

**From
the
Friars**



On behalf of friars Henry, John Alderson, John Heffernan, and myself, I want to wish all of you a joyous and blessed Christmas, and thank you for your support these past few months.

This is indeed that time of the year in which we celebrate Jesus Christ among us. May you and your loved ones experience His presence and His love in this special season.

In the words of Isaiah, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shown. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing."

This is the season of light. Jesus who said, "I am the light of the world" also said "You are the light of the world." May we be that light for each other especially for those who are most in need of our love, our affirmation, our support. Merry Christmas!

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

Please Note: The Mass Intention book for 2017 is now open.

To schedule a Mass you may come in or call the office. We also have envelopes located on the tables in the vestibule. Just drop the envelope in the catch-all slot.

We will be taking 3 intentions per Mass.

The Christmas Flowers were donated in memory of the following families:

Gillespie and Halpin; McClutchy and Sheehan; Rayhel and Larke; Guthrie and Daly; and Ryan and Herrmann.

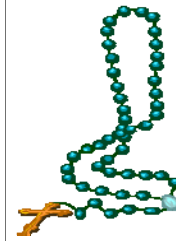


And the following individuals: George Beck; John and Christl Renzo; Thomas Cox, Sr.; James, David, and Lynne Teodosio; Jeffrey Proscia; Joseph, Sr. and Audrey Proscia; Lillian and Marilyn Laubinger; Winnie Golden; David Butts; Nick and Mary Jo Pirko; John Francis Carpino; Laurence O'Brien; Ruth and Clifford E. Brady, Sr.; Ray and Kristen Michalak; Bob and Irene Eastvedt; Louis and Mary Gasper; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Tarantino; Mr. and Mrs. Billy Thomas; Genevieve Salesno; Betty Singletary; Colevin Mazor; Grandpa Rogan; William and Helen Kordis; Albert Doyle; Tim Zello; Eileen McManus; Denis McManus; James Longi, Jr.; Margaret Dickie; Claudina Wright; Thomas Wright; Marjorie and Austin Carroll; Lorenzo Manno; Marco Imbarlina; Candida Imbarlina; and Joe Imbarlina.

May you have the gift of Faith, the blessing of Hope, and the peace of His Love at Christmas and always.

December 26th is the feast of St. Stephen, our patron saint. He was commissioned by the Apostles to go out and minister to those in need.

Please consider a Stephen Minister for whatever you are going through. Someone to listen, pray, talk and truly care about you. **Please call Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email at kwalker@stfrncis.org to start your new year off in a positive light.**




The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, December 27th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Catherine Room**. All are welcome.

For more information, please call Otella Creegan at 571-264-0312.

If you are moving/changing your address, please notify the office so we can keep our records up-to-date. If you are changing your phone number because you are using a cellular phone and/or forgoing your land phone, the office would also like that information. Please call us at 703-221-4044. Thank you.



 The **Lion's Club** has **2 donation drop boxes located on the window sill in the vestibule.** Please consider donating your used eyeglasses to the Lion's Club. Your unwanted glasses will help someone see better. Thank you for always being so generous.

Mass Schedule

December 31st	5:30 P.M.
January 1st	7:30 A.M. 9:00 A.M. 10:30 A.M. 12:15 P.M. 1:30 P.M. Misa en español 5:30 P.M.
January 2nd	8:45 A.M.

There is a book located in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel next to the Tabernacle for you to write your own prayers of petition. During the *Prayer of the Faithful* during weekend liturgies, an intercession will call to mind those prayers in a general way. In this manner, the public prayer of the church is bound to the many prayers of the faithful who live in the body of Christ!



PLEASE NOTE:

December 30th-January 2nd — Parish Office is closed; will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd.

St. Francis House Corner



Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **70** families this week. Beginning in January, I will be kindly asking our families from St. Francis to donate an item that we will give to our clients at St. Francis House in addition to the items that we usually provide them

with. **The item for the month of January is Sugar.**

For more information, please call **Francia at 703-221-6344** or email at calisa3@verizon.net.

Thank you for your continuing support.



