

From the Pastor's Desk

This is why we celebrate Mother's Day:

Stephanie Decker heard the warning that Friday afternoon, March 2, 2012. A tornado was thundering its way across Indiana. So she gathered her two children—Dominic, 8, and Reese, 5—in the basement of their three-story-house. Stephanie huddled them under a comforter and laid her own body on top of them. The 175-mile-per-hour storm hit like a freight train, leveling the house. Her son and daughter were fine—but Stephanie could not move. She knew immediately that she was severely injured; she texted a loving goodbye message to her husband, a teacher at the local high school. When the tornado finally passed, Dominic ran for help and a neighbor rushed over and found Stephanie in the rubble. Both of her legs had been severed. The neighbor fashioned two tourniquets to stop the bleeding and sheriff's officers rushed Stephanie to a hospital.

When she woke up after surgery, her husband Joe told her, "The kids are here because of you. You're going to be here for your kids, and you will get to see them grow up."

Stephanie Decker says she is not a hero; the simple title "mom" fits her just fine. "Really, it was instinct and it was protecting my children. Once I knew they were safe, I knew I could rest. If anything were to happen to me, as long as I knew my children were safe, I was OK with that.

The love of a mom, like Stephanie, mirrors the love that is the heart of Jesus's Gospel. The love that Jesus demands of us, his disciples, is to love one another as he has loved us: to put ourselves second for the sake of others, to seek our joy in bringing joy to others, to honor and cherish others simply because they are, like us, sons and daughters of God. The love of Christ endures throughout the most painful and difficult steps of life's journey. Discipleship is centered on the "instinct" of a mother's love for her children; we as disciples of Jesus find our joy completed in our ability to bring joy to others, in imitation of the Risen Jesus.

Happy Mother's Day to all of our moms!!!!



Due to a high volume of calls, an additional phone line/number has been added at the church. If the main 703-221-4044 line is busy, please call [703-221-3127](tel:703-221-3127).

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CAR RAFFLE

Thank you for your participation in the 2015 Car Raffle. This is the largest fundraiser for our parish. **Congratulations to the Jackson family—the \$1,000 Car Raffle cash winner!** Watch for the next Car Raffle coming your way February 2016!

Mission 2015 Vitamin Campaign

Our Missioners traveling to Peru in June will again be carrying prenatal and children's vitamins for the parish medical clinics at Santa Ana and in the Pastoral Zone. The children suffer greatly from the developmental effects of poor nutrition. Children's vitamins are expensive and hard to obtain in Peru.

- \$10 provides prenatal vitamins for an entire pregnancy.
- \$10 provides a child with vitamins for 10 months.

Donations of any amount would be appreciated.

Envelopes can be found on the bulletin board on your right as you leave church.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Workshops for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held this year on:

Saturday, May 16, 2015 at St. John the Evangelist in Warrenton.

Saturday, May 23, 2015 at Our Lady of Hope (in the upper church) in Potomac Falls.



The time frame for all workshops will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

To register for one of the workshops or if you have any questions, please contact Chanel Marquis at 703-221-4044, ext. 222 or cmarquis@stfrancis.org.



On Saturday, May 23rd, our Parish will commission 11 Stephen Ministers. These dedicated people have been training for over six months. They have read, role played, laughed and cried together, questioned and listened. And after long discernment are ready to begin their caring ministry among us here at St. Francis. **We thank God for our Stephen Ministers in Formation and know God has blessed us with their kind and loving spirits.**

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.

St. Francis House Corner



The St. Francis House Food Pantry Provided food for **65 families this week. We are in need of Spaghetti, Pasta, Cereal, and reusable bags** For more information, please call Francia at 703-221-6344. Thank you for your continuing support.

Franciscan Action and Advocacy (FA&A)

Save the date! **Answering Pope Francis's Call: An American Catholic Response to Modern Day Slavery Human Trafficking Conference Summer 2015** on **July 9th-10th** at **The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.** Hosted by The Catholic University of America, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities, USA, and Catholic Charities, Washington, D.C. (Our parish will be participating in this event!) Please contact Rob for more information and registration instructions.

Upcoming FA&A meetings (open to all!): Our parish **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and legislative advocacy efforts in the fight against the evil of human trafficking—sex and labor) is meeting **this Wednesday, May 13th, at 7 p.m.** in the **Grade 6 Classroom.** Our parish **Respect Life Committee** (advocating for the consistent ethic of life from conception to natural death) is meeting **next Saturday, May 16th, at 11:45 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room.** Our parish **Care for Creation Committee** is meeting to discuss environmental issues **next Sunday, May 17th, at 9 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room.** Our parish **V.O.I.C.E.** (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) team is meeting to discuss community issues on **Sunday, June 7th, at 10 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room.**

This summer, our parish **Care for Creation Committee** is starting a **Parish Book Club to read and discuss Pope Francis's highly anticipated upcoming encyclical (a papal letter) on the environment and human ecology.** We hope as many people as possible will join! Once the release date is set, we will provide more details. Please stay tuned and/or contact Rob for more information or to sign-up on our interest list.

