 From the Friars

As Labor Day marks the end of the Summer season, we welcome back those who have been away for vacations and other commitments.

When the days of Summer begin in June we notice a decrease in the number of parishioners attending Mass and unfortunately with that a decrease in weekly income for the parish. This summer was no exception. May I ask that if possible you be extra generous these next few weeks to help us make up for the decrease.



My experience during the years that I was the Pastor here at St. Francis was that I could always count on the great generosity of parishioners in times of need. I know that I can count on your help now. My sincere thanks in advance for your generosity.

Fr. John O'Connor, O.F.M.



The parish will celebrate Labor Day with a BBQ at Locust Shade Park on Monday, September 5th from 11am-3pm, with prayer service at 12pm. There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule **this weekend.** We ask that each family bring either fruit, vegetables or salads for at least 10 people. Also, please bring games to enhance the fun! **The BBQ items (hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls/buns, and condiments) will be supplied as well as the refreshments.** *The picnic will be held rain or shine. If it must be cancelled due to extreme conditions, the cancellation will be posted on the parish website.*


We all go through tough times in life. Times that can seem turbulent and unsettling and even hopeless. In the midst of these challenging and difficult seasons of life, it can be extremely helpful to have someone come alongside us to lend us understanding and encouragement and the will to push through them. **Please call Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email at kwalker@stfrancis.org to have a Stephen Minister walk alongside of you, starting now.**



Thomas Marquis (St. Francis' Boy Scout Troop 138) Life Scout, Eagle Scout Project:

An **outdoor Stations of the Cross** will be constructed here at St. Francis of Assisi in late September. The site will be located to the right of the labyrinth.

There are *only a few naming opportunities left.* Please turn in (Parish Office or bsatrop138.stfrancis@gmail.com) your sponsor/engraving form and payment as soon as possible. **Thank you for your support.**



Do you like to sing? The Saint Francis Music Ministry welcomes you! Rehearsals begin August 29th

Leading the assembly in raising its heart to God through song, the Saint Francis Music Ministry provides extraordinary music for all liturgical celebrations during the Church Year through a variety of groups. Rehearsals are beginning for all choirs. Please consider joining us in making joyful music through one of our choirs:

- The Adult Choir, which sings at the 9:00am Mass every Sunday, rehearses every Monday evening from 7:30 P.M. until 9:00 P.M.
- The Worship Ensemble sings at the 12:00 Noon Mass every Sunday. Rehearsals are held every Thursday from 7:30pm until 9:00 P.M.
- The Teen/Young Adult Choir sings several times monthly, usually in conjunction with the Youth Ministry Schedule, at the 5:30pm Mass on Sunday. Rehearsals are held every Monday evening from 6:00pm until 7:15 P.M.

To join one of the choirs, please come to rehearsal or contact Nikole Giraldi at nikoleg@stfrancis.org.

Children's Choir Rehearsals begin September 7 at 6:45 p.m. All children grades 2nd through 8th are welcome to join the Children's Choir. The choir sings at the 10:30 a.m. Family Liturgy Mass each week during the school year and rehearses twice a month on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. **To join the choir, please come to rehearsal or email Colleen Wells at cwells@stfrancis.org.**

NEW DAY AND TIME FOR ALL YOU IRISH LADIES by BIRTH OR MARRIAGE TO COME JOIN US! Bring an Irish friend!

The Ladies of the Fr. Mychal Judge, O.F.M. Ladies Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians **will be meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2016** in the **Br. Juniper Room, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm.** *We will be having a special raffle... just may be something green or Irish in nature who knows. You might have the luck of the Irish and take home the prize!! We will also be enjoying refreshments... soda, wine and cheese/crackers to celebrate the start of our new year.*

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 ask is for you to live our motto of:

"Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity"

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



Christ Centered Yoga weekly classes start in September at St. Francis in the St. Catherine Room. **Classes are Tuesday evenings at 5:30pm and 7:15pm and Saturday mornings at 7:45am.** Information can be found on the parish website or email breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com about the Tuesday classes and spiritualyogava@gmail.com about the Saturday classes.

Lunch Bunch is a 55+ group that meets once a month in the St. Catherine room for lunch and a variety of fun, informative topics, guest speakers and charitable causes. This year we will form a committee to help plan the year and use the many talented parish members to enhance our program. Anyone interested in participating on the committee can join us on Wednesday, **September 7th at the Panera Bread (1005 Stafford Market Place) in Stafford at 10 AM.** Please R.S.V.P. by e-mailing **Becky Traver at Tandovi@aol.com or calling 540-699-2175.** We officially kick off our year on September 15th!



