

From  
the  
Friars



Christmas 2017 was indeed a special day here in the parish and a great celebration! It was so nice to see so many joining us for the Eucharist over the two days of celebration.

Many thanks to the Children who participated in the Christmas Eve pageant, and those who prepared them for their beautiful presentation of the birth of Jesus.

Many thanks also to Mrs. Nikki Girdali and Mrs. Colleen Wells, our choir directors, the members of our parish Choirs, and musicians, for their excellent, prayerful, musical accompaniment for the many liturgies that were celebrated.

Thank you to our Parish Staff for the many tasks performed in preparation for the Christmas Season.

Thanks also to Clarence Thompson, and Pequitte Schwerin, for their work in coordinating the many liturgical ministries for what was a marathon of 15 Masses over two days.

Finally thanks, to Julian Brooks, Delvis Ramirez, and our superb maintenance staff for their work in preparing the Church.

Sincerely,

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

The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, January 9th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Clare Room**. All are welcome. For more information, please call **Otella Creegan at 571-264-0312.**



**Secular Franciscan Order Open House**

Come and see...what it means to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis. There will be an Open House held on **Saturday, January 13th at 9:30 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**.

For more information, please contact **John Carlson at 540-623-8316** or [twinspappy@gmail.com](mailto:twinspappy@gmail.com).

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.



**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**)
- Peanut Butter & Jelly

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

**Raving about our Parishioners and Volunteers**

St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners and volunteers truly embody the spirit of giving during the Christmas season. Every year we try to surpass our goal from the previous year; this year was no different. With the help of all of our parishioners and different organizations and volunteers especially: **The Knights of Columbus, The Christ Centered Yoga Advent Class, the RE Program and students, The Ancient Order of Hibernians, the St. Francis of Assisi School and students, St. Francis Cub Scout Pack 1385 and Boy Scout Troop 138, the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Senior Group, the St. Francis Craft Ministry, the St. Francis Brownie Troop, and my returning group of volunteers** that help sort and prepare the gift bags, we were able to help provide gifts for over 600 children from Dumfries, Triangle, and River Oaks Elementary school, provided 158 bags for the Seniors of St. Francis House and the Envoy Nursing home in Woodbridge, 60 Christmas baskets for clients in Dumfries, Triangle, and Quantico, and donations for the Migration and Refugee services worth over \$1000.00, \$780.00 for Mary's Shelter, \$720.00 for Birthright and \$850.00 for Project Rachel and Gabriel. On behalf of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and St. Francis House we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. But I, Francia Salguero, especially thank you for making my job so easy. Without your monetary donations and time none of this would be possible. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**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@stfrancis.org](mailto:francias@stfrancis.org) or 571-572-5862.**

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](mailto:phillipss.sfas@gmail.com).**



**Christ Centered Yoga begins multi-week sessions on Tuesday evenings starting January 9th.** Saturday morning classes will begin later in January. Beginner and mixed level classes are available. Information can be found on the parish website or email/ call below contact. For the Tuesday classes, please contact **Rita Evans at 540-270-0667 or [breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com](mailto:breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com).** For the Saturday classes, please contact **Tracy Morgan at 540-446-9426 or [spiritualyogava@gmail.com](mailto:spiritualyogava@gmail.com).**




**March for Life,  
January 19, 2018**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish and the Knights of Columbus will be providing bus transportation to the March for Life on January 19th. The rally and march start at 12:00 p.m. *The bus will leave from the Church at **approximately 9:00 a.m.** and return after the march.*



There will be sign-up sheets in the vestibule of the Church or you can contact **Marv Floom at [marv\\_floom@verizon.net](mailto:marv_floom@verizon.net) or 703-878-9243.**



**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](mailto:youcandance5678@yahoo.com).** God bless!

## 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**)
- Crema de Maní & Jalea

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.**

Usted a lo mejor ha notado la presencia policial en nuestra parroquia los fines de semana. La policía está aquí para ayudarnos a lidiar con mendigos profesionales que han estado solicitando dinero a los feligreses de la parroquia al salir de misa. Estas personas no son pobres. Conducen coches costosos a nuestra propiedad y los estacionan en Fuller Heights Road. Luego caminan a nuestra parroquia. La policía desafió a estas personas el fin de semana pasado y los escoltó fuera de la propiedad. La policía también tomó una fotografía de su vehículo e investigaron las matriculas de sus carros a través del equipo de la policía. Nuevamente, estas personas no están en necesidad de ayuda. Hemos recibido información de que forman parte de un grupo organizado que está solicitando dinero en los centros comerciales, así como en otras iglesias. Por favor no les de dinero. Sinceramente,

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

**ST. FRANCIS MEN'S GROUP**

Our January meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 9th at 7:30 pm in the Br. Juniper Room.** At this meeting Fr. Ignatius Harding, O.F.M. (Fr. Iggy) will share his experiences as a Franciscan Missionary for over 30 years in Bolivia.

