

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

The feedback that I have been receiving from parishioners on my Annual Fund Appeal letter has been very positive for which I am grateful. This Annual Fund Appeal is important for the financial health of the parish. It provides a source of income that enables us not only to balance our budget but also to grow as a parish. It gives us the ability to address significant events that occur after the budget is set that were not anticipated (like the amount of snow we received last winter) and the ability to take advantage of opportunities that come our way which would benefit the parish. The St. Francis Cemetery project is one of those opportunities which will address the need for a Catholic cemetery in our area where there isn't one and it will provide a revenue source for the parish.

People have asked me to provide more information on the cemetery so let me tell you how this project came about. About three years ago after my mom died I mentioned to people that she and my dad had both been cremated and their urn was placed in a columbarium in our home parish. Some St. Francis parishioners came to me and asked if we could build a columbarium here at St. Francis. I looked into it but was informed that Bishop Loverde would not grant permission for the construction of a columbarium outside of a cemetery. I thought then that meant we couldn't have a columbarium but then one day I had to go up into the woods above and beyond the school to check out a report that some homeless people were living in tents in the woods. While I walked through the woods it came to me that we had this land which covered nine acres and why couldn't it be converted into a cemetery? So I called the Chancery again and asked if I could build a cemetery on that land. I got the "green light" from the Bishop to develop a plan to build this cemetery for him to look at and approve. It was recommended that I retain the firm of Grever and Ward located in Orchard Park, NY whose expertise is in cemetery planning. They developed the plan which I presented to the Bishop and he approved it.

Since we received permission to continue with the project we retained the services of two members of our parish Karl Rice, as our attorney, and Parris Phelps, as our engineer. They have been working closely with the Diocesan Office of Planning, Construction, and Facilities in preparing the necessary paperwork and applications that need to be submitted in order to receive approval from Prince William County for the construction of the cemetery. Maureen Caddigan, our County Supervisor for Potomac District, has been very helpful and supportive, for which I am very grateful. As of this time the project is moving through the proper channels and it is my hope we can begin construction this coming Spring.

What will the cemetery look like? I do not have any drawings to show you at this point but I will. I can tell you that it will be beautiful!! On our project steering committee we have an expert on cemetery development to advise us. The cemetery has the capacity for around 8,000 graves and we will be able to build the columbariums that we will need to meet the demand for them.

I hope you will make a gift or a pledge to our Annual Fund Appeal. Your support is not only needed but I also hope you see it as an investment in our future. Thank you.

### ***Fallen Heroes interred at Quantico National Cemetery***

The Quantico Wreath Project, conducted annually by the **SGT MAC FOUNDATION**, will be supported again in 2015 by the **Knights of Columbus** with assistance from the **Columbiettes**. Fundraising at St. Francis of Assisi parish will take place during the weekends of **November 7th, 14th, and 21st**. On Saturday, **December 5th**, volunteers will place wreaths on the graves at **Quantico National Cemetery**. All of the wreaths used to decorate the graves of our fallen heroes are purchased with donated funds (**\$10 for each wreath**). Each year we have been able to raise more money and decorate more graves. **Last year we decorated 8,300 graves in Sections 9 & 10 of Quantico National Cemetery and this year we hope to be able to decorate the 10,000.** Representatives from the Knights and the Columbiettes will accept donations at a table on the center circle after each Mass on the fundraising weekends. Checks will be accepted and should be made payable to the **SGT MAC FOUNDATION**.



**We are happy to announce that we have a brand new website!** This has been a long process in the making. We hope that this new, updated site will better serve the needs of the people at St. Francis. Please check out our new site (with the same web address) at [www.stfrancis.org](http://www.stfrancis.org) and let us know what you think! For any concerns, questions, or comments, please contact **John Lilly** at [jlilly@stfrancis.org](mailto:jlilly@stfrancis.org) or **703-221-3127, ext. 237**.

In addition to a new website, we want to communicate with our parishioners. We will start sending out email newsletters to the parish. You can sign up for them by visiting our website at <http://www.stfrancis.org/subscribe-to-our-e-newsletter/>

**We will be giving away gift cards to Olive Garden, Chipotle, Starbucks, and Target to those who sign up!**

**A huge thank you** to all of our photographers who took pictures for our new website. A special thank you to **Jim Mudd and Lucy Cason** for their hard work. We appreciate it!