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 and/or contact Rob Goraieb, O.F.S. at rgoraieb@stfrncis.org or 703-221-4978, ext. 228.

Votive Candles are available in the church by the statues of St. Joseph and Mary. **Please use the box** at each statue to deposit your dollar for each candle.



Boletín Semanal

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales se realizaran el domingo, **mayo 17 a las 2:30pm** después de la misa en español en el Salón del Hermano Juniper. Por favor recuerde que para tomar la charla y recibir el sacramento del bautizo los padres tienen que estar registrados en nuestra parroquia y registrarse para la charla con anterioridad. Ambos padres y padrinos deben asistir a la charla y no se permiten niños. Para más información por favor llamar a **Francia al 703-221-6344.**

Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones—Las inscripciones para la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones (VBS) están abiertas! Las clases VBS serán de Junio 22 a junio 26 de 9:00 a.m. a 12:30 pm en el centro parroquial. Las clases están abiertas a todos los niños entre las edades de 4 años hasta los que van a entrar a sexto grado. Niños ven y únete a nosotros para "Explorar" Everest a través VBS, uno de los más majestuosos, bello (y a veces peligroso!) lugares en la tierra donde descubrimos el poder de Dios y sus promesas a través del camino. Las Inscripciones las pueden encontrar en el vestíbulo de la iglesia. Para más información o si tiene alguna pregunta por favor contactar **Sharon Gardner al gardners.vbs@gmail.com o la Oficina de RE al 703-221-4978.**

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 **65 familias.** Muchas gracias por su apoyo constante.

Grupo de Oración—El grupo de oración se reúne todos los viernes a las 7:00PM en el Salón de Santa Catherine. Todos están cordialmente invitados acompañarnos en oración y en amistad.

Senior Corner



Seniors on the Go!

Calling All Seniors! Join us for the **Senior Lunch Bunch** scheduled for **Thursday, May 21st at 12:30pm** in the **St. Catherine Room.** Our special guest will be Dumfries Supervisor Maureen Caddigan. Feel free to bring your questions and concerns as Maureen updates us on the latest in the community! Bring a brown bag lunch and dessert and beverages will be included.

Our Cyber-Seniors are off to a spirited start! It is not too late to join our **Thursday class at the Hampton Inn on Route 234.** Please call Anne Tunney for more information or to register.

For additional information on senior care, please contact Anne Tunney, M.S.W., Coordinator of Senior Care at 703-221-4044, ext. 229 or annet@stfrncis.org.

COME HOME—TAKE ANOTHER LOOK

If you have been away from the Catholic Church for whatever reason: divorce, birth control, lifestyle, a painful memory, or any other reason, we would love for you to take another look. The Easter season is a time of great joy as we celebrate the resurrection of the Messiah. But you may not be experiencing this joy and feel that you don't belong to this rejoicing church. St. Francis of Assisi parish in Triangle is inviting you to "Take Another Look" without feeling pressure.



We will have a short, three night program at St. Francis of Assisi parish on Mondays, May 11th and May 18th and Tuesday, May 26th. Each night will begin at 7:00pm and last no more than 2 hours.

If you have an interest, please let us know by calling **Joe Mitcho at 703-967-9959**. We will send you more detailed information.

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Fran Phoenix, Lisa Sweeney, John Moretti, Jonathan Ottman, George Beck, Joan Matochik, and Annelies Gendron.

And for those recently deceased: Marian King (Mother of Dottie Gray); and Josephine Bost (Mother of Frank Edwards).

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way: Andrew Wagner, Tom Giraldi, Michael Beatty, Elizabeth L. Keegan, Stephen Hudson, James Moore, Jason Larson, Kyle McVay, Kyle Traylor, Kasey Eggle, Eustaquio Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

Enrollment for Vacation Bible School (VBS) is now open! VBS will be

June 22nd—June 26th from 9:00 am—12:30 pm in the Parish Center. It is

open to all children ages 4 years to entering 6th Grade. Kids come join us as we "trek" through Everest VBS, exploring one of the most majestic, beautiful (and

sometimes dangerous!) places on earth as we discover God's power and promises all along the way. Adults and teens—volunteer and join the fun! Do you have little ones (under 4 years) at home? They can join in the nursery as you volunteer. Registration and Volunteer forms are in the foyer at Church and also available on the website. Questions? **Please contact Sharon Gardner at gardners.vbs@gmail.com or the RE Office at 703-221-4978.** *The registration deadline for VBS is*

Sunday, May 26th.



Faith Formation Office
Phone: 703-221-4978 Fax: 703-221-3246
Office Hours:
Monday—Wednesday: **8:00 am—2:00 pm**
Thursday: **5:00 pm—6:15 pm**
Friday: **Closed**
Sunday: **8:45 am—12:00 pm**

Religious Education Calendar

May 10 **NO RE**—Happy Mother's Day
14 Thursday RE Session—Last RE Thursday
17 Sunday RE Sessions I&II—Last Sunday RE

To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others.

