

From
the
Friars



On Thursday morning, a letter from Catholic leaders across the country was sent to President Trump urging action on climate issues in the international arena.

Kevin Mullen and the provincials of the other six U.S. provinces were among the leaders of 161 Catholic colleges and

universities, religious congregations, national organizations, and health care providers who urged the president and members of Congress to fund the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; meaningfully participate in the deliberations of the UNFCCC; and honor U.S. commitments to the Green Climate Fund. The letter can be found at <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/press-release/letter-to-president-trump-and-members-of-united-states-congress?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=ba0d58a1-3acd-42eb-8a1a-d996debb187b>

"Given the gravity of the climate situation in our world, there was no doubt in my mind that we Franciscans would be part of this important initiative," said Kevin. "I encourage you to share this information with your ministries and to explore action that you might take."

Information about caring for the environment can be found on the Catholic Climate Covenant's website <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/>.

Sincerely,

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

Wednesday, December 8th is the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (a Holy Day of Obligation). Masses will be at:

December 7th—7:30 p.m. (Vigil)

December 8th—6:30 a.m.
8:45 a.m.
7:30 p.m.



We do NOT have a 12 noon Mass on December 8th.



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.



On December 13th at 7:30 p.m., we will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. **This will be a traditional Communal Penance with music, readings from scripture, and a short homily.** Several priests will be available for individual confessions.

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

- 7:30 A.M.
- 9:00 A.M.
- 10:45 A.M.
- 12:15 P.M.
- 1:30 P.M. *Spanish Mass in the gym*

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

4:00 P.M.—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)

10:45 AM Mass

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

Dec. 26th

8:45 a.m. Morning Mass

Since December 25th (Christmas—the Nativity of the Lord) falls on a Monday this year, the question has been raised as to whether a person can attend Mass on the evening of Sunday, December 24th and fulfill both the Sunday Mass obligation and the Christmas Mass obligation. In other words, can one Mass fulfill two obligations?

The U. S. Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship's response was, "The prevailing view of many canon lawyers is that each obligation must be fulfilled with a separate Mass. Thus, when consecutive obligations occur on Saturday-Sunday or Sunday-Monday, **the faithful must attend Mass twice to fulfill two separate obligations.**

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 St. 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 Girdali at nikoleg@stfrncis.org.**



St. Francis House Corner



Thanks to the donations from all of our parishioners the items of the month have been very much appreciated by our clients. With your generosity we will continue to serve those that are in need.

- **Item of the Month: Laundry Detergent**
- Hamburger Helper
- Pasta
- Cereal (**kid friendly**)

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

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!



Through the partnership and support from the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, St. Francis of Assisi School, and our parishioners; St. Francis House was able to provide **80** families with turkeys and food for their Thanksgiving Day dinner meals. **Happy Thanksgiving and thanks for the constant support!**

The St. Francis Anti-Human Trafficking Committee (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is collecting Magazines in both Spanish and English for the ACTS offices. They can be dropped off in Dumfries or Manassas.

Recently WTOP news reported, 3 Human-Trafficking victims were rescued. <https://wtop.com/fairfax-county/2017/11/police-halt-human-trafficking-springfield-hotel/>.

Our next meeting **Thursday, December 7th at 7:00—8:30 pm in the 5th Grade Classroom (located in the Parish Center)**. All are welcome! For more information, please contact **Margie Petrizza at 540-408-2408, margie.petrizza@gmail.com** or **Bob Eves at 703-304-9259, evesrc@verizon.net**.



Votive Candles

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

Boletín Semanal

Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francisco: Gracias a las donaciones de todos nuestros feligreses el artículo del mes a sido bien recibido por nuestros clientes. Con sus donaciones podremos continuar a los mas necesitados.

- **Artículo del mes: Jabón de Lavar Ropa**
- Hamburger Helper
- Espagueti
- Cereal (**Para niños**)

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

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español serán el **viernes, Diciembre 8**. Las charlas bautismales Son a las 7:00 p.m. 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 7:00 p.m. en la iglesia y seguido por un danza y Celebración en el comedor de la iglesia. **Para mas información por favor hablar con el Hermano Ignacio al 703-221-4044.**

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

Advent Yoga class on Tuesday, December 5th from 5:30PM to 7:00PM in 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. Beginners and all levels are welcome. **For more information, please contact Rita Evans at 540-270-0667 or at breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com.**



The 55+ Ministry is looking for volunteers to help stuff and transport Christmas gift bags for nursing home residents and clients of St. Francis House. This is a great opportunity to socialize as a 55+ community while

making the holiday a bit brighter for neighbors in need. **Please come to the St. Catherine Room after the 8:45 a.m. daily Mass on Tuesday, December 19th** to stuff the bags with items to be collected through Un-Trim-a-Tree. If you can help, please contact **Lisa Ostendorf lostendorf@stfrancis.org** or 703-221-3127.

