

## From the Pastor's Desk

There are some things we will never learn on our own. We only learn them in community. To grow and develop our potential, we must learn from other people. For instance, you can only learn forgiveness in relationships. You can't learn that on your own. You can only learn loyalty in relationships. You can only learn love in relationships. You can't learn kindness or faithfulness or graciousness or unselfishness without others. In fact the most important things we need to learn in life require that we be in relationship with other people. We can't do it on our own. If we want to build our potential, we must learn from others. Where is the best place to do that? I believe the best place is in the family of God; in the Body of Christ; in the church. We need the people God has placed in our life. And they need us! God wired us to need each other and to learn from each other so that we can become the man or woman God created us to be.

The challenge I feel people encounter being in a "large parish" like St. Francis is how to find a way to meet other parishioners so that they can establish relationships that will help them grow and achieve their potential as a Disciple of Christ. The staff and I recognize this "challenge" and it is the reason why we are promoting and asking you to join a small faith sharing group for 5 weeks during Lent. It will provide you an opportunity to grow in your faith and to deepen your relationships with old and new friends. It will connect you with others in the parish and help you to build relationships that are essential in our lives as Disciples of Christ. Jesus never meant for us to make this journey alone but in community. He never sent his apostles out on the road alone but always in twos. We need each other as much as we might not like to admit it!!!

Lent is a time where traditionally we "give something up". When I was a kid whatever we gave up had to "hurt" in some way or another. For example, I wasn't allowed to give up cooked carrots because there was no pain involved. The thinking back then was "no pain no gain!" But did giving up candy or ice cream make me a better disciple or improve my relationship with Jesus? No!! But joining a small faith group will. So this year do not give up something but instead join a small faith sharing group. You won't regret it.

We need people willing to be a host for a small faith group. All that we would expect from a host is that you would invite people you know, such as, friends, neighbors and parishioners to join you in your home. There you will watch a DVD and have a conversation that will be guided by a booklet that we will provide. It is an awesome experience and sometimes life-long friendships are made. Please consider either hosting or joining a small faith sharing group this Lent. Go to [www.stfrancis.org/small-groups](http://www.stfrancis.org/small-groups) to sign up to be a host.

**U.S. Calamities Special Collection—There will be a 2nd collection this weekend (January 23rd-24th)** for the severe storms that occurred in December 2015 and January 2016. These storms have impacted states in the South and Midwest regions of the country.

The funds collected in this one-time special appeal will be used to support the relief efforts of Catholic Charities USA, the official domestic relief agency of the U.S. Catholic Church. Catholic Charities USA, with their member agencies, respond to immediate emergency needs like water, food, shelter, and medical care. **Thank you for your support.**

**St. Francis of Assisi Elementary, Middle and Preschool will host an open house** for new prospective families on **Sunday, January 31st at 1:15 pm.** Please plan to join us for a tour of our facility and to meet our wonderful teachers. **For admission questions, please contact Lisa Bongiorno at 703-221-3868.**



**Called & Gifted Workshop**—Lent is a great time to reflect on how Pope Francis is calling us to bring Mercy to the world around us. One way we can do this is through our charisms, or gifts of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to learn more about these gifts, mark your calendar for **February 12th-14th** for the next Called and Gifted Workshop at St. Francis. The workshop will start on Friday night and continue with sessions on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

**Charism Discernment**—For those parishioners that have already taken the workshop, we invite you to attend a five week small group discernment program aimed at helping you sharpen your awareness of your charisms. These sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings from **February 24<sup>th</sup> through Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**For more information on both programs, please watch the bulletin, visit the parish website, or contact Bill Sydow at [billsydowjr@yahoo.com](mailto:billsydowjr@yahoo.com).**



**St. Francis' Cub Scout Pack 1385 and Boy Scout Troop 138** will be holding their 3rd annual **Undie Sunday** to collect [mens and/or womens underwear \(new-still in the unopened package please\)](#). Boxes will be located in

the vestibule for your generous contributions of these items (underwear, thermals, t-shirts, socks, etc.) on **Scout Sunday, February 7, 2016.** These clothing items will be delivered to those in need at the Bill Mehr Drop-In Shelter.

**"The secret to change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."**—Socrates. Need help with building a better future? A

Stephen Minister is a trained lay minister to help you talk through and listen to you as you work towards a better future. **Please call Kathy Walker at Stephen Ministry; 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email at [kwalker@stfrancis.org](mailto:kwalker@stfrancis.org) to get started.**



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

**February 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, February 7th**, 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, February 17th**, 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, February 20th**, 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, February 21st**, at **9 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**. Our **Franciscan Action and Advocacy Council (FAAC)** is meeting on **Saturday, February 20th**, 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.)

**Bread for the World** is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision-makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ, they advocate for a world without hunger. To learn more, please visit <http://www.bread.org/>.

**Franciscan Mission Service** prepares and supports lay Catholics for two-year international, one-year domestic and 1-2 week short-term mission service opportunities in solidarity with impoverished and marginalized communities across the globe. To learn more, please visit <http://franciscanmissionservice.org/>.