ST. FRANCIS MEN'S GROUP—Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 7:30 PM in Br. Juniper Room**—Our topic for September will be Pope Francis' recent statement on marriage and family life "The Joy of Love". This topic has been discussed much in the media since the release of the statement by Pope Francis this spring. It covers several sensitive issues facing the Catholic Church as it moves into the 21st century. For more information on this topic please go the parish website under Faith/Groups/Men's Group.

All men of the parish are welcome. For more information please contact Tony Mercogliano at amercogliano@gmail.com or 571-332-7048.

Called and Gifted Program

Are you new to the parish? Are you in transition? Are you looking for inspiration on where God is calling you in your faith journey? If so, please consider attending the Called and Gifted program this Fall. **We will meet for five weeks on Monday nights starting on September 26th, from 7-9pm in the Parish Center Library.** For more information about the workshop, or to sign-up, please contact **Bill Sydow at bill.sydowjr@gmail.com or 719-393-5826.**

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Clyde Richardson; Annelies Gendron; Jim Bogley; Anna Garland; Barbara Moore; and Matilde Leopold.

And for those recently deceased: Enrique Aguilera Madrigal

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

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:



- Canned Fruit
- Tuna
- Paper Bags
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Peanut Butter & Jelly

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

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:

- Fruta enlatada
- Atún
- Bolsas de papel
- Macarrones con queso
- Crema de maní y Jalea

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 el viernes, septiembre 9. **Las charlas bautismales son a las 7:00pm en el Salón del Hermano Juniper (Brother Juniper Room).** Para más información por favor llamar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

Registraciones Para Las Clases de Educación Religiosas

Las clases de educación religiosa comenzará el 18 de septiembre para todos los grados sacramentales. Todos los niños que van a tomar clases en el verano o desde su hogar tienen que registrarse en el mes de septiembre. Toda la información de las registraciones se puede encontrar en nuestro sitio web en [Http://www.stfrncis.org/welcome-and-introduction/](http://www.stfrncis.org/welcome-and-introduction/) o completando el formulario de inscripción que se encuentra en el vestíbulo de la iglesia y en el sitio web. El manual de padres de familia también esta disponible en nuestro sitio web en inglés y en español.



Votive Candles

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

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Precision Painting and Powerwashing** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Faith Formation Office

Phone: 703-221-3127 Fax: 703-221-3246
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday: 8:00 am—2:00 pm
Friday: Closed

Registration has begun for Religious Education for 2016-2017



Religious Education classes begin on **September 18th** for all Sacramental grades. Registration **must** take place in September for homeschooling and summer students as well. All registration information can be found on our website at

<http://www.stfrncis.org/welcome-and-introduction/> or by filling out registration forms found in the vestibule and website. Parent Handbook also available on our website in both English and Spanish.

For questions regarding Registration call or e-mail the RE Office Liz Brack: lizb@stfrncis.org, Marianne Hayes, DRE recoor@stfrncis.org, Sheila Noble snoble@stfrncis.org ADRE (Sacramental Preparation) 703-221-3127.

Readings for the Week of September 4, 2016

Monday	1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Luke 6:6-11
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Luke 6:12-19
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Luke 6:20-26
Thursday	Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
Friday	1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27; Luke 6:39-42
Saturday	1 Corinthians 10:14-22; Luke 6:43-49
Sunday	Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

Follow us on:

Facebook: *St. Francis of Assisi Church*

Twitter: *@StFrancisVA*

Instagram: *stfrncischurchva*



Are You New to the Parish??? Welcome!!

Registration forms are available on the tables in the vestibule, from the parish office or from the parish website www.stfrncis.org.

Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 1:30p.m.—2:30p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**

St. Francis High School Youth Ministry is now called **REAL!** **REAL** stands for Respect, Engage, Accept, Live! **REAL** is open to all High School teens. It is a place to connect your life and your faith, to share, support and have fun with other teens who are trying to live out God's call in their everyday lives. Come see what **REAL** is all about!



September 4th
NO REAL ACTIVITIES

September 11th
6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
St. Catherine Room
Leadership Team Meeting
Leadership Teens ONLY

Sunday, September 18th
6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
St. Catherine Room
REAL Time (Youth Group)
All teens grades 9-12

Bible Study

The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy
by Thomas Smith & Sarah Christmyer

If we consider that God is the Divine Bridegroom and the Church is his Bride, then the prophets can be seen as "spiritual marriage counselors." They afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted, calling us to return to our covenant relationship with God. They urge us to repentance, warn us of the dangers of sin, and announce the blessings of faithfulness. Their prophetic words speak to us even today, as they draw us closer to our heavenly Bridegroom, and show us how to share him with others.

