

From the Pastor's Desk

The loss of innocence is something all of us can relate to in our lives. In the book of Genesis we hear how Adam and Eve lost their innocence. They squandered their innocence in a quest for power and god-like qualities. The serpent told them that by eating the apple they would "be like gods who know what is good and what is evil." Before giving in to the temptation life for Adam and Eve was good and so was their relationship with God. Sin is a break in that relationship between the Creator and the created.

As sin entered the world through one man Adam, innocence and right order would be restored through one man, the new Adam, Jesus Christ. St. Paul said, "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous." As we begin this Lenten season it is a good time for each of us to look at and examine the relationship we have between ourselves and God. Like Jesus we too are faced with temptations. If we are not tempted in life then we are no longer alive. People who are dead do not get tempted. People often mention to me that they have evil or impure thoughts. I ask them if they know why they are tempted by such thoughts. They look at me as if it is something within them of which they should be ashamed. I tell them not so. The reason they have such thoughts is because they are not yet dead but alive. The temptations we struggle with are part of life and provide us with opportunities for us to deepen and strengthen our relationship with the Lord.

May this Lenten period be a time for each of us to look at ourselves and ask some tough questions. Do we allow temptations that are not life giving to cause us to panic or do we see them as an opportunity to grow in our relationship with the Lord? Do we need to re-evaluate our behavior patterns that allow temptations to fester and gain power over us? Are we tempted not to forgive either ourselves or others? May our Lenten journey this year be a time of reflection and evaluation of our relationship with our loving and merciful God. Every Wednesday evening from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM I will be in the church for anyone who wishes to experience God's unconditional love and mercy through the sacrament of reconciliation.

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



Soup and Stations—Fridays during Lent we will celebrate Soup and Stations beginning 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.

THE FRANCISCAN CHALLENGE Q & A's

Who lives in Holy Name Province?

There are 325 Franciscan Friars in Holy Name Province serving the people of God in a wide variety of settings—colleges, parishes, urban ministry centers and diverse social ministries along the East Coast. Today we continue the mission of Saint Francis to make the Gospel message come alive in our contemporary world. We live in cities, suburbs and rural areas. Our backgrounds are diverse and our ministries are varied; most of us serve in pastoral roles, while others work in education, social ministry, administration and manual trades.

What is the mission of the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province?

The core of Franciscanism is in the living out of the Gospel of Jesus Christ within the Church according to the rule of life proposed and observed by Saint Francis of Assisi to preach this message to every creature. This is our purpose and mission.

Our message is very simple:
God loves each of us totally and unconditionally.

What makes the Franciscan Friars different?

The Franciscan Friars have always been thought of as "of the people and with the people". Living in community is a core value and often helps the Friars to put things in a more "down to earth" perspective. The Friars never see themselves as better than anyone, and therefore they are not usually judgmental and are very accepting of everyone, those who are in the faith community and those who are not.

All Are Welcome is the usual core of Franciscan hospitality.

Ah, love is in the air... or maybe not?

What about the love of self?

The love when seek or grant forgiveness? How about the love of reconciliation with God or your neighbors? Where is the love in the Mercy you are asked to give, but still have not? Love is a powerful word.

And is in many more relationships than we give it credit for. Start a conversation with a Stephen Minister about your lack or need of love in your personal situations. Please call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email at kwalker@stfrancis.org.**



Please Note:

The parish offices will be closed
Monday, February 15th
in observance of Presidents' Day.

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

We encourage everyone to visit our **Care for Creation (environmental stewardship/integral ecology) educational table** in the vestibule. Please help yourself to any/all resources! You'll find information there on recycling; how to dispose of medicines properly; faith formation write-ups; and more; as well as boxes to collect any unneeded store plastic bags from home for our recycling drive. THANK YOU to our Care for Creation Committee, Fr. Kevin, parish and school staff, and our community partners for all their work and support. As a "GreenFaith Sanctuary," we endeavor to model, educate, and advocate for the moral and faithful stewardship of God's earth, never forgetting the kinship between all creation and the human person. Through the gift of creation, may we all encounter and grow closer to God.

Our **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting **this coming Wednesday, February 17th, at 7 p.m.** in the **Grade 6 Classroom**.

Other upcoming FA&A meetings: 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**. 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, March 6th, at 10 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.

LUNCH BUNCH TIME—Anyone 55+, please join us for our **February Lunch Bunch on Thursday, the 18th, at 12:30 pm** in the **St. Catherine room**. Bring your own brown bag lunch and all other refreshments will be provided. We have re-scheduled a law enforcement professional as our guest speaker. He will be discussing and answering any questions on personal safety. For more information please contact **Becky Traver at 540-699-2175 or Tandovi@aol.com**. We are a fun "bunch" so please join us!

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 **60** 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.**



Thank you very much to the **St. Francis' Cub Scout Pack 1385 and Boy Scout Troop 138** for collecting men's and/or women's Underwear. The Undie Sunday drive was a great success, with the help of our parishioner's donations we were able to fill 30 paper bags. All the donations went to the Bill-Mehr Drop in shelter in Woodbridge, VA. Great job Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts!