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.stfrancis.org/welcome-introduction/>) and/or contact Rob Goraieb, O.F.S. at [rgoraieb@stfrancis.org](mailto:rgoraieb@stfrancis.org) or 703-221-4978, ext. 228.

**Could not find the perfect Christmas gift for your friend?** Why not sponsor someone for the next Cursillo weekend? This is a weekend opportunity to get closer to Christ, and share in the Catholic community. **The women's weekend will be held March 3rd-6th**, at San Damiano Retreat Center at White Post. **The men's weekend will be April 21st-24th** at Missionhurst.

If you are interested in more information, please call **Pequette Schwerin** at 703-590-8492 or email at [wislady@comcast.net](mailto:wislady@comcast.net). You can also access the website at [arlingtoncursillo.org](http://arlingtoncursillo.org).



**Many Members One Body**, a support group for gay and lesbian Catholics and their families, will be held on **Thursday, February 4th**, at **7 pm** in the **Br. Juniper Room**. For more information, please contact Fr. Kevin Downey at 703-221-4044.

## St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **65** families this week. For more information about the **St. Francis House Food Pantry**, please call Francia at 703-221-6344. Thank you for your continuing support.



## Boletín Semanal

**Charlas Bautismales**—Las próximas charlas bautismales serán el **viernes, marzo 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.

**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 **65** familias. **Muchas gracias por sus donaciones.**

**Confirmaciones para Adultos en la Primavera en La Catedral de Arlington**—Si usted es mayor de edad y esta interesado en hacer la Confirmación, por favor venga a una de las reuniones de información que tendremos con el Padre John Heffernan en su oficina el domingo, **febrero 7 o domingo, febrero 14 a las 12:30pm**. Si no puede venir a ninguna de estas reuniones por favor llamar al **Padre John Heffernan** al 703-864-2053.

**Celebración de Matrimonios Colectivos**—Si usted esta interesado en casarse en la Celebración de Matrimonios Colectivos que tendremos en nuestra iglesia San Francisco de Asís por favor llamar al **Padre John Heffernan** lo mas pronto posible al 703-864-2053.

**Miércoles de Ceniza**—El Miércoles, **febrero 10** celebraremos el miércoles de Ceniza con una misa en español a las **8:00pm** en la iglesia.

**English Classes (Our Lady of Angels)**—We offer English classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays 7pm-9pm at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church (13750 Mary's Way Woodbridge, VA 22191). Registration for classes will be on January 26<sup>th</sup> and January 28<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-8:30pm. We offer six levels of classes. The cost is \$60 for the semester and includes the textbook. We only accept cash or money orders. For more information call **Hogar Immigrant Services** at 571-208-1572.

Se ofrece clases de inglés en la iglesia Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles—Ofrecemos clases de inglés los martes y jueves de 7pm-9pm. Inscripción para el nuevo semestre será el 26 y 28 de enero entre las 7pm-8:30pm en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora de los Angeles. Ofrecemos seis niveles de clase. El precio de estas clases es \$60.00 por 12 semanas e incluye el libro. Sólo aceptamos efectivo o giro postal. Si requiere más información, llame a **Hogar Immigrant Services** al 571-208-1572.

## 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

Religious Education has a [New Website Page!](#) Parents please check out the new Parish website at [stfrancis.org](http://stfrancis.org). Religious Education has a new page along with some new added features. We have a Parent Blog with insightful articles and we are on Pinterest! Please feel free to email me with Catholic resources that you have found helpful.

Email Marianne Hayes, DRE at [recoor@stfrancis.org](mailto:recoor@stfrancis.org)

Jan. 24	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
28	Thursday RE Session
31	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
Feb. 4	Thursday RE Session
7	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
11	<b>NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday</b>
15	<b>NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday</b>
18	Thursday RE Session
21	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
25	Thursday RE Session
28	Sunday RE Sessions I&II

### Project Bread for Life

On the weekend of **January 30th-31st**, our parish will host **Project Bread for Life**, a grassroots Catholic effort which sells bread in order to raise funds to support the work of the Sister of the Community of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. The Sisters operate the HIV/AIDS Orphanage and Clinic of St. Clare in Kltui and Meru in Kenya, Africa.



**Please Pray For** All those who are sick: Joseph Sheridan, Annelies Gendron, Anahel McGill, Patricia Littlefield, The Cooley Family, James Joseph, G. Kraus, Mike Creegan, Fran Phoenix, Clyde Richardson, and G.C. Kraus.