In *The Prophets* You Will:

- Discover who the prophets were, what their message was, and why they are important to us.
- See how God is constantly calling you to a deeper relationship with him.
- Discover the areas in your life that prevent you from drawing closer to God.
- Understand how the central message of the prophets is one of love, proclaiming the mercy of God for his children.
- See how their powerful words speak to us today, shedding light on our faith and our lives.
- Discover the ways you are called to be the voice of God to others.

...and much more!

Dates: Sundays, September 11th – November 20th

Time: 3PM-4:30PM

Cost: \$23.95

Location: St. Catherine Room

For more information or to register, please visit the parish website or contact **Brian Bobick** at brianbobick@verizon.net.

Francis Fest: Important Notes!



Our 9th Annual Francis Fest is scheduled for **Sunday, October 2nd from 1-5pm on** the parish grounds. Great food, activities for all ages, entertainment and comradery guaranteed! Although the festival occurs "rain or shine", we do have

an inclement weather date in case of an impending natural disaster (such as the hurricane predicted at last year's festival!). **Our inclement weather date is Sunday, October 16th.**

Lots of assistance from parish members is needed to make the festival the great success it has been in past years. Here is what you can do to help:

- **Check your wine cellar for overstock for our Wine Wheel.** Boxes will be in the church foyer for wine drop off the weekends of **9/17- 9/18 and 9/24-9/25, as well as the weekend of the festival.**
- **Cakes/baked goods for our cake wheel should be dropped off in the school foyer the morning of the festival.** Both the cake and wine wheel are two very popular events which help to offset the cost of the festival.
- **Volunteer to help for a shift at the festival.** We need set up and clean-up crews as well as assistance for the various activities during the festival. Volunteer sign up is simple and is done completely online. **Volunteer sign-up will start the weekend of September 3/4.** Look for detailed instructions in a separate bulletin announcement.
- **Festival tickets on sale at a discount!** Buy your festival tickets ahead of time and save! Festival tickets will be on sale the weekends of **9/17-9/18 and 9/24-9/25** after all Masses. **Pre-sale tickets are 6/\$5.** The day of the festival tickets will be \$1 each. All events, food and drink at the festival are charged by the ticket, so plan to buy ahead and take advantage of the discount.

55 and Over Craft Show

Are you 55 or over? Do you do needlepoint, quilting, photography, stamping, painting, sculpting, sewing, stained glass, woodworking, or any other craft you would like to show off to the parish?

As part of our **Annual Francis Fest on October 2nd**, we will again be having a 55 and Over Craft Show where you can present your crafts and sell them if you wish. We will provide the space, and ask only if you do choose to sell your craft, that you donate a portion of the profits back to the parish.



Each year the show has been more and more successful, and we would like to include even more crafters this year. **Please call or email Jeanne Mitcho with questions, or to request space at 703-670-8039 or jcmitcho45@gmail.com.** Table space is limited so do not delay!



Mass Intentions

SUNDAY,	September 4—23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time
5:30 PM	†Paul Krieger †Diane Tomasinski †Clara Kennedy
7:30 AM	Thomas Lee Jose Guadalupe Rodriguez Barbosa
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik Special Intention †Pauline Misenko
10:30 AM	†Kathy Noone †Mike Ganley †Lorraine Cammeleri
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Enrique Aguilera Madrigal †Vergilio Echevaria
1:45 PM	†Fausto Rosero
5:30 PM	People of the Parish †David Lee Maris †Rev. Raymond J. Kelley, T.O.R.
MONDAY,	September 5—Labor Day
8:45 AM	†William Salesses Souls in Purgatory †Marie and †William Votts
TUESDAY,	September 6—Weekday
8:45 AM	Gretchen May †Mike Dowd Sandy Denton
WEDNESDAY,	September 7—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
THURSDAY,	September 8—Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:45 AM	Special Intention Shirley Meland
FRIDAY,	September 9—St. Peter Claver
8:45 AM	†Ed Bowling †Joseph Bigalke †Susan Pittel
SATURDAY,	September 10—Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	Mass Intentions on Sunday, September 11, 2016
5:30 PM	†Joseph Proscia, Sr. †Diane Tomasinski †Manny Aguilar
7:30 AM	Andrea Lee
9:00 AM	†Everett Newman †Lucille Allen †Jackson McGuire †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:30 AM	Special Intention †Melanie Nocera Clyde Richardson
12:15 PM	†George Beck †Clara Kennedy †Mabel St. Clair
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish