

 **From the Friars** Every so often we receive a request from individuals asking for a letter stating that they are Catholics and parishioners in good standing (active in their parish). This is so that they can have their child baptized in another parish. Usually to accommodate relatives or God parents.

We are happy to grant these requests. However, according to Diocesan regulations, in order for us to write such a letter, the person or persons must be registered in our parish for at least 3 months.

When a child is Baptized, the parents, on behalf of the Child, are making a commitment to bring that child up in the practice of the faith. Thus it is imperative that the parents themselves are practicing the faith. As one of my Theology professors used to say, Baptism is not magic!

Some have asked why we no longer publish on the website our parish calendar of activities. We have discontinued this practice on the advice of security consultants. This change unfortunately reflects the current state of affairs in society.

Recently the Diocese of Arlington released statistics as what percentage of Catholics attend weekend Mass (Saturday eve and Sunday) on a regular basis. The average attendance in this area of Virginia was 28 percent of parishioners. The average attendance for our parish is over 50 percent.

Sincerely,

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

The Family Liturgy needs 4 families! Share a Ministry with Your Children During the Mass

The Family Liturgy is seeking 4 families who can help as readers and gift bearers during the 10:45 a.m. Mass. What a great way to get the whole family working together in ministry! All materials are provided for the families ahead of time.



It is right around the corner, the day of Love, Valentine's Day. And you are just not feeling it... For so many reasons it is a hard day to get through. Do not go through it alone. We have plenty of care, concern, and empathy in Stephen Ministry. **Please email Kathy Walker at kwalker@stfrncis.org to schedule an appointment and start feeling like someone cares.**

**February 14th
Ash Wednesday**



- 6:30 a.m.**— Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes
- 8:45 a.m.**— Mass with Distribution of Ashes
- 5:00 p.m.**— Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes
- 7:30 p.m.**— Mass with Distribution of Ashes
- 8:30 p.m.**— La Misa con distribución de las cenizas

Ashes will only be distributed during the above listed services. Ashes will NOT be distributed in between services.

Fasting and abstinence are encouraged during Lent and reflect the season's penitential nature. In the U.S. all Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence, that is, days on which no meat is to be consumed. **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are days of fast, only one full meal during the day, as well as abstinence.

Fasting and abstinence are by no means the only types of penance. "Let us witness to our love and imitation of Christ by special solicitude for the sick, the poor, the underprivileged, the imprisoned, the bedridden, the discouraged, the lowly." (Tobit 12, Mt 6).

Do you like to sing? The St. Francis Music Ministry welcomes singers of ALL ages to come check out a rehearsal.



Sometimes we sit listening to the choirs and wish we were singing with them. **Now is your chance!** Please come check out a rehearsal and learn more about the choirs. All singers are welcome. **Please consider joining us in making joyful music through one of our choirs:**

- The **Adult Choir**, which sings at the 9:00 A.M. Mass every Sunday, rehearses every Monday evening from 7:30 P.M. until 9:00 P.M.
- The **Worship Ensemble** sings at the 12:15 P.M. Mass every Sunday. Rehearsals are held every Thursday from 7:30 until 9:00 P.M.
- The **Teen/Young Adult Choir** sings several times monthly, usually in conjunction with the Youth Ministry Schedule, at the 5:30 P.M. Mass on Sunday. Rehearsals are held every Monday evenings from 6:00 until 7:15 P.M.
- The **Family Liturgy Choir** sings at the 10:45 A.M. Mass and is open to all children of the Parish grades 2 through 8. They rehearse on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6:45 – 7:45 p.m.

All rehearsals take place in the choir area of the church.

