

From the Pastor's Desk

This past weekend 150 young people of our parish received the sacrament of Confirmation. It was a great celebration and we were honored to have Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Military Archdiocese preside. One of the requirements of the Confirmation program is that each candidate is asked to write a letter to me stating "what the sacrament of Confirmation meant to them" and "if they were ready to receive this sacrament." One letter "jumped" out at me!!! It was honest, frank and insightful. It expressed everything we strive to achieve through our Confirmation program. I was given permission to share the letter with you. As we celebrate Pentecost this weekend may we all find ourselves willing and able to say "I AM READY".

Dear Father Kevin,

First of all I'm gonna write this letter my way so it's probably not going to be proper and polished. (Just sayin') So my name is _____. I feel like I should explain... well my existence... So I am 13 currently but by the time you read this letter I'll probably be 14. I am a bit awkward and I have more sarcasm in my pinky than most people have in their entire beings. I have a horrible habit of cracking my knuckles and twirling my hair. I have too many little quirks to be considered cute, and.... We're supposed to be talking about confirmation aren't we? Sorry I tend to have a short attention span.... Anyway it says here that I should explain what the sacrament of Confirmation means to me. I guess it means that I'll be accepted into the church as a member. It means that I'll get to help people through other people and through the church. It means I get to have a closer relationship to God than I have now, it means the Holy Spirit can help me live life the way God would want me to live it.

Am I ready? No. Heck no. But you know what? I'm gonna do it anyway. You know why? Because *I* want to. *I* want to do this for me. Because if I wait and say I'm not ready then I have a strong feeling I'll never be ready. I'm nervous but then again everyone's probably is freaking out over this I mean it's a big step. So I'm gonna do it not for my family or for the church but for me because I want to be close to God and I want that relationship with him. So I guess in a way I **am** ready. I am ready to accept the sacrament and I am ready to have that connection that Relationship with God. **I am ready.**
Thanks for listening.



The Rosary Guild meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, May 26th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **Br. Juniper Room**. All are welcome. For more information, please call 703-221-2517.

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**.



This weekend is a joyous occasion here at St. Francis. We have commissioned 11 wonderful and dedicated people into the call of Stephen Ministry. After 50+ hours of training, retreats, role playing, prayer, scripture, and community, these fantastically gifted people are ready to rightfully take their place among us

in our St. Francis community as Stephen Ministers. They are very much needed as our ministry grows. Please welcome...

Cheryl Abon-Jones **Gavin Browning**
Peggy Fargo **Marianne Hayes**
Mary Kay Jones **Barbara Kazana**
Donna McCullough **Linda Schwartz**
Francia Salguero **Kate Steinfeld**
Dee Weikert

On behalf of all the Stephen Ministers and Friars we welcome you and wish all of you endless blessings.

Bible Basics

The Bible is the most important book any Catholic can own. What other book can bring us the *word of God*? With 73 books and more than 1600 pages, many Catholics find the Bible overwhelming, confusing, and even boring. Does this sound like you? Don't be afraid, you're not alone! Many people struggle to read the Bible because they have never been taught *how* to read it.

Join **Br. Casey** for an interesting and engaging look at the history, literature, theology, and social aspects of the whole Bible. Br. Casey will use videos, pictures, activities, and even humor to give every parishioner, young and old, the confidence to read the Bible on a regular basis. **Classes will meet on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm in the St. Catherine room, beginning on June 3rd and running through July 15th.**

Catholic Boot Camp

What does it mean to be Catholic? What is in the Bible? Who wrote it? When was it written? How did the Church form through key, historical time periods? What is behind what we believe as Catholic Christians?

Br. Casey will be addressing these topics and more on **Sunday afternoons at 3:30pm in the St. Catherine room, beginning on June 7th and running through July 19th.**

The Parish Office
will be closed on

Monday, May 25th

in observance of Memorial Day.



St. Francis House Corner



The St. Francis House Food Pantry Provided food for **68 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)

Our parish **Care for Creation Committee** is starting a **Parish Book Club** this summer **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! **Br. Casey is planning to be with us in our discussions.** Once the release date is set, we will provide more details. Please contact Rob ASAP to sign-up on our interest list.

June FA&A meetings (open to all!): Our parish **V.O.I.C.E.** team is meeting to discuss community issues on **Sunday, June 7th, at 10 a.m. in the Br. Juniper Room.** 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 on **Wednesday, June 10th, 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 on **Saturday, June 20th, at 11:45 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room.**

Foreclosure and bank accountability campaign celebration! **V.O.I.C.E.** (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) will celebrate the kickoff of the V.O.I.C.E. Prince William County Restoration Fund, bless the first rehabbed house in Georgetown South, and celebrate a \$1 million grant on **Sunday, May 31st, at 4 p.m. at the Georgetown South Community Center** (9444 Taney Road, Manassas, VA 20110). All are welcome!

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.

Senior Corner

Our **Cyber-Seniors** will hold their last class for the season, at the Hampton Inn on Route 234, on **May 28th.** Many heartfelt thanks to **Andrea Armstrong,** and her able assistant, **Sharon Eisenzopf,** for sharing their time and talent with us.



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.

Boletín Semanal

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales se realizaran el domingo, **junio 21 a las 10:00pm** 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.**

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 **68 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.

Misa de Pentecostés—El grupo de oración te invita a la misa de pentecostés el viernes, mayo 22 a las 6:30 PM en la Parroquia San Antonio de Padua. Localizada en 3305 Glen Carlyn Road. Falls Church, VA. Te esperamos.

