

**From
the
Friars**



We have begun the Season of Lent, one of the most sacred times in the Church Liturgical year. Lent is a season of reflection and preparation for Easter. The 40 days of Lent are for Christians the replication of Jesus' 40 days in the desert.

Lent is a time for prayer and penance. The Church asks us to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and the Fridays in Lent. Every person between the ages of 18 and 60 are also asked to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We are also encouraged to find ways of making additional sacrifices during this time, more commonly referred to as "giving something up".

"Giving something up" is indeed a very good way to observe Lent but "taking something on" is also a good way to observe this season. Is there something in your life that you could take on, taking the time to volunteer for a charitable organization, reaching out to help someone in need, working to reconcile a broken relationship, or even simply making some extra time each day to spend in prayer?

As you review the bulletin these next few weeks, you will see listed a number of opportunities to do something extra, something different for Lent. Each Friday at 6:00 p.m., there will be a simple soup supper in the Parish Center Dining Hall followed by the Stations of the Cross. On Wednesday evenings, there will be a friar priest available for Confessions. Small Lenten faith groups are being organized, plan to be a part of one. Booklets containing reflections for Lent will be available after the weekend Masses. Help yourself to one or several for your family.

This Lenten Season, do your best to "give something up" but also think about "taking something on".

May this Lent be for you a time of spiritual renewal and reflection.

Sincerely,

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

Soup and Stations—Fridays during Lent we will celebrate Soup and Stations beginning **February 16th 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.

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



Due to an unanticipated and unexpected schedule change, please note the updated time for First Reconciliation on Saturday, February 24th. **All 2nd grade and Sacramental Preparation II students will receive First Reconciliation at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 24th.** We will **NOT** hold a separate session at 10:30 a.m. Please contact **Sheila Noble at 703-221-3127, ext. 238** or snoble@stfrancis.org if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your understanding and consideration.

Altar Server Training

Paul Jacobsmeyer will conduct altar server training on: **Saturday, February 24th from 1:30pm—2:30pm**

Rising 5th graders and older boys and girls are eligible. Please contact Paul Jacobsmeyer at **703-730-8280**, or e-mail- pjjake4@aol.com with any questions.



COME HOME—TAKE ANOTHER LOOK

If someone you know has been away from the Catholic Church for whatever reason; divorce, birth control, lifestyle, invalid marriage, or any other reason, we encourage you to have them "Take Another Look".

Easter will be a time of great joy as we celebrate the resurrection of the Messiah. But your friend may not be experiencing this joy and feel she/he doesn't belong to this rejoicing church. St. Francis is inviting her/him to "Take Another Look: without feeling pressure or experiencing a "recapture" mentality.

We will have a short program on three Monday nights: May 14th, May 21st, and June 4th. Each night will begin at 7:30 p.m. and last no more than 2 hours.

If your friend has an interest, have them contact the parish at 703-221-3127, ext. 277 or Joe Mitcho at 703-967-9959 or jfmitcho44@hotmail.com. We will send them more detailed information.

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.



Please Note: The parish offices will be closed on **Monday, February 19th** in observance of Presidents' Day.

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.

- **Items of the Month: Toothpaste and Body Soap**
- Hamburger Helper
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned Fruit

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

The annual campaign to support the students at our sister parish began on February 11th. There are envelopes with the child's name, grade, and yearly cost posted on the bulletin board. This year there are even more partial scholarships, which is a good sign that the economy is doing a little better in the area. There are a few full scholarships, but we have split them in two, so there are a few children who have two envelopes in order to provide the full amount of funds. If you prefer to sponsor one of those children, please feel free to just take both envelopes. Same as last year, there is a sign-out sheet, so that we can track the envelopes. This year, Sr. Dolores has asked us for some funds to help some students pay for school supplies. There will be some envelopes to use for this purpose. **All envelopes should be returned no later than March 11th.** Just drop them in the Catch-All Slot. Thank you for your kindness.

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Aaron Childs; Scott Evans; and Fay Faylor.

And for those recently deceased: Jholie Moussa; and Thomas Deback.

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.

