

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is indeed the time of the year when we celebrate light, joy and hope. The signs of Christmas are all around us. The beautiful lights, decorations, Christmas hymns, the excitement and expectation in the eyes of the children. The belief that no matter how dark things may seem at times, this season of hope reminds us that the Light that is Jesus Christ can never be extinguished.



We hear the powerful words of Isaiah in the reading for the Midnight Mass:

"The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light upon those who dwelt in a land of gloom a light has shown"

And the words of the Christmas day Gospel

"What came to be was life, and this life was the light of the human race, the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it"

My friends, that same Jesus Christ who said. "I am the light of the world, also said, You are the light of the world."

As I look back on this year, which has had its share of challenges, I see so many examples of your light, your patience in responding to the events that have transpired, the love that you have shown in worship, in ministry to each other, in outreach to those less fortunate, in your affirmation and support for myself and my fellow friars.

I thank you this Christmas for being that light. For the many ways that you have shared the gift of yourselves.

Let us move forward in the new year with a continued spirit of hope, continuing to commit ourselves to preaching the good news of the Incarnation by our lives. In the words of St. Francis,

"Where there is hatred, let us sow love
Where there is injury ,pardon
Where there is despair, hope
where there is sadness, joy
Where there is darkness, light"

On behalf of Friars, Henry, John, and Ignatius, I wish you all a very blessed and joy filled Christmas.

Sincerely,

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

Mass Schedule

December 31st 7:30 A.M.
9:00 A.M.
10:45 A.M.
12:15 P.M.
1:30 P.M. Misa en español
5:30 P.M.
January 1st 9:00 A.M.
(Not a day of Holy Obligation)

The Christmas Flowers were donated in memory of the following families: Gillespie and Halpin; Shroyer; Altenburg; Warrelmann; Thomas; Guthrie; Daly; Badami; Giglio; Sayson; Hokana; Howley; Ildebrando; Burke; Deitz; and Boldar.



And the following individuals:

Les and Mary Snyder; Marley Deveaux; Bryan Richardson; Clyde Richardson; Blaine and Mary Hoover; Mariadel Rosario and Felipe Fuentes; Austin and Marjorie Carroll; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gasper; Richard Wright; John and Sheila Varner; Robert Laliberte; Patricia Laliberte; Charles and Betty Miller; Frank, Olga, and Allen Irwin; Barbara 'Micky' Krattli; Laura and Francis McNierney; Mr. and Mrs. Tiano; Kristin Diane Adcock; Virginia and Joseph McNierney; Cherly D. McNierney; Lawrence Dreis; Carmine and Carmela Poppiti; Columbiettes; Charlotte M. Stafira; Apolonio and Palema Mojica; Pacito and Asuncion Caliboso; John and Winnie Golden; Henry Abong; Chrysantus Njoh; Cecilia Zink; Joseph and Anna Tarantino; Cora Stup; Rosella Kremposky; Carmella and Ralph Oropallo; Phyllis Taylor; Cathy Asselin; Helen and Bill Kordis; Al Doyle; Tim Zello; Grandpa Rogan; Ray and Irene Wagner; Donald Widener; Juanita Chacon; Theora Widener; Colevin Mazor; Ted Geary; John Francis Carpino; Lawrence O'Brien; Audrey Jones; Kimberly Gianni; Gaston and Zelmira Gianni; Agnes and Joseph Harrison, Sr.; Jim Tarwell; William D. Stoddart; Lorenzo Manno; Marco Imbarlina; Candida Imbarlina; Joe Imbarlina; and Chuck Liptak.

Votive Candles



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

MERRY CHRISTMAS!! May the Spirit of the Season fill you with Gladness and Joy. On December 26th, we will celebrate the feast of St. Stephen; the patron saint of Stephen Ministry. St. Stephen was commissioned by the Apostles to go out and do... what they themselves did not have the time to keep up with. Everyone in a situation wants the Pastor to be their first responder. And in most cases he is. But when he is called away to the next crisis, he suggests a Stephen Minister. We are an extension of Pastoral care to keep the care going. We gladly follow in the footsteps of St. Stephen. **Please call 703-221-4044, ext. 233 or email kwalker@stfrncis.org for more information.**



PLEASE NOTE: December 21st-January 2nd — Parish Office is closed; will reopen on Wednesday, January 3rd.

St. Francis House Corner



The items of the month have been very much appreciated by our clients, thanks to the donations from all of our parishioners. With your generosity we will continue to serve those that are in need.