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 **60** familias. **Muchas gracias por sus donaciones.**

Kairos Asks for Your Support

The Kairos Program is a prison ministry, which involves screened volunteers visiting and interacting with those who are incarcerated. Its purpose is to build a Christian community internal to the prison. Ideally, there are approximately 42 residents selected to participate during each Kairos weekend that is conducted semi-annually. **On March 10-13, 2016, John Cipparone will be visiting members at Deep Meadow Correctional Center.** You can assist our Kairos volunteer in the following manner:



Prayer Wheel/Chain: Intercessory prayer is powerful—for those incarcerated as well as their families. If you would like to offer prayers for those attending the Kairos weekend, please stop by the table after Mass or contact **John Cipparone at (H) 703-580-6406 or (C) 603-512-9680 or e-mail him at johncip11@verizon.net.**

Make Cookies: Each Kairos volunteer is asked to bring 100 dozen cookies as a metaphor for abundant love. These cookies are for those attending the weekend plus one dozen for the entire population. As one released prisoner said, "There's a whole world in a dozen cookies." **If you can help, please stop by the table after Mass and pick-up the cookie recipes since the prison environment has many restrictions;** you can also contact John. **You can deliver cookies to the parish office up to Monday, March 7, 2016.**

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. 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



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**).

Follow us on:

Facebook: *St. Francis of Assisi Church*

Twitter: *@StFrancisVA*

Instagram: *stfrancischurchva*



Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held this **Sunday, February 14, 2016 from 1:30p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room.

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

And for those recently deceased: Ron Emmons; and Irene Boots.

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

Celebrate Lent with FRIENDS PARTICIPANTS

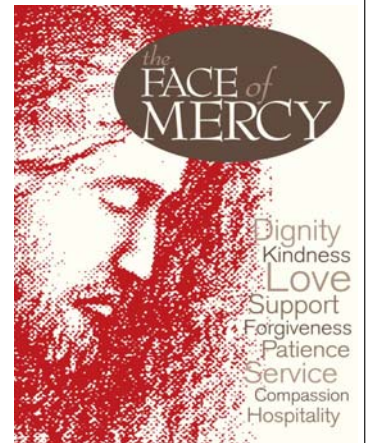
You may be new to the parish or unable to host a group of your own. We want to support your participation in this small group opportunity. To live in a community where faith grows, we need each other.

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.



Soccer Tournament at JP the Great
John Paul is hosting a 3v3 soccer tournament for middle and high school students on **February 20th**. Boys and girls, ages 10 – 19 are encouraged to register today! Form your own team, or become part of one for the day! For more information, and to register, please visit www.jpthegreat.org or **contact Coach Beacher** (angela.beacher@jpthegreat.org) or **call 703-445-0314**.

JP Baseball Clinic

Baseball players in grades 5 – 8 are invited to the annual Spring Training Baseball Clinic at JP the Great on **March 5th**. Athletes will learn the fundamentals of hitting, throwing, and fielding over the course of the clinic. For more information, and to register, please visit www.jpthegreat.org or **contact head coach Bob.Czekaj@jpthegreat.org**, or call 703-445-0314.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY,	February 14—1st Sunday of Lent
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
MONDAY,	February 15—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Michael Brough
	†Giovita and †Alda Vitali
12:00 PM	
TUESDAY,	February 16—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Marion Richmond
12:00 PM	
WEDNESDAY,	February 17—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
12:00 PM	
THURSDAY,	February 18—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Thomas and †Beverly McClutchy
12:00 PM	
FRIDAY,	February 19—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Thomas Sheehy
	†Thomas Larke
12:00 PM	
SATURDAY,	February 20—Lenten Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	Mass Intentions on Sunday, February 21, 2016
5:30 PM	†Lee Orsini
	†John Shooksters
	†Catherine Selepak
7:30 AM	†Hazel Orsini
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
	†Louie and †Cherrie Takacs
10:30 AM	
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy
1:45 PM	†Javier Duque Portugal
5:30 PM	People of the Parish

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.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
J. David Alachnowicz, DDS, PC
 for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Readings for the Week of February 14, 2016

Monday	Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46
Tuesday	Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday	Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
Thursday	Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12
Friday	Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday	Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48
Sunday	Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1; Luke 9:28b-36

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.

**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 be meeting on Saturday, February 27, 2016** in the **St. Catherine Room** (located near the Pre-school on the right side of the church). **Social time will be from 9:45 a.m.-10:00 a.m. and the meeting will be from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.** 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 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.

Buy tickets after Mass next weekend
Save the ticket processing fee
 One night **ONLY—Friday March 18th, at 8:00 p.m.**
Forest Park High School Auditorium



The Powerful and popular songs of **Phil Coulter**, Ireland's Musical Ambassador with the magnificent voice of **Andy Cooney** and **Geraldine Branagan** bring together a RARE 10 city tour for an evening of outstanding Irish music, joy, and culture for all. Ticket information (**\$36-\$49**) and video samples can be found at www.celtic-crossingsdc16.org.