**And for those recently deceased:** Thomas Fogarty, Jr.; and Joan Glynn (Sister of Mary Battista).

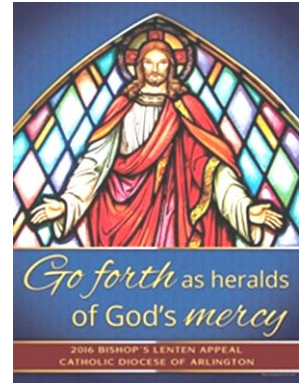
**Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way:** Ian French, Jeffrey Miller, Jeffrey Monken, James Moore, Kyle McVay, Kyle Traylor, Kasey Eggie, Eustaquio Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

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



## 2016 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL BEGINS!

This month many of us will receive a mailing from Bishop Loverde regarding the 2016 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA). The theme for the 2016 BLA is "**Go forth as heralds of God's mercy.**" After reflecting upon the many blessings that God has given you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge of support to this important appeal that funds many programs and ministries that serve the people in our diocese. **Every pledge is an expression of God's love and mercy!**



**Soccer Tournament at JP the Great** John Paul is hosting a 3v3 soccer tournament for middle and high school students on **February 20th**. Boys and girls, ages 10 – 19 are encouraged to register today! Form your own team, or become part of one for the day! For more information, and to register, please visit [www.jpthegreat.org](http://www.jpthegreat.org) or contact **Coach Beacher**

([angela.beacher@jpthegreat.org](mailto:angela.beacher@jpthegreat.org)) or call 703-445-0314.

### JP Baseball Clinic

Baseball players in grades 5 – 8 are invited to the annual Spring Training Baseball Clinic at JP the Great on **March 5th**. Athletes will learn the fundamentals of hitting, throwing, and fielding over the course of the clinic. For more information, and to register, please visit [www.jpthegreat.org](http://www.jpthegreat.org) or contact head coach **Bob.Czekaj@jpthegreat.org**, or call 703-445-0314.

### Readings for the Week of January 24, 2016

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5; Mark 3:31-35</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2 Samuel 7:4-17; Mark 4:1-20</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29; Mark 4:21-25</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mark 4:26-34</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13; Luke 4:21-30</b>

**Baptismal Preparation Class**—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, February 14, 2016 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 **Mountcastle Turch Funeral Home** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

**SUNDAY, January 24—3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 5:30 PM Special Intention  
 †Robert Patey  
 †Rosemary Hall  
 †John Bernard MacKinnon  
 7:30 AM †Richard Ardoin  
 †Kenneth Fohn  
 †Judy Cloy  
 9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik  
 †Eric Basil Phillips, Sr.  
 Special Intention  
 10:30 AM †Joseph Manno  
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy  
 †Manoj Pattni  
 1:45 PM Misa en español  
 5:30 PM People of the Parish

**MONDAY, January 25—Conversion of St. Paul**  
 8:45 AM

**TUESDAY, January 26—Sts. Timothy and Titus**  
 8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

**WEDNESDAY, January 27—Weekday**  
 8:45 AM †Thomas and †Ellen Sheehan  
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

**THURSDAY, January 28—St. Thomas Aquinas**  
 8:45 AM Souls in Purgatory

**FRIDAY, January 29—Weekday**  
 8:45 AM †Thomas Sheehy  
 †Helen O'Connor  
 †Laurence O'Brien

**SATURDAY, January 30—Weekday**  
 4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mass Intentions on Sunday, January 31, 2016

5:30 PM †Ernie Gregory  
 †Jerry Gerdauskas  
 †Santina Guilano  
 7:30 AM †Joan Rudge  
 †Melanie Southerland  
 †Judy Cloy  
 9:00 AM †Thomas Lenhard  
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik  
 †Thomas Fogarty, Jr.  
 10:30 AM People of the Parish  
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy  
 †Dan Morris  
 †Geroge Kaminski  
 †Bernard Vincent Moran, Jr.  
 1:45 PM Misa en español  
 5:30 PM †John, †Lynne, and †Nicole Belli

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 Twitter: @StFrancisVA  
 Instagram: *stfrancischurchva*



CALLING.....ALL YOU IRISH LADIES  
 by BIRTH OR MARRIAGE



Come by and see what is going on within our group! We would enjoy meeting you and having you JOIN us.

The Ladies of the Fr. Mychal Judge, O.F.M. Ladies Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians **will meet at 10 am on Saturday, January 30, 2016** in the **Br. Juniper Room**....room to left of the Parish office (sometimes we get moved to the St Catherine's Room by the Nursery). You must be: Catholic female of 16 years of age or older and Irish, Irish decent OR married to an Irish gentlemen, 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](mailto:jonesmk@aol.com).



**St. Brigid's Gala**—An evening of music, dance, and camaraderie, sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in honor of the Patroness of Ireland. This event is a fundraiser and all proceeds go to local charities. **The Gala will be held on February 6th at Our Lady of Angels in Woodbridge, VA from 6:30pm-11:00pm. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$25 at the door.** Please contact Barbara Dowd at 703-491-2622; Shirley Sullivan at 703-494-4578; or Alice Alexander at 704-497-7748 for tickets.

Valentine Dinner Dance



The Columbiettes are sponsoring **Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance on February 13, 2016**. This special dance will be held in St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center, 18825 Fuller Heights Rd., Triangle, VA 22172. **The cost is \$38 per person. Dinner will be served at 7 pm with dancing to follow.** Cash bar will be serving beer and wine. Please come and join us in this wonderful event. All profits will be going to Parish needs. Seats are limited. **Tickets will be sold after mass on January 30th-31st and February 6th-7th.** Please contact Irene Sullivan if you have any questions at [dan\\_irene@verizon.net](mailto:dan_irene@verizon.net).

CATERING  
 By Darlene