For more information, please contact **Nikole Girdali at nikoleg@stfrncis.org.**



Votive Candles

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

St. Francis House Corner



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

- **Items of the Month: Toothpaste and Body Soap**
- Hamburger Helper
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned Fruit

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

The annual campaign to support the students at our sister parish will begin February 11th. There are envelopes with the child's name, grade, and yearly cost posted on the bulletin board. This year there are even more partial scholarships, which is a good sign that the economy is doing a little better in the area. There are a few full scholarships, but we have split them in two, so there are a few children who have two envelopes in order to provide the full amount of funds. If you prefer to sponsor one of those children, please feel free to just take both envelopes. Same as last year, there is a sign-out sheet, so that we can track the envelopes. This year, Sr. Dolores has asked us for some funds to help some students pay for school supplies. There will be some envelopes to use for this purpose. **All envelopes should be returned no later than March 11th.** Just drop them in the Catch-All Slot. Thank you for your kindness.



Craft Ministry

If you like to knit, crochet, quilt, or sew to help spread God's love and comfort to those in need, please join us:

What: Fellowship while working on our own "unplugged" projects for charity (no sewing machines or irons, please)

When: Thursday, February 15th, 6:30 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Where: Grade 5 Classroom (Parish Center)

Who: Adults (ONLY) who sew, knit, quilt, crochet, etc. (No childcare is provided)

For more information, please contact Katy McClevey at ukkaty@gmail.com.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Montclairfamilydentistry.com** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

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: Crema Dental y Jabón Para el Cuerpo

- Hamburger Helper
- Espagueti
- Crema de Maní y Jalea
- Fruta En Lata

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, marzo 9**. 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.**

Miércoles de Ceniza Febrero 14. 8:30pm Misa con distribución de cenizas.

No habrá distribución de cenizas entre los servicios. Se alienta el ayuno y la abstinencia durante la Cuaresma y a reflexionar sobre la penitencial durante la temporada. En los EE.UU. Todos los viernes de Cuaresma son días de abstinencia, es decir, días en que no se consume carne.

El miércoles de ceniza y el Viernes Santo son días de ayuno, solo una comida completa durante el día, así como la abstinencia.

El ayuno y la abstinencia no son el único tipo de penitencia. "Demos testimonio de nuestro amor y la imitación de Cristo por una especial solicitud por los enfermos, los pobres, los desposeídos, los encarcelados, los que se encuentran en cama, los desanimados, los humildes." Tobit (Mt 6, 12).

¿Eres nuevo a la parroquia??? ¡Bienvenido!!—Los formularios de inscripción están disponibles en las mesas en el vestíbulo de la iglesia, o en la oficina de la parroquia o desde el sitio web de la parroquia www.stfrancis.org.

ST. FRANCIS MEN'S GROUP—Our February meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Br. Juniper Room.** The topic will be: "*Life After Death and Death After Life—How to Cope with Both*" For more information, please see the Men's Group page on the parish website or please contact, **Tony Mercogliano at amercogliano@gmail.com or Mike Chamberlin at michael.chamberlin@verizon.net.**

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Fay Faylor.

And for those recently deceased: Jholie Moussa; Thomas Deback; Judy Mitchell; Thomas Hines; and Robert Laychak.

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.

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

Feb. 11 Sunday RE Session
15 NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday
18 NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday
22 Thursday RE Session
25 Sunday RE Session

First Reconciliation and First Communion
Important Dates

First Reconciliation—Saturday, February 24th
9:00am—all St. Francis School, RE Homeschool,
and SPII students
10:30am—All 2nd grade RE students (Thurs & Sun)

First Communion Retreat—Saturday, March 10th (10am to 3pm) - Parish Center—many volunteers are needed, so please contact **Sheila Noble** at snoble@stfrncis.org if you are able to help.

First Communion Rehearsal—Friday, April 13th
6:00-6:50pm—Rehearsal for 9:00am Mass—All St. Francis School, RE Homeschool, and SPII students
7:00-7:50pm—Rehearsal for 11:00am Mass—All 2nd grade RE students (Thursday and Sunday)

First Communion – Saturday, April 14th
9:00am Mass—Arrive no later than 8:30 am—All St. Francis School, RE Homeschool, and SPII students
11:00am Mass—Arrive no later than 10:30am—All 2nd grade RE students (Thursday and Sunday)

Mass Intentions on Sunday, February 18, 2018

7:30 AM †Erma Loraine
†Catherine Reece
Mike Dowd
9:00 AM †Mark Norman Olds, Sr.
†Bob Walker
†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:45 AM †Loretta King
Jerry Fitts
Jholie Moussa
12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
†Joseph Orloski
1:30 PM Misa en español
5:30 PM Judy Maris
People of the Parish
†Adolfo and †Maria Pereira

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.

