



**From
the
Friars**

In light of the recent tragedy in Florida, several have asked me my thoughts on the issue of Gun Control.

Let me begin by describing my own history with guns. I learned to shoot both pistols and high powered rifles when I was 14 years old. I have hunted at different times in my life.

How good was I with a gun? A number of years ago I was invited by an FBI Supervisory Special Agent to the shooting range at the FBI academy.

He first gave me a semi automatic rifle to try. I hit all the targets. It is pretty tough to miss with that kind of weapon. Which is why these semi automatics are so dangerous. He then gave me what he described as the FBI's most sophisticated pistol. I missed the first target. He said that he was not surprised as it was a challenging weapon to fire accurately.

I asked if I could try again. He said yes. I adjusted my stance and sighting and proceeded to hit the bulls eye on the rest of the targets. He said to me somewhat amazed "Where did you learn to shoot?"

I share this story with you so that you will understand that I am not against guns. However, I strongly believe in gun control and that the time is long overdue for Congress to pass legislation to ban assault weapons (no decent hunter uses an assault weapon!), to strengthen background checks, and to do whatever else necessary to protect innocent people, especially our children. How many more deaths do we have to witness?

On **March 24th** the "March for Our Lives" will take place. The leaders of our Franciscan Province (Holy Name Province) are asking us to encourage as many as possible to attend. To register and to learn more information, please visit <https://www.marchforourlives.com>. We want to maximize our Franciscan participation, so we hope to get as many friaries and ministries represented in Washington (or at a more local march) on March 24, 2018 as we can. The Provincial Council also stated they can help offset travel costs to DC. We propose the following process:

1. Go on to the www.marchforourlives.com website and sign-up.
2. Consult the website for local marches taking place in your area.
3. Reach out to your schools, youth groups, and religious education programs to invite them to help shape your friary's/ministry's participation.
4. Determine if you are going to send a delegation to Washington, DC and/or participate in a local event (you can do both).
5. Recruit for and promote the March 24th march; it is imperative that young people are provided leadership opportunities. They need to be able to gain leadership experience and confidence.

Sincerely,

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

Communal Reconciliation—will be held on **Wednesday, March 21st, from 7:30 p.m-9:00 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.



**Schedule for
Holy Week and Easter Sunday
March 25th—April 1st**

March 25 Palm Sunday
Regular Mass Schedule

March 28 Wednesday
7:30-8:30 PM Individual Confession

March 29 Holy Thursday
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:30 PM La Cena del Señor en el Gimnasio

March 30 Good Friday
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
3:00 PM Musical Meditation on the Stations of the Cross (Presented by all of St. Francis' Choirs and Musicians)
6:00 PM Via Crucis/The Way of the Cross—Church Parking Lot
7:30 PM Liturgy of Good Friday
7:30 PM Liturgy of Good Friday en español en el Gimnasio

March 31 Holy Saturday
9:00 AM Morning Prayer / Blessing of Easter foods
Note: No Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass
8:00 PM Easter Vigil

April 1 Easter Sunday
7:30 AM Mass—Church
9:00 AM Mass—Church
9:00 AM Mass—in Parish Center Gym
10:45 AM Mass—Church
10:45 AM Mass—in Parish Center Gym
12:15 PM Mass—Church
12:15 PM Mass—in Parish Center Gym
1:30 PM Misa en Español

Note: No 5:30 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday

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.**



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: Cooking Oil and Salt**
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned Fruit

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

Bill Mehr Homeless Shelter

St. Francis of Assisi Parish would like to thank a wonderful volunteer that for more than 14 years has helped coordinate the meals for the Bill Mehr Homeless Shelter.

Dear **Honey Scott**, thank you very much for all you do! We are lucky to have individuals such as you who are willing to give their time, skill set, and talents for a great cause. You have made important contributions to the meals ministry. We realize that sometimes it may feel like a thankless job. We want you to know just how much we appreciate all the work you have done behind the scenes to make good things happen. Thank you for having such a big heart and choosing to help us! We appreciate you more than words can say.

With sincere appreciation,

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

55+ Ministry Invites You to

Sight and Sound Theatres' Production of *Jesus*
Wednesday, April 25th in 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.

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.**



ST. FRANCIS MEN'S GROUP—Our March meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 13th at 7:30 pm in the Br. Juniper Room**. The topic will be a video presentation by Fr. Dan Horan, O.F.M. on the "Franciscan Heart of Spirituality". Many of you might remember Fr. Dan when he was assigned to St. Francis of Assisi as a transitional deacon the year before his ordination. For more information, please see the Men's Group page on the parish website or contact **Tony Mercogliano at amercogliano@gmail.com or Mike Chamberlin at michael.chamberlin@verizon.net**.