Thank You Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus and the Columbiettes of Potomac Council (St. Francis Church), and members of Father Capodanno Council (Quantico Marine Base), met in the St. Francis Parish Center Dining Room with their families on December 10th to assemble and deliver Christmas food baskets and gift cards to those in need. The Knights worked with Francis House to identify **58** families in the Dumfries/Triangle/Quantico area, who were recipients of the deliveries. This is the Knights' 27th year providing food baskets to those in need during the Christmas season. We thank the Knights for their many years of faithful service to the parish and the community!

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.stfrancis.org](http://www.stfrancis.org).

An Epiphany Potluck—Many Members, One Body, our parish support group for Catholics who are gay or Lesbian and their families and friends, will hold their Annual Epiphany Potluck on **January, 5th at 7pm in the Br. Juniper Room.**

Please bring a dish to share. Drinks and dessert will be provided. **Questions? Please contact Anne Tunney at annetunney@yahoo.com.**



Bill Mehr Drop-In Shelter

Winter is here, and it is a very rough season for the homeless. Our parish is committed to providing assistance for the Bill Mehr Homeless shelter. At this moment, they are in great need of the following items:

- Sugar
- Coffee
- Coffee Creamer
- Women's overnight pads with wings
- Dark wash cloths.

For more information call **Francia at 703-221-6344** or email her at calisa3@verizon.net.

Thank you for your support.

Boletín Semanal

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español serán el viernes, enero 13. Las charlas bautismales son a las 7:00pm en el Salón del Hermano Juniper (Br. Juniper Room). Para más información por favor llamar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francisco—

Agradecemos a todos nuestros parroquianos por todas sus ofrendas a la Despensa de Comida; con sus donaciones pudimos ayudar a **70** familias. Comenzando el mes de enero estaremos pidiéndole a nuestros feligreses por donaciones de **azúcar**, de esta forma podemos ayudar a nuestros clientes de La Casa de St. Francis. Cada mes estaremos pidiendo un artículo diferente. Muchas gracias por sus donaciones. Para más información contactar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

Are you frustrated using your new iphone, tablet, computer, e-reader?

Do you feel sometimes your electronic devices are smarter than you are?



Then come for an **Introductory Session of Cyber Seniors on Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Br. Juniper Room.** We will help you make friends with the technology that has become such an integral part of all our lives. Beginning **February 9th**,

on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays we will be addressing your issues with your phone, tablet, computer, etc.... and helping you make those personal electronic devices work for rather than against you!

"I am still learning." Michelangelo at age 87

If you or a family member is in the **hospital** or **homebound**, please call the parish office if you would like a visit from one of the friars.

The hospitals are not permitted to give out the names of patients, so the only way we will know if you are in the hospital is if you or a family member informs us.



Faith Formation Office

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

Religious Education for 2016-2017

December 22nd—January 5th NO RE—Christmas Break

Change in RE Schedule 2016-17 effective January 8, 2017. The Summer Program 2017 is being cancelled. A letter with all the details went out to all RE students. **Please contact the RE office with any questions** lizb@stfncis.org or 703-221-3127.

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. Please come see what REAL is all about!



Sunday, December 25th
No REAL Activities
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sunday, January 1st
No REAL Activities
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Richard Laffman; Teddy Placek; Sandra Nielson; Tom Nielson; Phylis Shaw; and Dolores Lasco.

And for those recently deceased: Annelies Gendron.

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way: Josh Bookout; Brianna French; William Place, Glenn Harms; Bo Bosak, Joseph Sheridan, 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.**



Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, January 8, 2017 from 1:30p.m.—2:30p.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
Christ the King Religious Book and Gift Store
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.



Save the Date for the Cornerstone Retreats:
Men's **March 10th-11th** / Women's **March 24th- 25th**
For more information, please checkout the St. Francis of Assisi webpage.

