

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Pope Francis made a statement last week that received a lot of media attention and has caused confusion and concern for some people. Pope Francis said that in the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy he was going to grant to all priests the ability to forgive anyone who came to them and confessed that they had an abortion. I was also confused by the Pope's statement because for over the 33 years that I have been a priest and hearing confessions I have granted absolution to those who sought it for having had an abortion. I have also received this past week a couple of phone calls from people who had gone to confession in the past and were now concerned that even though they went to confession that they were still in a state of sin because the priest didn't have the ability then to forgive them of that sin. To clear up this confusion and to reassure those who have previously received absolution I contacted the Bishop's office for clarification. Here is a statement from Bishop Loverde addressing this issue and providing clarification:

"With all of the Catholic faithful, I welcome Pope Francis' message of mercy, which has been a consistent theme of his pontificate since its outset, and to which he will draw heightened attention during the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy. The announcement that Pope Francis is extending the faculty to absolve the sin of abortion to all priests throughout the world during the Jubilee Year of Mercy again illustrates his profound commitment to making God's mercy ever more available.

Within the Diocese of Arlington, both my predecessor Bishop Keating and I have given our priests the ability to forgive the sin of abortion. I also want to reassure those who have already celebrated the sacrament of Penance that their sins, including the sin of abortion, confessed with a contrite heart are forgiven forever. Let us rejoice with all who experience the mercy and peace of God through the forgiveness of sins in the sacrament of Penance!

While Confession offers the necessary spiritual healing to those involved with abortion because of the gravity of the sin, there is also need for post-abortive healing, often so that one can forgive oneself. Project Rachel provides professional, sensitive, and confidential help to anyone in need. Please call **1-888-456-HOPE** or **703-841-2504**, or visit our website at [www.helpafterabortion.org](http://www.helpafterabortion.org)."



The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, September 22nd** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Clare Room**. All are welcome. For more information, please call **703-221-2517**.

Like Us  
On  
Facebook

Search: St Francis Church VA



## NOW WHAT?

Seek • Discover • Share

### Share: Through Prison Ministry

*For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me. (Matthew 25:35-36 NASB)*

Our parishioners volunteer through two, separate prison ministry programs. One supports imprisoned youth at the Woodbridge Juvenile Detention Center and the other supports adults through the Kairos program.

The **Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) ministry** is a witness to God's mercy. This ministry requires very little. Once a month we visit the Prince William County center for an hour of fellowship. We play games, work on craft projects and provide a positive message for their day. To hear their laughter and see how much they appreciate these little things is a great blessing. If you feel a call to be a source of encouragement for young people in a time of trial, join us! **Please contact parishioner Osvaldo DeCoo by email [Osvaldo.decoo@yahoo.com](mailto:Osvaldo.decoo@yahoo.com)**

**Kairos** is a Christian ministry designed for use in male and female medium-to-maximum security prisons. Volunteers visit designated prisons twice per year, over three-day weekends, and facilitate an intentional, structured flow of events which encourage participants to encounter self, God and others from a spiritual perspective. Central to the Kairos Program are ongoing, participant-led prayer/share meetings and monthly reunions that include all Kairos graduates. There are many ways to become involved, including: prayer, baking cookies, writing letters, making donations and joining a weekend team. Please Contact parishioners **Dennis Fargo at 703-472-5518** or **John Cipparone at 703-580-6406** or **603-512-9680** or visit [www.kairosva.org](http://www.kairosva.org).

Never underestimate the impact you can have on some else's life.

**Become a Stephen Minister** and find out how. All it takes is one phone call to get started. **Please call 703-221-4312 and then press 4** to talk with Kathy Walker.



**Votive Candles**—Envelopes are provided for the candle money. **Please place them in the Catch-All slot located in the vestibule of the church.**

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.**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE: FRANCISCAN ACTION AND ADVOCACY (FA&A)**

**Upcoming FA&A meetings** (open to all!): Our **Respect Life Committee** (advocating for the consistent ethic of life from conception to natural death) is meeting on **Saturday, September 19th, 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, September 20th, at 9 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper 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, October 11th, at 10 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**. Our **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting on **Wednesday, October 14th, at 7 p.m.** in the **Grade 6 Classroom**. Our **Franciscan Action and Advocacy Council (FAAC)** is meeting on **Saturday, September 19th, at 9:30 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**. (FAAC meetings are only open to council members. Parishioners are encouraged, however, to submit questions or ideas for FAAC discussion or consideration.)

