

From
the
Friars



I want to thank Nikki Giraldi and Colleen Wells, the choirs, musicians, and all who once again presented a beautiful and prayerful Festival of Praise. The excellent quality of the evening was the result of many, many hours of preparation. We are blessed in this parish to have such a superb music ministry.

Please note again the schedule for Christmas Masses. As in past years there will be several musical preludes to the Masses. I do hope that you will join us next weekend to celebrate the birth of Jesus

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

A **Novena of Masses** will begin on Christmas Day and end on January 2nd. **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.*

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
(NO 5:30 p.m. Mass)

Dec. 26th

8:45 a.m. Morning Mass

Votive Candles

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



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.**

Very shortly we start a new year. It might come with lots of expectations. Or maybe the realization of what was not accomplished, so far. New Year – New You!! **Please call Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email at kwalker@stfrncis.org to start a relationship with a caring person that has only your best interests at heart.**



Mission 2017

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

Departs Sunday, July 2nd

Returns Monday, July 10th

- 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.stfrncis.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

or contact

Chuck O'Hern at
910-795-6203 or Charles.ohern@usmc.mil

Please Note: The Mass Intention book for 2017 is now open.

To schedule a Mass you may come in or call the office. We also have envelopes located on the tables in the vestibule. Just drop the envelope in the catch-all slot.

We will be taking 3 intentions per 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.

PLEASE NOTE:

December 23rd-26th – Parish Office is closed; will reopen on Tuesday, December 27th.

St. Francis House Corner



Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **70** 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.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Counting Our Blessings

St. Francis of Assisi Church, volunteers twice a year at the Hilda Barg Shelter providing meals. Last week with the help of the Finance Council, Parish Council, The Knights of Columbus, Stephen Ministry, Spanish Prayer Group, the women's Corner Stone Group, and the Girl Scout Group we provided dinners for almost 30 people for the entire week.

When I go to serve at the shelter, I love to sit down and have dinner with the residents at the shelter. I like to get to know them better. This time, I had the blessing to have dinner with three children ages 10, 11, and 14 years old. We talked about school, about their friends, and I always ask them what they would like us to prepare for dinner. They got very excited and told me that they love tacos; they gave me all the details of how they wanted the tacos. It was a long and happy conversation, it never came out that they were homeless, or that they did not have a place to call home, especially during the Holidays.

Later that night, when I got home and saw my kids were peaceful sleeping in their warm beds. In that moment, I prayed to God and gave him thanks for all of the blessings in my life. For my family, my health, my job, the volunteers at church, and for giving me the chance to give my family a place to call home. Every family has their challenges, their own struggles; family financial situations are out of a child's control. With this in mind, it is crucial to never allow such issues to be an obstacle in the way of a child's opportunities.

Even with so little, these children that I had served made me smile. In this way, we all have the ability to give to one another. Please remember to reflect upon your blessings, however big or small they may be, and remember to give a smile, give a hug, and say a little prayer.

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.stfrancis.org.

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.

Thank you for your support.

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 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!

Despensa 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 **70** 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 artículo diferente. Muchas gracias por sus donaciones. Para más información contactar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344**.

Are you frustrated using your new iphone, tablet, computer, e-reader?



Do you feel sometimes your electronic devices are smarter than you are?

Then come for an **Introductory Session of Cyber Seniors on Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Br. Juniper Room**. We will help you make friends with the technology that has become such an integral part of all our lives. Beginning **February 9th**,

on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays we will be addressing your issues with your phone, tablet, computer, etc.... and helping you make those personal electronic devices work for rather than against you!

"I am still learning." Michelangelo at age 87

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. 18 Sunday RE Session 4PM-5:15PM

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

Change in RE Schedule 2016-17 effective January 8, 2017. The Summer Program 2017 is being cancelled. A letter with all the details went out to all RE students. **Please contact the RE office with any questions** lizb@stfncis.org or 703-221-3127.

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 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!

Sunday, January 1st
No REAL Activities
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Annelies Gendron; 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.

Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, January 8, 2017 from 1:30p.m.—2:30p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**



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

ChristLife is a lay Catholic ministry established in 1995



ask.
seek.
knock.

discovering
CHRIST
a seven-week experience

in response to the Church's call to a New Evangelization. Their vision is to equip Catholics for the essential work of evangelization so that others might come to know personally the love of God through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, becoming his followers and members of the Church. **Discovering Christ will be presented at St. Francis of Assisi beginning in January!!** Participants in

this 7 week series will meet on Thursday evenings **beginning January 5th and continuing through February 23rd** to enjoy dinner and fellowship, listen to a dynamic teaching and join in a small group discussion about the meaning of life in Jesus Christ. There will be a retreat day on **Saturday, February 4th**. *The cost for registration for this event is \$25 per person and all meals are included.* **For more information, please contact Sheila Noble at 703-221-3127, ext. 238 or snoble@stfncis.org.**

New Monday Morning Bible Study!
Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

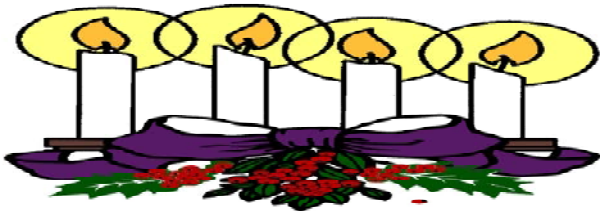
Do you ever wonder what someone means when they say they have a "personal relationship with Christ," or are you looking to deepen your own relationship? The Gospel of John invites us, in a unique way, to become intimately involved in the rich stories of Jesus' life and ministry, and witness the transformation of many people along the way. A new session of the Monday morning Bible study begins **January 9th**, and you are invited to join fellow parishioners on the journey to meet Jesus in the Gospel of John. Register and purchase your workbook through the website <http://www.stfncis.org/programs-retreats/#biblestudy> and bring it to the first session, **January 9th at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room.** *Monday classes are scheduled for January 9th, 23rd, February 6th, 13th, 27th, March 6th, 13th, 27th, and April 3rd, 10th.*

Please contact Lisa Ostendorf with any questions at lostendorf@stfncis.org.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Knights of Columbus, Potomac Council #9259
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SATURDAY, December 17—Advent Weekday
 5:30 PM †John Mackey
 †Maureen North
 †Jimmy Lee Burress

SUNDAY, December 18—Fourth Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM †Judy Carter
 †Jo Rita Murray
 †Florence Mittino
 9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †Janis Naomi Maurer
 †Jo Rita Murray
 10:30 AM †Joyce and †Don McVay
 Mary and †Charles DeVoe
 †Edwin McNaboe
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
 †Barbara Borden
 †Loretta M. Garzke
 1:30 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM People of the Parish
 †Sofia Auro Rodriguez
 †Avelene Alena Rodriguez

MONDAY, December 19—Advent Weekday
 8:45 AM Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, December 20—Advent Weekday
 8:45 AM †Edward Frey Delaney

WEDNESDAY, December 21—Advent Weekday
 8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †Kathryn Gonsorcik
 †Jason Jablonski

THURSDAY, December 22—Advent Weekday
 8:45 AM †John Dumoulin, Sr.
 †Michael Creegan

FRIDAY, December 23—Advent Weekday
 8:45 AM †Joseph Bigalki
 †Gerald Bigalke

Readings for the Week of December 18, 2016

Monday Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
Tuesday Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday Song of Songs 2:8-14 or
 Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45
Thursday 1 Samuel 1:24-28;
 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd;
 Luke 1:46-56
Friday Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66
Saturday 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;
 Luke 1:67-79; Isaiah 62:1-5;
 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;
 Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Sunday Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14;
 Luke 2:1-14; Isaiah 62:11-12;
 Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20; Isaiah 52:7-10;
 Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

SATURDAY, December 24—Advent Weekday
 4:00 PM **NO Sacrament of Reconciliation**
 4:00 PM †Bill, †Marion, and †Kelsey Richmond
 †Paul Kriegar
 †Susan Rusnak
 †George Selepak
 †Catherine Selepak
 †Eva Zetkulrch
 †Patty Berzansky
 †Alfredo and †Palmira Coimbra
 †Raymond and †Annie Jones

4:00 PM (GYM)
 †Richard Mance
 †Paul Krieger
 †Beatrice Botero

6:00 PM People of the Parish
 †Helen C. Buckley
 †Mary Bryant

6:00 PM (GYM)
 †Robert Ferenschak
 †Helen C. Buckley
 Clyde Richardson and Family

8:00 PM †Pauline Misenko
 †Daniel Latchney
 The Jerez Family

8:00 PM Misa en español (GYM)
 †Marian Valse
 †James Pignato

10:30 PM †Normand Richard Marquis
 †Joseph and †Julia Flood
 †Deborah McGrath



Mass Intentions on Sunday, December 25, 2016

7:30 AM **NO MASS**
 9:00 AM †Robert Earl Williams
 †Robert Monroe
 †William Monroe
 †Bui Thi Ne
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

10:30 AM Christmas Novena
 †Eugene Montague
 †Alma Mercer

12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
 †Jerry and †Connie O'Shea
 †Anne Kennedy
 †Maria Hofer

1:30 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM **NO MASS**

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.

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.