 **From the Friars**

Below is a letter from a family who are members of one of our parishes in Aleppo. We have fourteen friars ministering to the people of Aleppo in parishes, health clinics, and outreach centers.

The enclosed letter show the incredible faith and hope of one family as they live through a very difficult moment in their lives.

Our names are Toni, Roula and Edma— father, mother and young daughter, a Christian family born and raised in Aleppo. Since the beginning of this war, over five years ago, our circumstances have totally changed. Back then we lived in prosperity, peace, and tranquility... Now, unfortunately, we live in fear and sorrow, surrounded by a war that deeply affects every one of us. In addition to the lack of drinking water, electricity, and medical care, the thing that causes most suffering are the missiles falling on our houses, hospitals, and schools... Three times we have had to move house because of the destruction caused by missiles; we fled from one house to another one, and from that to another, and even then, we had to leave home once more.

The third time we had just moved in when the missiles struck...it was only by a miracle that my daughter escaped being killed. We ended up with a house that was half-destroyed and needing repair... In that desperate situation, we really felt like the Holy Family. We were like Joseph and his pregnant wife Mary, going from house to house in Bethlehem, and finding nowhere to stay.

But it was in those very difficult circumstances that the Church, our Mother, came to be with us, and showed herself to be close to all who suffer. We experienced love and received practical help through rescue and support projects. The Aleppo Church, like the family of Nazareth, gave us a welcome. The church itself is a poor and simple place, but people receive a warm welcome, and are provided with shelter and protection... The warm welcome, and the help given without delay, allowed us to once again feel some peace. Just like the Holy Family, the best was brought out in us: Jesus. My mind turns to little Nativity scene, and the large Christian family spread all over the world, poor enough as regards power or weapons but strong and rich in the Lord... I think of families throughout the world... To all of you, Christians,... I send wishes of a Holy Christmas and a happy New Year. I pray that no family, no person, will ever have to live through war in the way that we have had to, but that every family and ever person might experience beauty, joy, and the peace of being welcomed, loved and helped, something we ourselves have experienced firsthand.

(A family from the Parish of St. Francis, Aleppo)

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

**Join Bishop Burbidge for the Diocese of Arlington's Life is VERY Good THURSDAY JANUARY 26 & FRIDAY JANUARY 27**—We invite you to join groups from all over the country at one or both of these events! The Evening of Prayer will be an opportunity to pray for the success of the March for Life in changing our hearts and those of others in this country. The Morning Rally will prepare us to take to the streets of Washington D.C. to make our voices heard as we proclaim the gospel of life.

Seating is reserved in order of receipt of your registration and payment, and there is a very good chance that we will sell out. In both 2014 and 2015 we sold out of tickets for the evening event and were very close to doing so for the morning event. Registering sooner rather than later ensures your ability to participate in these events this year!

The events will be held at the **EagleBank Arena** (formerly Patriot Center) on the campus of **George Mason University**.

**EVENING OF PRAYER**


7:30pm-10:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm  
Featuring: Mark Hart, The Afters, Ben Walther Band, and Fr. James Searby. Tickets: \$17 each. Reserved seating in order of payment.

**MORNING RALLY AND MASS**

9:00am-12:00pm, doors open at 8:00am  
Featuring: Sr. Miriam James Heidland SOLT and Ben Walther Band. Tickets: \$17 each. Includes a Chick-fil-A lunch to go. Reserved seating in order of payment.

To register for either event or both events, please go to <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/youth/lifeisverygood.aspx>

**Ushers Needed**



- The Church will be the place for training.
- We are in need of additional Ushers at our weekend Masses, calling all current and new perspective parishioners who would like to volunteer their time and talent as an Usher here at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community to attend this session at **11am-12 noon on January 28, 2017.**

**Christ Centered Yoga Retreat on January 21, 2017 at St. Francis.** Join us for a day of yoga, meditation, breath work, prayer and more. **The cost of the retreat is \$15.** All levels are welcome to come. Information can be found on the parish website or by emailing [stfrancisyoga@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisyoga@gmail.com).



**Please Note:**  
**The parish offices will be closed**  
**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> in observance of the**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday**  
**and**  
**Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of the**  
**Presidential Inauguration**

## St. Francis House Corner



Thanks to the donations from all our Parishioners we were able to provide food for **60** families this week.