Theology on Tap will be held on **February 26, 2018 at the Ornery Beer Company and Public House, located at 14389 Potomac Mills Rd., Woodbridge.** *The Young Adult Gathering will start at 6:30 p.m. The talk is open to everyone at 7:30 p.m.*

The speaker for the February Theology on Tap will be **Fr. Michael Duffy, O.F.M.**, who lives and works in Philadelphia at St. Francis Inn, a soup kitchen. Please join us and hear how teaching in poor villages of Jamaica transformed Fr. Michael's life and led to him founding the Franciscan Volunteer Ministry.

Boletín Semanal

De Los Franciscanos—A menudo recibimos una solicitud de personas pidiendo una carta declarando que ellos son católicos y feligreses en buen estado (activo en su parroquia). Esto es para que puedan tener a sus hijos bautizados en otra parroquia. Generalmente para acomodar a parientes o a los padrinos.

Nos complace otorgar estas solicitudes. Sin embargo, según los reglamentos diocesanos, para que podamos escribir una carta, la persona o personas deben estar registrados en nuestra parroquia por lo menos 3 meses.

Cuando un niño es bautizado, los padres, en nombre del niño, están haciendo un compromiso de que los niños estarán creciendo en la práctica de la fe. Por lo tanto, es imperativo que los padres mismos están practicando la fe. Como uno de mis profesores de teología solía decir, el Bautismo no es magia!

Algunos han preguntado por qué ya no se publican en el sitio web de nuestra parroquia, el calendario de actividades. Hemos abandonado esa práctica en el asesoramiento de consultores de seguridad. Este cambio refleja lamentablemente el actual estado de las cosas en la sociedad.

Recientemente, la Diócesis de Arlington publicó estadísticas como qué porcentaje de católicos asisten a Misa del fin de semana (sábado y domingo) sobre una base regular. El promedio de asistencia en esta esfera de Virginia fue el 28 por ciento de los feligreses. El promedio de asistencia de nuestra parroquia es más del 50 por ciento.

Sinceramente,

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

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español serán el **viernes, marzo 9**. 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.**

Sopa y estaciones—Los viernes durante la Cuaresma celebraremos la sopa y estaciones comenzando el viernes febrero 16 a las 6:00 pm con una sopa y pan para la cena en el comedor del Centro Parroquial, seguido por las estaciones de la cruz en la Iglesia a las 8:00 pm en español. Cada semana un grupo diferente patrocinará la cena. Los lectores de San Francisco conducirá las estaciones cada noche. Por favor, únase a nosotros en este tiempo de comunión y oración. **Para mas información por favor llamar 703-221-4044, ext. 222.**



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 2018

Feb. 22	Thursday RE Session
25	Sunday RE Session
Mar. 1	Thursday RE Session
4	Sunday RE Session
8	Thursday RE Session
11	Sunday RE Session
15	Thursday RE Session
18	Sunday RE Session
22	Thursday RE Session

ENCOUNTER LENT—Please join our Religious Education community-and nearly 14,000

Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with **CRS Rice Bowls**. Pick up your family's **CRS Rice Bowl** from the



RE Office or in the vestibule of the Church. Each RE student and St. Francis of Assisi School student has received a Rice Bowl, but there are plenty more to be filled! **For more information, please go to crsricebowl.org or please contact Marianne Hayes, at recoor@stfrancis.org.**



Lent has begun. It is a time of self-reflection, prayer, and meditating on 40 days in the desert. Or maybe you are already living in that desert due to loneliness, loss, or grief. There are men and women in Stephen Ministry that have gone through training to walk this journey with you. All you have to do is call.

We will walk, listen, talk, and pray with you through Lent and beyond. As Stephen Ministers, we are committed to this community and its wellbeing. For information, please call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4044, ext. 233 or email kwalker@stfrancis.org.**

The Parish is hosting a **Special Olympics Mash-Up Basketball Game Sunday, March 11th at 2:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.** Athletes from Special Olympics and St. Francis of Assisi Parish will combine teams to play basketball and raise awareness and support for those with intellectual disabilities. Each year, participants and attendees have come away from the experience with a better understanding of special needs children and adults. If you have not attended in the past it is a pretty awesome afternoon! Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and cheer. We will have food and games as well. This is a great family event!

