From the Pastor’s Desk

On behalf of the entire staff of St. Francis, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generosity in providing gifts for the poor through the Giving Tree and to thank Francia Salguero and her volunteers for their hard work in organizing and distributing all of the presents. Lisa Ostendorf, the parish maintenance staff and all the volunteers who will be decorating the church this week to make it special for Christmas we owe a big debt of gratitude. We can never thank the music ministry enough, under the direction of Nikole Giraldi and assisted by Colleen Wells, for the wonderful music that began with the Festival of Praise Concert and will continue throughout all of our liturgies.

Christmas is always crazy because we have so many “guests” who have a tendency to park where you usually park and sit where you usually sit. Remember we have a reputation as a parish that is a “Welcoming Community”. May all of our “guests” have such a great experience that they will decide to come back again and not wait until Easter!!!

Merry Christmas.

The Christmas Flowers were donated in memory of the following families: Lienheiser and Sunday; Sayson; Giglio; Tarantino; Thomas; Lingad-Lim and Sinjian-Torrijos; France and Unger; Mecca; and McGrath and Acker.

And the following individuals: Pat and Catherine Reidy; Lori, Deirdre and Marc Oliver; Winnie Golden; Edward and Maura Reynolds; Francis G. Plati, Jr.; Irene and Ray Wagner; Stan and Florence Rezler; Jim and Betty Dart; Dan Morries; James Slakie; James Kubasiak; Joseph DeLash; John Morrisey; Gerard Egal; Thomas and Beverly McClutcy; Thomas and Ellen Sheehan; Charles and Betty Miller; Mary E. Hoover; Mr. and Mrs. John Tiano; Michael Amerine; Helen Baron; Jennie Fenton; Louis and Mary Gasper; John Francis Carpino; Laurence O’Brien; Don and Lydia Widener; SSGT. Nick Caboteja, Jr.; Dick Murray; Gaston and Zelmira Gianni; Audrey Jones; Lorenzo Manno; Marco and Candida Imbrlina; and Joe Imbarlina.

A Novena of Masses will begin on Christmas Day and end on January 2nd. SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS are available on the tables in the vestibule. Please return the inside envelope to the catch-all slot.

For all lectors, ushers, servers, and Eucharistic ministers who wish to serve during the Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day masses, the sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve (NO 8:45 a.m. Mass)
3:15 PM Children’s Christmas Pageant in church
Followed by 4:00 PM Children’s Mass
(Children’s Choir)

4:00 P.M. – Mass in the gym (Cantor)
5:45 Prelude 6:00 PM Children’s Mass
(Children’s Choir)
6:00 PM Overflow Mass in the gym
7:30 Prelude 8:00 PM Mass (Teen Choir/Ensemble)
8:00 PM Spanish Mass in the gym
9:30 Prelude 10:30 PM Mass (Adult Choir)
(No Mass at Midnight)

Christmas Day
8:45 Prelude 9:00 AM Mass (Cantor)
10:30 AM Mass
11:30 Prelude 12:15 P.M. Mass (Ensemble in church)
Dec. 26th
5:30 p.m. Mass

Mass Schedule

December 31st 8:45 A.M.
5:30 P.M.

January 1st
9:00 A.M.
10:30 A.M.
12:15 P.M. Misa en español

January 2nd
5:30 P.M.

The Rosary Guild meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. There will NOT be a Rosary Guild meeting on December 22nd. Please join us at the next scheduled meeting, on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the St. Clare Room. All are welcome. For more information, please call Otella Creggan at 703-221-4692.

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.

Please note:
December 22nd-25th — Parish Office is closed; will reopen on Monday, December 28th.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

January 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.)

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.stfrncis.org/welcome-introduction/) and/or contact Rob Goraieb, O.F.S. at rgoraieb@stfrncis.org or 703-221-4978, ext. 228.

Christ Centered Yoga begins multi-week sessions on Tuesday evenings starting January 5th and Saturday mornings starting January 9th. Beginner and mixed level classes are available. Information can be found on the parish website or email/call below contacts.

For the Tuesday class, please contact Rita Evans at 540-270-0667 or breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com.

For the Saturday class, please contact Tracy Morgan at 540-446-9426 or spiritualyogava@gmail.com.

St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for 75 families this week. Because of the increase of families in need We are in need of:
• Canned Tuna
• Canned Fruit
• Hamburger Helper or Dinner Helper
• Spaghetti
• Small/ Medium can or plastic jars Spaghetti Sauce
• Cereal
• Jelly

For more information, please call Francia at 703-221-6344. Thank you for your continuing support.

Boletín Semanal

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales serán el viernes, enero 15 a las 7:00pm en la librería de la escuela . Para más información por favor llamar a la Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.