**Video series on Catholic Social Teaching launches!** From the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: A video on "Care for God's Creation" is the first of a seven-part series on Catholic Social Teaching, designed to be an introduction to this body of thought with notable Catholics reflecting on each of the teachings (*Care for God's Creation; Call to Family, Community, Participation; Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers; Solidarity; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; and Rights and Responsibilities*). The video series is co-sponsored by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development of the USCCB. All videos (a new one released every three weeks) will be posted on CRS' YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSnXuCxiHXE>

**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](mailto:rgoraieb@stfrncis.org) or 703-221-4978, ext. 228.**

**Please Pray For** All those who are sick: Annelies Gendron, Katherine Gonsorcik, James Slakie, Paul E. Tekverk, Richard L. Laffman, Donna Stoyas, Barbara Angell, DiMarzio Family, Rice Family, Michael Creegan, Fran Phoenix, and Gizzy Slocum.

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

**Christ Centered Yoga** begins a 9-week session on **Tuesday, September 15th**. Beginner and Mixed Level classes are available. **Information can be found on the parish website or email/call Rita Evans at [breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com](mailto:breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com) and 540-270-0667.**



**St. Francis House Corner**

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **70** 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**

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

**Boletín Semanal**

**Charlas Bautismales**—Las próximas charlas bautismales se realizarán el **viernes, Septiembre 18 a las 7:15pm** en la librería de la escuela. (No habrán Charlas bautismales el mes de agosto) 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 **70** familias. En estos momentos nuestra despensa de comida está escasa de los siguientes alimentos:

- **Atún**
- **Fruta enlatada**
- **Macarrones con queso**
- **Espagueti**
- **Salsa para espaguetis**
- **Cereal**

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

**Pope Francis's Encyclical:**

"Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world."



*–Compiled by Chelsea Miller and Adam Petrizza from our parish Care for Creation Committee*

Our Women's Group will kick off the new school year on **Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00am – 10:15am in the Parish Center Dining Facility. Registration forms



are available in the church vestibule. Dues are \$20.00 for the year and an additional \$20.00 if you need child care. We will be studying the book, **The Power of a Praying Woman** by Stormie Omartian. The study explores how women can learn to pray for themselves and become the women they want to be. To participate, please purchase the workbook (available on Amazon for approximately \$14.00) and join us. If you require childcare, please contact **Mary Smith** at [errolmary@gmail.com](mailto:errolmary@gmail.com) to secure your spot.



### Kairos Asks for Your Support

The Kairos Program is a prison ministry, which involves screened volunteers visiting and interacting with those who are incarcerated. Its purpose is to build a Christian community internal to the prison. During October, two parishioners will visit Sussex I Correctional Center with one also visiting Greenville Correctional Center. You can assist our Kairos representatives in the following manner:

1. **Prayer.** Intercessory prayer is powerful—for those incarcerated as well as their families. Kairos asks for prayers that will be displayed in one of two methods: a *prayer chain* (i.e., a paper representation depicting people who have prayed/will be praying for those going through the Kairos weekend; and a *prayer wheel* (i.e., a clock depiction of 30-minute time slots spanning the Kairos weekend). Both visuals project the intensity of love.
2. **Cookies.** Each volunteer is responsible for bringing 100 dozen cookies—a metaphor for abundant love. These cookies are given to those involved in the Kairos Weekend as well as all the prisoners in each correctional center. As one released prisoner said, "There's a whole world in a dozen cookies."

After each Mass over the weekend of September 12th-13th, there will be a table for individuals to sign-up for prayers/pick-up recipes for making cookies since the prison environment has many restrictions. **You can deliver cookies to the parish office up to Monday, September 28, 2015.**

If you have any questions, please contact  
**Dennis Fargo at 703-472-5518 or**  
**John Cipparone at 703-580-6406 or 603-512-9680.**

### SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank  
**The Enchanted Florist**  
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

## Summer Hours

Faith Formation Office

Phone: 703-221-3127 Fax: 703-221-3246

Office Hours: **Monday—Thursday: 8:00 am—2:00 pm**  
**Friday: Closed**



### RE Registrations for 2015-2016 Catechetical Year

Registration is well underway for next year's Religious Education. Forms are available in the vestibule of the church and online (<http://www.stfrancis.org/Ministry/Religious%20Education-441-Home/>).

### Volunteers Needed

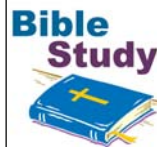
Be a Catechist! We are in need of Catechists for grades 1st-8th for our Religious Education Program. Please volunteer for this wonderful ministry. No experience is necessary, training will be provided and ongoing support will be available.



**Questions? Or for more information, please contact**  
**Marianne Hayes, DRE at 703-221-3127 or**  
[recoor@stfrancis.org](mailto:recoor@stfrancis.org).

