

### *From the Pastor's Desk*

On behalf of the entire staff of St. Francis, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generosity in providing gifts for the poor through the Giving Tree and to thank Francia Salguero and her volunteers for their hard work in organizing and distributing all of the presents. Lisa Ostendorf, the parish maintenance staff and all the volunteers who will be decorating the church this week to make it special for Christmas we owe a big debt of gratitude. We can never thank the music ministry enough, under the direction of Nikole Girdali and assisted by Colleen Wells, for the wonderful music that began with the Festival of Praise Concert and will continue throughout all of our liturgies. Christmas is always crazy because we have so many "guests" who have a tendency to park where you usually park and sit where you usually sit. Remember we have a reputation as a parish that is a "Welcoming Community". May all of our "guests" have such a great experience that they will decide to come back again and not wait until Easter!!! Merry Christmas.

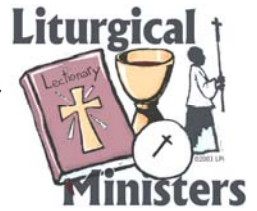
The Christmas Flowers were donated in memory of the following families: **Lienheiser and Sunday; Sayson; Giglio; Tarantino; Thomas; Lingad-Lim and Sinjian-Torrijos; France and Unger; Mecca; and McGrath and Acker.**



And the following individuals: **Pat and Catherine Reidy; Lori, Deirdre and Marc Oliver; Winnie Golden; Edward and Maura Reynolds; Francis G. Plati, Jr.; Irene and Ray Wagner; Stan and Florence Rezler; Jim and Betty Dart; Dan Morris; James Slakie; James Kubasiak; Joseph DeLash; John Morrissey; Gerard Egal; Thomas and Beverly McClutchy; Thomas and Ellen Sheehan; Charles and Betty Miller; Mary E. Hoover; Mr. and Mrs. John Tiano; Michael Amerine; Helen Baron; Jennie Fenton; Louis and Mary Gasper; John Francis Carpino; Laurence O'Brien; Don and Lydia Widener; SSGT. Nick Caboteja, Jr.; Dick Murray; Gaston and Zelmira Gianni; Audrey Jones; Lorenzo Manno; Marco and Candida Imbrlina; and Joe Imbarlina.**

A **Novena of Masses** will begin on Christmas Day and end on January 2nd. **SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS** are available on the tables in the vestibule. Please return the inside envelope to the catch-all slot

For all lectors, ushers, servers, and Eucharistic ministers who wish to serve during the Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day masses, the **sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the vestibule.**



### Mass Schedule

#### Christmas Eve (**NO** 8:45 a.m. Mass)

3:15 PM Children's Christmas Pageant in church  
Followed by **4:00 PM Children's Mass**  
(Children's Choir)

**4:00 P.M. – Mass in the gym** (Cantor)

5:45 Prelude **6:00 PM Children's Mass**  
(Children's Choir)

**6:00 PM Overflow Mass in the gym**

7:30 Prelude **8:00 PM Mass** (Teen Choir/Ensemble)  
**8:00 PM Spanish Mass in the gym**

9:30 Prelude **10:30 PM Mass** (Adult Choir)

**(No Mass at Midnight)**

#### Christmas Day

8:45 Prelude **9:00 AM Mass** (Cantor)

**10:30 AM Mass**

11:30 Prelude **12:15 P.M. Mass** (Ensemble in church)

**Dec. 26th**

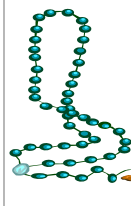
**5:30 p.m. Mass**

### Mass Schedule

December 31st 8:45 A.M.  
5:30 P.M.

January 1st 9:00 A.M.  
10:30 A.M.  
12:15 P.M. Misa en español

January 2nd 5:30 P.M.



