

From the Pastor's Desk

Two things I want to inform you about. First, I have some sad news to share with you. I just learned that Deacon Chuck Allen died. Deacon Chuck served here at St. Francis for a number of years as a deacon. He just retired this past May, sold his home and moved with his wife Judy to Arizona. I went on line and found

the following obituary: Charles "Chuck" Christian Allen, 72, of Goodyear, Arizona, passed away surrounded by his family on Saturday, October 24, 2015. Chuck was born May 31, 1943 in Hobbs, New Mexico. He graduated from the Air Force Academy class of 1965, retiring after 21 years of honorable service. He received his masters from Stanford in 1966 and he also received his BA in Theology from The College of Santa Fe in May of 1976. He was an active Catholic deacon of 38 years. On January 25, 1969 he married Judith "Judy" Liebeck. Chuck was employed as a Nuclear and Laser Physicist for Engility (formerly TASC) and he supported DTRA (Defense Threat Reduction Agency). He was an avid handball player and was state champion of New Mexico in 1976. Chuck is survived by his wife Judy, three sons, Philip Michael, Charles Randolph, Robert Christian, and daughter Laurie; seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He loved to mentor his grandchildren in the areas of math and science and religion. May he rest in peace!!

The second thing I want to share with you is some "numbers" that Francia, our Director of St. Francis House shared with me on your generosity to the poor this past Christmas:

The Knights of Columbus donated 56 Christmas Baskets for St. Francis House clients.

The Cub Scout Pack 1385 adopted 3 families from St. Francis House clients and provided presents for the whole family. The Boy Scout Troop 138 also provided a Christmas dinner for one family whose mother is ill with cancer.

Christmas presents were given to 300 families. Over 720 children received 2 presents each from the 1440 presents donated by parishioners that were worth more than \$50,000.

70 gift bags were put together by the Seniors and donated to the residents of Envoy Nursing Home in Woodbridge, VA

Monetary donations were received and were given to: Project Rachel & Gabriel \$540, Birthright \$560, Mary's Shelter \$545. The Migration and Refugee Ministry of the Diocese received \$800 in gift cards and personal items, such as, microwaves, dinnerware, strollers, pot sets, etc. that was worth more than \$1,000.

Volunteer hours: MANY! Francia couldn't have done it without the help of so many wonderful volunteers.

On behalf of Francia THANK YOU to everyone for their generosity which made Christmas possible for so many people and families!

It does not matter where you are going. It is who you have by your side. In times of drama, or lose of self-confidence or just confusion in life's day-to-day meaning, a Stephen Minister may be your answer. We have people trained to listen to you and help you sort things out. **Please call Kathy Walker at Stephen Ministry; 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email at kwalker@stfrncis.org.**



The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, January 12th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Catherine Room**. All are welcome. **For more information, please call Otella Cregan at 703-221-4692.**



Join Father Kevin on a trip to Greece: in the footsteps of St. Paul the Apostle which features a **3-night Greek Islands and Turkey Cruise**. This is an 11 day trip which will take place **October 12-22, 2016**. Information on the trip can be found in the vestibule of the church and on the parish website www.stfrncis.org. **If you have any questions please contact to Father Kevin.**



St. Francis of Assisi Elementary, Middle and Preschool will host an open house for new prospective families on **Sunday, January 31st at 1:15 pm**. Please plan to join us for a tour of our facility and to meet our wonderful teachers. **For admission questions, please contact Lisa Bongiorno at 703-221-3868.**

The Christmas Flowers were donated in memory of the following families: **Gillespie; and Halpin.**



And the following individuals: **Jesus Diaz.**

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

Join the U.S. Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in taking up Pope Francis's challenge to live in solidarity with the poor: <http://goo.gl/mfrDL2>.

Upcoming FA&A meetings (all are welcome!): 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**. 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, February 7th, at 10 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**.

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.)

Over the new year, we encourage everyone to spend some time learning about **Catholic Social Teaching**: <http://goo.gl/v1dUmR> "The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society." – USCCB

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.

Are you frustrated using your new iphone, tablet, computer? Do you feel all your new electronic devices are smarter than you are?



Then come for an **Introductory Session of Cyber Seniors** on **Thursday, January 21, 2016 from 9:30 to 12:00** in the **St. Catherine Room**. We will help you make friends with the technology that has become such an integral part of all our lives. In the coming months we will be addressing your issues with your phone, tablet, computer, etc.... and help you make those personal electronic devices work for rather than against you!

"I am still learning." Michelangelo at age 87.

St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **40** 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 mas información por favor llamar a la Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.

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 **40** 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.

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Annelies Gendron, Anahel McGill, Patricia Littlefield, The Cooley Family, James Joseph, G. Kraus, Mike Creegan, Fran Phoenix, Clyde Richardson, G.C. Kraus, Teddy Placek.

And for those recently deceased: Deacon Charles Allen.

