

**From
the
Friars**



The Diocese has begun the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. Without this yearly campaign it would be difficult for the diocese to function. The funds collected in the campaign fund the many activities of the diocese both Spiritual and material. Among the programs financially supported is Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities does

the very important work-ministry of providing help for the poor and disadvantaged. I ask that you please be as generous as possible.

Last week Friar Henry and I had the opportunity to witness the Ordination of two of our Franciscan Friars. I am often asked how vocations and recruiting is going. Though the numbers joining the Order in the United States are nothing compared to many years ago (2 Ordained vs. 30!) the number of Postulants, (men in the first year of training) for our Province has increased these past few years. This year we had 8 men enter Postulancy, next year we may have 8 to 10. These numbers compared to 2-3 men several years ago. Please pray for vocations and if you know of a someone who may be interested in becoming a priest or brother please let us know.

Sincerely,

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

CAR RAFFLE 2017

Car raffle tickets have been mailed to each family. Once again we are participating with All Saints Catholic Church; a more generous venture than purchasing a vehicle on our own and each purchaser has a chance to win five cars plus \$20,000 in cash drawings! This makes "selling" at work or to family and friends more like an opportunity—just show them the ticket—it will sell itself! **Need additional tickets? Please contact Kathy Greene at 703-221-3868.**



The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, February 28th** 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.**



Marriage Preparation Class will be held on **March 18, 2017 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. (Br. Juniper Room).** *The next will be held in the Fall.*



*Marriage
Preparation*

For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 703-221-4044.

REMINDER

Please remember to bring in your blessed palms from home and leave them in the basket in the vestibule of the church by February 26th. They will be burned and used for ashes on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. Thank you.



**March 1st
Ash Wednesday**

- 6:30 a.m.—** Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes
- 8:45 a.m.—** Mass with Distribution of Ashes
- 5:00 p.m.—** Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes
- 7:30 p.m.—** Mass with Distribution of Ashes
- 8:30 p.m.—** La Misa con distribución de las cenizas

Ashes will only be distributed during the above listed services. Ashes will NOT be distributed in between services.

Fasting and abstinence are encouraged during Lent and reflect the season's penitential nature. In the U.S. all Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence, that is, days on which no meat is to be consumed. **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are days of fast, only one full meal during the day, as well as abstinence.

Fasting and abstinence are by no means the only types of penance. "Let us witness to our love and imitation of Christ by special solicitude for the sick, the poor, the underprivileged, the imprisoned, the bedridden, the discouraged, the lowly." (Tobit 12, Mt 6).

Confession Schedule for Lent

Confessions will be heard every Wednesday during Lent from **7:30 pm until 8:30 pm.**
In addition to Saturday's from 4—5pm.

Soup and Stations—Fridays during Lent we will celebrate Soup and Stations beginning **March 3rd at 6:00 pm** with a soup and bread dinner in the **Parish Center Dining Facility** followed by the **Stations of the Cross in the church at 7:00 pm.** Each week a different group will sponsor the dinner and St. Francis Lectors will lead the Stations that evening. Please join us in this time of fellowship and prayer.



First Friday—March 3rd



The celebration of Holy Hour will take place on **Friday morning immediately following the 8:45 am Mass.** Benediction without a Mass will take place at **12:00 pm.** All are welcome.

Votive Candles

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



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** : **Dish Soap**
- Cereal
- Spaghetti
- Pasta
- Canned Fruit

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

Bill Mehr Drop-In Shelter



For years, we have counted on our parishioners help to ensure that at least 50 homeless have a hot, nutritious meal every

Saturday night during the winter time. We are in dire need of your help so we can continue providing meals.

Directions and sign-up sheets are located in the vestibule of the church. For more information, please call **Francia Salguero at 703-221-6344 or email her at calisa3@verizon.net**.

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!



Please Pray For All those who are sick: Paul Walker; S.J. Defibaugh; Nancy Brown.

And for those recently deceased: Robyn Cunico; Harry Ravert; and Andrew Misenko.

