

From the Pastor's Desk

As a parish, we strive to be the dynamic faith community that we are—a community that is truly a “beacon of the Lord’s presence. We cannot accept being anything less!

What is it that makes St. Francis so unique and so special? I believe it is our community’s willingness to **invest**. We have over 50 active ministries because so many volunteers are willing to invest their time and energy. We have so many young people involved in our religious education programs and youth ministries because we see them as our future and our support is seen as a wise investment. Over the years we have also invested in our facilities and our parking lot, which now provide us with the space we need to be such an active parish. Your generous support and investment in St. Francis over the years has paid big dividends, for which I am grateful.

We have four sources of income as a parish: Sunday and holy day collections, fees for programs offered, fees for services offered and the Annual Fund Appeal. I am writing to you today to once again to ask you for your support of our 2015 Annual Fund Appeal. To date we have had a good response to the Appeal but we are running a bit behind of what was contributed last year so this is why I am reaching out to you.

I need your support. Your gift can be paid over the year and if you misplaced your response envelope you can find extras in the vestibule of the church. No matter the size or amount of your gift, I hope you see it as your investment in helping us as a parish to continue being the dynamic faith community that we are.

For anyone who attended Francis Fest last weekend truly experienced first-hand the dynamic spirit of our parish. It was an amazing day!! We were blessed with a beautiful day and a great crowd of people. I walked into the Parish Center Dining Room and every table was full with people eating, talking and having a great time. I loved watching the kids enjoy themselves with all the amusements and games that were provided and the adults trying to wine a bottle of wine or some bake goods. Then there were all the “shoppers” looking for a good deal at the white tag sale. It was a great day because a group of dedicated parishioners worked hard to make it possible. We owe a huge THANK YOU to Maureen Deutermann who for years has chaired the Francis Fest Committee and keeps everyone’s “feet to the fire” in making sure that all the work gets done. Maureen would be the first to say that she would be lost without her team of volunteers, especially, her committee heads who were: Joanne and Bill Acree, Ann Tunney, Betty and Frank Chimento, Brandon and Gina Jubar, Chris Kohler, Dale Herdegen, Denise Kangas, Jeanne and Joe Mitcho, Jim and Mary Pat Toner, John Peitler, Maria McFet, Mary and Andy Peters, Patti Thompson. Plus Karl Stallknecht and Jim Mudd who volunteered their professional services all day gratis and the Knights of Columbus who were kept busy serving as the “grill masters”. All of these people deserve our deep appreciation and gratitude for making Francis Fest such a special event in the life of our parish.

This weekend, November 21st-22nd, there will be an olive wood sale here at the parish to support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Please consider purchasing one of these carvings. **They will be located in the Br. Juniper Room after all the Masses. Thank you!!**

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Michael Ryan, Michael Creegan, Hunter Harris, Katherine Gonsorcik, Nancy Brown, Celine Nebbia, Gizzy Slocum, Fran Phoenix, Annelies Gendron, Michael McLean, Clyde Richardson, Teresa Drapaeu, Bill Gucker, Steve Dowell, Gregory Dowell, and Patricia Littlefield.

And for those recently deceased: Frank Plati.

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, Eustaquiu Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

Save the Date: Steve Angrisano, a popular Catholic musician and composer, will be leading a three-part music and Advent Reflection series from **December 13th-15th at St. Francis.**



There is much to be thankful for. I for one am very thankful for Stephen Ministry. I am proud to serve with a wonderful group of men and women who give it their all whenever asked. I am glad that we have a pastor who had faith in this program to start it and continues to support us. And I pray for all the care receivers that have come forward for help. It was a big step and does not go unnoticed. Yes, there is much to be thankful for. We have Stephen Ministry in our parish! **Please call 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email kwalker@stfrncis.org for information.**



Best Advent Ever!