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

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

- Jan. 10 Sunday RE Sessions I&II
- 14 NO RE—MLK Holiday
- 17 NO RE—MLK Holiday
- 21 Thursday RE Session
- 24 Sunday RE Sessions I&II
- 28 Thursday RE Session
- 31 Sunday RE Sessions I&II

- Feb. 4 Thursday RE Session
- 7 Sunday RE Sessions I&II
- 11 NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday
- 15 NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday
- 18 Thursday RE Session
- 21 Sunday RE Sessions I&II
- 25 Thursday RE Session
- 28 Sunday RE Sessions I&II

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!

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!

Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held this **Sunday, January 10, 2016 from 1:30p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Todos Super Market** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Could not find the perfect Christmas gift for your friend? Why not sponsor someone for the next Cursillo weekend? This is a weekend opportunity to get closer to Christ, and share in the Catholic community. **The women's weekend will be held March 3rd-6th**, at San Damiano Retreat Center at White Post. **The men's weekend will be April 21st-24th** at Missionhurst.

If you are interested in more information, please call **Pequette Schwerin at 703-590-8492** or email at wislady@comcast.net. You can also access the website at arlingtoncursillo.org.

2016 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL BEGINS!

This month many of us will receive a mailing from Bishop Loverde regarding the 2016 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA). The theme for the **2016 BLA is "Go forth as heralds of God's mercy."** After reflecting upon the many blessings that God has given you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge of support to this important appeal that funds many programs and ministries that serve the people in our diocese. **Every pledge is an expression of God's love and mercy!**

If you or a family member is in the **hospital or homebound**, please call the parish office 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.



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.



Follow us on:

Facebook: *St. Francis of Assisi Church*
Twitter: *@StFrancisVA*
Instagram: *sfrancischurchva*



GO ON A PLASTIC DIET



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, January 10—The Baptism of the Lord
 5:30 PM †Marion and †Bill Richmond
 7:30 AM Nancy Fecteau
 †Stephen K. Hatfield
 9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †Edith Hicks
 10:30 AM †Eileen Bolen
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
 †George Beck
 †Gizzy Slocum
 1:45 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM People of the Parish

MONDAY, January 11—Weekday
 8:45 AM

TUESDAY, January 12—Weekday
 8:45 AM Peter Kim

WEDNESDAY, January 13—Weekday
 8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

THURSDAY, January 14—Weekday
 8:45 AM

FRIDAY, January 15—Weekday
 8:45 AM †Thomas Sheehy
 †Agustina Peña

SATURDAY, January 16—Weekday
 4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mass Intentions on Sunday, January 17, 2016

5:30 PM †John Oakey
 †Yancey Stern
 Bryan Richardson

7:30 AM †Helen Chietro
 †Joan Rose Rudge

9:00 AM Michael Ryan
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 Carl A. Rodriguez

10:30 AM
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
 †Joyce and †Don McVay
 Kathleen O'Brien

1:45 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM People of the Parish

Readings for the Week of January 10, 2016

Monday 1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20
Tuesday 1 Samuel 1:9-20;
 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd;
 Mark 1:21-28
Wednesday 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39
Thursday 1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45
Friday 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12
Saturday 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1a;
 Mark 2:13-17
Sunday Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
 John 2:1-11

**CALLING.....ALL YOU IRISH LADIES
 by BIRTH OR MARRIAGE**

Come by and see what is going on within our group! We would enjoy meeting you and having you JOIN us.



The Ladies of the Fr. Mychal Judge, O.F.M. Ladies Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians **will meet at 10 am on Saturday, January 30, 2016** in the Br. Juniper Room....room to left of the Parish office (sometimes we get moved to the St Catherine's Room by the Nursery). You must be: Catholic female of 16 years of age or older and Irish, Irish decent OR married to an Irish gentlemen, you are welcome to join us. You may further seek admittance to the FINEST Irish Catholic Organization in the World—all we would ask is for you to live our motto of:

"Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity"

For more information or/and if you are eligible and interested in joining, please contact Mary Kay Jones at 540-287-4383 or jonesmk@aol.com.



**Men's Retreat: March 11 – 12, 2016
 Women's Retreat: April 8 – 9, 2016**

Cornerstone is a 26-hour retreat, held on separate dates for men and women ages 21 and over. It provides the opportunity to get away from all the stress of the outside world and enjoy all that God has to offer, while meeting others in our Christian community.

The retreat begins on Friday evening at 5:00pm and ends at approximately 7:00pm on Saturday evening with a liturgy. Cornerstone will take place at San Damiano Spiritual Life Center in White Post, VA. Sleeping accommodations, all meals and snacks are provided. During the weekend, there will be time for prayer, Scripture reading and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Cornerstone team has prepared a life-changing retreat for you. Online registration ends January 22nd for the men's retreat and begins January 4th for the women's retreat. Don't let an opportunity to reflect, renew and strengthen your faith pass you by!

Register today at <http://www.stfrancis.org/cornerstone/>

Men's Cornerstone retreat: March 11th at 5:00pm – March 12th at 7:00pm (\$120 for double room and \$140 for single room) **Registration closes January 22nd.**

Women's Cornerstone retreat: April 8th at 5:00pm – April 9 at 7:00pm (\$120 for double room and \$140 for single room) **Registration closes February 19th.**



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