—Saint John Paul II

RE Registrations for 2015-2016 Catechetical Year

Registrations for next year were emailed on **April 27th** to all those families currently registered in the RE Program to begin registration for next year. **On May 26th** RE registration will be open to all new RE families. **Forms will be available in the back of the church and our website on May 26th.** Please begin to consider volunteering, we are in need of Catechists, Co-Catechists, Special Needs Catechists, Catechists Aides. **Please contact Marianne Hayes, DRE at 703-221-4978 or recoor@stfrncis.org.**

This weekend, we welcome our First Communicants to the Table of the Lord to receive their First Communion, a tangible experience of God's grace. What an important and joyful step in participating in the life of our faith community! Our sincere congratulations are extended to the First Communicants and their parents. It has been a pleasure serving your family during this very special time in your child's life. **Special thanks** as well to the catechists who gave the wonderful gift of their time to prepare them so well: **Deb Porter, Maggie Thombs, Anne and Ted Salas, Brigitte Kuzma, Jan Hefron, Carroll Connelley, Krista Scofield, Amy Knapp, Mary Sprague, Sally Haskovec and Mary Beth Naron.**



Centering Prayer—Tuesdays 12-1 pm

in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the church. **All are welcome.**

Open AA Step Study Group Friday night
Group meets 7-8:00 p.m. in the **Br. Juniper Room**.
Come study the 12 Steps to Recovery.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Deborah AR Dorney
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings for the Week of May 10, 2015

Monday Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26—16:4a
 Tuesday Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11
 Wednesday Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; John 16:12-15
 Thursday Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23 or
 Ephesians 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13;
 Mark 16:15-20
 Friday Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23
 Saturday Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28
 Sunday Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26;
 1 John 4:11-16; John 17:11b-19

If you are moving/changing your address, please notify the office so we can keep our records up-to-date. If you are changing your phone number because you are using a cellular phone and/or forgoing your land phone, the office would also like that information. Please call us at 703-221-4044. Thank you.



Around the Diocese

Support Group Evening for Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse—Bishop Loverde cordially invites victims and survivors of sexual abuse and their spouse or support person to a support group meeting on **May 18th at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean**. The evening is from 5:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It will consist of a light meal, group discussion, followed by a prayer service. Due to the nature and sensitivity of the subject, this event is for victims and survivors and a spouse/support person only. **Please RSVP by May 14th to the Office of Victim Assistance at 703-841-2530.**

Are You a New and Expectant Mother Looking for Help During this Joyful and Sometimes Apprehensive Time? We have amazing mentors firmly rooted in Christ, who have experience and wisdom. Whether you are a new mom or just moved to the area, they want to offer you friendship, encouragement and support. **For more information about our mentoring program, please call 703-841-3810.**

Volunteer Receptionist—Help with reception and administration at St. Martin de Porres Senior Center, in Alexandria. Welcome our seniors, answer our phone and help provide those who call seeking assistance with information and referrals. We have open positions during the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We ask that you work one 5-hour shift per week. Must love seniors and have a friendly, outgoing personality! **Please contact sodwyer@ccda.net.**



The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, May 12th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Clare Room**. All are welcome. **For more information, please call 703-221-2517.**

alleluia
Liturgies For The Week

SUNDAY, May—10th Sixth Sunday of Easter
 5:30 PM †Bill and †Marion Richmond
 †Joyce McVay
 †Giovannina and Gaetano Corvetto
 Joseph Carhart
 †Helen Harris
 †Elaine Louiselle
 †Loretta Fogliette
 7:30 AM †Peter Cameron
 †Harry W. Ravert, Sr.
 9:00 AM †Richard Riccardi
 †Flor Rodriguez
 †Teodosia Herrera
 †Vilma Zelvaggio
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 Katherine Gonsorcik
 10:30 AM †Viola Lopez
 †Fehrenbach and †Wright Families
 †Phyllis Dumoulin
 †Holly Mairena
 Ann Kastner-Clayton
 †Josephine Bost
 12:00 PM †Donna Bowman Olds
 †Eladio Elomina
 †Bernice and †Benedict Lonsky
 †Clara Kennedy
 †Maria Hofer
 †Anne Kennedy
 1:30 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM Mother's Day Novena

MONDAY, May 11—Easter Weekday
 8:45 AM Mother's Day Novena

TUESDAY, May 12—Easter Weekday
 8:45 AM Mother's Day Novena
 †Dolores Ittner
 †Harry Gilmore

WEDNESDAY, May 13—Easter Weekday
 8:45 AM Mother's Day Novena
 †Thomas and Beverly McClutchy
 †James F. Callahan, II
 †Pascuala Sanchez
 †Charles A. Deitz
 †Manuela Andaya
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

THURSDAY, May 14—Ascension
 8:45 AM Mother's Day Novena
 †Dick Murray

FRIDAY, May 15—Easter Weekday
 8:45 AM Mother's Day Novena

SATURDAY, May 16—Easter Weekday
 4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 PM Mother's Day Novena
 †James Lewis
 †Joyce Benedict