- **Item of the Month: Laundry Detergent**
- Hamburger Helper
- Pasta
- Cereal (**kid friendly**)

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

Bill Mehr Drop-In Shelter (Winter Shelter)

Winter is here, and it is a very rough season for the homeless. **Our parish is committed to providing dinner every Saturday, at 7:00pm** for the Bill Mehr Homeless shelter (winter shelter). At this moment **we are in dire need of your help!** Sign-up sheets, directions, and more information are on the table in the vestibule of the church. **For more information, please contact Francia Salguero at francias@stfrncis.org or 571-572-5862.**

Mission 2018

Join St. Francis Parishioners in June 2018 on a journey to our Sister Parishes in Lima, Peru. **Departs Saturday, June 16th Returns Monday, June 25th**



- Applications and **deposit of \$100** now being accepted. The final date for receipt of applications is **January 31, 2018.**
- Fee includes airfare, lodging, most meals and local transportation.
- Full payment (**\$1,500**) is due by **January 31, 2018**
- Applications are available on line at (<http://www.stfrncis.org/sister-parish-in-peru/>) and next to the Sister Parish section of the church bulletin board.

Questions? Please call:

Terry Danner at 703-680-0860
terrydanner@verizon.net

Or

Chuck O'Hern at 910-795-6203
Charles.ohern@usmc.mil

Boletín Semanal

Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francisco:

Gracias a las donaciones de todos nuestros feligreses el artículo del mes a sido bien recibido por nuestros clientes. Con sus donaciones podremos continuar a los mas necesitados.

- **Artículo del mes: Jabón de Lavar Ropa**
- Hamburger Helper
- Espagueti
- Cereal (**Para niños**)

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

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español serán el **viernes, enero 12**. Las charlas bautismales Son a las 7:00 p.m. en el Salón del Hermano Juniper (Br. Juniper Room). Para más información por favor llamar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

Misa de Nochebuena—El domingo, diciembre 24 tendremos dos misas en español. La misa dominical a la 1:30pm en el gimnasio de la escuela y la misa de nochebuena a las 8:00 p.m. en el gimnasio de la iglesia. Ven y acompáñanos. Para mas información o para colaborar en los preparativos de la celebración por favor hablar con el **Hermano Ignacio al 703-221-4044.**

Annual Epiphany Potluck Many Members One Body

Our parish ministry to Catholics who are gay and lesbian, and their friends and family, will hold their Annual Epiphany Potluck on **Friday, January 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Br. Juniper Room.** Please bring a dish to share and R.S.V.P. to **Anne Tunney at annetunney@yahoo.com.**



Cyber Seniors

Weekly classes on Tuesdays from **9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**
January 9th – February 13th
Br. Juniper Room

All adults are welcome to receive hands-on technology assistance for free, during any of our weekly sessions. Bring your cell phones, laptops or tablets for hands-on training from one of our friendly volunteers. This is the perfect opportunity to learn how to use that shiny Christmas gift to stay in touch with family and friends. **Please contact Lisa Ostendorf at lostendorf@stfrncis.org for more information.**



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Knights of Columbus, Potomac Council #9259
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

Religious Education for 2017-2018

December 21st—31st NO RE—Christmas Break

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BLESSED NEW YEAR!

We have a need for **Substitute Catechists** for all sessions and all grades, Sunday 8:45 AM, Sunday 10:30AM and Thursday 5PM. Training will be provided. If you are able to help, please contact **Marianne Hayes, DRE** at 703-221-3127.



ask.
seek.
knock.

**discovering
CHRIST**
a seven-week experience

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 4th and continuing through February 15th to enjoy a delicious 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 3rd.** The cost for registration for this event is \$25 per person and all meals are included. Registration fliers can be found on the tables in the vestibule. **Please contact Sheila Noble at 703-221-3127, ext. 238 or snoble@stfrncis.org for more information.**

MY COKE GIVES PROGRAM

Turn Coke product caps into cash for St. Francis School! Look for My Coke Rewards stamps on individual and multi-pack products of *Coke, Sprite, Dasani, Powerade, Minute Maid, Fanta, Barq's, Fresca, Mr. Pibb, Mello Yello, Fuze, Seagram's Ginger Ale, and Tab.* Simply bag the caps and bring them to the school. We will take it from there. For more information, please contact **William Sharp at 571-408-5213 or youcandance5678@yahoo.com.** God bless!