The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. **There will NOT be a Rosary Guild meeting on December 22nd.** Please join us at the next scheduled meeting, on **Tuesday, January 12, 2016** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Clare Room**. All are welcome. **For more information, please call Otella Creegan at 703-221-4692.**

**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.



### PLEASE NOTE:

**December 22nd-25th – Parish Office is closed; will reopen on Monday, December 28th.**

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

**January FA&A meetings** (all are welcome!): 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 **Care for Creation Committee** (focused on environmental work/integral ecology) is meeting on **Sunday, January 17th**, at **9 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](mailto:rgoraieb@stfrncis.org) or 703-221-4978, ext. 228.

**Christ Centered Yoga begins multi-week sessions on Tuesday evenings starting January 5th and Saturday mornings starting January 9th.** Beginner and mixed level classes are available. Information can be found on the parish website or email/ call below contacts.



For the Tuesday class, please contact Rita Evans at 540-270-0667 or [breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com](mailto:breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com).

For the Saturday class, please contact Tracy Morgan at 540-446-9426 or [spiritualyogava@gmail.com](mailto:spiritualyogava@gmail.com).

**It is the Fourth Sunday of Advent.** Today we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath; the Peace candle. It is also called the Angel's candle. Reminding us that of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Towards Men". Is it hard finding good will this holiday season? Let a Stephen Minister work with you to look to the future and get the good feelings back. **Please call 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email Kathy Walker at [kwalker@stfrncis.org](mailto:kwalker@stfrncis.org) to get started.**



**St. Francis House Corner**

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **75** families this week. Because of the increase of families in need we are in need of:



- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Hamburger Helper or Dinner Helper
- Spaghetti
- Small/ Medium can or plastic jars Spaghetti Sauce
- Cereal
- Jelly

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

**Boletín Semanal**

**Charlas Bautismales**—Las próximas charlas bautismales serán el **viernes, enero 15** a las 7:00pm en la librería de la escuela. Para más información por favor llamar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

**Misa de Nochebuena**—Los invitamos a participar de la pastorela y misa de noche buena el jueves, diciembre 24 a las 8:00pm en el gimnasio de la iglesia. Ven y acompañanos.

**No Habrá Misa en Español el Día de la Navidad**—El Viernes, 25 de Diciembre **no** tendremos misa en español. Si usted desea asistir a una misa de Navidad tendremos misas en inglés a las 9:00am, 10:30am, and 12:15pm.

**Misa de Año Nuevo**—El Viernes, enero primero tendremos misa en español a las 12:15pm en la iglesia. Los esperamos!

**Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francis**—gradecemos a todos nuestros parroquianos por todas sus ofrendas a la Despensa de Comida; con sus donaciones pudimos ayudar a 75 familias. En estos momentos nuestra despensa de comida está escasa de los siguientes alimentos:

- Atún
- Fruta enlatada
- Macarrones con queso
- Espaguetis
- Salsa para espaguetis
- Cereal
- Canecas con vegetales
- Canecas con sopa

**Muchas gracias por sus donaciones.**



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

**End of Year Statements: Parishioners will be provided with a statement of their donations for 2015. Statements will be mailed by the end of January. It is not necessary to request a statement.**

### 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](mailto:recoor@stfrncis.org).

Christmas Break—December 20th-January 3rd. RE Class resumes on Thursday, January 7th.

*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. Please join us for the next session which will begin meeting on **Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**. *The meetings will take place each Friday night up to and including February 26<sup>th</sup> with a Holy Spirit retreat day on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.*

discovering  
**CHRIST**  
a seven-week experience

Please contact **Sheila Noble** at [snoble@stfrncis.org](mailto:snoble@stfrncis.org) if you would like to register or have any questions.

#### Readings for the Week of December 20, 2015

Monday	Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45
Tuesday	1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46-56
Wednesday	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66
Thursday	2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Friday	Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
Sunday	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

### CORNERSTONE

St. Francis of Assisi, Triangle, VA

**Are you looking for the perfect gift for your loved one?** Why not give them a Cornerstone retreat experience to step out of their normal routine and examine their relationship with God and meet others in our Christian community. During the retreat they will discuss those things that matter most with reflection and prayer, Scripture readings, group discussions and so much more. Online registration began December 13th for the men's retreat and will begin January 4th for the women's retreat.  
<http://www.stfrncis.org/cornerstone/>

**Men's Cornerstone retreat:** March 11th at 5:00pm—March 12th at 7:00pm (\$120 for double room and \$140 for single room).

