

**From
the
Friars**



On behalf of the friars and staff of our parish, I wish all of you a blessed New Year.

As noted in the bulletin, [January 1st, New Years is not a Holy Day of Obligation](#) this year.

The reason for this is that some years ago the American Bishops decided that if a Holy Day of Obligation falls on a Saturday or Monday it is not a Day of Obligation. The exception is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Consequently we will not have multiple liturgies this year for January 1st. The Sunday evening Mass on December 31st is the usual Sunday Mass schedule.

The Mass for the Holy Day will be at 9 am on January 1st.

Sincerely,

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! A fresh start. Clean slate. New You!! With all this enthusiasm, why not channel it for the good of others and look into Stephen Ministry. Classes start soon! Please call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4044, ext. 233** or email kwalker@stfrancis.org and get the information you need to keep moving forward and riding the wave of excitement that only the New Year can bring!!



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 Pray For All those who are sick: Tim McCormick; Virginia Ramos; Pat Bennick; and Maira Peña.

And for those recently deceased: Frank Cicerio ; and Maureen Cremmins.

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.

St. Francis of Assisi Elementary, Middle and Preschool will host an open house for new prospective families on **Sunday, January 28th at 1:00 pm**. Please plan to join us for a tour of our facility and to meet our wonderful teachers. For admission questions, please contact **Shari Phillips at 703-221-3868** or phillipss.sfas@gmail.com.



There are now separate numbers for the **Parish Office (703-221-4044)** or **(703-291-7285)**, **School Office (703-221-3868)**, and **Religious Education Office (703-221-3127)**. If a parishioner wishes to reach someone in those offices, we ask that they please call the designated number. This is a change from the previous arrangement where you would be able to dial an extension after reaching the general number of the



parish. **We had to make this change to correct problems we were having with the former system.**

Christ Centered Yoga begins multi-week sessions on Tuesday evenings starting January 9th. Saturday morning classes will begin later in January. Beginner and mixed level classes are available. Information can be found on the parish website or email/ call below contact. For the Tuesday classes, please contact **Rita Evans at 540-270-0667** or breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com. For the Saturday classes, please contact **Tracy Morgan at 540-446-9426** or spiritualyogava@gmail.com.



Secular Franciscan Order Open House

Come and see...what it means to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis. There will be an Open House held on **Saturday, January 13th at 9:30 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**.

For more information, please contact **John Carlson at 540-623-8316** or twinspappy@gmail.com.

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.stfrancis.org.

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!

Mission 2018

Join St. Francis Parishioners in June 2018 on a journey to our Sister Parishes in Lima, Peru. Departs Saturday, June 16th Returns Monday, June 25th



- Applications and deposit of \$100 now being accepted. The final date for receipt of applications is **January 31, 2018**.
- Fee includes airfare, lodging, most meals and local transportation.
- Full payment (\$1,500) is due by **January 31, 2018**
- 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 call:

Terry Danner at 703-680-0860
terrydanner@verizon.net

Or

Chuck O'Hern at 910-795-6203
Charles.ohern@usmc.mil

Annual Epiphany Potluck Many Members One Body

Our parish ministry to Catholics who are gay and lesbian, and their friends and family, will hold their Annual Epiphany Potluck on **Friday, January 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Br. Juniper Room**. Please bring a dish to share and R.S.V.P. to **Anne Tunney** at annetunney@yahoo.com.



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**.

The St. Francis Anti-Human Trafficking Committee

(engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) meets the first Thursday of every month in the 5th grade classroom of the Parish Center. Please contact **Margie Petrizza** at margie.petrizza@gmail.com or **Bob Eves** at evesrc@verizon.net for more information.

Human Trafficking is not only a global problem but it is a national and local problem, you can make a difference! Our committee is parishioners just like you who are making a difference. Most recently a member of our committee, Lisa Schmitt who after attending the NOVA HTI Gala last year wanted her CFC contribution to go to AHT efforts and she contacted NOVA HTI. Thanks to her phone call and subsequent conversations this year it is an option!! As well as your Amazon purchases, with Amazon Smile a portion of your purchase will benefit NOVA HTI!! Thank you Lisa!!

The Wall Street Journal recently had an article in its December 13th paper about the efforts the airlines is making to both U.S. airports and Homeland Security to educate employees and passengers for signs of exploited people they see traveling.

