

From the Pastor's Desk

One of the sacred but sad privileges of being a priest is when I am asked to share with a family the death of someone they love. In those last hours, days and sometimes weeks before their loved one leaves this life, we gather at their bedside. For family and friends the daily activities become of secondary importance. Some travel long distances to be with their loved one. If the person dies before they arrive they feel cheated or shortchanged. There is such a need to express their gratitude and their love, to speak of memories shared—just to be there. It is a privilege—a sad one but a very intimate privilege to be there at the moment of death.

Holy Week which we just celebrated is that kind of gathering—a gathering of family and friends to be with Jesus during his passion and dying. We remembered his life and how humble he was. He arrived in Jerusalem riding on a donkey—what an insignificant figure he must have been. From the gospels we know he was born homeless, in his ministry he borrows a boat from which to preach, he borrows a room for the Passover meal with his disciples—even his tomb was borrowed. How could this man possibly free a people dominated by the most powerful force in the world, the Roman Army?

We tend to be impressed by displays of military power—think of the pictures of North Korean Troops marching with great precision or the roar of our own jets when they fly over our heads at a national event—we are filled with awe. Jesus does not draw attention by displays of the spectacular. His power is found in love—selfless love—in pouring out life's energies for the other, the poor, and the needy. Real power is found in forgiving our enemies. The power of the Kingdom of God is found in turning the other cheek, in standing up against bigotry, in defending the members of the human family who are voiceless and powerless. God's power is found in the compassionate search for justice. God's power makes it clear that life does not end—that the "things" of this world are not what life is all about. Rather, we should live in this passing world with our hearts set on a world that will never end. And so it was good for us as a family to gather this past week—to remember the life and death and rising of Christ Jesus—it is His life and only his way of living that will give us everlasting life. It is the life we are called to embrace as Disciples of Christ.

Happy Easter!! Rejoice! Let this Easter be the time you "decide to start living the life you imagined." Stephen Ministry is here to help. We listen, question, talk, laugh and cry. Let the newness of spring help nudge you towards living the life you imagined. Start by calling **Kathy Walker** at **703-221-4312** and then press 4 to talk. Or email at kwalker@stfrancis.org for more information.



Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Workshops for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held this year on:

Saturday, April 2, 2016 at **Cathedral of St. Thomas More (in the upper Church)** in Arlington

Saturday, April 30, 2016 at **St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception (in the upper Church)** in Fredericksburg

Saturday, May 14, 2016 at **Our Lady of Hope (in the upper church)** in Potomac Falls.

The time frame for all workshops will be from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.**

To register for one of the workshops or if you have any questions, please contact **Chanel Marquis** at **703-221-4044, ext. 222** or cmarquis@stfrancis.org.

The Easter flowers were donated in memory of the following:

Helen Baron; Jennie Fenton; Mr. and Mrs. John Tiano; Mecca Family; Grandma O'Brien; Agnes and Joseph Harrison, Sr.; Carmella and Ralph Oropallo; John Francis Carpino; Laurence O'Brien; Nancy Potter; Thomas and Tarantino Families; Edward F. Donnan, Jr.; Thomas and Ellen Sheehan; Thomas and Beverly McClutchy; Lynne and David Teodosio; James Teodosio; Audrey and Joseph Proscia; Jeffrey Proscia; Edward Patrick O'Neil; Dorothy and Arthur Peitler; Rosemary and John Wenzel; Colevin Mazor; William Hawk; and Darlene Gagne; Gillespie and Halpin Families; Marjorie and Austin Carroll; Claudina and Thomas Wright; Ryan and Herrmann Families; Fred M. Gozzi; Antoinette A. Gozzi; Rocco Gozzi; Angela Gozzi; Charles Gozzi; John Wojcik, Sr.; Antoinette Wojcik; Agnes Wojcik; John Wojcik, Jr.; Helen Gryczk; Patricia Gryczk; Anna Hart; Virginia Phillips; Harry B. Lyon; Joan Lyon; Lorenzo Manno; Marco and Candida Imbarlina; Joseph Imbarlina; Badami Family; Taravella Family; Phyllis May Taylor; Grandpa Rogan; Audrey Jones; Denis McManus; Jim Longi, Jr.; Eileen McManus; John and Christl Renzo; Robert and Iren Eastvedt; Jim and Geri Cotten; Guthrie Family; Daly Family; Kenneth E. Lieb; Lyn Lehmer; C.B. and Mary Jo Wolfe; Dick Murray; Don and Lydia Widener; Rayhel Family; and Larke Family.



There will be a session of Cyber Seniors on April 7th in the Br. Juniper Room from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Attendance at a previous session is NOT required. These are entry level sessions designed for seniors who want to become more comfortable with the electronic devices that are now part of all our lives. No prior computer experience or vocabulary required! If you have questions, contact **Sharon** at bbsle21@gmail.com or **Jeanne** at jcmitcho45@gmail.com.