**Women's Cornerstone retreat:** April 8th at 5:00pm—April 9th at 7:00pm (\$120 for double room and \$140 for single room).

#### Coming Home this Christmas

**season...** To those of you who have been away, we are happy that you have come to our Christmas celebration. If something in you says that you would like to talk about reconnecting, **please call Joe Mitcho at 703-967-9959**. We would love to hear from you! Peace to you during this beautiful season.



**Please Pray For** All those who are sick: Fran Phoenix, Gizzy Slocum, Clyde Richardson, G.C. Kraus, Teddy Placek, Annelies Gendron, Steve Dowell, Gregory Dowell, Patricia Littlefield, and A.A. McGill.

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

#### 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 began on **November 29th and will run through December 23, 2015**. Log on to [www.dynamiccatholic.com](http://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](mailto:jhabel@stfrncis.org).**

#### SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**SUNDAY, December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent**

5:30 PM †Angie Santella  
 7:30 AM †Helen Fay Swartzbeck  
 †Francis X. Cotterall  
 9:00 AM †George Beck  
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik  
 †Edwin Philipps  
 †Deirdre Jett  
 †Katherine Gonsorcik  
 †Edward Frey Delaney  
 10:30 AM †Fehrenbach and †Wright Families  
 †Paula Johnson  
 †Louis Gentile  
 †Henry and †Lola Troidl  
 †Lorraine and †Daniel Cammeleri  
 †Diane Fenz  
 †Maura Domingo  
 12:15 PM †Don and †Joyce McVay  
 †Clara Kennedy  
 †Gerald Bigalke  
 †Felina Corpuz  
 †Ines Reynel  
 †Federico C. Casupang  
 †Lucia Tornes  
 †Solpecio Tornes  
 †Mary Rozon  
 1:45 PM Misa en español  
 5:30 PM People of Parish

**MONDAY, December 21—Advent Weekday**

8:45 AM Souls in Purgatory

**TUESDAY, December 22—Advent Weekday**

8:45 AM †William Don Boyle

**WEDNESDAY, December 23—Advent Weekday**

8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

†John Bernard McKinnon

**THURSDAY, December 24—Advent Weekday**

8:45 AM **NO MASS**

4:00 PM †Bill and †Marion Richmond

(GYM)

†George Herrmann

†Joseph Podeszwa

†Christopher Hrabsky

†John Morrissey

†Gerard Egal

†John M. Egal

†John F. and Fran Egal

6:00 PM †Patricia and †Michael Ryan

†Joseph and †Julia Flood

†Deborah Jean McGrath

(GYM)

6:00 PM People of the Parish

8:00 PM †Frank Piorkowski

†Alice Piorkowski

†Joseph Piorkowski

†Marian Valeso

†Robert Ferenschak

†Bob Walker

8:00 PM Misa en español (GYM)

10:30 PM †Janet Sarsfield

**FRIDAY, December 25—Christmas Day**

9:00 AM Christmas Novena

†Mike Dowd

†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

10:30 AM †Brian Kerns

†Peter Joseph Schwartz, Jr.

†Julia Williams

†Mary Simmons

12:15PM †Joyce McVay

†Clara Kennedy

†Maria Hofer

†Anne Kennedy

†John Kennedy

†James Cervenak

†Bill Kennedy

†Joseph Delash

**SATURDAY, December 26—St. Stephen**

4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation



**Mass Intentions on Sunday, December 27, 2015**

5:30 PM †Mark Norman Olds

†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

†Paul Krieger

†Catherine Selepak

†George Selepak

†Susan Rasnak

†Matthew S. Nolta

7:30 AM †Robert E. Williams

†Lee Dixon

John and Janice Wagner

†Helen Fay Swartzbeck

9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

10:30 AM †Mary Stem

†Maura Domingo

12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy

†Loretta Garzke

†Naldo Ponsi

†Robert Ferenschak

1:45 PM Misa en español

5:30 PM Christmas Novena

*Christmas Blessings*