If you notice anything always keep this number handy, 1-888-373-7888 and visit traffickingresourcecenter.org for more information.

ST. FRANCIS MEN'S GROUP—Our January meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 9th at 7:30 pm in the Br. Juniper Room**. At this meeting Fr. Ignatius Harding, O.F.M. (Fr. Iggy) will share his experiences as a Franciscan Missionary for over 30 years in Bolivia. We will also have Michael Chamberlin, give a presentation of the Cornerstone Retreat program.

For more information, please contact **Tony Mercogliano** at amercogliano@gmail.com or 571-332-7048.

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

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.

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 31st
New Year's Eve
NO REAL ACTIVITIES

Sunday, January 7, 2018
6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL TIME (Youth Group)
All Teens Grades 9-12

Sunday, January 14th
Martin Luther King Weekend
NO REAL ACTIVITIES

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



Baptismal Preparation Class
Our next class will be held on **Sunday, January 14, 2018** 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.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Christ The King Religious Book and Gift Store
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Votive Candles

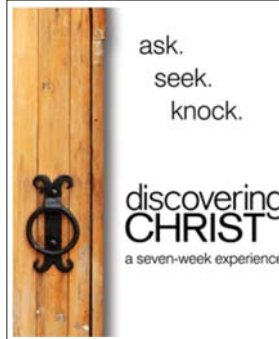
Envelopes are provided for the candle money.
Please place them in the **Catch-All** slot located in the vestibule of the church.



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



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 4th** and continuing through **February 15th** 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 3rd.** 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 for more information.

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 for more information.

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible for Couples

Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Beginning January 16th
Parish Center Dining Facility

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible is an 8-part study which provides an excellent overview, simplifies the complex timeline, and demonstrates how the Bible is the foundation of our faith. Please register and purchase your workbook through Ascension Press by visiting our parish website <http://www.stfrncis.org/programs-retreats/#biblestudy> and bring it to the first, weekly session, on **January 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center Dining Facility**; when we will discuss the first chapter.





Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, December 30—Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas

4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM Christmas Novena
Suzanna Han
In Thanksgiving

SUNDAY, December 31—Holy Family

7:30 AM †Deborah Barber McNeill
†Florence Hartt
†M.C. Otto Christofferson
9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
†Clifford Buckley
†Carmin and †Carmella Poppiti
10:45 AM †Amy Pizzi
†Diem Bui
†Florence Diddlemeyer
12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
†Joseph Hoa Vu
1:30 PM Misa en español
5:30 PM †Maria Tuyet Bach Thi Vu
†Martin Long Vu
†Joseph Quang Vinh Pham

MONDAY, January 1—Mary, Mother of God

9:00 AM Christmas Novena

TUESDAY, January 2—Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen

8:45 AM Christmas Novena
Gretchen May

WEDNESDAY, January 3—Christmas Weekday

8:45 AM Christmas Novena
†Joseph and †Julia Flood
†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

THURSDAY, January 4—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:45 AM

FRIDAY, January 5—St. John Neuman

8:45 AM †Deborah Barber McNeill

SATURDAY, January 6—Christmas Weekday

4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM †Leanne Stumm

Mass Intentions on Sunday, January 7, 2018

7:30 AM †Betty Jane Carmack
†James E. Hamilton, Jr.
†Iris Hamilton
9:00 AM †Anthony Viet Quoc Pham
†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

10:45 AM
12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
1:30 PM Misa en español
5:30 PM People of the Parish

Readings for the Week of December 31, 2017

Monday Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
Tuesday 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
Wednesday 1 John 2:29—3:6; John 1:29-34
Thursday 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
Friday 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
Saturday 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Sunday Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

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.



There will NOT be a meeting in the Parish Center Library on January 8th! We are meeting at another venue.

CALLING ALL YOU IRISH LADIES BY BIRTH OR MARRIAGE

Would you like to know more about the Fr. Mychal Judge, O.F.M. Ladies Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians?

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"

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.

March for Life, January 19, 2018

St. Francis of Assisi Parish and the Knights of Columbus will be providing bus transportation to the March for Life on January 19th. The rally and march start at 12:00 p.m. The bus will leave from the Church at **approximately 9:00 a.m.** and return after the march.



There will be sign-up sheets in the vestibule of the Church or you can contact **Marv Floom** at marv_floom@verizon.net or 703-878-9243.

HAPPY NEW YEAR