



We have two pamphlets available in the back of the Church. One is titled "A Glorious Light is Coming", the other is titled "Advent in My Pocket". Both contain reflections on the Season of Advent that are applicable to one's faith journey any time of the year. Please help yourself to these pamphlets.

As I mentioned weeks ago, we friars are available for the Anointing of the Sick. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick can be given whenever a person is facing a serious medical condition. One does not have to wait until a person "takes a turn for the worse".

A reminder that if a person's condition suddenly becomes critical, you can ask the medical personnel to contact the local catholic parish to have a priest come to the hospital. Parishes that have hospitals in their geographic area—the boundaries of the parish—are responsible for anointing in emergency situations.

I mention this to you because there have been situations recently where we friars have been called to a hospital for an emergency anointing, and it has taken us almost two hours to get there because of traffic on I-95 and U.S. Route 1.

The parishes responsible for emergency anointing are:

- INOVA—Lorton—**Our Lady of Angels**, Woodbridge
- INOVA—Mt. Vernon—**Good Shepherd**, Alexandria
- INOVA—Fairfax (**Hospital's Chaplain's office 24/7**)
- INOVA—Fair Oaks—**St. Veronica's**, Chantilly
- INOVA—Alexandria—**Blessed Sacrament**, Alexandria
- Mary Washington Hospital—**St. Mary's**, Fredericksburg
- Prince William Hospital—**All Saints**, Manassas
- Sentara Hospital—**Our Lady of Angels**, Woodbridge
- Spotsylvania Hospital—**St. Mary's**, Fredericksburg
- Stafford Hospital—**St. William of York**, Stafford
- Virginia Hospital—**St. Ann's**, Arlington

You may have noticed a police presence on our parish grounds on the weekends. The police are here to help us deal with professional panhandlers that have been soliciting funds as parishioners exit the parish grounds.

These individuals are not poor people. They drive nice cars to our property and park them on Fuller Heights Road. They then walk to our parish grounds.

The police challenged these individuals last weekend and escorted them off the property. The police also took a photo of their vehicle and "ran" their license plates through the police computer.

Again, these individuals are not in need of help. We have received information that they are part of an organized group that is soliciting at shopping centers as well as churches. Please do not give them money.

Sincerely,

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

**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.](#)



### Mass Schedule

#### Christmas Eve

Regular Mass Schedule: 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](#)

5:30 PM **(NO MASS)**

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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)

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**(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**

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**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.**"

### Mass Schedule

**December 31st**

7:30 A.M.

9:00 A.M.

10:45 A.M.

12:15 P.M.

1:30 P.M. Misa en español

5:30 P.M.

**January 1st**

9:00 A.M.

**(Not a day of Holy Obligation)**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**December 21st-January 2nd — Parish Office is closed;  
will reopen on Wednesday, January 3rd.**

## St. Francis House Corner



The items of the month have been very much appreciated by our clients, thanks to the donations from all of our parishioners. 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!

### Bill Mehr Drop-In Shelter (Winter Shelter)

Winter is here, and it is a very rough season for the homeless. **Our parish is committed to providing dinner every Saturday, at 7:00pm** for the Bill Mehr Homeless shelter (winter shelter). At this moment **we are in dire need of your help!** Sign-up sheets, directions, and more information are on the table in the vestibule of the church. **For more information, please contact Francia Salguero at [francias@stfrncis.org](mailto:francias@stfrncis.org) or 571-572-5862.**

### Hilda Barg Shelter

St. Francis of Assisi Church, volunteers twice a year at the Hilda Barg Shelter providing meals. Last week with the help of parishioners, Pastoral Council, The Knights of Columbus, Stephen Ministry, Spanish Prayer Group, LAOHL Group, and the RE Ministry, we provided dinners for almost 30 people for the entire week. Thank you very much for your continuing support helping those in need.

**CARE FOR CREATION!** In the words of Pope Francis, *“Creation is a gift, it is the marvelous gift that God has given us, so that we may take care of it and harness it for the benefit of all, always with respect and gratitude.”* In this season of giving, please give of your time to help make a difference by using your creativity and knowledge to plan 2018 activities to care for our corner of the earth. Please join the new Care for Creation Ministry on **Tuesday, December 19th at 7pm in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom (located in the Parish Center).** All are welcome!



Please contact Kathy Radigan, at 703-835-7194 or [kathyradigan24@gmail.com](mailto:kathyradigan24@gmail.com) for more information.

## 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**)

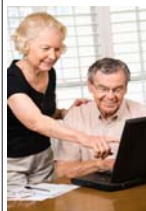
Muchas gracias por sus donaciones. Para más información contactar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

**Charlas Bautismales**—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español serán el **viernes, enero 12**. 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 de Nochebuena**—El domingo, diciembre 24 **tendremos dos misas en español. La misa dominical a la 1:30pm en el gimnasio de la escuela y la misa de nochebuena a las 8:00 p.m. en el gimnasio de la iglesia.** Ven y acompáñanos. Para mas información o para colaborar en los preparativos de la celebración por favor hablar con el **Hermano Ignacio al 703-221-4044.**

### Cyber Seniors

Weekly classes on Tuesdays from **9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**  
January 9th – February 13th  
**Br. Juniper Room**



All adults are welcome to receive hands-on technology assistance for free, during any of our weekly sessions. Bring your cell phones, laptops or tablets for hands-on training from one of our friendly volunteers. This is the perfect opportunity to learn how to use that shiny Christmas gift to stay in touch with family and friends. **Please contact Lisa Ostendorf at [lostendorf@stfrncis.org](mailto:lostendorf@stfrncis.org) for more information.**