Mathew Kelly is returning to provide "The Best Advent Ever: Rediscover Mercy." If you liked Mathew's Best Lent Ever series, earlier this year, you will love his Advent program. This e-mail program will provide inspiring videos and spiritual coaching that will help to "transform your life, relationships, work and ability to genuinely embrace and experience life." (Dynamic Catholic) This program is free and will begin on **November 29th and run through December 23, 2015.** Log on to www.dynamiccatholic.com; at the top banner click on "Catholic Moments" and scroll down to Advent & Christmas where you will find further instructions to sign up. Get the most from your Advent experience with Mathew Kelly. **For more information, please contact John Habel, at jhabel@stfrncis.org.**

St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **80** 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)**

Hilda Barg Shelter

It is time again for St. Francis of Assisi Parish to assist in providing dinner for the families at the Hilda Barg Family Shelter in Woodbridge, VA. We will be serving the week of **November 29th through December 5th**. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to serve. Sign-Up sheets and more information are available in the vestibule of the church. **For more details, please contact Francia at 703-221-6344 or calisa3@verizon.net.**

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 **80** 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, diciembre 18** a las 7:00pm en la librería de la escuela . Para mas información por favor llamar a la Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.

Misa En Honor a Nuestra Señora Virgen de Guadalupe

Los invitamos a la celebración a Nuestra Señora Virgen de Guadalupe. El sábado, Diciembre 12 a las 7:00pm en la iglesia. Para mas información por favor hablar con el padre John Heffernan.



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

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

Appreciation and blessings to all who participated in our Birthright baby-bottle fundraiser! We were able to send Birthright a total of \$2,220.07 (as well as bring them some items that were donated)! Thank you to all: *parishioners, our Respect Life Committee (extra special thanks to Josee Turner), Fr. Kevin, ushers, and parish staff, especially Barbara Stouffer who sorted all the change!*

The 2016 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering will take place from **January 23rd-26th in Washington, D.C.** The theme of this gathering takes inspiration from the encyclical *Laudato Si'* and Pope Francis's call for an integral ecology that connects justice for our sisters and brothers with care of all creation. More than 500 Catholic leaders will gather to lift up their voices in the public square and to step forward in faith for justice, peace, and the common good. For more information, please contact Rob.

Upcoming FA&A meetings (all are welcome!): Our **Care for Creation Committee** (focused on environmental work/ integral ecology) is meeting **this 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**. Our **Respect Life Committee** (advocating for the consistent ethic of life from conception to natural death) is meeting on **Saturday, January 16th, at 11:45 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**. Our **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting on **Wednesday, January 20th, at 7 p.m.** in the **Grade 6 Classroom**. Our **Franciscan Action and Advocacy Council (FAAC)** is meeting on **Saturday, January 16th, 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.)*

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.stfrncis.org/welcome-introduction/>) and/or contact Rob Goraieb, O.F.S. at rgoraieb@stfrncis.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, December 3rd, at 7 pm in the Br. Juniper Room**. For more information, please contact Fr. Kevin Downey at **703-221-4044**.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Christ the King (Religious Book and Gift Store)** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Discovering Christ is a ministry designed to help us get to know Jesus a little bit better. Each session will begin with dinner and some time to unwind from the week and get to know each other. We will listen to presentations on topics such as: "What is the Meaning of Life?"; "What Does Jesus Want Us to Know?" and "Who is the Holy Spirit?" During the last part of the session, we will spend time talking about these topics, what they mean to us and how they relate and apply to our own lives. By sharing our experiences and insights, we will all get to know Him a little better.

discovering
CHRIST
a seven-week experience

Please join us for the next session which will begin meeting on **Friday, January 8th**. *The meetings will take place each Friday night up to and including February 26th with a Holy Spirit retreat day on Saturday, February 13th*. Please contact **Sheila Noble** at snoble@stfrncis.org if you would like to register or have any questions.

Mission 2016

Join St. Francis Parishioners in July 2016 on a journey to our Sister Parishes in Lima, Peru. **Departs Sunday, July 3rd and Returns Monday, July 11th**

- Applications and deposit of \$100 now being accepted. The final date for receipt of applications is Dec 31, 2015.
- Fee includes airfare, lodging, most meals and local transportation.
- Full payment (\$1,600) is due by Jan 31, 2016
- Applications are available on line at (<http://www.stfrncis.org/sister-parish-in-peru/>) and next to the Sister Parish section of the church bulletin board.

