

From the Pastor's Desk

Two thousand years ago, Jesus walked up to a handful of men and said, "**Follow me.**" Imagine being one of those original disciples. They were ordinary people like you and me. They had jobs, families, hobbies, and social lives. As they went about their business on the day Jesus called them, none of them would have expected his life to change so quickly and completely. The disciples could not have fully understood what they were getting into when they responded to Jesus's call. Whatever expectations or doubts, whatever curiosity, excitement, or uncertainty they felt, nothing could have prepared them for what lay ahead. Everything about Jesus—His teaching, compassion, and wisdom; His life, death, and resurrection; His power, authority, and calling—would shape every aspect of the rest of their lives. In only a few years, these simple men would be brought before some of the most powerful rulers on earth and be accused of "turning the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). What began as simple obedience to the call of Jesus ended up changing their lives, and ultimately, the world.

What Is a Disciple? What does it mean to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ?

The answer is fairly simple, but it changes your life completely. The word disciple refers to a student or apprentice. Disciples in Jesus's day would follow their rabbi (which means teacher) wherever he went, learning from the rabbi's teaching and being trained to do as the rabbi did. Basically, a disciple is a follower, but only if we take the term follower literally. Becoming a disciple of Jesus is as simple as obeying His call to follow. When Jesus called His first disciples, they may not have understood where Jesus would take them or the impact it would have on their lives, but they knew what it meant to follow. They took Jesus's call literally and began going everywhere He went and doing everything He did. It's impossible to be a disciple or a follower of someone and not end up like that person. Jesus said, "**A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher**" (Luke 6:40). That's the whole point of being a disciple of Jesus: we imitate Him, carry on His ministry, and become like Him in the process.

Yet somehow for many people they have come to believe that they can be a "Christian" without being like Christ—a "follower" who doesn't follow. How does that make any sense? Many people in the church have decided to take on the name of Christ and nothing else. This would be like Jesus walking up to those first disciples and saying, "Hey, would you guys mind identifying yourselves with Me in some way? Don't worry, I don't actually care if you do anything I do or change your lifestyle at all. I'm just looking for people who are willing to say they believe in Me and call themselves Christians." Seriously? No one can really believe that this is all it means to be a Christian or a Disciple of Christ. But then why do so many people live this way? It appears that we've lost sight of what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus. The concept of being a disciple isn't difficult to understand, but it affects everything in our lives and how we live our lives. To answer the call to be a Disciple of Christ will impact your life. Are you willing to say Yes? If so next week I will reflect on how to become a Disciple.

You know all those things you have always wanted to do? You should DO THEM! Do you find it hard to start things without a support system? Then please call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email kwalker@stfrancis.org** to start getting things done with a Stephen Minister as support.



Mission 2016 Vitamin Campaign



Our Missioners traveling to Peru in July will again be carrying prenatal and children's vitamins for the parish medical clinics at Santa Ana and in the Pastoral Zone. The children of the "Squatter Towns" suffer greatly from the developmental effects of poor nutrition. Children's vitamins are expensive and hard to obtain in Peru.

- \$10 provides prenatal vitamins for an entire pregnancy.
- \$15 provides a child with vitamins for a year.

Donations of any amount would be appreciated.

Envelopes can be found on the bulletin board on your right as you leave church.

CAR RAFFLE 2016

Congratulations to the Bauwen and Latham families! These parishioners are cash winners of \$2,500 and \$100 in the 2016 Car Raffle. Thanks to everyone for their support of the largest fundraiser of our Parish.



The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, May 24th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Clare Room**. All are welcome. For more information, please call **Otella Creegan at 571-264-0312.**

**BE A FRANCIS-CAN
NOT A FRANCIS-CAN'T**



Franciscan Action and Advocacy

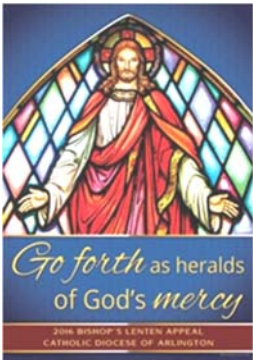
Our **Care for Creation Committee** (focused on environmental work/integral ecology) is meeting **this Sunday, May 22nd, at 9 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**.