Looking for the Perfect Gift?

Give Her an Overnight Women's Cornerstone Retreat
April 6—7, 2018
\$130 for a Double Room or \$145 for a Single Room
www.stfrncis.org/cornerstone

St. Francis High School Youth Ministry is 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 24th
Christmas Eve
NO REAL ACTIVITIES

Sunday, December 31st
New Year's Eve
NO REAL ACTIVITIES

Sunday, January 7, 2018
6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room

REAL TIME (Youth Group)
All Teens Grades 9-12

Questions? Please contact Brandon Jubar at bjubar@stfrncis.org.

St. Francis of Assisi Elementary, Middle and Preschool will host an open house for new prospective families on **Sunday, January 28th at 1:00 pm.** Please plan to join us for a tour of our facility and to meet our wonderful teachers. For admission questions, please contact **Shari Phillips at 703-221-3868 or phillipss.sfas@gmail.com.**



Please Pray For All those who are sick: Tim McCormick; Virginia Ramos; Pat Bennick; Maira Peña; Maureen Cremmins; S.J. Defibaugh; Nancy Brown; Judy Mitchell; B. Kraus; M. Searing; B. Lyle; and Aaron Childs.

And for those recently deceased: Frank Cicerio ; and Maureen Cremmins.

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way: Jonathan Boron; Tyler Jones; Drew; Leo N. Company; S. Defibaugh; Brianna French; James Moore; Kyle McVay; Kyle Traylor; Marc Gendron; and Darryl Saungweme.

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, January 14, 2018 from 1:30 p.m.—2:30 p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SATURDAY,	December 23—St. John of Kanty
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Sindulfo DeLeon People of the Parish
	†Erika Gertrud Haley
SUNDAY,	December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM	†Robert Earl Williams †William Monroe †Robert Monroe
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Florence Fogarty †Ubaldo Plannel
10:45 AM	†‘George’ Diem X. Bui †Betty Ann Beaudoin †Baby Adelia
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †William and †Mary Rozoh †Janet Sarsfield
1:30 PM	Misa en español (GYM) †Henry Abong †Chrysantus Njoh
4:00 PM	†Bill and †Marion Richmond †Paul Krieger †Linda Armstrong
4:00 PM	(GYM) †Walker Williams †Connie and †Jerry O’Shea †Maria Tang Thi Pham
6:00 PM	†Helen C. Buckley †Bob Walker †Marian Valse
6:00 PM	(GYM) †Clyde Richardson †Bryan Richardson
8:00 PM	†Harry Ravert Christmas Novena †Robert Ferenschak
8:00 PM	Misa en español (GYM)
10:30 PM	†Normand Richard Marquis †Clifford and †Helen Buckley †John A. Shookster

Readings for the Week of December 24, 2017

Monday	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 John 1:1-5, 9-14
Tuesday	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
Wednesday	1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday	1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
Friday	1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
Saturday	1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
Sunday	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21 or Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:22-40 or Luke 2:22, 39-40 or, Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40 or Luke 2:22, 39-40

MONDAY,	December 25—Christmas Day	
9:00 AM	†George Selepak †Catherine Selepak People of the Parish	
10:45 AM	†Susan Rusnak †Eva Zetculich †Pat Bezansky	
	12:15 PM	†George Beck †Roseanne Scruggs †Donald Widener
TUESDAY,	December 26—St. Stephen	
8:45 AM	†Mark Norman Olds †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik Christmas Novena	
WEDNESDAY,	December 27—St. John, Apostle and Evangelist	
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik Christmas Novena	
THURSDAY,	December 28—Holy Innocents	
8:45 AM	Christmas Novena Virginia Sayson Ramos	
FRIDAY,	December 29—Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas	
8:45 AM	†Mary Ann Milo †Lee Dixon Christmas Novena	
SATURDAY,	December 30—Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas	
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
5:30 PM	Christmas Novena Suzanna Han In Thanksgiving	

Mass Intentions on Sunday, December 31, 2017

7:30 AM	†Deborah Barber McNeill †Florence Hartt †M.C. Otto Christofferson
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Clifford Buckley †Carmine and †Carmella Poppiti
10:45 AM	†Amy Pizzi †Diem Bui †Florence Diddlemeyer
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Joseph Hoa Vu Misa en español
1:30 PM	†Maria Tuyet Bach Thi Vu
5:30 PM	†Martin Long Vu †Joseph Quang Vinh Pham

