

From the Pastor's Desk

There are some things we will never learn on our own. We only learn them in community. To grow and develop our potential, we must learn from other people. For instance, you can only learn forgiveness in relationships. You can't learn that on your own. You can only learn loyalty in relationships. You can only learn love in relationships. You can't learn kindness or faithfulness or graciousness or unselfishness without others. In fact the most important things we need to learn in life require that we be in relationship with other people. We can't do it on our own. If we want to build our potential, we must learn from others.

Where is the best place to do that? I believe the best place is in the family of God; in the Body of Christ; in the church. We need the people God has placed in our life. And they need us! God wired us to need each other and to learn from each other so that we can become the man or woman God created us to be.

The challenge I feel people encounter being in a "large parish" like St. Francis is how to find a way to meet other parishioners so that they can establish relationships that will help them grow and achieve their potential as a Disciple of Christ. The staff and I recognize this "challenge" and it is the reason why we are promoting and asking you to join a small faith sharing group for 5 weeks during Lent. It will provide you an opportunity to grow in your faith and to deepen your relationships with old and new friends. It will connect you with others in the parish and help you to build relationships that are essential in our lives as Disciples of Christ. Jesus never meant for us to make this journey alone but in community. He never sent his apostles out on the road alone but always in twos. We need each other as much as we might not like to admit it!!!

Lent is a time where traditionally we "give something up". When I was a kid whatever we gave up had to "hurt" in some way or another. For example, I wasn't allowed to give up cooked carrots because there was no pain involved. The thinking back then was "no pain no gain!" But did giving up candy or ice cream make me a better disciple or improve my relationship with Jesus? No!! But joining a small faith group will. So this year for Lent do not give up something but instead join a small faith sharing group. You won't regret it.

We still need people willing to be a host for a small faith group. All that we would expect from a host is that you would invite your friends and neighbors to join you in your home but also to be open to us sending you a parishioner who is looking for a small group to join. Every host home will be provided with a DVD and a booklet that will guide your discussion which will help to engage everyone. It is an awesome experience and sometimes life-long friendships are made. Please consider either hosting or joining a small faith sharing group this Lent. Go to www.stfrancis.org/small-groups to sign up to be a host.

February 10th
Ash Wednesday



- 6:30 a.m.— Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes
- 8:45 a.m.— Mass with Distribution of Ashes
- 12:00 p.m.— Mass with Distribution of Ashes
- 2:45 p.m.— Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes
- 5:00 p.m.— Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes
- 7:00 p.m.— Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes
- 8:00 p.m.— La Misa con distribución de las cenizas

The church will be open during the day between 8:00am and 5:00pm to distribute ashes in between services.

Fasting and abstinence are encouraged during Lent and reflect the season's penitential nature. In the U.S. all Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence, that is, days on which no meat is to be consumed. **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are days of fast, only one full meal during the day, as well as abstinence.

Fasting and abstinence are by no means the only types of penance. "Let us witness to our love and imitation of Christ by special solicitude for the sick, the poor, the underprivileged, the imprisoned, the bedridden, the discouraged, the lowly." (Tobit 12, Mt 6).

Confession Schedule for Lent

Confessions will be heard every Wednesday during Lent from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm starting **February 17th**. In addition to Saturday's from 4—5pm.

During Lent Mass will be celebrated at 8:45am and 12 noon Monday through Friday.

Car Raffle 2016

All Saints Church (Manassas, VA) has invited us to participate in their 5-Car Raffle. Prizes include **five** 2016 vehicles from Koons of Manassas. One \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all five vehicles plus \$20,000 in cash prizes. **An information letter and tickets will be mailed to your home on February 8th!** Thank you in advance for your support of the largest parish fund raiser. Any questions, please contact **Kathy Greene at the school office 703.221.3868, ext. 239.**



Our inclement weather policy is to follow the Prince William County Schools announcement for both St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School and St. Francis of Assisi parish activities. **Daily Masses are cancelled and the parish offices are closed when the Quantico Marine Base issues a Code Red** for its employees. Weekend Masses will be celebrated regardless of the weather; however, parishioners are encouraged to use their best judgement regarding the safety of traveling to the church for Mass.