Other upcoming meetings: Our **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting on **Wednesday, June 8th, 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, June 18th, at 11:45 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**. Our **Franciscan Action and Advocacy Council (FAAC)** is meeting on **Saturday, June 18th, 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.)

The latest prescription drug “Take-Back Day” was a **success!** A total of 1,876.4 pounds of expired or unused prescription medications were collected in greater Prince William County.

Are you unknowingly supporting **slave labor/human trafficking**? Please visit <http://slaveryfootprint.org/> to learn more.

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.



Bishop's Lenten Appeal
Only a few weeks left.
We are \$9,720 short of our goal. Please consider making a donation if you have not already done so.

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



Follow us on:

Facebook: *St. Francis of Assisi Church*

Twitter: *@StFrancisVA*

Instagram: *stfrancischurchva*



St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **70** families this week. Because of the increase of families in need We are in need of:

- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta



For more information, please call **Francia at 703-221-6344**. Thank you for your continuing support.

When Did I see You Hungry, Lord?



St. Francis has pledged to provide Saturday breakfast to the Drop-In Shelter in Woodbridge from April to October and we are in **dire need** of your help. Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the

vestibule. **For more information please contact Francia at 517-572-5862 or 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 **70** familias. En estos momentos estamos necesitados de:

- Espagueti
- Salsa para Espagueti
- Pasta

Muchas gracias por sus donaciones. Para mas información contactar a la Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español serán las siguientes fechas:

- Viernes, Junio 17

Las charlas bautismales son a las 7:00pm en la librería de la escuela. Para más información por favor llamar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones—las inscripciones para la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones (VBS) están abiertas! VBS se celebrará del 20 de junio al 24 de junio, desde las 9:00 am-12:30 pm en el Centro Parroquial. Las inscripciones están abiertas a todos los niños de 4 años para entrar en sexto grado. Adultos y adolescentes voluntarios ven y únete a la diversión! Las inscripción y formas de voluntariado están en el vestíbulo de la Iglesia y también en nuestra pagina de internet. Para mas información por favor contactar a la oficina de **ER 703-221-4978 o Sharon Gardner al gardners.vbs@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

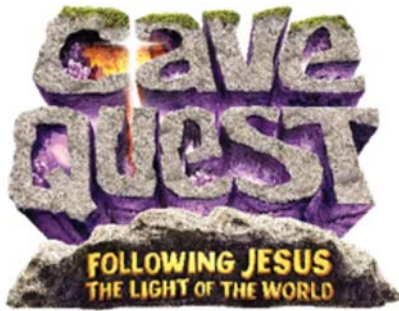
May 22 Sunday RE Sessions I&II—Last Sunday RE

**Enrollment for Cave Quest
Vacation Bible School (VBS) is now open!**

VBS will be held **June 20th—June 24th** from **9:00 am—12:30 pm** in the **Parish Center**. It is open to all children ages 4 years to entering 6th Grade.

Adults and teens—volunteer and join the fun! Do you have little ones (under 4 years) at home? They can join in the nursery as you volunteer.

Registration and Volunteer forms are in the foyer at Church and also available on the website. **The registration deadline is Monday, May 30th.**



Questions? Please the contact RE Office at 703-221-4978 or Sharon Gardner at gardners.vbs@gmail.com.

Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, June 12, 2016** from **1:30p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**



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!

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Readings for the Week of May 22, 2016

Monday	1 Peter 1:3-9; Mark 10:17-27
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:10-16; Mark 10:28-31
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:18-25; Mark 10:32-45
Thursday	1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12; Mark 10:46-52
Friday	1 Peter 4:7-13; Mark 11:11-26
Saturday	Jude 17, 20b-25; Mark 11:27-33
Sunday	Genesis 14:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Luke 9:11b-17

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Jorge Rios; Betty Pacheco; Amalia Carballo; Julie Ocasio; Margaret Renfro; Teddy Placek; Annelies Gendron; Elena Brazil O'Donnell; and Anna Paglio.