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

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.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Mark Thomas Crossland, P.C.—Attorney at Law
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Boletín Semanal

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español **serán el viernes, marzo 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 Francisco—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:

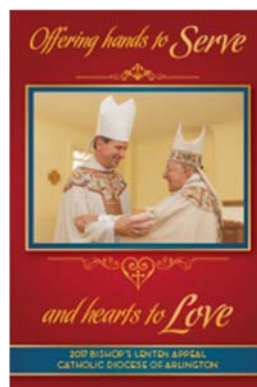
- **Artículo del mes:** **Jabón De lavar Platos**
- Cereal
- Pasta
- Fruta en Caneca
- Espaguetis

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

All young adults are invited to join our friars, other young adults from our area and lay leaders for an open, honest discussion about journeying spiritually through the most difficult times in life. **“When the Bottom Falls Out”** is the theme for the next **Woodbridge Theology on Tap, taking place February 27th at the Ornerly Beer Company and Public House in Woodbridge**. Please come to enjoy the camaraderie of other young adults in an informal setting with **“drinks and eats” beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the discussion following at 7:30 p.m.**



2017 Bishop's Lenten Appeal Offering hands to serve and hearts to love



This weekend every family in our parish will be asked to complete a Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) pledge form at Mass. If you have already donated through the mail or online or are not able to participate, there will be a place to note that on the form. After reflecting upon the many blessings that God has given

you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge of support to this important appeal that funds many programs, offices and ministries that serve people in need and further Jesus' Mission in our diocese.

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.

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

Feb. 26 Sunday RE Session 10:30am-11:45am & 4-5:15pm
Mar. 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 Thursday RE Session 5-6:15pm
19 Sunday RE Session 10:30am-11:45am & 4-5:15pm



**Religious Education
Service Project**

“Love Packs” for the Homeless

Please donate to our Religious Education Service Project. We will be making “Love Packs” for the homeless. The following items are needed:

- Travel sized toiletries
- New tube or crew socks (for men and women)
- Washcloths
- Packs of instant oatmeal, hot chocolate, protein bars, hard candy, tuna salad/cracker pack
- Plastic cups, silverware, napkins
- Water bottles

Donations can be dropped off in the back of the church in the box provided or to the RE Office in the school. Deadline for donations is **March 27th**.

We are need of volunteers for VBS 2017! For more information, please contact **Sharon Gardner at gardners.vbs@gmail.com** or fill out form found on our website www.stfrncis.org or in the vestibule of the church.

 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, February 26th
6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL Time (Youth Group)
All teens grades 9-12

Sunday, March 5th
6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL Time (Youth Group)
All teens grades 9-12

Sunday, March 12th
6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL Leadership
Leadership Team Only

First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation is on **Saturday, March 4th**.

(9:00am)

St. Francis of Assisi school
Homeschool

Sunday 10:30am RE

Sunday and Thursday Sacramental Prep II classes

(11:00am)

Sunday 4:00pm RE

Thursday RE

First Communion

The First Communion retreat is scheduled for **Saturday, April 1st from 10:00am to 3:00pm in the Parish Center.**

Students will need to bring a bag lunch and dress comfortably. We need many volunteers to help this retreat go smoothly for the students, so please contact **Sheila Noble** at snoble@stfrncis.org to volunteer.

First Communion is Saturday, May 13th.



Reconciliation for Confirmation candidates

As a requirement for Confirmation, it is necessary that candidates receive the sacrament of Reconciliation in close proximity to being confirmed. Unless you have made prior arrangements, all Confirmation candidates must attend the Confirmation Reconciliation service on **Saturday, April 1st**. You will find specific session times listed below.

12:00pm

All Sunday RE (except High School)
All Thursday RE

1:30pm

St. Francis of Assisi School
Homeschool
High School
Aquinas

Confirmation is Saturday, May 6th.

CORNERSTONE
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI TRIANGLE, VA

Registration Is Open!