**Thank goodness I have company coming now and then.** Otherwise I might never clean my house. It is odd, in a way, to think of Advent as a time to get our spiritual house in order for the great Guest. Christ, as company coming. Isn't he always with us? Shouldn't we always have our spiritual and moral lives dust and disorder free? Yet the disjuncture, the sense that “one is coming,” is precisely what wakes us up to see what needs doing in the household of our lives. Stephen Ministry is here to help with your spiritual and moral housecleaning. We will walk the journey with you. **Please call Kathy Walker at 703-221-4044, ext. 233 or email [kwalker@stfrncis.org](mailto:kwalker@stfrncis.org) for more information.**



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

**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. 17 Sunday RE Session

December 21st—31st NO RE—Christmas Break

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

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.



**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 4<sup>th</sup>** and continuing through **February 15<sup>th</sup>** to enjoy a delicious 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.** The cost for registration for this event is \$25 per person and all meals are included. Registration fliers can be found on the tables in the vestibule. **Please contact Sheila Noble at 703-221-3127, ext. 238 or [snoble@stfrncis.org](mailto:snoble@stfrncis.org)** for more information.

**MY COKE GIVES PROGRAM**

Turn Coke product caps into cash for St. Francis School! Look for My Coke Rewards stamps on individual and multi-pack products of *Coke, Sprite, Dasani, Powerade, Minute Maid, Fanta, Barq's, Fresca, Mr. Pibb, Mello Yello, Fuze, Seagram's Ginger Ale, and Tab.* Simply bag the caps and bring them to the school. We will take it from there. For more information, please contact **William Sharp at 571-408-5213 or [yocandance5678@yahoo.com](mailto:yocandance5678@yahoo.com)**. God bless!



**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](http://www.stfrncis.org/cornerstone)

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!



**Sunday, December 17th**  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY,**  
**DANCE & POTLUCK**  
6:30 PM—9:30 PM  
Parish Center Dining Hall  
**REAL FUN!**  
All teens grades 9-12



**Sunday, December 24th**  
Christmas Eve  
NO **REAL** ACTIVITIES

**Sunday, December 31st**  
New Year's Eve  
NO **REAL** ACTIVITIES

Questions? Please contact Brandon Jubar at [bjubar@stfrncis.org](mailto:bjubar@stfrncis.org).

*Thank You*

for supporting St. Francis Youth Ministry during our Christmas ornament Sale



**Hearing Assistance Earphones** are available for those who would like sound amplification. They have been checked and are functioning well. See one of the friars or come to the sacristy before Mass.



**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

We would like to thank **Abigail Miller, Attorney at Law** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

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

**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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



<b>SATURDAY,</b>	<b>December 16—Advent Weekday</b>
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†David John Butts †Grace Moran †Sindulfo DeLeon
<b>SUNDAY,</b>	<b>December 17—Third Sunday of Advent</b>
7:30 AM	†Emogene Pearson †Elaine Minor †James L. Mooney
9:00 AM	†Bob Walker †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Fred Wolfe
10:45 AM	†Marciana Alfero †Rolando Alegre Sabay †Brenden Daley
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Lucia Tornes Charles St. Clair
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish
<b>MONDAY,</b>	<b>December 18—Advent Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	†Judy Carter †Sr. Grace Regina Wingenfeld, O.P.
<b>TUESDAY,</b>	<b>December 19—Advent Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	†Marian L. Mitchell †Anna Kovalchik †Patricia Littlefield
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b>	<b>December 20—Advent Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
<b>THURSDAY,</b>	<b>December 21—St. Peter Canisius</b>
8:45 AM	†Ellen Metcalf †Luke Brennan †Marie and †Bill Vogts
<b>FRIDAY,</b>	<b>December 22—Advent Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	John Dumoulin, Sr. †Marie and †Alfred Vogts
<b>SATURDAY,</b>	<b>December 23—St. John of Kanty</b>
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Sindulfo DeLeon People of the Parish †Erika Gertrud Haley

**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.**

**Please Note: The Mass Intention book for 2018** is now open.

To schedule a Mass, you may come in or call (703-221-4044) the Parish Office. We also have envelopes located on the tables in the vestibule of the Church. Just drop the envelope in the catch-all slot.

**We take ONLY 3 intentions per Mass.**

**Mass Intentions on Sunday, December 24, 2017**

7:30 AM	†Robert Earl Williams †William Monroe †Robert Monroe
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Florence Fogarty †Ubaldo Plannel
10:45 AM	†'George' Diem X. Bui †Betty Ann Beaudoin †Baby Adelia
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †William and †Mary Rozoh †Janet Sarsfield
1:30 PM	Misa en español <b>(GYM)</b>
4:00 PM	†Bill and †Marion Richmond †Paul Krieger †Linda Armstrong
4:00 PM	<b>(GYM)</b> †Walker Williams †Connie and †Jerry O'Shea †Maria Tang Thi Pham
6:00 PM	†Helen C. Buckley †Bob Walker †Marian Valse
6:00 PM	<b>(GYM)</b> †Clyde Richardson †Bryan Richardson
8:00 PM	†Harry Ravert Christmas Novena †Robert Ferenschak
8:00 PM	Misa en español <b>(GYM)</b>
10:30 PM	†Normand Richard Marquis †Clifford and †Helen Buckley †John A. Shookster



**Readings for the Week of December 17, 2017**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46-56</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 or Matthew 1:18-25</b>



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.