Because of the increase of families in need we are in need of:

- **Item of the Month**: Cooking Oil (Small Bottles)
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Cereal
- Reusable Bags

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

## Boletín Semanal

**Charlas Bautismales**—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español **serán el viernes, febrero 10.** 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.**

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:

- **Artículo del mes**: Aceite para cocinar (botellas pequeñas)
- Crema de Maní Y Mermelada
- Cereal
- Bolsas Reusables

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

### Cena Romántica de San Valentín



Los invitamos el sábado, febrero 11, 2017 a una Cena del Día de San Valentín.

Las puertas y el bar abrirán a las 6:30pm, la cena se empezara a servir a las 7:15pm y el baile durara hasta las 10:30pm. El vino y la cerveza se pagaran en

efectivo. La comida estará a cargo Darlene y la música por el DJ Slable Powerful Solutions. El costo es de \$38 por persona o \$75 por pareja si se compra en avance. El costo será de \$45 por persona si se compra en la puerta. Este evento es Una Cena Romántica de Los Días de San Valentín. Este evento tuvo excelentes críticas el año pasado. El Menú incluirá entremeses, plato principal, ensalada y postre.

## LUNCH BUNCH



**Seniors on the Go!**

The Lunch Bunch group will not be meeting in January, but will **resume on February 16th!**

Thanks to everyone who helped put together all the gift baskets for the Nursing Home Residents. **We delivered almost 90 baskets!** More

announcements to follow in February. Happy New Year!  
**Becky Traver—[Tandovi@aol.com](mailto:Tandovi@aol.com) or 540-699-2175.**

### 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 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.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)

### 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, January 19th, 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).**

### SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank  
**Priority Financial, LLC—Cursina Sanchez**  
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

**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**

**Jan. 15 NO RE—MLK Holiday**

- 19 Thursday RE Session 5-6:15pm
- 22 Sunday RE Session 10:30am-11:45am & 4-5:15pm
- 24 NET Retreat (all Year I-7th Grade) 4:30-9:30pm
- 25 NET Retreat (all Year II-8th Grade) 4:30-9:30pm
- 26 Thursday RE Session 5-6:15pm
- 28 Bread for Life(Year I-7th Grade) Service Project
- 29 Bread for Life(Year I-7th Grade) Service Project
- 29 Sunday RE Session 10:30am-11:45am & 4-5:15pm

**Feb. 2 Thursday RE Session 5-6:15pm**

- 5 Sunday RE Session 10:30am-11:45am & 4-5:15pm
- 9 Thursday RE Session 5-6:15pm
- 12 Sunday RE Session 10:30am-11:45am & 4-5:15pm
- 16 **NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday**
- 19 **NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday**

**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@stfnrcis.org](mailto:lizb@stfnrcis.org) or 703-221-3127.

**Religious Education is still in need of Catechists** for the Third and Fourth grades for the Sunday Session at 4pm-5:15pm. If you are interested please contact **Marianne Hayes** at [recoor@stfnrcis.org](mailto:recoor@stfnrcis.org).

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, January 15th**  
**No REAL Activities**

**Sunday, January 22nd**  
6:30 PM—8:30 PM  
St. Catherine Room  
**REAL Time (Youth Group)**  
All teens grades 9-12

**Sunday, January 29th**  
6:30 PM—8:30 PM  
St. Catherine Room  
**REAL Leaders**  
Leadership Team Only

**St. Francis will once again offer the Called and Gifted Workshop** on the weekend of **February 17th-19th**. This program, created by the Catherine of Siena Institute, helps people discern how to answer God's call to discipleship in our every day lives. **The workshop runs from 7-9pm on Friday night and 1-5pm on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.** Anyone, including past participants are welcome to attend. Please watch the bulletin, parish website and parish newsletter for more information. If you have questions about this program, please contact **Bill Sydow** at [Bill.sydowjr@gmail.com](mailto:Bill.sydowjr@gmail.com) or at 719-393-5826.

**John Paul is hosting a number of events** in the new year for middle school students. Sign up today for the soccer and basketball tournaments, band and choir music festival, and baseball clinic! And, applications are being accepted for Fall 2017 enrollment. Please visit [jpthegreat.org](http://jpthegreat.org) for more information, or email: [Admissions@jpthegreat.org](mailto:Admissions@jpthegreat.org).



**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!



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.



**Please Pray For** **All those who are sick:** Joan Komatsoulis; Nancy Brown; S.J. Defibaugh; Renato Torrijos; Emerenciana Bernardo; Charissa Bernardo; and Carol Orton.