Preparación Matrimonial—Invitamos a todas las parejas que deseen casarse por la iglesia a participar de las charlas de preparación matrimonial. Para más información por favor llamar al **Padre John Heffernan al 703-864-2053** o al Señor **Jesús Funes al 703-371-1420.**

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.

Centering Prayer—Tuesdays 12-1 pm
in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel
in the church. **All are welcome.**



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.

There is a book located in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel next to the Tabernacle for you to write your own prayers of petition. During the **Prayer of the Faithful** during weekend liturgies, an intercession will call to mind those prayers in a general way. In this manner, the public prayer of the church is bound to the many prayers of the faithful who live in the body of Christ!



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.

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Joan Matochik, Donna Stoyas, Celine Nebbia, Jim Kearns, Cheryl McNierney, Fran Phoenix, Lisa Sweeney, John Moretti, and Jonathan Ottman.

And for those recently deceased: Matthew McCabe; George Beck (Husband of Yvonne Beck).

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, Kyle McVay, Kyle Traylor, Kasey Eggie, Eustaquio Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

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 our last short night program at St. Francis of Assisi parish on Tuesday, May 26th. The night will begin at 7:00pm.

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

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 31st.**

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

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@stfrancis.org.**



The Christian community of St. Francis of Assisi welcomes with great joy the following new members of our parish baptized in the month of March:

*Grayson Julien Clark
Rose Elizabeth Flamenco
Mara Catherine Manaois
Lily Villa Medina
Hannah Mary Mosbarger
Donovin Michael Regis
Kalyann Nazary Reyes Beltran
Grace Maryanne Ryburn
Dominic Americus Sanchez
Kathryn Anne Tate
Madeline Reid Wine*

Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, June 14, 2015 from 1:15p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**

The Lion's Club has 2 donation drop boxes located on the window sill in the vestibule. Please consider donating your used eyeglasses to the Lion's Club. Your unwanted glasses will help someone see better. Thank you for always being so generous.



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Miro's Foreign Car Service** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

PENTECOST

Readings for the Week of May 24, 2015

Monday	Sirach 17:20-24; Mark 10:17-27
Tuesday	Sirach 35:1-12; Mark 10:28-31
Wednesday	Sirach 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17; Mark 10:32-45
Thursday	Sirach 42:15-25; Mark 10:46-52
Friday	Sirach 44:1, 9-13; Mark 11:11-26
Saturday	Sirach 51:12cd-20; Mark 11:27-33
Sunday	Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40; Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 28:16-20

ALL YOU IRISH LADIES.... NEW ORGANAZATION—THIS IS FOR YOU!!!

The Ladies of the Fr. Mychal OFM Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will meet at **10 am on Saturday, May 30th in the Br. Juniper Room....**(Room to left of the Parish office). Catholic females of 16 years of age or older and Irish or Irish descent you are welcome to join us. You may further seek admittance to the **FINEST Irish Catholic Organization in the World**—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.

Catholic Charities Thrift Shop



Looking for a New Job or Career?

Christians are Networking (CAN), a ministry sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, assists people who are unemployed or under-employed. This is also a tremendous resource for recent college graduates who are new to the job market. CAN provides free career counseling, skills in navigating today's job market, resume reviews, practice job interviews and networking opportunities. *CAN is offered at St. Theresa Church, Ashburn; St. Philip Church, Falls Church; St. Martin de Porres Senior Center, Alexandria; and at Epiphany Middle School, Culpeper.* For details, please go to our website: http://www.ccca.net/programs_jobs.php.

This spring, why not do some good while you clean by donating those unneeded gently used items to the Christ House Thrift Shop! *We welcome donations of in-season clothing, shoes, jewelry, donations of antiques, collectibles, housewares, and small pieces of furniture such as plant stands and accent tables.* **Please drop off donations any day of the week between 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. at 125 S. West Street in Alexandria.** Donating to our store supports our mission to help people in need within the community and throughout the 21 counties in the Arlington Diocese. **For more information, please visit: www.ccca.net.**

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PENTECOST

SUNDAY,	May—24th—Pentecost
5:30 PM	†Joyce Benedict †Paul Brady †John Bernard MacKinson †Frank and †Alice Furnari Joan Weber
7:30 AM	†Louis August Laffman Ronald and Cathy Hall
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Shirley Solonoski
10:30 AM	†Eladio Elomina
12:00 PM	†Alta and †Loyce Golden †Clara Kennedy †Paul Brady †Elaine Louiselle
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish
MONDAY,	May 25—Memorial Day
8:45 AM	†Mike Dowd
TUESDAY,	May 26—St. Philip Neri
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik Souls in Purgatory
WEDNESDAY,	May 27—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
THURSDAY,	May 28—Weekday
8:45 AM	†James Jakubowicz †Ann Dullard †Sanford Paul
FRIDAY,	May 29—Weekday
8:45 AM	R.J. Torrijos
SATURDAY,	May 30—Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mass Intentions on Sunday, May 31, 2015

5:30 PM	†Eladio Elomina †John F. O'Connor, Sr.
7:30 AM	Tina Lee
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †George Beck †Matthew McCabe
10:30 AM	†Alice Bernadine Maiello
12:00 PM	†Federico Casupang, Sr. †Gordon and †Wallace Moore †Clara Kennedy †Eileen Miller
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish

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.