

## From the Pastor's Desk

During the daily masses throughout the Easter season, we will be reading in the Acts of the Apostles the story of the first community of Christians at Jerusalem that formed shortly after Jesus' Ascension. Luke, the writer of the Acts of the Apostles, notes that the first company of the disciples "was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common."

We who live in 21<sup>st</sup> century America read that with a certain amount of admiration—and skepticism. We are identified by our "stuff"—our homes, our portfolios, our electronic devices. The concept of "holding everything in common" just doesn't register for most of us.

But if our world is going to survive, we have to embrace the idea of holding things in "common." As Pope Francis writes so eloquently in his recent encyclical on the environment, our world is in crisis: climate change and industrial pollution are destroying the environment that God has given to all of us; the poor are being devastated by economic injustice. If we're going to save our water and air and sustain life on this planet, if we're going to provide for all God's people from the abundance of all that God has given to all of us, we have to follow the lead of the early Church and honor our "common" ownership and responsibility for this good earth.

So let us consider how we might "share" the gifts and blessings of God that we "hold in common" with someone in need.

**Next Saturday we will commission our new Stephen Ministers.** These very loving people will begin in our Parish the gift of caring ministry to those in need. They have answered the call to follow in Jesus' caring footsteps. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin in their Pastoral Care.



## CAR RAFFLE

All ticket stubs with payment and unsold tickets need to be returned by this

**Monday, April 11, 2016 by the close of business (4:00 p.m.).**

Drawing will take place on **Saturday,**

**April 30th** at All Saints Catholic Church in

Manassas. Car raffle entrants do not need to be present to win. Winners will be contacted by telephone, immediately after each drawing. A list of winners also will be posted at (<http://www.allsaintsvachurch.org>). This is the largest parish fundraiser and we thank you for your support. **GOOD LUCK!**

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



## Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion



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

**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](mailto:cmarquis@stfrancis.org).

*The Easter flowers were donated in memory of the following:*

Patrick and Catherine Reidy.



**Calling all young adults!** We are starting a new event called **Theology Uncorked** at Giorgio's Family Restaurant in Montclair. The evening will feature wine, food, and a great personal testimony by Marcus Guevara. We will begin at **7pm and end around 9pm on Tuesday, April 12th.** The **first 20 to register get a FREE admission ticket**, which includes a glass of wine (after that we will charge \$10). This is only for our first event! Please follow the link to register—<http://www.stfrancis.org/theology-uncorked-drink-tickets/>.

## Big Kairos Thank You

As a parishioner of St. Francis, I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation for your prayers and cookies supporting the Kairos Weekend at Deep Meadow Prison during March. I would also like to acknowledge a special thank you for the time and dedication by one of our parishioners who anonymously baked 100 dozen cookies.

Blessings, John Cipparone



The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, April 12th** 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.



**Christ Centered Yoga** begins a multi-week session on Saturday mornings starting **April 16th**. All levels are welcome. Information can be found on the parish website or by contacting **Tracy Morgan**, by email at [spiritualyogava@gmail.com](mailto:spiritualyogava@gmail.com) or by phone at 540-446-9426.

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

This Sunday, April 10th, at 10 a.m. in the Br. Juniper Room, everyone is invited to 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, young and old, routine and in crisis—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.**

Our **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting with a special guest from the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Initiative **this Wednesday, April 13th, at 7 p.m. in the Grade 6 Classroom.** All are welcome!

**Upcoming FA&A meetings:** 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.)

In their statement on *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the U.S. Catholic bishops remind Catholics about the call to participate in political life. “In the Catholic tradition,” they write, “responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation” (no. 13). Visit [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org) today to read the statement, watch videos, download podcasts, and access other resources.

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](mailto:rgoraieb@stfrancis.org) or 703-221-3127, ext. 228.

# Respect Creation Live Simply

## St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **80** families this week. At this moment we are in need of **Can Fruit, Hamburger Helper** and **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..



## 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 **80** familias. En estos momentos estamos necesitados de **Hamburger Helper y Fruta En Latas**. Muchas gracias por sus donaciones. Para mas información contactar a la Señora Salguero al **703-2221-6344**.

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

	<p><b>Pope Francis's Encyclical:</b></p> <p>“The notion of the common good also extends to future generations.”</p> <p><b>(Chapter 5, paragraph 159)</b></p> <p>—Compiled by Chelsea Miller and Adam Petrizza from our parish Care for Creation Committee</p>
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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!



**Follow us on:**  
 Facebook: *St. Francis of Assisi Church*  
 Twitter: *@StFrancisVA*  
 Instagram: *stfranchurchva*



### 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

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 10<sup>th</sup> (1pm-7pm)** in the gym—Year II Confirmation Retreat with the NET Team.

**April 16<sup>th</sup> (9am or 11am)**—Reconciliation

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

**Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> (6:30pm or 8:00pm)**—Confirmation Rehearsal

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

**Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> (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 9<sup>th</sup> (3pm-9pm)** in the gym—Year I Confirmation Retreat with the NET Team.

**April 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>**—Bread for Life Service Event

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

**Next weekend (April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>) we will host Project**

**Bread for Life**, a grassroots Catholic effort which sells bread in order to raise money to support the work of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God religious community. The Sisters are located in Africa near Uganda and provide medical assistance and literacy training to the local community.



