

From the Pastor's Desk

I am really excited to share with you that we have a new parish website designed and built specifically for us. It has been a project that we have been working on for the past 6 months. I really shouldn't use the pronoun "we" because I contributed very little to

the project. My contribution was in expressing to the staff my frustration and dissatisfaction with our old website and asking the question "what would it take to create a new website?" From that point on Lisa Ostendorf took control of the project and working closely with staff members Colleen Wells, Rob Goraieb, John Lilly, and Brandon Jubar they "went to town" and did the hard work that it took to make this new website a reality. We hired the professional services of Pam Muirheid, the owner of My Pawprint Productions, to design and build a new Wordpress website with multiple dynamic plugins. Pam lives in Triangle and her son goes to our St. Francis School.

Creating a new website is a complex undertaking because we wanted a website that would be simple to use and yet sophisticated enough to do all that we needed it to do. We also wanted a website that conveyed who we are as a parish. Not only would it provide the necessary information people would be looking for but it would also provide them with a sense of our vitality, warmth, inclusiveness, diversity and Franciscan spirit. I believe when you look at our new website, you will see the team did an awesome job in accomplishing all of this.

Back in February we did a survey as part of our Now What? campaign to determine how we could better serve you. The response overwhelmingly expressed a need for greater online communication. In a parish like St. Francis that is so active and whose parishioners come from far and wide communication is absolutely critical as it is in any good relationship. I am also excited about the potential for evangelization of our message to the public. We live in an area that is experiencing tremendous growth. Someone told me that over 3,000 new homes are going to be built in Stafford and the Potomac Shores development in Dumfries is moving at a brisk pace. All of this new construction will bring more people to live in our area, and they will be looking for a parish to join. My hope is that when they see our website they will come and check us out.

We are also unveiling a new parish logo this weekend. The design incorporates our unique Franciscan Spirit into a clean modern image. It is truly a visual representation of our identity as the relevant, welcoming parish that we strive to be.

When you visit www.stfrncis.org you will see a small box asking you to subscribe to our updates by providing us with your e-mail address. If you would do this, it would be so helpful!!! It will give us the capacity to communicate with everyone in the parish in a moment's notice. For example, when Francis Fest was cancelled we could have shot out a notice to you to let you know. So please sign up for our updates. To encourage participation in the sign-ups, we are going to have a drawing from the list of subscribers on Monday, November 9th for several gift certificates and for one lucky winner a specially prepared dinner at the friary. So, don't miss out on the drawing and the chance to win!!!!

It is okay to be scared. Being scared means you are about to do something really, really brave. Start a conversation with **Kathy Walker** to learn how a Stephen Minister will be there, by your side, never faltering in your scary times and beyond.

Please call 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email at kwalker@stfrncis.org.



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.stfrncis.org and let us know what you think! For any concerns, questions, or comments, please contact **John Lilly** at jlilly@stfrncis.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.stfrncis.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!

Follow us on:

Facebook: *St. Francis of Assisi Church*

Twitter: @StFrancisVA

Instagram: *stfrncischurchva*



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.

St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **66** 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 **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 **66** familias. En estos momentos nuestra despensa de comida esta escasa de los siguientes alimentos:

- Atún
- Fruta enlatada
- 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 who supported the parish's October Respect Life Month **Birthing baby bottle** fundraiser! If you have not already returned your bottle with change, cash or checks, please return them to the parish office as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Rob.

Attention runners/walkers! **Join the world's largest respect-life running/walking team!** Over 3,800 teammates, ages 1 to 101, in 50 states and 23 countries. Please sign-up at <http://www.liferunners.org/>.

Upcoming FA&A meetings (open to all!): 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, November 1st, 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, 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**.

Jubilee USA Network is an alliance of more than 75 U.S. organizations, 400 faith communities and 50 Jubilee global partners. Jubilee is building an economy that serves, protects and promotes participation of the most vulnerable. Jubilee has won critical global financial reforms and more than \$130 billion in debt relief for the world's poorest people. To learn more, please visit

<http://www.jubileeusa.org/home.html>.

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@stfrancis.org or 703-221-4978, ext. 228.

If you or a family member is in the **hospital or homebound**, please call the parish office if you would like a visit from a friar. The hospitals are not permitted to give out the names of patients, so the only way we will know if you are in the hospital is if you or a family member informs us.



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.

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 School is accepting applications for qualified people to work as substitutes in the classrooms, lunchroom, and the extended care program. If you are interested in becoming a part of the St. Francis team, please contact **Lisa Bongiorno** in the school office at bongiornol.sfas@gmail.com or 703-221-3868 for more details.



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@stfrancis.org.

Readings for the Week of October 25, 2015	
Monday	Romans 8:12-17; Luke 13:10-17
Tuesday	Romans 8:18-25; Luke 13:18-21
Wednesday	Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16
Thursday	Romans 8:31b-39; Luke 13:31-35
Friday	Romans 9:1-5; Luke 14:1-6
Saturday	Romans 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Luke 14:1, 7-11
Sunday	Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a

Oct. 25	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
29	Thursday RE Session
Nov. 1	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
5	Thursday RE Session
8	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
12	Thursday RE Session
15	NO RE—Thanksgiving Francis Fest
19	Thursday RE Session
22	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
26	NO RE—Thanksgiving Day Holiday
29	NO RE—Thanksgiving Day Holiday
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 Pray For All those who are sick: Steve Dowell, Gregory Dowell, Patricia Littlefield, Michael Creegan, Samantha Duda, and Annelies Gendron.

And for those recently deceased: Mary Stem (Mother of Sharon Slavinski); and Donna Stoyas.

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

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.**



****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

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.



**LIVE
SIMPLY**

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
Mary's Flower Shop
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

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.



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 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.

- **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!



The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, October 27th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Clare Room.** All are welcome. For more information, please call 703-221-2517.



Mass Intentions

SUNDAY,	October 25—30th Sunday In Ordinary Time
5:30 PM	†Bill and †Marion Richmond Arismendi Peña
7:30 AM	†Karen Lynn Elis
9:00 AM	†William Stein †Emily Kline Zufelt †Bui Thi Ne
10:30 AM	People of the Parish
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †B. Hugh Tovar †Marjorie Carroll
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Mary Stem
MONDAY,	October 26—Weekday
8:45 AM	
TUESDAY,	October 27—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Helen Bachik
WEDNESDAY,	October 28—Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
8:45 AM	†Vincent Griffo
THURSDAY,	October 29—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Deborah Jean McGrath †Eileen P. Lewin
FRIDAY,	October 30—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Thomas F. Mecca
SATURDAY,	October 31—Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mass Intentions on Sunday, November 1, 2015

5:30 PM	†Trevor Noonan Mary Halfhill
7:30 AM	†Ernie Gregory †Will Cannon
9:00 AM	†Flor Rodriguez †Teodosio Herrera †Vilma Zelvaggio
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



Lectors

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