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, February 11th

6:30 PM—8:30 PM

St. Catherine Room

REAL TIME (Youth Group)

All Teens Grades 9-12

Sunday, February 18th

Presidents' Day Weekend

NO REAL ACTIVITIES

Saturday, February 24th

2:30 PM—5:00 PM

St. Catherine Room

REAL LIFE—Make Lenten Crosses

All Teens Grades 9-12

Sunday, February 25th

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.

55+ Ministry Invites You to

Sight & Sound Theatres' Production of *Jesus*

Wednesday, April 25th

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Cost: \$140 per person

Bluebird Tours of Prince William County is organizing a day trip to Sight and Sound Theatres in Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see the production, *Jesus*. This is an action-packed musical stage adventure that takes you on a miraculous journey alongside the most famous person to ever walk the earth. The cost includes a ticket to the 11:00 a.m. performance, a buffet luncheon at the Eden Roc Resort and round trip bus fare. Reservations opened on January 26th and are by phone only through Bluebird Tours 703-339-0333 until the tour is full. For more information, please visit www.pwcgov.org/bluebird. *The 55+ Ministry will host a post-show discussion on Sunday, April 29th at 10:00 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room.*



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 Intentions

SATURDAY,	February 10—St. Scholastica
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	Jean Stoddart †Cy Kelly †Leann Stumm
SUNDAY,	February 11—6th Sunday In Ordinary Time
7:30 AM	†Stan Sebring †Beth Malaby †Kathryn Freed
9:00 AM	†Marie Newman People of the Parish †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:45 AM	†McKenna Marie Flood †Loretta King †Jholie Moussa
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †George Beck †Clyde and †Mabel St. Clair
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	David Allen Maris Rev. Robert E. Nilon, S.J. †Carroll Wyke
MONDAY,	February 12—Weekday
8:45 AM	Bill Ignatuck, Jr. †Fr. Tom McElroy †Freda Luisa
TUESDAY,	February 13—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Judy Mitchell Mary Saliski Clare Falcone
WEDNESDAY,	February 14—Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day
8:45 AM	†Deborah Barber McNeill †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
THURSDAY,	February 15—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Michael Brough
FRIDAY,	February 16—Lenten Weekday
8:45 AM	†Deborah Barber McNeill †Ignatius Keevan †Helen Cordes
SATURDAY,	February 17—Lenten Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Catherine Selepak †Marion and Bill Richmond †Cy Kelly

Readings for the Week of February 11, 2018

Monday	James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday	James 1:12-18; Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25
Friday	Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday	Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32
Sunday	Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

Soup and Stations—Fridays during Lent we will celebrate



Soup and Stations beginning **February 16th at 6:00 pm** with a soup and bread dinner in the **Parish Center Dining Facility**, followed by the **Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7:00 pm**. Each week a different group will sponsor the dinner and St. Francis Lectors will lead the Stations that evening. Please join us in this time of fellowship and prayer.

For all lectors, ushers, servers, and Eucharistic ministers who wish to serve during Lent, Easter Vigil, and/or Easter Day Masses, the **sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the vestibule.**



Altar Server Training



Paul Jacobsmeyer will conduct altar server training on: **Saturday, February 24th from 1:30pm—2:30pm**

Rising 5th graders and older boys and girls are eligible. Please contact Paul Jacobsmeyer at **703-730-8280**, or e-mail- pjjake4@aol.com with any questions.

CALLING ALL YOU IRISH LADIES By BIRTH OR MARRIAGE



The Fr. Mychal Judge, O.F.M. Ladies Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians **will be meeting on Monday, February 12, 2018** in the **Parish Center Library!** We will gather at 6:45 pm. The meeting will last from 7:00-8:00 pm.

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"

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.**



**BE A FRANCIS-CAN
NOT A FRANCIS-CAN'T**