

## From the Pastor's Desk

The preciousness of time and of hope that never wavers is the call of this Advent season. These first four weeks of the liturgical year point to the reality that our lives, measured in a finite period of days, find their meaning and purpose in seeking the things of God: compassion, peace, reconciliation and justice. And Advent also calls us to embrace a spirit of hope: that, in imitating the selflessness of the Christ who comes at Christmas, we can realize the Kingdom of God in our own time and on our own "planet"; that the light of God's Messiah illuminates our vision enabling us to see our world and ourselves as God sees us: as a people formed and bound by the unimaginable and unconditional—but very real - love of God.

One of the many ways that we as a parish during Advent traditionally bring the love of God into the world in a visible and tangible way is through the Giving Tree where we collect Christmas presents for the poor. This year the need is great. We have been given the names of over 1400 people who we will strive to provide for them a gift for Christmas so there will be 1400 tags on the Giving Tree in the lobby of the church. All the gifts need to be returned to the church by Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup>. Please do not wrap the gifts or lose the tag but attach the tag to the gift. If you have any questions please contact Francia at 571-572-5862 or check out our parish website.



### Keep those used printer cartridges coming!

Faith Formation has been helping to reduce the debt and be good stewards of our earth by recycling. With your contribution of used ink cartridges we can help reduce the debt and take care of the earth and it is so easy to do.

### PLEASE DO NOT DROP THEM IN THE CATCH-ALL SLOT

(No laser cartridges.)

**You can drop the cartridges off in the basket  
on the table in the vestibule  
or stop by the Faith Formation Office.  
Thank You For Your Continued Support!**

**Join Fr. Kevin on a pilgrimage to Greece  
following in the "Footsteps of St. Paul the  
Apostle" that will take place next October  
12—22, 2016.** It will feature a 3-night Greek



Islands and Turkey Cruise. The cost is \$3,989 which includes round trip air from Washington DC., the cruise, 20 meals and all transportation and hotel arrangements. **This Sunday November 22nd at 1:30 PM in the Parish Center Dining Room** there will be an information meeting where a representative from Collette Vacations and Fr. Kevin will describe the trip in detail and answer any questions you may have. Come to the meeting and check this great travel opportunity out!!

**It is the First Sunday of Advent.** Today we light the first candle on the Advent wreath; the Hope candle. It is also called the Prophet's candle.



Reminding us that Jesus is coming. Let a Stephen Minister work with you to look to the future and find the hope you may have lost. **Please call 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email Kathy Walker at [kwalker@stfrncis.org](mailto:kwalker@stfrncis.org) to get started.**

### **Best Advent Ever!**

**Mathew Kelly is returning to provide "The Best Advent Ever: Rediscover Mercy."** If you liked Mathew's Best Lent Ever series, earlier this year, you will love his Advent program. This e-mail program will provide inspiring videos and spiritual coaching that will help to "transform your life, relationships, work and ability to genuinely embrace and experience life." (Dynamic Catholic) This program is free and will begin on **November 29th and run through December 23, 2015.** Log on to

[www.dynamiccatholic.com](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com); at the top banner click on "Catholic Moments" and scroll down to Advent & Christmas where you will find further instructions to sign up. Get the most from your Advent experience with Mathew Kelly. **For more information, please contact John Habel, at [jhabel@stfrncis.org](mailto:jhabel@stfrncis.org).**

**Save the Date:** Steve Angrisano, a popular Catholic musician and composer, will be leading a three-part music and Advent Reflection series from **December 13th-15th at St. Francis.**



**Please Note: The Mass Intention book for 2016**  
will open on **Monday, December 14, 2015.**

To schedule a Mass you may come in or call the office. We also have envelopes located on the tables in the vestibule. Just drop the envelope in the catch-all box.

***Please Pray For*** **All those who are sick:** Steve Dowell, Gregory Dowell, Patricia Littlefield, A.A. McGill, Michael Ryan, Michael Creegan, Hunter Harris, Katherine Gonsorcik, Deidre Jett, Nancy Brown, Celine Nebbia, Gizzy Slocum, Fran Phoenix, and Annelies Gendron.