And for those recently deceased: Yvette Davis (Wife of Steven Davis).

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

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.



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!

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.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS
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.



Are You New to the Parish??? Welcome!!

Registration forms are available on the tables in the vestibule, from the parish office or from the parish [website www.stfrncis.org](http://www.stfrncis.org).

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Christ The King Religious Book and Gift Store** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.



SUNDAY, 5:30 PM	May 22nd—Holy Trinity †Ray Michalak †Paul Krieger †Eileen Rose Pastore †Christl Renzo †Voltaire Tecson
7:30 AM	People of the Parish
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Celine Nebbia
10:30 AM	†Richard Mance, Sr. †Joseph Alberteli †Eliette Boutin
12:15 PM	†Wilbert Friesen †Michael Creegan †Clara Kennedy †Catherine Russillo †Veronica Valentine †Oligario Tornes
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Michael Creegan
MONDAY, 8:45 AM	May 23—Weekday †John Bernard MacKinnon
TUESDAY, 8:45 AM	May 24—Weekday
WEDNESDAY, 8:45 AM	May 25—Weekday †Mike Dowd †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
THURSDAY, 8:45 AM	May 26—St. Philip Neri †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Clara Kennedy
FRIDAY, 8:45 AM	May 27—Weekday †Joan O'Connor-Weber †Elmer O. Roeske †Rena Bowling
SATURDAY, 4:00 PM	May 28—Weekday Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mass Intentions on Sunday, May 29, 2016

5:30 PM	Pena Family Nelson and Betty Pacheco
7:30 AM	People of the Parish
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik Women's Kairos Men's Kairos In gratitude of Fr. Kevin and Parish for support
10:30 AM	†Richard Mance, Sr.
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Eileen Bolen

A New Author in the Parish

What if I told you that superheroes were real? Would you believe me? To the logical world, it would seem insane. They are just stories, after all. But every story comes from somewhere; every tale has a beginning. With great power comes great responsibility. At least, that is what the *stories* tell us. I wish I could say I believed them.



John Paul senior and St. Francis alumni Jessica Sydow, is very happy to announce the publication of her novel, **Gifted**. It is a four-part, Young Adult fiction novel packed full of suspense, adventure, and self-discovery. Jessica started writing it during her sophomore year, but the characters have existed since seventh grade, when she created the first drawings of them. Since then, both the art and story have developed into something amazing that she wants to share with the world.

Gifted is available for purchase from [Amazon](#) (search "Jessica Sydow").

Around the Diocese

6th Annual Seton Legacy Golf Classic—June 27th
Join us at The Links at Gettysburg for the 6th Annual Seton Legacy Golf Classic at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, June 27th. Mark your calendar and organize your four-person team today—only \$100 per golfer which includes green fee, cart, driving range, course beverages and dinner. Proceeds to benefit the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md. Sign-up, print and fill in the registration form, and return it to the Seton Shrine. For more information, or to register please contact Snow Andersen at 301-447-7080 or Snow.Andersen@setonshrine.org.

Deepen your knowledge of the faith this summer!
Take a 3-week online seminar through Catholic Distance University for just \$30. Register for Mary and the Scriptures (**June 6-27**), Acts of the Apostles (July 4-25) or Proclaiming the Reality of God: Compelling Evidence of God's Existence (July 25-Aug. 15). Please visit www.cdu.catalog.instructure.com/ to register. At checkout, enter promo code CDU15ARLINGTON to receive the special \$30 rate reserved for parishioners within the Diocese of Arlington!

Discernment Retreat for Women—June 17-19
Is Christ be calling you to be his bride? Take a step to find out by attending a Discernment Retreat for Women (ages 18-50), **June 17th-19th**. The retreat will include discernment workshops and quiet moments of prayer to rest in Christ. The cost is \$60. Financial assistance is available.