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 2017-2018

Dec. 3 Sunday RE Session
7 Thursday RE Session
10 Sunday RE Session
14 Thursday RE Session
17 Sunday RE Session

December 21st—31st **NO RE**—Christmas Break

We have a need for **Substitute Catechists** for all sessions and all grades, Sunday 8:45 AM, Sunday 10:30AM and Thursday 5PM. Training will be provided. If you are able to help, please contact **Marianne Hayes, DRE** at 703-221-3127.

St. Francis High School Youth Ministry is 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!



Saturday, December 2nd
Sunday, December 3rd
AFTER ALL MASSES
Church Lobby
Ornament Fundraiser

Sunday, December 3rd
6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL Time (Youth Group)
All teens grades 9-12

Sunday, December 10th
6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL Leadership
Leadership Teams Only

Questions? Please contact Brandon Jubar at bjubar@stfrncis.org.



Baptismal Preparation Class
Our next class will be held on **Sunday, December 10, 2017** from **1:30 p.m.—2:30 p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**

Mass Intentions on Sunday, December 10, 2017

7:30 AM †Deborah McNeill
People of the Parish
†Girolamo Pisani
9:00 AM †Ben Badami
†Enrique Cuellar
†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:45 AM
12:15 PM †George Beck
†Clara Kennedy
†Federico C. Casupang, Sr.
1:30 PM Misa en español
5:30 PM †Marie L. Mooney
†James E. Hamilton
†Marguerite M.R. Hamilton



Looking for the Perfect Gift?

Give Her an Overnight Women's Cornerstone Retreat
April 6—7, 2018
\$130 for a Double Room or \$145 for a Single Room
www.stfrncis.org/cornerstone

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Maureen Cremmins; S.J. Defibaugh; Nancy Brown; Judy Mitchell; B. Kraus; M. Searing; B. Lyle; Charles Dennison; and Aaron Childs.

And for those recently deceased: Anna Maria DiCocco (Mother of Marc DiCocco); Traci Lynn Rayhel; and Fr. Gerry Creedon (Pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church).

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way: Jonathan Boron; Tyler Jones; Drew; Leo N. Company; S. Defibaugh; Brianna French; James Moore; Kyle McVay; Kyle Traylor; Marc Gendron; and Darryl Saungweme.

To all our dear Filipino Kababayans: You are cordially invited to our **Second Christmas Mass/Simbang Gabi at St. Francis of Assisi on December 16th at 7:00 pm.**, to be celebrated with us by our ever supportive Parochial Vicar, Fr. John Alderson, O.F.M. There will be a dinner reception right after the Holy Mass in the Parish Center Dining Hall. Everyone is encouraged to wear your Filipiniana/Barong Tagalog as we celebrate our faith and culture especially during the season of Advent. We look forward to seeing everyone at this "great festivity". Everyone is welcome!



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank www.wolfpacklacrosseclub.org for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SATURDAY,	December 2—Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Jim Hopkinson †Donna Celestini †Dana Durani
SUNDAY,	December 3—First Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM	Thomas Lee †Jennie Fonzo †Paul and †Connie Arcudi
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Floyd M. Barretto †Florence Hartt
10:45 AM	†(George) Diem X. Bui People of the Parish †Anna Maria DicCocco
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Gloria Tanigue †Carmen Canapi
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†E.J. and †Geri Prudot †Marguerite Mooney †James S. Mooney
MONDAY,	December 4—Advent Weekday
8:45 AM	†Regina Dang
TUESDAY,	December 5—Advent Weekday
8:45 AM	Gretchen May †Michael and †Veronica Tokar †Aurora A. Moriss
WEDNESDAY,	December 6—Advent Weekday
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik †Agnes Han
THURSDAY,	December 7—St. Ambrose
8:45 AM	†Nick Pirko
7:30 PM	†Janet Sarsfield
FRIDAY,	December 8—Immaculate Conception
6:30 AM	†Eileen Bolen
8:45 AM	†Severo Miravalles †Donna Bowman Olds †Deborah McNeill
7:30 PM	People of the Parish
SATURDAY,	December 9—Advent Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†William Byers †Jean Szwejbka †Traci Lynn Rayhel

Please Note: The Mass Intention book for 2018 will open on **Friday, December 15, 2017.**

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.**

Readings for the Week of December 3, 2017

Monday	Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11
Tuesday	Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday	Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37
Thursday	Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Friday	Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38
Saturday	Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday	Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8



**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 11, 2017** 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 an Irish Catholic female of 16 years of age or older, Irish descent OR married to an Irish gentleman.

Once a part of this Irish Catholic Organization—all we would 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.**

Happy Advent! A new start to a liturgical year is here. The preparing for Christmas is in full swing. Life is crazy and chaotic. But for some maybe not in the fun, kids, gifting manner. There is no fun because of loss, sadness, or lack of empathy. Maybe your message is not getting through to your family and you are overwhelmed. Here at St. Francis we have a wonderful array of commissioned lay ministers that have gone through many hours of formation to be that person that does listen. That has empathy. That cares about you. **Please call Kathy Walker at 703-221-4044, ext. 233 or email kwalker@stfrncis.org. Let's close out 2017 on a positive note.**



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.**

Christmas Novena Mass cards are available in the vestibule of the church. Please have the envelope with the names on them, to be prayed for, into the church by **December 20, 2017.**