

**From
the
Friars**



We have once again entered into the Season of Lent. This is that special time of the year when we are challenged to conversion, asking ourselves in what ways we need to correct our course in life and turn back to God.

When we think of Lent and conversion, we think of what sacrifices we should make, "what we should give up for Lent" and that is a good thought. But may I suggest, it is also good to think of what we can "take on". One suggestion is to consider attending one or more of our Lenten special events. These include, Friday Stations, Friday simple Soup Suppers, the Parish Mission beginning this Sunday, Holy Week Services, and for those who can, daily Mass on occasion.

Lent is a great opportunity to create that "extra time and space" in our lives for Christ.

Sincerely,

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

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!**



Soup and Stations—Fridays during Lent we will celebrate Soup and Stations beginning at 6:00 pm with a soup and bread dinner in the **Parish Center Dining Facility** followed by the **Stations of the**

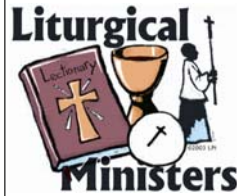
Cross in the church at 7:00 pm. Each week a different group will sponsor the dinner and St. Francis Lectors will lead the Stations that evening. Please join us in this time of fellowship and prayer.

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.

Communal Reconciliation—will be held on **Wednesday, March 29th, at 7:30 p.m.** We trust this will help all who respond to have a sacred encounter with the God of mercy. There will be extra clergy on hand to assist that evening.



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

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.



The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, March 14th** 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.**

Most of us get lost in the demands of our everyday living. Work, school, kids, sports, activities and we still do countless other things before we fall into bed at the end of the day. And because of all we do, what happens when life gets to be overwhelming?



When we have lost our time for prayer? A Stephen Minister is there for you. To listen, talk, and be that model of Christ that you are seeking. **Please email Kathy Walker at kwalker@stfrancis.org to get started on your journey to reconnect.**

LAOH Bake Sale: On **Sunday, March 19th,** The Ladies of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will sponsor a bake sale and an Irish Basket Raffle. Proceeds will benefit St. Francis House. Donated baked goods are appreciated. Please contact **Ginny Murphy at ginmurphy28@gmail.com or 703-203-7933 with any questions about donating baked goods.**



Votive Candles

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



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

St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **75** families this week. Because of the increase of families in need we are in need of:



- **Item of the Month: Toilet Paper**
- Cereal
- Spaghetti
- Pasta
- Hamburger Helper

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**.

You Can Make a Difference!

School has just started in Peru. Each Spring we support our Sister Parishes with funds to make it possible for some of the poorest families to send their children to Catholic Schools. This year the appeal is running from **March 5-26th**. See the bulletin board for more information and directions on how you can help!

Some of the tuitions are higher this year and some students are on partial scholarships. A few are in secondary school which is more expensive. Their new school year began in March, so they are counting on the funds that we promised to send them. *If you have taken an envelope from the bulletin board please remember to return it with your check to the catch-all slot* or return it to the bulletin board so someone else can sponsor that child. **Thank you!**

LUNCH BUNCH

Please join us for our March Lunch Bunch on **Thursday, March 16th at 12:00 pm in the St. Catherine Room**. Anyone 55+ is welcome to bring a brown bag lunch and join us as other refreshments will be served.

We will be learning about the history of Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day and how it relates to Lent. This will be a fun one with games and interesting facts so we would love to see you there! **If you need any more information, please contact Becky Traver at Tandovi@aol.com or 540-699-2175.**



Boletín Semanal

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 **75** familias. En estos momentos estamos necesitados de:

- **Artículo del mes: Papel Higiénico**
- Cereal
- Pasta
- Espaguetis

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

Usted Puede Hacer la Diferencia—La escuela acaba de iniciar en Perú. Cada primavera, apoyamos a nuestras Parroquias Hermanas con los recursos para hacer posible que algunas de las familias más pobres puedan enviar a sus hijos a las Escuelas Católicas. Este año, nuestra petición se está ejecutando desde marzo 5-26. Consulte el tablero de anuncios en nuestra iglesia para obtener más información e instrucciones sobre cómo usted puede ayudar. Algunas de las matrículas son más altas este año y algunos estudiantes solo tienen becas parciales. Unos pocos están en la escuela secundaria, que es más costoso. El nuevo año escolar comenzó en marzo, así que ellos están contando con los fondos que hemos prometido enviarles. Si usted ha tomado un sobre del tablero de anuncios por favor recuerde devolverlo con su cheque a la caja de (catch-all slot) o devolverlo al tablero de anuncios para que alguien más pueda patrocinar a ese niño. ¡Muchas Gracias!

Encuentro Cuaresmal—Únase a nuestra comunidad de fe y casi 14.000 comunidades católicas en los Estados Unidos en un cambio de vida camino cuaresmal de encuentro con Servicios de Auxilio Católicos (Catholic Relief Services) (CRS). Cada estudiante de educación religiosa y los estudiante de SFAS han recibido un plato de arroz (rice bowl). También vamos a proporcionar más platos de arroz para quien quisiera uno en el atrio de la iglesia. Están disponibles en inglés y español. Esta es una gran forma de dar ofrendas para los niños. Tal vez sus hijos puedan sacrificar una película, juguete, comida rápida o hacer algunas tareas en el hogar con el fin de donar a un plato de arroz.