You may pick up your Workbook for the new year; they are on the bookshelf in the sacristy.



**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 House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **76** families this week. Because of the increase of families in need We are in dire need of:



- **Canned Tuna**
- **Canned Fruit**
- **Macaroni & Cheese**
- **Spaghetti**
- **Small/ Medium can or plastic jars Spaghetti Sauce**
- **Cereal**
- **Hamburger Helper**
- **Canned goods (vegetables and soup)**

Many thanks to all who have responded to the request for breakfast items at the Drop-In Shelter. Beginning next **Saturday, November 7th**, our responsibility will shift to supplying **DINNERS** on Saturday evenings as the Winter Shelter Programs begin. Directions and sign-up sheets are in the vestibule.



For more information on any of the above and/or to get involved, please call Francia Salguero at 703-221-6344.

## Boletín Semanal

**Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francis—** Agradecemos a todos nuestros parroquianos por todas sus ofrendas a la Despensa de Comida; con sus donaciones pudimos ayudar a **76** familias. En estos momentos nuestra despensa de comida esta escasa de los siguientes alimentos:

- Atún
- Fruta enlatado
- Macarrones con queso
- Espagueti
- Salsa para espaguetis
- Cereal
- Canecas con vegetales
- Canecas con sopa

Muchas gracias por su apoyo constante. Para mas información por favor llamar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

**Charlas Bautismales—**Las próximas charlas bautismales serán el **viernes, noviembre 6** a las 7:00pm en el Salón de San Catherine. Para mas información por favor llamar a la Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.

**Misa Bilingüe—**El domingo, **noviembre 15**, día del **Festival de San Francisco** tendremos una **misa bilingüe a las 12:15pm** y después daremos comienzo al festival. Este día noviembre 15 **NO** tendremos misa en español.

### Social Justice: Franciscan Action and Advocacy (FA&A)

**THANK YOU** to everyone on our Respect Life Committee, our friars and parish staff, and to all who supported the parish's October Respect Life Month educational table and activities—and a round of applause to everyone who took part in the Birthright baby bottle fundraiser! From conception to natural death, please continue to *pray for, advocate for, and celebrate* the dignity and consistent ethic of ALL life!

This coming Christmas, PLEASE consider giving a gift that will help International Justice Mission fight human trafficking—rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors, and strengthening justice systems. You just browse the catalog, choose a gift, pay, and then download and share your gift with a customizable e-card. It's easy! Your donation goes directly toward the gift category you select. All gift orders are tax deductible. To learn more, please visit <https://www.ijm.org/gift-catalog/how-it-works> and <https://www.ijm.org/gift-catalog/gifts>. For further questions, please contact Rob.

Upcoming FA&A meetings (open to all!): Our Anti-Human Trafficking Committee (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting on **Wednesday, November 11th, at 7 p.m.** in the **Grade 6 Classroom**. Our Respect Life Committee (advocating for the consistent ethic of life from conception to natural death) is meeting on **Saturday, November 21st, at 11:45 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room**. Our Care for Creation Committee (focused on environmental work/integral ecology) is meeting on **Sunday, November 22nd, at 9 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room**. The V.O.I.C.E. (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) team here at the parish is meeting to work on community issues on **Sunday, January 3rd, at 10 a.m. in the Br. Juniper Room**.

For more information on any of the above and/or to get involved in justice/advocacy, please visit the **FA&A section on the parish website** (<http://www.stfrancis.org/welcome-introduction/>) and/or contact Rob Goraieb, O.F.S. at [rgoraieb@stfrancis.org](mailto:rgoraieb@stfrancis.org) or 703-221-4978, ext. 228.



**Many Members One Body**, a support group for gay and lesbian Catholics and their families, will resume on **Thursday, November 5th, at 7 pm in the Br. Juniper Room**. For more information, please contact Fr. Kevin Downey at 703-221-4044.

