

**From the Friars**

Many thanks to Francia and the staff of Francis House for their many hours of service to the less advantaged from our Dumfries-Triangle area community. At Thanksgiving, they gave away 80 turkeys to needy families as well as the usual weekly food donation.

They are currently working hard to arrange distribution of gifts for children from our parish giving trees.

It is said where you sing you pray twice. I hope as many as possible will join us next Friday, December 16th for our annual Christmas Festival of Praise. Come and be part of a prayerful uplifting experience.

*Fr. John O'Connor, O.F.M.*


**Mark Your Calendars for the Annual Festival of Praise!**

December 16th at 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy a wonderful evening of Christmas Praise presented by the combined choirs and instrumentalists of the Saint Francis Music Ministry, full of music that will stir your heart and leave you feeling joyful! After the Festival, please join us in the Parish Hall for food and fellowship. The Concert is free of charge, however a free will offering will be accepted to help cover the cost of the Concert.



For more information, please contact Nikole Girdaldi at [nikoleg@stfrancis.org](mailto:nikoleg@stfrancis.org).



**Waiting on God is not a waste of time, it is training time.** How is your Advent season going? Need someone to come along on your spiritual journey of growth and preparing? Please call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email at [kwalker@stfrancis.org](mailto:kwalker@stfrancis.org)** to benefit from the spiritual nature of a Stephen Minister.

**Advent Yoga class on Saturday, December 17th from 7:45 AM- 8:45 AM in the St. Catherine Room.** A donation of \$15 is suggested, however any amount is appreciated. All class proceeds will be donated to the St. Francis Un-Trim-A-Tree Project. Class will be limited to the first 20 registrants. For more information please contact **Tracy Morgan at 540-446-9426 or at [spiritualyogava@gmail.com](mailto:spiritualyogava@gmail.com)**.



**Liturgical Ministers** For all lectors, ushers, servers, and Eucharistic ministers who wish to serve during the Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day masses, the **sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the vestibule.**

**Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve (NO 8:45 a.m. Mass)**

3:15 PM Children's Christmas Pageant in church  
**Followed by 4:00 PM Children's Mass**  
(Children's Choir)

**4:00 PM – Mass in the gym** (Cantor)

5:45 Prelude **6:00 PM Children's Mass**  
(Children's Choir)

**6:00 PM - Mass in the gym** (Cantor)

7:30 Prelude **8:00 PM Mass** (Teen Choir/Ensemble)  
**8:00 PM Spanish Mass in the gym**

9:30 Prelude **10:30 PM Mass** (Adult Choir)  
**(No Mass at Midnight)**

**Christmas Day**


8:45 Prelude **9:00 AM Mass** (Cantor)

**10:30 AM Mass**

11:30 Prelude **12:15 PM Mass** (Ensemble in church)  
**1:30 PM Hispanic Mass**

**Dec. 26th**  
**8:45 a.m. Morning Mass**

If you would like to make a donation for **Christmas Memorial Flowers** envelopes are available on the tables in the vestibule. Anyone who would like to remember their loved ones can fill out the information on the envelope and drop it in **the catch-all slot on the wall in the vestibule.** Those names will be listed in the bulletin during the Christmas Season.

The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, December 13th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Catherine Room**. All are welcome.

For more information, please call **Otella Cregan at 571-264-0312.**

Please join us on **Tuesday, December 20th** from 10:00am to 3:00pm for the **annual St. Francis School Boutique.** Shop from several local artisans selling handmade items including jewelry, pottery, textiles, holiday items and gifts. A portion of the proceeds will benefit St. Francis School.



For more information on attending the event, or on becoming a vendor, please contact **Linda Hess at [hessl.sfas@gmail.com](mailto:hessl.sfas@gmail.com)**.

**St. Francis House Corner**



Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **60** families this week. Beginning in January, I will be kindly asking our families from St. Francis to donate an item that we will give to our clients at St. Francis House in addition to the items that we usually provide

them with. **The item for the month of January is Sugar.**

For more information, please call **Francia at 703-221-6344** or email at [calisa3@verizon.net](mailto:calisa3@verizon.net). Thank you for your continuing support.

**Bill Mehr Drop-In Shelter**

Winter is here, and it is a very rough season for the homeless. Our parish is committed to providing assistance for the Bill Mehr Homeless shelter. At this moment, they are in great need of the following items:

- Sugar
- Coffee
- Coffee Creamer
- Women's overnight pads with wings
- Dark wash cloths.