Al final de la Cuaresma, devuelva todos los platos de arroz a la oficina de ER o a la oficina parroquial. Por favor, **no las ponga en la caja de donaciones (catch all-slot)**. Únase a nosotros en trabajar juntos para mejorar la vida de los otros durante esta Cuaresma. Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto con **DRE Recoor@stfrncis.org** Marianne Hayes, o en nuestro sitio web en 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

Mar. 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

Encounter Lent—Join our faith community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a life changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS (Catholic Relief Services). Each Religious Education student and SFAS student have received a rice bowl. We will also provide additional rice bowls for anyone who would like one in the vestibule of the church. They are available in English and Spanish. This is a great form of Almsgiving for children. Perhaps they can give up a movie, toy, fast food or do some chores in order to donate to Rice Bowl. **At the end of Lent, please return all Rice Bowls to the RE or Parish Office. Please do not put them in the catch all slot.** Join us in working together to better the lives of others this Lent. For more information, please contact Marianne Hayes, DRE at recoor@stfrancis.org or on our website at stfrancis.org.

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

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Phyliss Shaw; Paul Walker.

And for those recently deceased: Florence Fogarty; and Kristin Adcock.

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm’s way: Andrew Wagner; 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.

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@stfrancis.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.



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, March 12th

6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL Leadership
Leadership Team Only

Sunday, March 19th

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

Sunday, March 26th

NO REAL ACTIVITIES



Hello Ladies...

Cornerstone Women’s retreat for **March 24th-25th** is half filled. Now is the time to register at <http://www.stfrancis.org/cornerstone/>. Do not miss out on this 26 hour retreat that centers on community, prayer, food, and personal reflection time.

Hope to see you there.

2017 Cornerstone Team.

Second Sunday of Lent

SATURDAY,	March 11—Lenten Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Valerie Shaw †Rita Lapinski †Everett Evans
SUNDAY,	March—12th 2nd Sunday of Lent
7:30 AM	†Joan O'Connor-Weber †Robert Lindsay †Barbara Fabre
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Wilma Clausen †Neville Anthony Emmanuel
10:30 AM	People of the Parish †William A. Murphy
12:00 PM	†Joan H. DeMarco †Clara Kennedy †Roseanne Scruggs
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Margarita Alb
MONDAY,	March 13—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†James F. Callahan, II Souls in Purgatory
TUESDAY,	March 14—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Rita Lapinski †Ted Geary
WEDNESDAY,	March 15—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik Andrew Wagner
THURSDAY,	March 16—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	Special Intention
FRIDAY,	March 17—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†William D. Stoddart, III †Curt Larrabee †Austin Herr, III
SATURDAY,	March 18—Lenten Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Paul Krieger †Samuel C. Deitz †Vera Kock
Mass Intentions on Sunday, March 19, 2017	
7:30 AM	†Harper Grey Sullivan †James L. Mooney †Harry Ravert
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Robert J. Nevens †Andy Misenko
10:30 AM	†Valerie Shaw †Jim Kearns †Doris Palmer
12:00 PM	†Rev. James P. Fallon †Clara Kennedy †Roseanne Scruggs
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish †William A. Murphy

Readings for the Week of March 12, 2017

Monday	Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38
Tuesday	Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
Wednesday	Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
Thursday	Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31
Friday	Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday	Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday	Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



Christ Centered Yoga begins multi-week sessions on Tuesday evenings, which started on February 28th and Saturday mornings starting April 1st. Beginner and mixed level classes are available. Information can be found on the parish website or email/ call. For Tuesday classes, please contact **Rita Evans** at **540-270-0667** or breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com and for Saturday classes, please contact **Tracy Morgan** at **540-446-9426** spiritualyogava@gmail.com.

ST. FRANCIS MEN'S GROUP—Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, **March 14th at 7:30 pm in the Br. Juniper Room.** This month we are going to focus on *Promoting Good Wealth—A Catholic Perspective*. Living in a society blessed with such material abundance, it is sometimes difficult for us as men to understand the meaning of the Gospel on this issue. Faced with the responsibility of providing a good life for our families, we sometimes ask ourselves—How much material wealth must we amass to fully carry out this responsibility? **For more information, please contact Tony Mercogliano at amercogliano@gmail.com or 571-332-7048.**

POTOMAC COLUMBIETTES #9259

We are recruiting Catholic women over 18 years of age, married, or single, who want to enrich their lives while supporting her church and her community. Spouses need not be Knights of Columbus. Our purpose is to promote the spiritual, social and charitable welfare of our members while being involved in multiple church and community events through-out the year.



For an application and more information, please contact Dee Weikert at deeweikert@hotmail.com.



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:

What: Fellowship while working on our own "unplugged" projects for charity (no sewing machines or irons, please)
When: Thursday, March 16th, 6:30 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.
Where: Grade 5 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.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Torres Green Cleaning** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.