**And for those recently deceased:** Samantha Aragonés; and Joseph William Berry.

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



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



**Mass Intentions**

<b>SATURDAY,</b>	<b>January 14—Weekday</b>
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Alex Veilleux †Helen Merkel †John Shookster
<b>SUNDAY,</b>	<b>January 15—2nd Sunday In Ordinary Time</b>
7:30 AM	†Estelita Inovio †Nancy Bentley
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Alvin Poutenis †Marian Mitchell
10:30 AM	People of the Parish †Juanito Cruz Liam Brian Lawrence
12:00 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Edward Burke
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	Agustina Peña
<b>MONDAY,</b>	<b>January 16—Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Confidence
<b>TUESDAY,</b>	<b>January 17—St. Anthony, Abbot</b>
8:45 AM	†Patricia Weiss
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b>	<b>January 18—Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
<b>THURSDAY,</b>	<b>January 19—Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	†Giovita Vitale †Rev. Joseph P. Fallon
<b>FRIDAY,</b>	<b>January 20—Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	†Austin Herr, III †Rene Garcia †Rev. Peter J. Doherty
<b>SATURDAY,</b>	<b>January 21—St. Agnes</b>
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Joseph Pietrucha †Joseph and Julia LaPrel †Linda Armstrong
	<b>Mass Intentions on Sunday, January 22, 2017</b>
7:30 AM	People of the Parish †Michael and †Judy Daly
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Joseph Quang Vinh Pham
10:30 AM	†Lillian and †James Callahan
12:00 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Marian Mitchell
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Randy Cahow, Sr.

**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 ONLY 3 intentions per Mass.**

**Readings for the Week of January 15, 2017**

<b>Monday</b>	Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 2:18-22
<b>Tuesday</b>	Hebrews 6:10-20; Mark 2:23-28
<b>Wednesday</b>	Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Mark 3:1-6
<b>Thursday</b>	Hebrews 7:25—8:6; Mark 3:7-12
<b>Friday</b>	Hebrews 8:6-13; Mark 3:13-19
<b>Saturday</b>	Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14; Mark 3:20-21
<b>Sunday</b>	Isaiah 8:23—9:3; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

**Around the Diocese**

**Do you want to become a CITIZEN?** Apply now! Come to a citizenship application workshop hosted by Catholic Charities Hogar Immigrant Services. **WHEN:** January 21st, registration from 10 am to 1 pm. **WHERE:** McLean Bible Church, 10002 Battleview Parkway, Manassas 20109. **COST:** \$110, cash or credit. Please contact us to pre-register: 571-208-1572 or [hogarimmigrantservices.org/workshop](http://hogarimmigrantservices.org/workshop).

A **Marriage Day of Enrichment and Celebration**, sponsored by Teams of Our Lady, will be held at St. Michael Catholic Church, 7401 St. Michael's Lane, Annandale, VA, on **Saturday, February 18, 2017** in the All Purpose Room of the Junior School. The event will be from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. and lunch is included. This day is for married couples seeking to live the sacrament in today's world. Cost is \$15 per couple to be paid at the door on February 18th. To participate, please contact **Carol and Dave McCaffrey** ([themccaffreys22003@gmail.com](mailto:themccaffreys22003@gmail.com)) to reserve your place and facilitate our planning. To learn about Teams of Our Lady, you can go to <http://www.teamsofourlady.org/>.

**Arlington Theology on Tap – January 30 at O'Sullivan's Irish Pub**—Join young professionals from around the Diocese for an inspiring talk every month at 7:30 p.m. at **O'Sullivan's Irish Pub, 3207 Washington Blvd., Arlington. The next TOT will be held on Monday, January 30th** and will feature *Amy McInerney, Executive Director of Human Life Action*, who will speak on the sanctity of life. Contact **Brendan Gotta at 703-841-2549 or [yam@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:yam@arlingtondiocese.org)**.

**Prayer Service for Healing for Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse**—In 2005, the Diocese of Arlington began a series of Prayer Services for victims/survivors of sexual abuse, celebrated by Reverend Thomas Ferguson, Vicar General. The Prayer Services include a survivor's testimony of his/her efforts to heal from the effects of sexual abuse, followed by a light reception. The next Prayer Service will be on **January 21st at 10:30 a.m. at St. Louis Church, 2907 Popkins Lane, Alexandria.**