For more information call **Francia at 703-221-6344** or email her at [calisa3@verizon.net](mailto:calisa3@verizon.net). Thank you for your support.

**Anyone is welcome to join the Lunch Bunch group** assemble gift bags for the men and women in the Envoy Nursing home on **Thursday, December 15th at 12:00 PM in the St. Catherine Room.** We need extra hands to fill the bags with all the generous donations collected by Francia Salguero. Bring your brown bag lunch and we will have other refreshments available. We would also appreciate anyone willing to help load and deliver the gift bags when we are finished filling them up with all of our St. Francis generosity. If you would like any more information feel free to contact **Becky Traver** at [Tandovi@aol.com](mailto:Tandovi@aol.com) or **540-699-2175**.



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.

**Boletín Semanal**

**Charlas Bautismales**—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español serán el viernes, enero 13. Las charlas bautismales son a las 7:00pm en el Salón del Hermano Juniper (Br. Juniper Room). Para más información por favor llamar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344**.

**Misa En Honor a Nuestra Señora Virgen de Guadalupe**  
Los invitamos a la celebración a Nuestra Señora Virgen de Guadalupe. El Lunes, Diciembre 12 empezando con una misa a las 7:00pm en la iglesia y seguido por un danza y celebración. Para mas información por favor hablar con el Padre John Heffernan al 703-864-2053.

**Misa de Nochebuena**—Los invitamos a participar de la pastorela y misa de Nochebuena el sábado, diciembre 24 a las 8:00pm en el gimnasio de la iglesia. Ven y acompáñanos.

**Misa de Navidad**  
Los invitamos a participar de la Misa de Navidad el domingo, diciembre 25 a la 1:30pm en la iglesia. ¡Los esperamos!

**Dispensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francisco**—Agradecemos a todos nuestros parroquianos por todas sus ofrendas a la Despensa de Comida; con sus donaciones pudimos ayudar a **60** familias. Comenzando el mes de enero estaremos pidiéndole a nuestros feligreses por donaciones de **azúcar**, de esta forma podemos ayudar a nuestros clientes de La Casa de St. Francis. Cada mes estaremos pidiendo por un articulo diferente. Muchas gracias por sus donaciones. Para mas información contactar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344**.

**Craft Ministry**

If you like to knit, crochet, quilt, or sew to help spread God's love and comfort to those in need, please join us for our first meeting of this new ministry:



- What:** Fellowship while working on our own "unplugged" projects for charity (no sewing machines or irons, please)
- When:** Thursday, December 15th, 6:30 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.
- Where:** Grade 1 Classroom (Parish Center)
- Who:** Adults (ONLY) who sew, knit, quilt, crochet, etc. (No childcare is provided)

For more information, please contact **Sharon McClelland** at [sewstfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:sewstfrancis@gmail.com).

**Open AA Step Study Group Friday night**  
**Group meets 7-8:00 p.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**.  
Come study the 12 Steps to Recovery.

### Faith Formation Office

Phone: 703-221-3127 Fax: 703-221-3246  
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday: 8:00 am—2:00 pm  
Friday: Closed

### Religious Education for 2016-2017

Dec. 11 Sunday RE Session 4PM-5:15PM  
15 Thursday RE Session 5PM-6:15PM  
18 Sunday RE Session 4PM-5:15PM

December 22nd—January 5th NO RE—Christmas Break

St. Francis High School Youth Ministry is now called **REAL!** **REAL** stands for Respect, Engage, Accept, Live! **REAL** is open to all High School teens. It is a place to connect your life and your faith, to share, support and have fun with other teens who are trying to live out God's call in their everyday lives. Please come see what **REAL** is all about!



**Sunday, December 11th**  
6:30 PM—8:30 PM  
St. Catherine Room  
**REAL Time (Youth Group)**  
All teens grade 9-12

**Sunday, December 18th**  
6:30 PM—9:30 PM  
Parish Center Dining Facility  
**REAL Christmas Party**  
All teens grade 9-12

**Sunday, December 25th**  
**No REAL Activities**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



**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!**

**Baptismal Preparation Class**—Our next class will be held this **Sunday, December 11, 2016 from 1:30p.m.—2:30p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room.



**Save the Date** for the Cornerstone Retreats:  
Men's **March 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>** / Women's **March 24<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>**  
For more information, please checkout the St. Francis of Assisi webpage.