**And for those recently deceased:** Frank Plati.

**Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way:** Ian French, Jeffrey Miller, Jeffrey Monken, Elizabeth L. Keegan, James Moore, Kyle McVay, Kyle Traylor, Kasey Eggie, Eustaquio Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

**Votive Candles**—Envelopes are provided for the candle money. **Please place them in the Catch-All slot located in the vestibule of the church.**



**St. Francis House Corner**

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **85** families this week. Because of the increase of families in need We are in dire need of:



- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Spaghetti
- Small/ Medium can or plastic jars Spaghetti Sauce
- Cereal
- Hamburger Helper
- Canned goods (vegetables and soup)

**Hilda Barg Shelter**

It is time again for St. Francis of Assisi Parish to assist in providing dinner for the families at the Hilda Barg Family Shelter in Woodbridge, VA. We will be serving the week of **November 29th through December 5th**. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to serve. Sign-Up sheets and more information are available in the vestibule of the church. **For more details, please contact Francia at 703-221-6344 or [calisa3@verizon.net](mailto:calisa3@verizon.net).**

**Boletín Semanal**

**Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francis—**

Agradecemos a todos nuestros parroquianos por todas sus ofrendas a la Despensa de Comida; con sus donaciones pudimos ayudar a **85** familias. En estos momentos nuestra despensa de comida esta escasa de los siguientes alimentos:

- Atún
- Fruta enlatado
- Macarrones con queso
- Espagueti
- Salsa para espaguetis
- Cereal
- Canecas con vegetales
- Canecas con sopa

Muchas gracias por su apoyo constante. Para mas información por favor llamar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

**Charlas Bautismales—**Las próximas charlas bautismales serán el **viernes, diciembre 18** a las 7:00pm en la librería de la escuela . Para mas información por favor llamar a la Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.

**Misa En Honor a Nuestra Señora Virgen de Guadalupe**

Los invitamos a la celebración a Nuestra Señora Virgen de Guadalupe. El sábado, Diciembre 12 a las 7:00pm en la iglesia. Para mas información por favor hablar con el padre John Heffernan.

**Social Justice: Franciscan Action and Advocacy (FA&A)**

Calling all parishioners! **If you are experiencing any kind of social injustice**, please contact Rob.

**Upcoming FA&A meetings** (all are welcome!): The **V.O.I.C.E.** (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) team here at the parish is meeting to work on community issues on **Sunday, January 3rd**, at **10 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**. Our **Respect Life Committee** (advocating for the consistent ethic of life from conception to natural death) is meeting on **Saturday, January 16th**, at **11:45 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**. Our **Care for Creation Committee** (focused on environmental work/ integral ecology) is meeting on **Sunday, January 17th**, at **9 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**. Our **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting on **Wednesday, January 20th**, at **7 p.m.** in the **Grade 6 Classroom**. Our **Franciscan Action and Advocacy Council (FAAC)** is meeting on **Saturday, January 16th**, at **9:30 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**. (FAAC meetings are only open to council members. Parishioners are encouraged, however, to submit questions or ideas for FAAC discussion or consideration.)

When it comes to viewing people, Bono of U2, ONE, and (RED), said it well when he sang, **“There is no them. There’s only us.”**

**For more information on any of the above and/or to get involved in justice/advocacy, please visit the FA&A section on the parish website (<http://www.stfrancis.org/welcome-introduction/>) and/or contact Rob Goraieb, O.F.S. at [rgoraieb@stfrancis.org](mailto:rgoraieb@stfrancis.org) or 703-221-4978, ext. 228.**

**Advent Yoga class on Tuesday, December 15th from 6:00PM to 7:30PM in St. Catherine Room.**

*A donation of \$15 is suggested, however any amount is appreciated. All class proceeds will be donated to the St. Francis Un-Trim-A-Tree Project. Class will be limited to the first 20 registrants.*

**For more information, please contact Rita Evans at 540-270-0667 or at [breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com](mailto:breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com).**



**Many Members One Body**, a support group for gay and lesbian Catholics and their families, will resume on **Thursday, December 3rd, at 7 pm in the Br. Juniper Room**. For more information, please contact Fr. Kevin Downey at **703-221-4044**.