Questions? Please call: Terry Danner at 703-680-0860/terrydanner@verizon.net or Clarence Thompson at 703-680-4657/clarencethompson@verizon.net.



Thanksgiving 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament!

Attention all athletes aged 8 to 68 who can dribble and shoot a basketball! Come participate in the Third Annual Thanksgiving 3 on 3 Basketball

Tournament! **It will start at 9 AM on November 28, 2015 at the St. Francis school gym.** Teams of up to four may be formed, and each team will play at least three games. **Teams may be sponsored for \$50 and all proceeds from this event will be donated to St. Francis of Assisi School.** We have donated over \$1,500 to the school since our first tournament in 2013. For further details, please contact either **Dr. Ken Dunn** at dunnkd@comcast.net or 540-657-9006 or **Kevin Horwath** at kev89@comcast.net or 703-508-0294.

ST. FRANCIS MEN'S GROUP

Our group has been meeting monthly from September through May for several years. This year **Fr. John O'Connor, OFM** is our moderator. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday November 24th at 7:30PM in the Br. Juniper Room**—Our topic will be: Incidents of Mass Gun Violence—What can we do to lessen them in our society? All men of the parish are welcome. **For more information please contact Tony Mercogliano at amercogliano@gmail.com or 571-332-7048.**

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.**

Nov. 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 note the change in the RE Calendar: November 15th Sunday RE was 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 24th 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 4 years 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 under the RE page. Rehearsals are mandatory. For more information, please call the RE Office at 703-221-4978 or email recoor@stfrncis.org.



Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, December 13, 2015 from 1:30p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

Readings for the Week of November 22, 2015

Monday Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Daniel 3; Luke 21:1-4
 Tuesday Daniel 2:31-45; Daniel 3; Lk 21:5-11
 Wednesday Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28;
 Daniel 3; Luke 21:12-19
 Thursday Daniel 6:12-28; Daniel 3; Luke 21:20-28
 Friday Daniel 7:2-14; Daniel 3; Luke 21:29-33
 Saturday Daniel 7:15-27; Daniel 3; Luke 21:34-36
 Sunday Jeremiah 33:14-16;
 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2;
 Luke e21:25-28, 34-36



Lectors

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



The Rosary Guild meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, November 24th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Catherine Room**. All are welcome. For more information, please call Otella Cregan at 703-221-4692.

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 weekend of **November 21st-22nd**. 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**.



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Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, November 22—Our Lord Jesus Christ The King
 5:30 PM Jessalyn Schneider
 †Mary Stem
 †Ralph Miller
 †Grace S. Moran
 †Martha Lizarralde Wilson
 7:30 AM People of the Parish
 †Earl and †Della Rayhel
 †Mary Stem
 9:00 AM †Flor Rodriguez
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †Peter Joseph Schwartz
 †Allen Myers
 10:30 AM †Fehrenbach and †Wright Families
 †Nichlas Stjernrup
 12:15 PM †Thomas and †Berverly McClutchy
 †Don and †Joyce McVay
 †Clara Kennedy
 †Gerald Bigalke
 1:45 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM All Souls Novena

MONDAY, November 23—Weekday
 8:45 AM †Thomas Byarski
 †John Bernard McKinnon
 Aida Rios

TUESDAY, November 24—St. Andrew Dung-Lac
 8:45 AM All Souls Novena
 †Michael and †Veronica Tokar
 Aida Rios
 †Germaine Craft
 †Robert Montgomery

WEDNESDAY, November 25—Weekday
 8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 Aida Rios
 †George W. Samson

THURSDAY, November 26—Thanksgiving Day
 8:45 AM †Patricia and †Michael Ryan
 †George Herrmann
 †Bernie Yvon
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 Aida Rios
 Michael Ryan

FRIDAY, November 27—Weekday
 8:45 AM Aida Rios

SATURDAY, November 28—Weekday
 4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 PM †Frank Piorkowski
 †Alice Piorkowski
 †Joseph Piorkowski

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.