ChristLife is a lay Catholic ministry established in 1995



ask.
seek.
knock.

discovering
CHRIST
a seven-week experience

in response to the Church's call to a New Evangelization. Their vision is to equip Catholics for the essential work of evangelization so that others might come to know personally the love of God through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, becoming his followers and members of the Church. **Discovering Christ will be presented at St. Francis of Assisi beginning in January!!** Participants in

this 7 week series will meet on Thursday evenings **beginning January 5th and continuing through February 23rd** to enjoy dinner and fellowship, listen to a dynamic teaching and join in a small group discussion about the meaning of life in Jesus Christ. There will be a retreat day on **Saturday, February 4th**. *The cost for registration for this event is \$25 per person and all meals are included.* **For more information, please contact Sheila Noble at 703-221-3127, ext. 238 or snoble@stfncis.org.**

New Monday Morning Bible Study!
Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Do you ever wonder what someone means when they say they have a "personal relationship with Christ," or are you looking to deepen your own relationship? The Gospel of John invites us, in a unique way, to become intimately involved in the rich stories of Jesus' life and ministry, and witness the transformation of many people along the way. A new session of the Monday morning Bible study begins **January 9th**, and you are invited to join fellow parishioners on the journey to meet Jesus in the Gospel of John. Register and purchase your workbook through the website <http://www.stfncis.org/programs-retreats/#biblestudy> and bring it to the first session, **January 9th at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room.** *Monday classes are scheduled for January 9th, 23rd, February 6th, 13th, 27th, March 6th, 13th, 27th, and April 3rd, 10th.*

Please contact Lisa Ostendorf with any questions at lostendorf@stfncis.org.

End of Year Statements: Parishioners will be provided with a statement of their donations for 2016. Statements will be mailed by the end of January. It is not necessary to request a statement.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, December 24—Advent Weekday
 4:00 PM **NO Sacrament of Reconciliation**
 4:00 PM †Bill, †Marion, and †Kelsey Richmond
 †Paul Kriegar
 †Susan Rusnak
 †George Selepak
 †Catherine Selepak
 †Eva Zetkulrch
 †Patty Berzansky
 †Alfredo and †Palmira Coimbra
 †Raymond and †Annie Jones
 4:00 PM (GYM)
 †Richard Mance
 †Paul Krieger
 †Beatrice Botero
 6:00 PM People of the Parish
 †Helen C. Buckley
 †Mary Bryant
 6:00 PM (GYM)
 †Robert Ferenschak
 †Helen C. Buckley
 Clyde Richardson and Family
 8:00 PM †Pauline Misenko
 †Daniel Latchney
 The Jerez Family
 8:00 PM Misa en español (GYM)
 †Marian Valeso
 †James Pignato
 10:30 PM †Normand Richard Marquis
 †Joseph and †Julia Flood
 †Deborah McGrath

SUNDAY, December 25—Christmas Day
 7:30 AM **NO MASS**
 9:00 AM †Robert Earl Williams
 †Robert Monroe
 †William Monroe
 †Bui Thi Ne
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 10:30 AM Christmas Novena
 †Eugene Montague
 †Alma Mercer
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
 †Jerry and †Connie O'Shea
 †Anne Kennedy
 †Maria Hofer
 1:30 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM **NO MASS**



MONDAY, December 26—St. Stephen
 8:45 AM †Mark Norman Olds
 Christmas Novena
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 Susanna Han

TUESDAY, December 27—St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
 8:45 AM Christmas Novena
 †Harold Rodman
 †Mike Dowd

WEDNESDAY, December 28—Holy Innocents
 8:45 AM Christmas Novena
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †Kathryn Gonsorcik

THURSDAY, December 29—Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas
 8:45 AM †Mary Ann Milo
 Christmas Novena
 †Rachele Garrott

FRIDAY, December 30—Holy Family
 8:45 AM †Lee Dixon
 Christmas Novena

SATURDAY, December 31—Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas
 4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 PM Christmas Novena
 †Cecilia Kulina
 †Scott Kujawa

Mass Intentions on Sunday, January 1, 2017

7:30 AM People of the Parish
 9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †Frank Piorkowski, Sr.
 10:30 AM †Joseph Botta
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
 1:30 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM Christmas Novena
 †Anneliese Gendron

Readings for the Week of December 25, 2016

Monday Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
Tuesday 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
Thursday 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
Friday Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or
 Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17;
 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
Sunday Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7;
 Luke 2:16-21

Christmas Blessings