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

The V.O.I.C.E. (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) team here at the parish is meeting to work on community issues **this Sunday, February 7th**, at **10 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**. All are invited!

USCCB's Poverty Awareness Month: To get a look inside the everyday lives of five people living in poverty, please visit <http://goo.gl/36e50M>

Hogar Immigrant Services is currently looking for ESOL and citizenship teachers, as well as tutors, at their various sites in Northern Virginia. They are also in need of bilingual office volunteers at their Manassas and Falls Church locations. **Please contact Cynthia at 571-208-1572, ext. 103 or email volunteer@ccda.net to apply.**

Upcoming FA&A meetings (all are welcome!): Our **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting on **Wednesday, February 17th**, at **7 p.m.** in the **Grade 6 Classroom**. Our **Respect Life Committee** (advocating for the consistent ethic of life from conception to natural death) is meeting on **Saturday, February 20th**, 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, February 21st**, at **9 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**. Our **Franciscan Action and Advocacy Council (FAAC)** is meeting on **Saturday, February 20th**, 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.stfrancis.org/welcome-introduction/>) and/or contact Rob Goraieb, O.F.S. at rgoraieb@stfrancis.org or 703-221-3127, ext. 228.



We have good days and we have bad days. But when the bad seem to loom larger, it is time to start a process of healing. Check out the basket on the back counsel table for an inspirational quote from Stephen Ministry. And if you want more one-to-one care, please call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312** and then **press 4** or email at kwalker@stfrancis.org to start the process of healing from the "bad days."

Follow us on:

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



St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **40** families this week. **For more information about the St. Francis House Food Pantry, please call Francia at 703-221-6344. Thank you for your continuing support.**



Boletín Semanal

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales serán el **viernes, marzo 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.**

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. **Muchas gracias por sus donaciones.**

Miércoles de Ceniza—El Miércoles, **febrero 10** celebraremos el miércoles de Ceniza con una misa en español a las **8:00pm en la iglesia.**

Called and Gifted Workshop—The next Called and Gifted Workshop at St. Francis will be held next weekend, **February 12th-14th, in the Parish Center**. The workshop consists of three sessions: **Friday night, 7-9:30pm, Saturday afternoon, 1:30-5pm, and Sunday 1:30-5pm.** Registration is \$30 and can be paid on Friday night. **For more information or to register, please go to the St. Francis website, signup after masses this week, or contact Bill Sydow at billsydowjr@yahoo.com.**

Charism Discernment—For those parishioners that have already taken the Called and Gifted workshop, we invite you to attend a five week small group discernment program aimed at helping you sharpen your awareness of your charisms. We will plan to incorporate some of the Lenten small group Face of Mercy material into our two hour meetings. We will meet from **7-9pm on Wednesday evenings in the Parish Center Library starting February 24th through Mar 23rd.** You can attend as many sessions as your schedule allows. **To sign up, please go to the parish website or contact Bill Sydow at billsydowjr@yahoo.com.**



Soup and Stations—Fridays during Lent we will celebrate Soup and Stations beginning **February 12th at 6:00 pm** with a soup and bread dinner in the **Parish Center Dining**

Facility followed by the **Stations of the Cross in the church at 7:00 pm**. Each week a different group will sponsor the dinner and St. Francis Lectors will lead the Stations that evening. Please join us in this time of fellowship and prayer.

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



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

Religious Education has a New Website Page! Parents please check out the new Parish website at stfrncis.org. Religious Education has a new page along with some new added features. We have a Parent Blog with insightful articles and we are on Pinterest! Please feel free to email me with Catholic resources that you have found helpful.

Email Marianne Hayes, DRE at recoor@stfrncis.org

Feb. 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
Mar. 3	Thursday RE Session
6	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
10	Thursday RE Session
13	Sunday RE Sessions I&II

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



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 Pequitte Schwerin at 703-590-8492 or email at wislady@comcast.net. You can also access the website at arlingtoncursillo.org.

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Clyde Richardson, Joseph Sheridan, and Annelies Gendron.