#### Follow us on:

Facebook: *St. Francis of Assisi Church*  
 Twitter: *@StFrancisVA*  
 Instagram: *stfrancischurchva*



**Readings for the Week of November 1, 2015**

**Monday** Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11 or 6:3-9, John 6:37-40  
**Tuesday** Romans 12:5-16b; Luke 14:15-24  
**Wednesday** Romans 13:8-10; Luke 14:25-33  
**Thursday** Romans 14:7-12; Luke 15:1-10  
**Friday** Romans 15:14-21; Luke 16:1-8  
**Saturday** Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Luke 16:9-15  
**Sunday** 1 Kings 17:10-16; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

Calling all our young singers from grades 2nd through 8th! The first rehearsal for the St. Francis Children's Christmas Choir takes place on **November 1st from 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. in the church.** Rehearsals are each **Sunday from November 1st through December 20th.** Performances include the Festival of Praise on Friday, December 18th and Christmas Eve. Registration forms are available online at <http://www.stfrncis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Musicregistrationform2015.pdf> or at the first rehearsal. Questions? Please contact Colleen Wells at [cwells@stfrncis.org](mailto:cwells@stfrncis.org).



**Please Pray For**

All those who are sick: Michael McLean, Clyde Richardson, Teresa Drapaeu, Bill Gucker, Steve Dowell, Gregory Dowell, Patricia Littlefield, Michael Creegan, and Samantha Duda.

And for those recently deceased: Andrew Hite; Nancy Lee Cooper; and Andrew Hartigan (Father of Eileen Hartigan).

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way: Ian French, Jeffrey Miller, Jeffrey Monken, Elizabeth L. Keegan, James Moore, Kyle McVay, Kyle Traylor, Kasey Eggie, Eustaquio Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

**Youth Apostles**, a community dedicated to serving the youth in Northern VA, is sponsoring an evening of live music with Bob Smith, talented pianist who has played for five US Presidents. Join us on **Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at All Saints Parish Activities Center, 9300 Stonewall Road, Manassas, VA 20110 beginning at 7:00 pm.** Top local performers will dazzle the crowd with Jazz, Broadway, Sinatra and other popular tunes. The cost is only **\$30 per person** and includes a ticket to the concert, hors d'oeuvres and a complimentary glass of wine. All proceeds will support Youth Apostles and their ministry of changing the lives of young people by helping them encounter the saving love of Christ. Please contact **Winnie Peterson** at [yas\\_winnie@cox.net](mailto:yas_winnie@cox.net) or **703-556-0914** for more information and reservations.

**Baptismal Preparation Class**—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, November 8, 2015 from 1:30p.m.—2:00p.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  
**Rheingarten Restaurant**  
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

**Faith Formation Office**

Phone: 703-221-3127 Fax: 703-221-3246  
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday: 8:00 am—2:00 pm  
Friday: 8:00 am—1:00 pm

**Religious Education Calendar**

We still have room in all grades if you need to register your child. Also, we are in need of **two** more Catechists for Sundays at 8:45 a.m.-10:00a.m. and 10:30a.m.-11:45 a.m. For more information, please call the RE Office at 703-221-3127 or email [recoor@stfrncis.org](mailto:recoor@stfrncis.org).

Nov. 1	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
5	Thursday RE Session
8	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
12	Thursday RE Session
15	<b>NO RE—Thanksgiving Francis Fest</b>
19	Thursday RE Session
22	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
26	<b>NO RE—Thanksgiving Day Holiday</b>
29	<b>NO RE—Thanksgiving Day Holiday</b>
Dec. 3	Thursday RE Session
6	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
10	Thursday RE Session
13	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
17	Thursday RE Session

**\*\*Please note the change in the RE Calendar: November 15th Sunday RE is cancelled due to the Parish Thanksgiving Francis Fest. June 5th will therefore be the last day of RE for all Sunday RE classes.\*\***

*Do not be afraid of presenting Christ to someone who does not yet know him. Christ is the true answer, the most complete answer to all the questions which concern the human person and his destiny. Without Christ, the human person remains an unsolvable riddle. Therefore, have courage to present Christ! Certainly, you must do this in a way which respects each person's freedom of conscience but you must do it.*

**Saint John Paul II**

If you would like your child to participate in the **Children's Christmas Pageant on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:15pm** before the 4PM Mass in the Church, please return your completed form to the Religious



Education Office or in the catch-all slot located in the vestibule of the Church (*please label envelope 'RE-Christmas Pageant Registration'*). Children ages 4years of age and up are eligible if they are not in the Christmas Choir. Deadline for forms is November 29th. No late registrations will be accepted. Forms are available at [www.stfrncis.org](http://www.stfrncis.org) under the RE page. Rehearsals are mandatory. For more information, please call the RE Office at 703-221-4978 or email [recoor@stfrncis.org](mailto:recoor@stfrncis.org).