Misa de Nochebuena—Los invitamos a participar de la pastorela y misa de noche buena el jueves, diciembre 24 a las 8:00pm en el gimnasio de la iglesia. Ven y acompañanos.

No Habrá Misa en Español el Día de la Navidad—El Viernes, 25 de Diciembre no tendremos misa en español. Si usted desea asistir a misa de Navidad tendremos misas en inglés a las 9:00am, 10:30am, and 12:15pm.

Misa de Año Nuevo—El Viernes, enero primero tendremos misa en español a las 12:15pm en la iglesia. Los esperamos!

Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francis—gradecemos a todos nuestros parroquianos por todas sus ofrendas a la Despensa de Comida; con sus donaciones pudimos ayudar a 75 familias. En estos momentos nuestra despensa de comida esta escasa de los siguientes alimentos:
• Atún
• Fruta enlatada
• Macarrones con queso
• Espaguetis
• Salsa para espaguetis
• Cereal
• Canecas con vegetales
• Canecas con sopa

Muchas gracias por sus donaciones.

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

End of Year Statements: Parishioners will be provided with a statement of their donations for 2015. Statements will be mailed by the end of January. It is not necessary to request a statement.
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.—10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m.

For more information, please call the RE Office at 703-221-3127 or email recoor@stfrncis.org.

Christmas Break—December 20th-January 3rd. RE Class resumes on Thursday, January 7th.

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 8th. The meetings will take place each Friday night up to and including February 26th with a Holy Spirit retreat day on Saturday, February 13th.

Please contact Sheila Noble at snoble@stfrncis.org if you would like to register or have any questions.

Readings for the Week of December 20, 2015

Monday  Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45
Tuesday  1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46-56
Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
Sunday Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52
SUNDAY, December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:30 PM †Angie Santella
7:30 AM †Helen Fay Swartzbeck
         †Francis X. Cotterall
9:00 AM  †George Beck
         †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
         †Edwin Philipp
         †Deirdre Jett
         †Katherine Gonsorcik
         †Edward Frey Delaney
10:30 AM †Feherenbach and †Wright Families
         †Paula Johnson
         †Louis Gentile
         †Henry and †Lola Troidl
         †Lorraine and †Daniel Cammeleri
         †Diane Fenz
         †Maura Domingo
12:15 PM †Don and †Joyce McVay
         †Clara Kennedy
         †Gerald Bigalke
         †Felina Corpuz
         †Ines Reynel
         †Federico C. Casupang
         †Lucia Tornes
         †Solpecio Tornes
         †Mary Rozon
1:45 PM  Misa en español
5:30 PM  People of Parish

MONDAY, December 21—Advent Weekday
8:45 AM  Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, December 22—Advent Weekday
8:45 AM  †William Don Boyle

WEDNESDAY, December 23—Advent Weekday
8:45 AM  †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
         †John Bernard McKinnon

THURSDAY, December 24—Advent Weekday
8:45 AM  NO MASS
4:00 PM   †Bill and †Marion Richmond
         (GYM)
4:00 PM   †George Herrmann
         †Joseph Podeszwa
         †Christopher Habsky
         †John Morrissey
         †Gerard Egal
         †John M. Egal
         †John F. and Fran Egal

6:00 PM  †Patricia and †Michael Ryan
         †Joseph and †Julia Flood
         †Deborah Jean McGrath
6:00 PM  (GYM)
         People of the Parish
8:00 PM  †Frank Piorkowski
         †Alice Piorkowski
         †Joseph Piorkowski
         †Marian Valese
         †Robert Ferenschak
         †Bob Walker
8:00 PM  Misa en español (GYM)
10:30 PM †Janet Sarsfield

FRIDAY, December 25—Christmas Day
9:00 AM  Christmas Novena
         †Mike Dowd
10:30 AM †Brian Kerns
         †Peter Joseph Schwartz, Jr.
         †Julia Williams
         †Mary Simmons
12:15 PM †Joyce McVay
         †Clara Kennedy
         †Maria Hofer
         †Anne Kennedy
         †John Kennedy
         †James Cervenak
         †Bill Kennedy
         †Joseph Delash

SATURDAY, December 26—St. Stephen
4:00 PM  Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mass Intentions on Sunday, December 27, 2015

5:30 PM  †Mark Norman Olds
         †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
         †Paul Krieger
         †Catherine Selepak
         †George Selepak
         †Susan Rasnak
         †Matthew S. Nolta
7:30 AM   ✿Robert E. Williams
         ✿Lee Dixon
         John and Janice Wagner
9:00 AM  †Helen Fay Swartzbeck
10:30 AM  ✿Mary Stem
         ✿Maura Domingo
12:15 PM  ✿Clara Kennedy
         ✿Loretta Garzke
         ✿Naldo Ponsi
         ✿Robert Ferenschak
1:45 PM  Misa en español
5:30 PM  Christmas Novena

Christmas Blessings