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

We would like to thank **Leslie Ruth Stallknecht** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

**Discovering Christ** is a ministry designed to help us get to know Jesus a little bit better. Each session will begin with dinner and some time to unwind from the week and get to know each other. We will listen to presentations on topics such as: "What is the Meaning of Life?"; "What Does Jesus Want Us to Know?" and "Who is the Holy Spirit?" During the last part of the session, we will spend time talking about these topics, what they mean to us and how they relate and apply to our own lives. By sharing our experiences and insights, we will all get to know Him a little better.



Please join us for the next session which will begin meeting on **Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**. The meetings will take place each Friday night up to and including February 26<sup>th</sup> with a Holy Spirit retreat day on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact **Sheila Noble** at [snoble@stfrncis.org](mailto:snoble@stfrncis.org) if you would like to register or have any questions.

**Mission 2016**

Join St. Francis Parishioners in July 2016 on a journey to our Sister Parishes in Lima, Peru. **Departs Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and Returns Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Applications and deposit of \$100 now being accepted. The final date for receipt of applications is Dec 31, 2015.
- Fee includes airfare, lodging, most meals and local transportation.
- Full payment (\$1,600) is due by Jan 31, 2016
- Applications are available on line at (<http://www.stfrncis.org/sister-parish-in-peru/>) and next to the Sister Parish section of the church bulletin board.

**Questions? Please call:** Terry Danner at 703-680-0860/[terrydanner@verizon.net](mailto:terrydanner@verizon.net) or Clarence Thompson at 703-680-4657/[clarencethompson@verizon.net](mailto:clarencethompson@verizon.net).

There is a book located in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel next to the Tabernacle for you to write your own prayers of petition. During the *Prayer of the Faithful* during weekend liturgies, an intercession will call to mind those prayers in a general way. In this manner, the public prayer of the church is bound to the many prayers of the faithful who live in the body of Christ!



**Hearing Assistance Earphones** are available for those who would like sound amplification. They have been checked and are functioning well. See one of the friars or come to the sacristy before Mass.



If you are moving/changing your address, please notify the office so we can keep our records up-to-date. If you are changing your phone number because you are using a cellular phone and/or forgoing your land phone, the office would also like that information. **Please call us at 703-221-4044. Thank you.**



**Faith Formation Office**

Phone: 703-221-3127 Fax: 703-221-3246  
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday: 8:00 am—2:00 pm  
Friday: 8:00 am—1:00 pm

**Religious Education Calendar**

We still have room in all grades if you need to register your child. Also, we are in need of **two** more Catechists for Sundays at 8:45 a.m.-10:00a.m. and 10:30a.m.-11:45 a.m. **For more information, please call the RE Office at 703-221-3127 or email [recoor@stfrncis.org](mailto:recoor@stfrncis.org).**

Nov. 29	NO RE—Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 3	Thursday RE Session
6	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
10	Thursday RE Session
13	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
17	Thursday RE Session

**\*\*Please note the change in the RE Calendar: November 15th Sunday RE was cancelled due to the Parish Thanksgiving Francis Fest. June 5th will therefore be the last day of RE for all Sunday RE classes.\*\***

*Do not be afraid of presenting Christ to someone who does not yet know him. Christ is the true answer, the most complete answer to all the questions which concern the human person and his destiny. Without Christ, the human person remains an unsolvable riddle. Therefore, have courage to present Christ! Certainly, you must do this in a way which respects each person's freedom of conscience but you must do it.*

**Saint John Paul II**

If you would like your child to participate in the **Children's Christmas Pageant on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:15pm** before the 4PM Mass in the Church, please return your completed form to the Religious Education Office or in the catch-all slot located in the vestibule of the Church (*please label envelope 'RE-Christmas Pageant Registration'*). Children ages 4 years of age and up are eligible if they are not in the Christmas Choir. **Deadline for forms is November 29th. No late registrations will be accepted.** Forms are available at [www.stfrncis.org](http://www.stfrncis.org) under the RE page. Rehearsals are mandatory. For more information, **please call the RE Office at 703-221-4978 or email [recoor@stfrncis.org](mailto:recoor@stfrncis.org).**