### Parish Bible Study

Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come  
*By Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith*



*Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come* is an intriguing study that shows how the kingdom established by Christ in his Church is intimately connected with the kingdom of heaven. Here you will discover what the mysterious figures and images of Revelation mean. You will see how Revelation is more

than an apocalyptic vision of the "end times." It is a revelation of God as our Divine Bridegroom and the Church as his spotless Bride, forever united in a heavenly, holy, and mystical marriage that we enter into every time we celebrate the Mass.

Participants will:

- Learn the meaning of the mysterious figures and events in the book of Revelation.
- Discover how the Mass is really heaven on earth
- Learn about the Antichrist and his destruction
- See the Second Coming of Christ and the Final Judgment in the context of history
- Learn what will happen at the end of time and the establishment of a new heaven and a new earth.

**Sundays at 1:30-3:00 pm, starting September 13th in the St. Catherine Room.** For more information and to sign up, please contact **Brian Bobick** at [brianbobick@verizon.net](mailto:brianbobick@verizon.net).

**Baptismal Preparation Class**—Our next class will be held this **Sunday, September 13, 2015 from 1:30p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room.

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Readings for the Week of September 13, 2015**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Numbers 21:4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Timothy 3:1-13; John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 Timothy 4:12-16; Luke 7:36-50</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Luke 8:1-3</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; James 3:16—4:3; Mark 9:30-37</b>

**Save the Date, and Save your Stuff!**



Our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual **Francis Fest** is scheduled for **Sunday, October 4th from 1pm-5pm** on the parish grounds. Great food, activities for all ages, entertainment and camaraderie guaranteed!

Lots of assistance from parish members is needed to make the festival the great success it has been in past years. Here is what you can do to help:

- **Start setting aside your unwanted treasures and extra wine for the tag sale and wine wheel.** These two events are very popular and help to offset the cost of the festival. Look for further information in upcoming bulletins.
- **Volunteer to help the Francis Fest Committee.** The next planning meeting will be held this **Sunday, September 13th from 10-11am in the St. Catherine Room.**

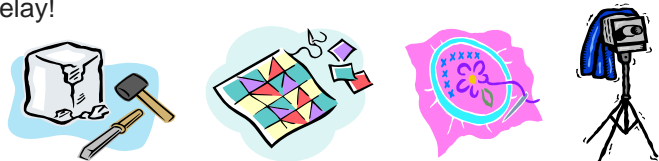
**Questions? Please call Maureen Deutermann: 703-203-2752.**

**55 and Over Craft Show**

**Are you 55 or over?** Do you do needlepoint, quilting, photography, stamping, painting, sculpting, sewing, stained glass, woodworking, or any other craft you would like to show off to the parish?

As part of our **Annual Francis Fest on October 4th**, we will again be having a 55 and Over Craft Show where you can present your crafts and sell them if you wish. We will provide the space, and ask only if you do choose to sell your craft, that you donate a portion of the profits back to the parish.

Each year the show has been more and more successful, and we would like to include even more crafters this year. **Please call or email Jeanne Mitcho with questions, or to request space at 703-670-8039 or [jcmitcho45@gmail.com](mailto:jcmitcho45@gmail.com).** Table space is limited so do not delay!



**Mass Intentions**

<b>SUNDAY,</b>	<b>September 13—24th Sunday In Ordinary Time</b>
5:30 PM	†Bill and †Marion Richmond
7:30 AM	†Sammie Milhouse †Diane Kizer
9:00 AM	†Daniel Yesko †Marion Yesko †Everett Newman †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik Katherine Gonsorcik
10:30 AM	†Fehrenbach and †Wright Families
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †George Beck †Elizabeth and †John Fitz Simmons Bill and Nelda Kastner
1:45 PM	†Fausto Rosero
5:30 PM	People of the Parish
<b>MONDAY,</b>	<b>September 14—Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b>
8:45 AM	†Jane Yancoskie †Clinton Roberson †Helen Harris
<b>TUESDAY,</b>	<b>September 15—Our Lady of Sorrows</b>
8:45 AM	†Ann Neumann Randazzo
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b>	<b>September 16—Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian</b>
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
<b>THURSDAY,</b>	<b>September 17—Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	†Margaret Curry
<b>FRIDAY,</b>	<b>September 18—Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	
<b>SATURDAY,</b>	<b>September 19—Weekday</b>
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Mass Intentions on Sunday, September 20, 2015**

5:30 PM	†David Kane
7:30 AM	†Joan Weber †Robert Randolph †Rita Kelly
9:00 AM	†Charles Hart †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Joseph Pennell
10:30 AM	People of the Parish
12:15 PM	†Don and †Joyce McVay †Clara Kennedy †George Beck †Claudina Wright †Gerald Bigalke
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Brian Dominic Kerns



**BE A FRANCIS-CAN  
NOT A FRANCIS-CAN'T**