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 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, February 18th
Presidents' Day Weekend
NO REAL ACTIVITIES

Saturday, February 24th
2:30 PM—5:00 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL LIFE—Make Lenten Crosses
All Teens Grades 9-12

Sunday, February 25th
6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL TIME (Youth Group)
All Teens Grades 9-12

Sunday, March 4th
6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL LEADERSHIP
Leadership Team Only

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

55+ Ministry Invites You to
Sight & Sound Theatres' Production of *Jesus*
Wednesday, April 25th
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Cost: \$140 per person

Bluebird Tours of Prince William County is organizing a day trip to Sight and Sound Theatres in Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see the production, *Jesus*. This is an action-packed musical stage adventure that takes you on a miraculous journey alongside the most famous person to ever walk the earth. The cost includes a ticket to the 11:00 a.m. performance, a buffet luncheon at the Eden Roc Resort and round trip bus fare. Reservations opened on January 26th and are by phone only through Bluebird Tours 703-339-0333 until the tour is full. For more information, please visit www.pwcgov.org/bluebird. *The 55+ Ministry will host a post-show discussion on Sunday, April 29th at 10:00 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room.*

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Lawn Mowing—General Yard Tasks
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

First Sunday of Lent

SATURDAY,	February 17—Lenten Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Catherine Selepak †Marion and †Bill Richmond †Cy Kelly
SUNDAY,	February 18—1st Sunday of Lent
7:30 AM	†Erma Loraine †Catherine Reece Mike Dowd
9:00 AM	†Mark Norman Olds, Sr. †Bob Walker †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:45 AM	†Loretta King †Jerry Fitts †Jholie Moussa
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Joseph Orloski
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	Judy Maris People of the Parish †Adolfo and †Maria Pereira
MONDAY,	February 19—Presidents' Day
8:45 AM	†Harry Ravert
TUESDAY,	February 20—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Virginia Tunnell
WEDNESDAY,	February 21—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
THURSDAY,	February 22—Chair of St. Peter
8:45 AM	†Helen O'Connor †Joseph Trimbach
FRIDAY,	February 23—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Deborah Barber McNeill †Roseanne Scruggs †Patrick Dunn
SATURDAY,	February 24—Lenten Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Cy Kelly †Phyllis Dumoulin †Lee Orsini
Mass Intentions on Sunday, February 25, 2018	
7:30 AM	†Eileen Bolen People of the Parish
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Jerry Fitts †Frank Piorkowski, Sr.
10:45 AM	†Loretta King †Jimmy Burress †Roberto Dela Vega
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Sara Belli †Ligia Lizarralde

Readings for the Week of February 18, 2018

Monday	Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46
Tuesday	Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday	Jonah 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Luke 11:29-32
Thursday	1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19
Friday	Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday	Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48
Sunday	Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10



CARE FOR CREATION! Do you have a passion for nature, the outdoors, the earth? Join the new Care for Creation committee on Tuesday, February 20th at 7pm in the 6th grade classroom (located in the Parish Center). All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE: Join us on Saturday, March 3rd at 9 a.m. in the parish parking lot for our first "Adopt-A-Spot" litter clean-up.

Calling artists of all ages:

Create a Care for Creation logo. All entries should be at least 3"x3" in black and white; submit to sfaccm2018@gmail.com by **March 30th**. Please contact **Kathy Radigan at 703-835-7194**, or kathyradigan24@gmail.com for more information.



Women's Cornerstone Retreat Registration is open!

Registration is open for the popular 4th Annual Women's Cornerstone Retreat, scheduled for **April 6 – 7, 2018** at the San Damiano Spiritual Life Center in White Post, Virginia. Whether you are looking to build camaraderie with other women or simply longing for an opportunity to deepen your spiritual life, this 26-hour retreat is an unforgettable experience. **To register and pay online, please visit www.stfrncis.org/cornerstone or contact Lisa Ostendorf lostendorf@stfrncis.org.**

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.



Baptismal Preparation Class

Our next class will be held on **Sunday, March 11, 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.**