**FRANCIS FEST RESCHEDULED!!**

As you know, our annual Francis Fest was postponed for the first time ever due to weather. Francis Fest Fans do not despair!!!! Francis Fest is rescheduled for **Sunday, November 15, 2015 from 1pm to 5pm on the parish grounds.** Please join us for an extra special, long awaited **Thanksgiving**



**Francis Fest!** Some important announcements regarding the festival:

- **REDSKINS FANS:** Games will be shown on widescreen T.V!!
- **VOLUNTEERS PLEASE NOTE:**  
If you signed up to volunteer for the original date and are able to honor your time commitment on November 15th, no action is necessary. Your sign up remains the same.  
If you signed up to volunteer and will not be able to fulfil your commitment, please go online at [www.bit.ly/francisfest2015](http://www.bit.ly/francisfest2015) and click on: **I need to change my sign up.**

**MANY VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!!** If you are available to help us on November 15th, please, **please** visit the volunteer sign up site (see link above) and volunteer for setup, cleanup, or a shift during the event.

Any questions, concerns about volunteer sign up? Please contact Brandon Jubar at: [bjubar@stfrancis.org](mailto:bjubar@stfrancis.org).

- **WE ARE IN GREAT NEED of gently used, clean stuffed animals looking for a new adopted home!!** Please leave your donations of “stuffies” in the back of the church, marked for Francis Fest.
- **Advance discounted ticket sales** will be sold after Masses the weekend of **November 7th-8th.**
- **Wine Wheel** donations will be gratefully accepted in the back of church the weekends of **October 31st- November 1st and November 7th-8th**
- **Basket donations and Cake Wheel** donations can be dropped off in the school foyer the **morning of the festival.**
- **Tag sale** donations may only be dropped off the **morning of the festival in front of the St. Catherine Room.** Our storage pod overflows! Thank you to those who have already donated!

**Saint John Paul Open House**

All are invited to the Fall Open House at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School on **Sunday, November 15th, from 1—4pm.** Meet the entire team of educators, tour the beautiful building, and learn more about John Paul’s successful programs and welcoming community. A presentation begins at 1:15pm in the Theater. Pep-rally and House games begin at 3pm. **For more information, please visit [jpthegreat.org](http://jpthegreat.org) or call 703-445-0300.**



**Mass Intentions**

<b>SUNDAY,</b>	<b>November 1—All Saints Day</b>
5:30 PM	†Trevor Noonan Mary Halfhill
7:30 AM	†Ernie Gregory †Will Cannon
9:00 AM	†Flor Rodriguez †Teodosio Herrera †Vilma Zelvaggio †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:30 AM	†Charlotte D’Agostino †Carolyn Nasier Hill
12:15 PM	†Joyce McVay †Clara Kennedy
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish
<b>MONDAY,</b>	<b>November 2—All Souls Day</b>
8:45 AM	All Souls Novena
<b>TUESDAY,</b>	<b>November 3—St. Martin de Porres</b>
8:45 AM	Gretchen May
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b>	<b>November 4—St. Charles Borromeo</b>
8:45 AM	†Lawrence J. Bertrand †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
<b>THURSDAY,</b>	<b>November 5—Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	All Souls Novena
<b>FRIDAY,</b>	<b>November 6—Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	†Mary Stem †Will Cannon †Andy Hite
12:00 PM	†Don and †Joyce McVay
<b>SATURDAY,</b>	<b>November 7—Weekday</b>
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Mass Intentions on Sunday, November 8, 2015**

5:30 PM	Thomas Lee †Jordan Roche †Ernie Gregory †Ralph Miller
7:30 AM	All Souls Novena
9:00 AM	†Colby Smith †Mary Stein †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:30 AM	†Brian Kerns †Brenda Colburn
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Will Cannon †Stephanie Marmorowski †Jennie DePerro
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish

**First Friday—November 6th**

The celebration of Holy Hour with Benediction will take place on **Friday morning immediately following the 8:45 am Mass. Mass will also be celebrated at 12 noon.** All are welcome.