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

Mar. 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@stfrncis.org.**



Please donate small religious items (rosaries, prayer cards, pins, small prayer books, etc.) to Religious Education for incentives for Catechists to use in their classrooms.

First Reconciliation and First Communion Important Dates

First Communion Retreat—Saturday, March 10th (10am to 3pm) - Parish Center—many volunteers are needed, so please contact **Sheila Noble** at snoble@stfrncis.org if you are able to help.

First Communion Rehearsal—Friday, April 13th
6:00-6:50pm—Rehearsal for 9:00am Mass—All St. Francis School, RE Homeschool, and SPII students
7:00-7:50pm—Rehearsal for 11:00am Mass—All 2nd grade RE students (Thursday and Sunday)

First Communion – Saturday, April 14th
9:00am Mass—Arrive no later than 8:30 am—All St. Francis School, RE Homeschool, and SPII students
11:00am Mass—Arrive no later than 10:30am—All 2nd grade RE students (Thursday and Sunday)

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Precision Painting and Powerwashing
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Confirmation Year II (2018) Important Dates

Questions, please contact **Sheila Noble** at snoble@stfrncis.org

March 10, 2018—Confirmation Reconciliation Service
12pm—Sun. 8:45am and Sun. 10:30am Sessions
1:30pm—Thurs., Homeschool, and High School Sessions

March 18, 2018—Mandatory NET retreat (1:30-7:30pm)
****Please note this is a Sunday and candidates only**

April 27, 2018—Confirmation Rehearsal
6:45pm—St. Francis School, Homeschool, and Sun. 8:45am Sessions
8:00pm—Sun. 10:30am, Thursday, and High School Sessions

April 28, 2018—Confirmation
10:00am—St. Francis School, Homeschool, and Sun. 8:45am Sessions
2:00pm—Sun. 10:30am, Thursday, and High School Sessions

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!

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

Saturday, March 10th—Sunday, March 11th
After All Masses—Church Foyer
REAL LIFE—Sell Lenten Crosses
All Teens Grades 9-12

Sunday, March 11th
6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL TIME (Youth Group)
All Teens Grades 9-12

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

Third Sunday of Lent

SATURDAY,	March 3—Lenten Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Cy Kelly †Anna Sullivan †Adolfo and †Maria Pereira
SUNDAY,	March 4—3rd Sunday of Lent
7:30 AM	†Kristin Diane Adcock †Mary L. R. Cotton †Harold Cotton
9:00 AM	†Florence Fogarty †Manny Aguilar †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:45 AM	†Jane Sequeira †Diem Bui †Loretta King
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Felix Borje
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Albert Bart Lorenzoni People of the Parish
MONDAY,	March 5—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	Ryan Staten †Antonio Camacho
TUESDAY,	March 6—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	Gretchen May †Lee Dixon Pamela Fernandes
WEDNESDAY,	March 7—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
THURSDAY,	March 8—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Eileen Bolen
FRIDAY,	March 9—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Deborah Barber McNeill †Curt Larrabee †D.J. Abogunrin
SATURDAY,	March 10—Lenten Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Paul Krieger †Connie and †Jerry O'Shea †Cy Kelly
Mass Intentions on Sunday, March 11, 2018	
7:30 AM	†Debbie Schuette †Ray and †Irene Wagner †Mick Rosenblatt
9:00 AM	†Daniel Yesko †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Jholie Moussa
10:45 AM	†Loretta King People of the Parish
12:15 PM	†George Beck †Clara Kennedy
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	

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.

Readings for the Week of March 4, 2018

Monday	2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday	Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday	Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23
Friday	Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34
Saturday	Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14
Sunday	2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21

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: Richard Laffman; Aaron Childs; and Scott Evans.

And for those recently deceased: Michael "Mick" Rosenblatt (husband of Donna Kocian).

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.

The Fr. Mychal Judge, O.F.M. Hibernian Division invites all parishioners to come out and support your Hibernians on **March 10th** as we will be marching in the Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade. Those parishioners of Irish decent are welcome to march with us—look for our Mychal Judge OFM Banner. **For more information, please go to the website <http://www.stpatparade.net> and/or contact Francis McVeigh at 703-357-7813.**



The 55+ Ministry is collecting sunscreen and insect repellent for clients of the Bill Mehr Drop-in Center for the Homeless through March 18th. Please drop off items in the box in the vestibule of the church. Volunteers are also needed to assemble the donations on Tuesday, March 20th at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room. Thank you for all of your help!