**For more information, please contact Tony Mercogliano at [amercogliano@gmail.com](mailto:amercogliano@gmail.com) or 571-332-7048.**

**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](http://www.stfrncis.org).

**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 2018**

Jan. 7	Sunday RE Session
11	<b>NO RE—MLK HOLIDAY</b>
14	<b>NO RE—MLK HOLIDAY</b>
18	Thursday RE Session
21	Sunday RE Session
25	Thursday RE Session
28	Sunday RE Session
Feb. 1	Thursday RE Session
4	Sunday RE Session
8	Thursday RE Session
11	Sunday RE Session

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.

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

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

**Sunday, January 14th**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend  
**NO REAL ACTIVITIES**

**Sunday, January 21st**  
6:30 PM—8:30 PM  
St. Catherine Room

**REAL TIME (Youth Group)**  
All Teens Grade 9-12

Questions? Please contact Brandon Jubar at [bjubar@stfrncis.org](mailto:bjubar@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.



**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](http://www.stfrncis.org/cornerstone)



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 4<sup>th</sup> and continuing through February 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.** 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](mailto:snoble@stfrncis.org) for more information.**

**Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible for Couples**

Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  
**Beginning January 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Parish Center Dining Facility



*Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* is an 8-part study which provides an excellent overview, simplifies the complex timeline, and demonstrates how the Bible is the foundation of our faith. Please register and purchase your workbook through Ascension Press by visiting our parish website <http://www.stfrncis.org/programs-retreats/#biblestudy> and bring it to the first, weekly session, on **January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center Dining Facility**; when we will discuss the first chapter.

**Please Pray For** All those who are sick: Tim McCormick; Virginia Ramos; Pat Bennick; and Maira Peña.

**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.

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

We would like to thank **Hair and Nail Designers** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.



**Mass Intentions**

**SATURDAY, January 6—Christmas Weekday**  
 4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 5:30 PM †Leanne Stumm

**SUNDAY, January 7—Epiphany of the Lord**  
 7:30 AM †Betty Jane Carmack  
 †James E. Hamilton, Jr.  
 †Iris Hamilton  
 9:00 AM †Anthony Viet Quoc Pham  
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik  
 10:45 AM †Diem Bui  
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy  
 1:30 PM Misa en español  
 5:30 PM People of the Parish  
 †Dante James  
 †Marcia Cometto

**MONDAY, January 8—Baptism of the Lord**  
 8:45 AM

**TUESDAY, January 9—Weekday**  
 8:45 AM †Frank and †Margie Ploor

**WEDNESDAY, January 10—Weekday**  
 8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik  
 †Kathryn Gonsorcik  
 †Marion and †Bill Richmond

**THURSDAY, January 11—Weekday**  
 8:45 AM †Terri Joyce Haid

**FRIDAY, January 12—Weekday**  
 8:45 AM †Deborah Barber McNeill  
 †Mary V. Deitz

**SATURDAY, January 13—Weekday**  
 4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 5:30 PM †Clyde Richardson  
 †Bryan Richardson  
 †Paul Krieger

**Mass Intentions on Sunday, January 14, 2018**  
 7:30 AM †Patricia Mooney  
 †Noel Longuemare  
 †Julie Longuemare  
 9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik  
 10:45 AM †Mary Colby  
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy  
 1:30 PM Misa en español  
 5:30 PM People of the Parish

**Votive Candles**

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



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.

**Readings for the Week of January 7, 2018**

**Monday** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9;  
 Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Mark 1:7-11

**Tuesday** 1 Samuel 1:9-20;  
 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd;  
 Mark 1:21-28

**Wednesday** 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39

**Thursday** 1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45

**Friday** 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12

**Saturday** 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1;  
 Mark 2:13-17

**Sunday** 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19;  
 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20;  
 John 1:35-42

**The St. Francis Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) meets the first Thursday of every month in the 5th grade classroom of the Parish Center. Please contact **Margie Petrizza** at [margie.petrizza@gmail.com](mailto:margie.petrizza@gmail.com) or **Bob Eves** at [evesrc@verizon.net](mailto:evesrc@verizon.net) for more information.

Human Trafficking is not only a global problem but it is a national and local problem, you can make a difference! Our committee is parishioners just like you who are making a difference. Most recently a member of our committee, Lisa Schmitt who after attending the NOVA HTI Gala last year wanted her CFC contribution to go to AHT efforts and she contacted NOVA HTI. Thanks to her phone call and subsequent conversations this year it is an option!! As well as your Amazon purchases, with Amazon Smile a portion of your purchase will benefit NOVA HTI!! Thank you Lisa!!

The Wall Street Journal recently had an article in its December 13th paper about the efforts the airlines is making to both U.S. airports and Homeland Security to educate employees and passengers for signs of exploited people they see traveling.

**If you notice anything always keep this number handy, 1-888-373-7888 and visit [traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://traffickingresourcecenter.org) for more information.**



[There will NOT be a meeting in the Parish Center Library on January 8th! We are meeting at another venue.](#)

**CALLING ALL YOU IRISH LADIES  
 By BIRTH OR MARRIAGE**

Would you like to know more about the Fr. Mychal Judge, O.F.M. Ladies Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians?

**Criteria to join this group of ladies?** You must be an Irish Catholic female of 16 years of age or older, Irish descent OR married to an Irish gentleman.

Once a part of this Irish Catholic Organization—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).**