Please Note: The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, March 28th

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

You are invited to the parish on **Sunday, April 10th, at 10 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**, for a presentation on **“Making Informed Catholic End-of-Life Decisions.”** Sponsored by the parish and our Respect Life Committee, our guest speaker, Joseph W. Stuart, PLC, Attorney & Counsellor at Law, will help us to navigate the tough end-of-life decisions—known and unknown—that we are often forced to confront—in a way that is faith-filled, loving and wise. Come make sense of all the confusion; come learn the differences between what the State permits and what the Catholic Church teaches; and much, much more. This will be an active discussion and you will leave better informed and better prepared to plan. **The event is free. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome!**

Prescription drug and heroin addiction awareness: **Drug take-back programs** are the best and safest way to dispose of unused or expired medication. Locations have been announced for **April 30th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** To get a list, please contact Rob.

Upcoming FA&A meetings: Our **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting on **Wednesday, April 13th, 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, April 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, April 17th, at 9 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**. Our **Franciscan Action and Advocacy Council (FAAC)** is meeting on **Saturday, April 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.)

V.O.I.C.E. (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) will meet to work on community issues on **Sunday, April 3rd, at 10 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**.

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 703-221-3127, ext. 228.

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

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. At this moment we are in need of **Peanut Butter, Jelly, Hamburger Helper** and **reusable bags (no paper bags)**. For more information about the St. Francis House Food Pantry, please call **Francia at 703-221-6344. Thank you for your continuing support.**

Bill Mehr Drop-In Shelter

Many thanks to all who have responded so generously to requests for dinner items at the Drop-In shelter. With the help of our parishioners we provided **1,260 meals**. Beginning **Saturday, April 2nd**, our responsibility will shift to supplying **breakfast on Saturday mornings** as the Winter Shelter programs end. Directions and sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the vestibule. **For more information please call Francia at 571-572-5862.**

Donations for Refugee and Immigration Services

St. Francis House has received a request from the Refugee and Immigration Services to provide support for families who are relocating to the United States. The families can use the following **(NEW)** items: *Full and Queen size sheet sets, can openers, Kitchen and bathroom cleaning supplies, dish soap, mops w/pail, broom w/dust pan, toilet paper, paper towels, soap/body wash, alarm clocks, sponges, laundry detergent, kitchen trash cans, trash bags, shampoo, shower curtains w/hooks, light bulbs and lamps.* **If you can help provide any of the above, please contact Francia Salguero at 571-572-5862 (cell) or email calisa3@verizon.net.**

Boletín Semanal

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. En estos momentos estamos necesitados de **crema de maní, mermelada, y bolsas reusables**. **Muchas gracias por sus donaciones.**

Christ Centered Yoga begins multi-week sessions on **Tuesday evenings starting April 2nd and Saturday mornings starting April 16th**. Beginner and mixed level classes are available. Information can be found on the Parish website or email/ call contacts listed below.



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.**

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

- Mar. 20—April 3rd NO RE, Easter Break. Classes will resume on April 7th.
- Apr. 10 Sunday RE Sessions I&II
14 Thursday RE Session
17 Sunday RE Sessions I&II
21 Thursday RE Session
24 Sunday RE Sessions I&II
28 Thursday RE Session

Important Dates—Confirmation 2016

April 10th (1pm-7pm) in the gym—Year II Confirmation Retreat with the NET Team.

April 16th (9am or 11am)—Reconciliation

- 9am—St. Francis School, Thursday RE, CYM
- 11am—All Sunday RE sessions, Homeschool

Thursday, May 19th (6:30pm or 8:00pm)—Confirmation Rehearsal

- 6:30pm—St. Francis School, Thursday RE, CYM
- 8:00pm—All Sunday RE sessions, Homeschool

Saturday, May 21st (10:00am or 2:00pm)—Confirmation

- 10:00am—St. Francis School, Thursday RE, CYM
- 2:00pm—All Sunday RE sessions, Homeschool

Important Dates—Confirmation 2017

April 9th (3pm-9pm) in the gym—Year I Confirmation Retreat with the NET Team.

April 15th/16th—Bread for Life Service Event

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4ea9aa29a2fc1-year>

Adult Confirmation classes will begin **Tuesday, April 5th at 6:30pm in the Br. Juniper room** (church side of campus). This six-week program is for Catholic adults who have already received the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist (First Communion) and would like to complete initiation with Confirmation. **Please register with Lisa Ostendorf and reserve a textbook** lostendorf@stfrncis.org or 703-221-4044, ext. 277.

Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, April 10, 2016 from 1:30p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**

St. Francis of Assisi School PTO Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction

Save the date! The school will host a Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction on **Saturday, April 30th** immediately following 5:30 pm mass. All parishioners are invited to attend this family friendly event. **Tables for 8 people may be purchased for \$70. Individual ticket prices are as follows: \$10 for 12 and up, \$6 for children 3 to 11.** Your ticket includes spaghetti, salad, bread, tea, water and punch. Beer and wine will be available to purchase. Check back in the bulletin for ticket sale times and updates.

SAVE THE DATE

The **Columbiettes** will be hosting their Annual Spring Tea on **May 1, 2016 at 2 pm.**



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, April 2, 2016** in the Br. Juniper Room (located on the left 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.** If you are: 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. There is also a way to become an associate member...come check us out!



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.

Please Pray For

All those who are sick: Thomas DeBack, Donna Smiley, Hudson Beck, Michael Creegan, Annelies Gendron, Sheryl Richardson, Clyde Richardson, Josephine DeSimone, Norma Eure, and Celine Nebbia.

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

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Kristin Burns, Century 21** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

EASTER SUNDAY

<i>alleluia</i> <i>Liturgies For The Week</i>	
SUNDAY, 8:00 PM	March 27—Easter Easter Vigil †Fr. Alexius Mulrenan, O.F.M. †Augustine and †Marjorie Carroll †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
7:30 AM	†Judy Cloy †Mel Tossell †Scott Kujawa
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Avelina Sembillo †Peter Joseph Schwarz †Bob Walker †Carole Ann Kelley †Eladio Elomina
9:00 AM	(Gym)
10:30 AM	†Lorenzo Gaglio †Deborah McGrath †Joseph and †Julia Flood
10:30 AM	(Gym)
12:15 PM	†Jerry and †Connie O'Shea †Clara Kennedy †Grace Bergwall †Gerald Bigalke †Toni Leming
12:15 PM	(Gym)
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	NO MASS
MONDAY, 8:45 AM	March 28—Easter Monday †George Beck †Eleanor Lane Souls in Purgatory
TUESDAY, 8:45 AM	March 29—Easter Tuesday †Thomas A. Picone
WEDNESDAY, 8:45 AM	March 30—Easter Wednesday †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
THURSDAY, 8:45 AM	March 31—Easter Thursday
FRIDAY, 8:45 AM	April 1—Easter Friday †Joyce and †Don McVay
SATURDAY, 4:00 PM	April 2—Easter Saturday Sacrament of Reconciliation

Christ
the Lord
is risen
today

alleluia

Readings for the Week of March 27, 2016

Monday	Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15
Tuesday	Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18
Wednesday	Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35
Thursday	Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48
Friday	Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14
Saturday	Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15
Sunday	Acts 5:12-16; Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31

Mass Intentions on Sunday, April 3, 2016

5:30 PM	†Cynthia Palanzo †Fran Phoenix †Agatha Back †Palmira Coimbra
7:30 AM	†Judy Cloy †Mary McDonough Thomas Lee †John A. Cipparone, Sr.
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Janis Brodrick †Ne Bui
10:30 AM	
12:15 PM	†Mario Capozzi †Clara Kennedy †Julia Williams †Mary Simmons †Alice Bolen
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish

The VIRTUS *Protecting God's Children* is the adult safe-environment program being offered by the Diocese of Arlington. **The Diocese requires all adult employees and also volunteers who have substantial contact with children to attend the seminar. This includes:**

- ⇒ Vacation Bible School volunteers
- ⇒ Nursery volunteers
- ⇒ Confirmation retreat parent volunteers
- ⇒ School parent volunteers, who chaperone field trips, volunteer in the classroom, etc.
- ⇒ Mommy & Me volunteers
- ⇒ Coaches for all sports
- ⇒ Boy Scout/Girl Scout leaders and assistants (regardless of whether they are parishioners)
- ⇒ Catechists and Assistant Catechists
- ⇒ CYM and MSYM volunteers
- ⇒ All church and school employees

St. Francis of Assisi Parish will host a seminar on



Saturday, April 9th from 10 am—2 pm in the Parish Center Dining Facility (begins promptly at 10 am). To attend this workshop you must pre-register with your full legal name. The seminar is limited to 60 people, but there are a number of seminars offered throughout the Diocese; please check availability on the VIRTUS website.

To register: Go to www.virtus.org and click on the yellow link labeled "Registration" (you may either view a list of sessions or begin the registration process). To register for a specific session, select "Begin the Registration Process". Then, from the pull-down menu, select "Diocese of Arlington, VA". Then follow the online prompts.

Every adult member of the parish is invited to register and attend the workshop—it is our duty as members of this community of faith to be aware of how we can support and protect all children.