Men's Retreat: March 10 – 11, 2017

Women's Retreat: March 24 – 25, 2017


Cornerstone is a 26-hour retreat, held on separate dates for men and women ages 21 and over. It provides the opportunity to get away from all the stress of the outside world and enjoy all that God has to offer, while meeting others in our Christian community.

The retreat begins on Friday evening at 5:00pm and ends at approximately 7:00pm on Saturday evening with Mass. Cornerstone will take place at the San Damiano Spiritual Life Center in White Post, VA. Sleeping accommodations, all meals and snacks are provided. During the weekend, there will be time for prayer, Scripture reading and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Registration and payment is online at <http://www.stfrncis.org/cornerstone/>.

Rates are:

\$130 for a double room and \$145 for a single room.

 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.

Liturgies For the Week

SATURDAY,	February 25—Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Linda Armstrong †Valerie Shaw †Rita Lapinski
SUNDAY,	February 26—8th Sunday In Ordinary Time
7:30 AM	†Roseanne Scruggs †Albert Symes
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Teodosia Herrera †Manny Aguilar
10:30 AM	†Frida Luisa †June Catts †Leo Battaglia
12:00 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Roseanne Scruggs †Margarita Portocarrero
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Owen Joseph Beirne †Ligia Lizarralde †George and †Helen Callaway
MONDAY,	February 27—Weekday
8:45 AM	†George and †Helen Callaway Special Intention
TUESDAY,	February 28—Weekday
8:45 AM	†George and †Helen Callaway
WEDNESDAY,	March 1—Ash Wednesday
6:30 AM	Prayer Service with Ashes
8:45 AM	†Thomas and †Beverly McClutchy †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
5:00 PM	Prayer Service with Ashes
7:30 PM	†Roseanne Scruggs †Robert Earl Williams †Palmira Coimbra
8:30 PM	Misa en español
THURSDAY,	March 2—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Harry Rodman
FRIDAY,	March 3—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother †Curt Larrabee
SATURDAY,	March 4—Lenten Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Rita and †Joe Lapinski †William and †Olga Saliski †Evelyn Cady
Mass Intentions on Sunday, March 5, 2017	
7:30 AM	Thomas Lee †Heber Carlini-Lanza †Harry Ravert
9:00 AM	Ryan Staten †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:30 AM	
12:00 PM	†George Beck †Clara Kennedy †Roseanne Scruggs
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish

Readings for the Week of February 26, 2017

Monday	Sirach 17:20-24; Mark 10:17-27
Tuesday	Sirach 35:1-12; Mark 10:28-31
Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25
Friday	Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday	Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32
Sunday	Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Third Annual Lenten Parish Mission

Join the rest of the parish for a 3-night Parish Mission, "Conversion: Change of Heart," led by Fr. Tom Donaldson, C.Ss.R. Take the opportunity during Lent to spend a little extra time exploring your faith and the meaning of the season. **The Parish Mission begins Sunday, March 12th from 7:15 p.m.—9:00 p.m. and continues Monday and Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. in the Church.** Our returning mission preacher is Fr. Tom, a Redemptorist priest, who has spent the last 14 years giving parish missions and retreats. He has a Master's Degree in Addiction Studies/Counseling and currently resides at St. Michael's parish in Chicago. Fr. Tom says the services are directed toward 4th grade through adulthood. That said, he would prefer a family attend, rather than not attend because of difficulty finding childcare. **See you there!**

Worrying is like walking around with an open umbrella waiting for it to rain. What is worrying you? Take the time for yourself and call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email at kwalker@stfrancis.org** to start a caring relationship with a Stephen Minister to a less worry filled existence...



FISH FRY!!

Back by popular demand, please do not miss the **2nd Annual Fish Fry**, hosted by the **Knights of Columbus**, here at the **St. Francis Parish Center Dining Hall on Saturday, March 25th at 5:30 p.m.** All proceeds will go to benefit local charities. **Tickets are \$10 each** and will be *sold after all the Masses during the weekends of: February 25th-26th, March 4th-5th, March 11th-12th.* Thank you for your support.



Please Note: The Mass Intention book for 2017 is 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.