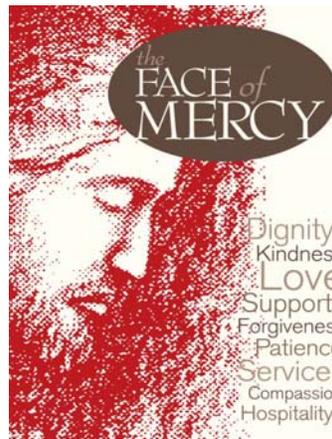
And for those recently deceased: Irene Boots.

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.

Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, February 14, 2016 from 1:30p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**

Celebrate Lent with FRIENDS PARTICIPANTS

You may be new to the parish or unable to host a group of your own. We want to support your participation in this small group opportunity. To live in a community where faith grows, we need each other.



People who want to PARTICIPATE may join a small group by visiting www.stfrncis.org/small-groups and registering under a hosted group with open, welcoming spaces for guests.

The FACE OF MERCY is a five-week series featuring weekly messages, readings and inspiring lay testimonies. A booklet and DVD is provided. It is a short-term commitment, designed to help you connect with friends in a relaxed atmosphere and a great way to expand and strengthen your faith-filled relationships and social network. The series begins on **February 29th and runs through April 4th** with a break for Holy Week and Easter.

There is a **\$10.00 fee per participant**, to be collected at your first meeting. Register as a PARTICIPANT on-line today! www.stfrncis.org/small-groups.

CORNERSTONE St. Francis of Assisi, Triangle, VA

Register Today!

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.

Register today at <http://www.stfrncis.org/cornerstone/>
Women's Cornerstone retreat: April 8th at 5:00pm – April 9 at 7:00pm (**\$120 for double room and \$140 for single room**).

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Eastgate Apartments** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.



Mass Intentions

SUNDAY,	February 7—5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:30 PM	Dorothy Lee
	†Audrey Proscia
7:30 AM	Thomas Lee
9:00 AM	†Karen Mary Takacs
	†James Stagg
	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
	†Fr. Alexius Mulrenan, O.F.M.
10:30 AM	People of the Parish
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy
	†Robert Ferenschak
	Marie Chery
	†Ted Geary
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Ed Bowling
	†Jonathan Cletus Ottoman
MONDAY,	February 8—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Peggy Shepherd
	†Ted Geary
TUESDAY,	February 9—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Joyce and †Don McVay
WEDNESDAY,	February 10—Ash Wednesday
6:30 AM	Prayer Service
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
12:00 PM	†Joseph and †Julia Flood
	†Deborah Jean McGrath
2:45 PM	Prayer Service
5:00 PM	Prayer Service
7:00 PM	Prayer Service
8:00 PM	Misa en español
THURSDAY,	February 11—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	
12:00 PM	
FRIDAY,	February 12—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Thomas J. Sheehy
12:00 PM	
SATURDAY,	February 13—Lenten Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mass Intentions on Sunday, February 14, 2016

5:30 PM	†Eileen Bolen
7:30 AM	†Joan Rose Rudge
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
	†John Pane
	Katherine Gonsorcik
10:30 AM	†Alejandro Family
12:15 PM	†Joyce and †Don McVay
	†George Beck
	†Clara Kennedy
	†John Kennedy
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish

Readings for the Week of February 7, 2016

Monday	1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Mark 6:53-56
Tuesday	1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Mark 7:1-13
Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25
Friday	Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday	Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32
Sunday	Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

Valentine Dinner Dance



The Columbiettes are sponsoring **Valentine's Day Dinner/ Dance on February 13, 2016**. This special dance will be held in St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center, 18825 Fuller Heights Rd., Triangle, VA 22172. **The cost is \$38 per person. Dinner will be served at 7 pm with dancing to follow.** Cash bar will be serving beer and wine. Please come and join us in this wonderful event. All profits will be going to Parish needs. Seats are limited. **Tickets will be sold after mass on February 6th-7th.** Please contact **Irene Sullivan if you have any questions at dan_irene@verizon.net.**

CATERING
By Darlene

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church (12807 Valleywood Drive, Woodbridge, VA), invites you to attend: Life In The Spirit Seminar for 6 Wednesdays during Lent (**February 17th—March 23rd**) from 7-9pm, in the Parish Hall (building across from the Church). **For more information, please contact: motherofjoyprays@gmail.com or Jim Davis at 703-494-0511.**



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!