### Mission 2017

**Join St Francis Parishioners in July 2017 on a journey to our Sister Parishes in Lima, Peru.**

**Departs Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Returns Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**

- Applications and a **deposit of \$100** now being accepted. The final date for receipt of applications is **January 31, 2017**.
- Fee includes airfare, lodging, most meals and local transportation.
- Full payment (**\$1,500**) is due by **January 31, 2017** Applications are available on line at <http://www.stfrancis.org/sister-parish-in-peru/> and next to the Sister Parish section of the church bulletin board.

### **Questions? Please contact:**

Terry Danner at  
703-680-0860 or [terrydanner@verizon.net](mailto:terrydanner@verizon.net)

or contact

Chuck O'Hern at  
910-795-6203 or [Charles.ohern@usmc.mil](mailto:Charles.ohern@usmc.mil)

The **Lion's Club** has **2 donation drop boxes located on the window sill in the vestibule.** Please consider donating your used eyeglasses to the Lion's Club. Your unwanted glasses will help someone see better. Thank you for always being so generous.



### **Votive Candles**

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



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.

### **SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

We would like to thank  
**Abigail Miller, Attorney at Law**  
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



<b>SATURDAY,</b> 5:30 PM	<b>December 10—Advent Weekday</b> †Jo Rita Murray †Florence Mittino †John Mackey
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 7:30 AM 9:00 AM	<b>December 11—Third Sunday of Advent</b> Peopled of the Parish †Ben Badami †Marie Newman †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Federico Casupang, Sr. †Dennis Malloy Special Intention †George Beck †Clara Kennedy †Solpecio Tornes
10:30 AM	Misa en español †Mary V. Deitz †Michael Creegan †Florence Hartt
12:15 PM	
1:30 PM 5:30 PM	
<b>MONDAY,</b> 8:45 AM	<b>December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> Karen Dennison Fiona and Hazel Winston In Thanksgiving to The Virgin of Guadalupe
<b>TUESDAY,</b> 8:45 AM	<b>December 13—St. Lucy</b> †Patricia Lucas †Michael and †Veronica Tokar †James Muccio
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b> 8:45 AM	<b>December 14—St. John of the Cross</b> †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
<b>THURSDAY,</b> 8:45 AM	<b>December 15—Advent Weekday</b> †Fr. Joseph Kiernan, O.F.M.
<b>FRIDAY,</b> 8:45 AM	<b>December 16—Advent Weekday</b> †David John Butts †Fr. Phil James Laquindanum †Eleanor Lane
<b>SATURDAY,</b> 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	<b>December 17—Advent Weekday</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation †John Mackey †Maureen North
<b>Mass Intentions on Sunday, December 18, 2016</b>	
7:30 AM	†Judy Carter †Jo Rita Murray †Florence Mittino
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Janis Naiomi Maurer †Jo Rita Murray
10:30 AM	†Joyce and †Don McVay Mary and †Charles DeVoe
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Barbara Borden †Loretta M. Garzke
1:30 PM 5:30 PM	Misa en español People of the Parish †Sofia Auro Rodriguez †Avelene Alena Rodriguez

Readings for the Week of December 11, 2016

<b>Monday</b>	Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47
<b>Tuesday</b>	Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32
<b>Wednesday</b>	Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23
<b>Thursday</b>	Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30
<b>Friday</b>	Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; John 5:33-36
<b>Saturday</b>	Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
<b>Sunday</b>	Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

**CALLING ALL YOU IRISH LADIES  
By BIRTH OR MARRIAGE**



The Fr. Mychal Judge, O.F.M. Ladies Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians **will be meeting on Monday, December 12, 2016** in the **Parish Center Library!** We will gather at 6:45 pm. The meeting will last from 7:00-8:00 pm.

**Criteria to join this group of ladies?** You must be a Catholic female of 16 years of age or older and Irish, Irish decent OR married to an Irish gentleman.

Once a part of this Irish Catholic Organization—all we ask is for you to live our motto of:

**"Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity"**

Come by and see what is going on within our group! We would enjoy meeting you and having you JOIN us. **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](mailto:jonesmk@aol.com).**

**Please Pray For** All those who are sick: Richard Laffman; Teddy Placek; Sandra Nielson; Tom Nielson; Phylis Shaw; and Dolores Lasco.

**And for those recently deceased:** Florence Hartt.

**Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way:** Josh Bookout; Brianna French; William Place, Glenn Harms; Bo Bosak, Joseph Sheridan, James Moore, Kyle McVay, Kyle Traylor, Kasey Eggie, Eustaquio Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

**A Novena of Masses** will begin on Christmas Day and end on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. **SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS** are available on the tables in the vestibule. Please return the inside envelope to the catch-all slot **before December 22, 2016.**

**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!

