, and +Marion Richmond
Carol Hrabsky

4:15 PM People of the Parish (GYM)
6:00 PM +Chuck Burns and grandchildren

+Bryan Richardson
+Raymond Barber
6:00 PM +Manuel Bustillo (GYM)
8:00 PM +Ray Michalak
+Charles Skinner
+Lisbeth Collins
10:30 PM Christmas Novena



SUNDAY, December 25—Christmas Day

9:30 AM +Lee Dixon
+Ann and +John Castagnola
+David M. Pielmeier
12:00 PM +Mark Norman Olds
+Peter and +Francisco Portaro
+Amy Granville-Smith

MONDAY, December 26—St. Stephen
8:45 AM Christmas Novena

TUESDAY, December 27—St. John, apostle and evangelist

8:45 AM Christmas Novena

WEDNESDAY, December 28—Holy Innocents

8:45 AM Christmas Novena

THURSDAY, December 29—St. Thomas Beckett

8:45 AM Christmas Novena

FRIDAY, December 30—Holy Family

8:45 AM Christmas Novena

SATURDAY, December 31—St. Sylvester I
4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mass Intentions on Sunday, January 1, 2012

5:30 PM Christmas Novena

8:00 AM +Simon Hyun
+Lydia Concepcion

9:30 AM +Robert Sullivan
+John Dulan

12:00 PM People of the Parish

1:30 PM Misa en español

5:30 PM Christmas Novena

Readings for the week of December 26, 2011

Monday Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

Tuesday 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Thursday 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Friday Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21 ,
Luke 2:22-40

Saturday 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18

Sunday Numbers 6:22-27;
Galatians 4:4-7;
Luke 2:16-21

Helpful Information

Parish Office Hours—Mon-Fri 8:00 AM—4:00 PM
Phone 703-221-4044 Fax 703-221-3246
Emergency Number 703-221-5697

The Sacraments

EUCCHARIST

Saturday Vigil—5:30 PM

Sunday—8:00, 9:30;AM;12:00 PM, 5:30 PM

@ 9:30 AM— Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

1:30 PM Espanol,

Monday—Friday—8:45 AM

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00—5:00 PM and by appointment

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mary Kate Vasquez, Chair 703-763-3186

Franciscan Friars 703-221-4044

Fr. Kevin Downey, O.F.M., Pastor x226

Fr. Charles, Miller, O.F.M., Associate Pastor x227

Fr. John Heffernan, O.F.M., Associate Pastor x228

Parish Staff 703-221-4044

Chanel Marquis, Bookkeeper x222

Marcia Connolly, Receptionist x221

Ed Knap, Business Manager x223

Barbara Stouffer, Financial Assistant x232

Parish Outreach 703-221-4312

Anne Tunney, MSW, Director

Francis House 703-221-6344

Francia Salguero, Director (Emergency Financial Assistance)

Music Ministry 703-221-4044 x231

Janet Sarsfield, Director 703-221-4745 Home

Faith Formation Ministry 703-221-4978

Sr. Janice Urbanic, IHM, Director x237

Beth Benham, Sacramental Prep x238

Elizabeth Brack, Secretary x234

Marianne Hayes, RE Coordinator x236

Parish School 703-221-3868

Grades Pre-school—8th FAX 703-221-0700

Dr. Tricia Barber, Principal

Anita McKeone, Office Coordinator/Admissions

Kathy Greene, Bookkeeper

To register in the parish, to arrange for Baptism, Marriage, or Anointing of the Sick, call 703-221-4044.

Festival of Praise 2010 Concert CD's Have Arrived 2 CD Set \$20.00

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

of 2010 CD Sets: _____

**Please make checks payable to
St. Francis of Assisi Church**

For info. call Janet at 703-221-4745