**The bread is delivered to us fresh from a bakery in New Jersey and it is delicious! Thank you for supporting this worthy and wonderful program.**

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

#### SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank  
**Novaks Gymnastics**  
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

### Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction Ticket Sales

The St. Francis of Assisi School PTO will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, April 30th immediately following 5:30 pm Mass. All parishioners are invited to attend this family friendly event. **Tickets will be on sale April 16th-17th and April 23rd-24th after each Mass.** Checks, cash or Facts payments will be accepted. Tables for 8 people may be purchased for \$70. Individual ticket prices are as follows: \$10 for 12 years and up, \$6 for children 3-11. Please stop by the displays in the church vestibule for additional information.

**VBS Save the Date!!**

**VBS is June 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>!**



Many volunteers are needed to make this a great week! Please contact **Sharon Gardner** for information [gardners.vbs@gmail.com](mailto:gardners.vbs@gmail.com).

**ST. FRANCIS MEN'S GROUP**—Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:30PM in Parish Center Library**—Our topic will be "*Resisting the Destructive Political Culture*". An article on this topic by Russ Testa of the Holy Name Province Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Office. This article is available at the following link: <https://www.hnp.org/signs-times-resisting-destructive-political-culture/>

All men of the parish are welcome. **For more information please contact Tony Mercogliano at [amercogliano@gmail.com](mailto:amercogliano@gmail.com) or 571-332-7048.**

#### **Please Pray For**

**All those who are sick:** Annelies Gendron; Bruce Meisner, Col. U.S, Army Retired; Thomas DeBack; Donna Smiley; Hudson Beck; and Michael Creegan.

**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.

**St. Francis of Assisi Girl Scout Troop**

**2979** is hosting the "Rock the Ages" Father/Daughter Dance at the **Dumfries United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.** *Daisies and Brownies* can bring their special guy from 4:30pm-6:30pm, and then *Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors* can bring their special guy from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Dancing, beverages, snacks, Photo Booth and Professional Photographer will be provide to make this a special night to remember. **Price is \$25 per couple** and the Troop is offering a personalized tumbler with straw. For information on registration, please contact **Carole Rogan** at [carole.rogan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carole.rogan@sbcglobal.net) or 815-690-3997. **We look forward to seeing you!!**



# alleluia Liturgies For The Week

<b>SUNDAY,</b> 5:30 PM	<b>April 10—3rd Sunday of Easter</b> †John Restante Rick Strohecker Elizabeth Choi †Hellen Dodson
7:30 AM	†Judy Cloy †Mary McDonough Thomas Lee †John Cipparone, Sr.
9:00 AM	†Mary Mancuso †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:30 AM	†Janice Brodrick
12:15 PM	†Joyce and †Don McVay †George Beck †Clara Kennedy †Janet Tetley †Ian Elmedors
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Claudina Wright
<b>MONDAY,</b> 8:45 AM	<b>April 11—St. Stanislaus</b> †Eileen Bolen †James Roslin Edozie Rogelio V. Aseneta
<b>TUESDAY,</b> 8:45 AM	<b>April 12—Easter Weekday</b> Mark Staten
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b> 8:45 AM	<b>April 13—Easter Weekday</b> †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Clara Kennedy †Kathryn Gonsorcik
<b>THURSDAY,</b> 8:45 AM	<b>April 14—Easter Weekday</b> †Constance Quinn †Mike Slade Michael Taylor
<b>FRIDAY,</b> 8:45 AM	<b>April 15—Easter Weekday</b> Cecilia Han †Eileen Bolen
<b>SATURDAY,</b> 4:00 PM	<b>April 16—Easter Weekday</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Mass Intentions on Sunday, April 17, 2016**

5:30 PM	†Paul Krieger †Cynthia Palanzo
7:30 AM	†William Cooney †Fran Phoenix
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Emily Homes
10:30 AM	People of the Parish
12:15 PM	The McHatton Family †Clara Kennedy †Gerald Bigalke
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Peter Palermo

**Readings for the Week of April 10, 2016**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Acts 7:51—8:1a; John 6:30-35</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Acts 13:14, 43-52; Revelation 7:9, 14b-17; John 10:27-30</b>

**ANNUAL SPRING TEA**

The Columbiettes are hosting their annual spring tea and fashion show on **May 1st at 2PM in St Francis of Assisi Parish Center Gym**. Please join us for this worthwhile fundraising event. **Tickets are \$25 each. Tickets will be on sale on our web site: [columbiettes.yapsody.com](http://columbiettes.yapsody.com) or after the masses on April 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, 23rd, and 24th.**



**There will be a session of Cyber Seniors on April 21st 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, please contact **Sharon at [bbsle21@gmail.com](mailto:bbsle21@gmail.com) or Jeanne at [jcmitcho45@gmail.com](mailto:jcmitcho45@gmail.com).**

**Current high school students and their families are invited to Christendom College in Front Royal, VA, one of the leading Catholic colleges in the nation for **Open House on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**.**



The day includes meeting the college president, classroom visits, presentations, Mass and more!

**Please register online at [christendom.edu](http://christendom.edu). Please contact Zac Inman with any questions at [zinman@christendom.edu](mailto:zinman@christendom.edu) or 540-551-9232.**



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.

**Adult Soccer players over 30** wanted for 7 on 7 half field soccer. A great way to exercise and meet your fellow parishioners. Games Tuesday and Wednesday night at Howison field. **If interested, please contact Chris Lyons at 703-473-7495 or Ed San Martin at 703-863-8811.**