**Baptismal Preparation Class**—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, December 13, 2015 from 1:30p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings for the Week of November 29, 2015

Monday Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22  
 Tuesday Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24  
 Wednesday Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37  
 Thursday Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27  
 Friday Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31  
 Saturday Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26;  
 Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
 Sunday Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11;  
 Luke 3:1-6

Next Saturday (December 5<sup>th</sup>) - Please Come Help Distribute the Christmas Wreaths at Quantico National Cemetery

On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, volunteers will descend on Quantico National Cemetery to help distribute 6,400 Christmas wreaths on the graves of our fallen national heroes. Volunteers will arrive early (9-9:30 AM), use the main entrance on Joplin Road (Route 619), pass the large flagpoles at the main gate, take the first left onto Rappahannock Place and park their vehicles alongside the roadway – **not off on the grass.**



At 10:00 AM a short ceremony will commence with the presentation of Colors by the Quantico MCB Honor Guard at the circle in Section 10 followed by the distribution and placement of the 2015 Christmas wreaths.

Many, many hands are needed and you are encouraged to attend and assist. In December Quantico National Cemetery is usually cold and blustery so dress very warmly and bring work gloves.



First Friday—December 4<sup>th</sup>

The celebration of Holy Hour with Benediction will take place on Friday morning immediately following the 8:45 am Mass. Mass will also be celebrated at 12 noon. All are welcome.

If you or a family member is in the **hospital or homebound**, please call the parish office if you would like a visit from a friar. 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.



Follow us on:

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 Twitter: @StFrancisVA  
 Instagram: *stfrancischurchva*



**SUNDAY, November 29—First Sunday of Advent**  
 5:30 PM †Frank Piorkowski  
 †Alice Piorkowski  
 †Joseph Piorkowski  
 7:30 AM †Germaine T. Craft  
 9:00 AM †Mary B. Register  
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik  
 †Robert and †Irene Eastvedt  
 †Erik Eastvedt  
 †Harold Van Cleef  
 10:30 AM †Allan Ziezer  
 †Theo Guarriello  
 12:15 PM †Stanley and †John Korzeniowski  
 †Clara Kennedy  
 †Ernest Gregory  
 †Garry Frieson  
 †Felina Corpuz  
 1:45 PM Misa en español  
 5:30 PM People of the Parish  
 †Margarita and †Juanito Alb  
**MONDAY, November 30—St. Andrew, Apostle**  
 8:45 AM †Germaine Craft  
**TUESDAY, December 1—Advent Weekday**  
 8:45 AM Gretchen May  
 †Joyce McVay  
 †Kathleen Raymond  
**WEDNESDAY, December 2—Advent Weekday**  
 8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik  
 †Kathleen Raymond  
**THURSDAY, December 3—St. Francis Xavier**  
 8:45 AM †Kathleen Raymond  
**FRIDAY, December 4—Advent Weekday**  
 8:45 AM †Will Cannon  
 †Kathleen Raymond  
 †Ray Zicafoose  
 12:00 PM †Don and †Joyce McVay  
 †Kathleen Raymond  
**SATURDAY, December 5—Advent Weekday**  
 4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation  
**Mass Intentions on Sunday, December 6, 2015**  
 5:30 PM †Paul Krieger  
 †Kathleen Raymond  
 †Andy Hite  
 †Santina Guiliano  
 7:30 AM †Irene and †Stan Wagner  
 †Kathleen Raymond  
 9:00 AM †Nicholas Colelitti  
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik  
 †Kathleen Raymond  
 10:30 AM People of the Parish  
 †Kathleen Raymond  
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy  
 Anna Endrizzi  
 †Kathleen Raymond  
 1:45 PM Misa en español  
 5:30 PM †Paula Johnson  
 †Kathleen Raymond