

From the Pastor's Desk

For us to become Disciples of Christ we need to mature and develop the characteristics of Jesus Christ but unfortunately for many of us we grow older but we never grow up. We are stuck in perpetual "spiritual infancy". The reason why we are stuck is because we never made a decision to grow up. Spiritual growth is not automatic. It takes an intentional decision and a commitment. You have to want to grow, you have to decide to grow, you have to make an effort to grow, and you have to persist in growing. Discipleship—the process of becoming like Christ—always begins with a decision.

Jesus calls us, and then we need to decide if we are going to respond to His invitation or not. "Come, be My disciple", Jesus said to Matthew. So Matthew got up and followed Him. When Matthew and the first disciples chose to follow Jesus, they didn't realize or understand all the implications of their decision. They simply decided to accept Jesus' invitation. That is what we need to do to get started in becoming a Disciple of Christ. We need to decide to become a disciple—to answer His call and then be committed to what it will demand of us.

My spiritual director years ago said to me that nothing shapes your life more than the commitments you choose to make. Our commitments can develop us or they can destroy us, but either way, they will define us. He said to me: "tell me what you are committed to, and I'll tell you what you will be in twenty years". We become whatever we are committed to.

To become a Disciple of Christ requires us to make a decision and a commitment. Many of us are afraid to commit to anything and just drift through life. Others make halfhearted commitments to competing values, which leads to frustration and mediocrity. Others make a full commitment to worldly goals, such as becoming wealthy or famous, and end up disappointed and bitter. Every decision we make has consequences not only here-and-now but eternally, so we need to decide wisely.

Becoming a Disciple of Christ is the result of making a decision and then making "Christ-like" choices. Once we decide to get serious about becoming a Disciple then we will need to begin to act in new ways. We will need to let go of some old routines, develop some new habits, and intentionally change the way we think. We can be certain that the Holy Spirit will help us make these changes for our spiritual growth is always a collaborative effort between us and the Holy Spirit. So we need to ask ourselves: **Have I decided to become a Disciple of Jesus Christ? Will I make this commitment?** My hope and prayer is that everyone in the parish will say YES and be committed to pursue this goal. As a parish of committed Disciples we will truly make a difference in our world!!

Franciscan Action and Advocacy

For those who do not know, our parish is honored to be a certified **GreenFaith Sanctuary** (<http://www.stfrncis.org/green-faith/>). We have an active **Care for Creation Committee**. If you have a passion for addressing environmental/green issues in a way that is educated, sensible, and Gospel-based—bringing awareness, getting involved in efforts, legislatively, etc.—consider attending/visiting the committee's next meeting on **Sunday, June 12th, at 9 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to read Pope Francis's encyclical that speaks to the environment/ecology, *Laudato Si'* – email Rob for a digital copy.

Upcoming meetings: Our **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting on **Wednesday, June 8th, 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, June 18th, at 11:45 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**. Our **Franciscan Action and Advocacy Council (FAAC)** is meeting on **Saturday, June 18th, 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.)

Our parish/Anti-Human Trafficking Committee is honored to now be an official partner of the **Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Initiative** (NOVA HTI). NOVA HTI is a 501(c)3 faith-based organization whose mission is to connect the local community with those on the frontlines to eradicate human trafficking. Their strategy is networking, serving, praying, and creating awareness to mobilize the local Church and community to make a difference in their own neighborhoods. For more information, visit <http://www.novahti.com/>.

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 703-221-3127, ext. 228.

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



**The Parish Office
will be closed on
Monday, May 30th
in observance of
Memorial Day.**

Boletín Semanal

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 **60** familias. En estos momentos estamos necesitados de:

- Espagueti
- Salsa para Espagueti
- Pasta

Muchas gracias por sus donaciones. Para mas información contactar a la Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español serán las siguientes fechas: Viernes, Junio 17.

Las charlas bautismales son a las 7:00pm en la librería de la escuela. Para más información por favor llamar a la Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.

Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones—las inscripciones para la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones (VBS) están abiertas! VBS se celebrará del 20 de junio al 24 de junio, desde las 9:00 am-12:30 pm en el Centro Parroquial. Las inscripciones están abiertas a todos los niños de 4 años para entrar en sexto grado. Adultos y adolescentes voluntarios ven y únete a la diversión! Las inscripción y formas de voluntariado están en el vestíbulo de la Iglesia y también en nuestra pagina de internet. Para mas información por favor contactar a la oficina de **ER 703-221-4978 o Sharon Gardner al gardners.vbs@gmail.com.**



Comida Para Recaudar Fondos Para Los Damnificados del Terremoto en Ecuador:

El Ministerio Hispano los invita a la comida para recaudar fondos para Los Damnificados del terremoto en Ecuador. Ven acompañanos y ayuda a nuestros hermanos ecuatorianos. La comida será el domingo, junio 26 de 11:00am a 4:00pm en el comedor de la iglesia. Los organizadores sugieren una donación de \$15.00 por adulto. Para mas información por favor llamar al **Señor Felipe Umaña al 571-238-0397.**

There is a reason your windshield is bigger than your rearview mirror... Where you're headed is much more important than what you have left behind. Please call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email kwalker@stfrancis.org** for a Stephen Minister to help keep you on the right track and moving forward.



Follow us on:

Facebook: *St. Francis of Assisi Church*
Twitter: *@StFrancisVA*
Instagram: *stfrancischurchva*



St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **60** families this week. Because of the increase of families in need We are in need of:

- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta

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



When Did I see You Hungry, Lord?



St. Francis has pledged to provide Saturday breakfast to the Drop-In Shelter in Woodbridge from April to October and we are in **dire need** of your help. Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the

vestibule. **For more information, please contact Francia at 517-572-5862 or calisa3@verizon.net.**

The Hispanic Ministry is hosting a fundraiser lunch to help victims of the devastating earthquake in Ecuador. The lunch will take place on **Sunday, June 26th from 11:00am-4:00pm in the Parish**

Center Dining Facility. Organizers are suggesting a \$15 donation per adult. For more information, please contact Felipe Umaña at 571-238-0397.



Many Members One Body, a support group for gay and lesbian Catholics and their families, will be held on **Thursday, June 9th, at 7 pm in the Br. Juniper Room.** This will be the last meeting until September. For more information, please contact **Fr. Kevin Downey at 703-221-4044.**

Mission 2016 Vitamin Campaign

Our Missioners traveling to Peru in July will again be carrying prenatal and children's vitamins for the parish medical clinics at Santa Ana and in the Pastoral Zone. The children of the "Squatter Towns" suffer greatly from the developmental effects of poor nutrition. Children's vitamins are expensive and hard to obtain in Peru.



- \$10 provides prenatal vitamins for an entire pregnancy.
- \$15 provides a child with vitamins for a year.

Donations of any amount would be appreciated.

Envelopes can be found on the bulletin board on your right as you leave church.

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

Have a Blessed Summer!

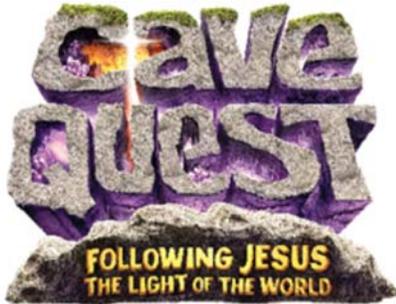
Classes will resume again in September.

Enrollment for Cave Quest Vacation Bible School (VBS) is now open!

VBS will be held **June 20th—June 24th** from **9:00 am-12:30 pm** in the Parish Center. It is open to all children ages 4 years to entering 6th Grade.

Adults and teens—volunteer and join the fun! Do you have little ones (under 4 years) at home? They can join in the nursery as you volunteer.

Registration and Volunteer forms are in the foyer at Church and also available on the website.



The registration deadline is Tuesday, May 31st.

Questions? Please contact RE Office at 703-221-4978 or Sharon Gardner at gardners.vbs@gmail.com.

Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, June 12, 2016 from 1:30p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Clyde Richardson; Jorge Rios; Betty Pacheco; Amalia Carballo; Julie Ocasio; Margaret Renfro; Teddy Placek; Annelies Gendron; and Elena Brazil O'Donnell.

And for those recently deceased: Gene Montague (Husband of Lisette Montague); Jackson McGuire (Great Grandson of Gene and Laurie Zeiszler); and Yvette Davis (Wife of Steven Davis).

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

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Reeds Handyman Services
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Basketball Camp:

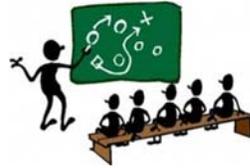
Date: **June 27th - July 1st**
Time: **8:30am - 3:30pm**
Place: **St. Francis Gym**
Cost: **\$100.00**

For registration please go to www.stfas.org, tab school life, sports, sports forms.



Coaches needed for school year 2016—2017

Cheerleaders: 3rd—8th grade girls and boys
Basketball: 4th grade girls and boys (2 teams—non-coed)
Basketball: High School—Church team



Questions? Please contact:
Terry DeVito—Sports Director at
devitot.sfas@gmail.com or
540-752-0492

St. Francis Youth Ministry is open to all High School teens. Here is what is happening soon:

NO Youth Group: Sunday, May 29th
Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

GRADUATION Mass and Reception

Who: All Graduating Seniors

Date: Sunday, June 5th

MASS: 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Reception: 6:30 – 7:30 PM in the Parish Center Dining Facility.

Graduates will be called up during Mass and given a blessing. There will be a reception with light refreshments immediately following the Mass.



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Father's Day **3 on 3 Basketball** **Tournament!**

Attention all athletes ages 8 and up who can dribble and shoot a basketball! Come participate in the Third Annual Father's Day 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament! It will start at **9 AM on June 18, 2016 at the St. Francis Parish Center 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 \$2,000 to the school since our first tournament in 2013!

For further details, please contact either:

Dr. Ken Dunn at

dunnkd@comcast.net; phone 540-657-9006

or

Kevin Horwath at

kev89@comcast.net; phone 703-508-0294.

alleluia Liturgies For The Week

SUNDAY, May 29th—The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

5:30 PM Pena Family
Nelson and Betty Pacheco
7:30 AM People of the Parish
9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
Women's Kairos
Men's Kairos
In gratitude of Fr. Kevin and Parish for support
10:30 AM †Richard Mance, Sr.
12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
1:45 PM Misa en español
5:30 PM †Eileen Bolen

MONDAY, May 30—Memorial Day

8:45 AM †Felicitas Castaneda

TUESDAY, May 31—Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary

8:45 AM †Zong Yan Lin

WEDNESDAY, June 1—St. Justin

8:45 AM †Mielen Garlit Arquines
†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
†Kathryn Gonsorcik

THURSDAY, June 2—Weekday

8:45 AM †Mary Jo Pirko
†Mielen Garlit Arquines

FRIDAY, June 3—Sacred Heart of Jesus

8:45 AM †Mielen Garlit Arquines
†Joyce and †Don McVay

SATURDAY, June 4—Immaculate Heart of Mary

4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mass Intentions on Sunday, June 5, 2016

5:30 PM †Mielen Garlit Arquines
†Evangelisto and †Loretta Foglietta
†Susan Rusnak
†Guillermo and †Alcira Camacho
7:30 AM †Judy Trautman
9:00 AM †Mielen Garlit Arquines
†Joseph Murphy
†Vivian Deal
10:30 AM †Richard Mance, Sr.
12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
†Anne Kennedy
†Maria Hofer
1:45 PM Misa en español
5:30 PM People of the Parish

Readings for the Week of May 29, 2016

Monday 2 Peter 1:2-7; Mark 12:1-12
Tuesday Zephaniah 3:14-18a or
Romans 12:9-16; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6;
Luke 1:39-56
Wednesday 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12; Mark 12:18-27
Thursday 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Mark 12:28-34
Friday Ezekiel 34:11-16; Romans 5:5b-11;
Luke 15:3-7
Saturday 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Luke 2:41-51
Sunday 1 Kings 17:17-24; Galatians 1:11-19;
Luke 7:11-17

A New Author in the Parish

What if I told you that superheroes were real? Would you believe me? To the logical world, it would seem insane. They are just stories, after all. But every story comes from somewhere; every tale has a beginning. With great power comes great responsibility. At least, that is what the stories tell us. I wish I could say I believed them.



John Paul senior and St. Francis alumni Jessica Sydow, is very happy to announce the publication of her novel, *Gifted*. It is a four-part, Young Adult fiction novel packed full of suspense, adventure, and self-discovery. Jessica started writing it during her sophomore year, but the characters have existed since seventh grade, when she created the first drawings of them. Since then, both the art and story have developed into something amazing that she wants to share with the world.

Gifted is available for purchase from Amazon (search "Jessica Sydow").

Respect Creation Live Simply

Mary's Shelter
10th Anniversary
CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER
SAVE THE DATE
August 13, 2016
FREDERICKSBURG EXPO CENTER
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