



I was pleased to see that our Parish School was featured in the "New School Year" edition of the Arlington Catholic Herald. There are a number of photos of the first day of school.

Our annual Labor Day picnic was once again a very successful and enjoyable gathering. Over 200 parishioners attended! Many thanks to Mary Battista and her organizing committee, to our servers, and grill masters!

The weather was of course quite hot, but the park pavilion made for a very nice shelter from the heat. We were also fortunate that there were very few "Yellow Jacket" bees present this year. Perhaps the weather these days is too hot, even for them!


We are in the process of revamping our "new parishioner" welcoming format. In addition to a letter welcoming new parishioners we will be reintroducing "Welcome Sundays". We first instituted these when I was pastor here 27 years ago.

Welcome Sundays consist of a gathering of New Parishioners in the Parish Center at which parish leaders will address the new parishioners, welcoming them and doing a brief presentation about parish spiritual and social programs and activities.

Sincerely,

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


Golf at a Jack Nicklaus Signature Design Golf Course (Potomac Shores Golf Club) and benefit Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School! **Golfing with Wolves is Thursday, September 20, 2018.** For more information about golf and sponsorships and to register, please go to: saintjohnpaulthegreat.org or please contact golf@jpthegreat.org.



Altar Server Training
Norm Litterini will conduct altar server training on: **Saturday, September 22nd from 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.**

Rising 3rd graders and older boys and girls are eligible. Please **sign-up** for the training by contacting Norm Litterini at normredleg@hotmail.com.

Christ Centered Yoga classes began on **September 11th (Tuesday, evenings)** at 4:00p.m. and 5:45p.m. in the **St. Catherine Room**. Please contact **Rita Evans** regarding the Tuesday evening classes at **540-270-0667** or at breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com.



Saturday morning classes will begin on **September 29th at 7:30a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**. Please contact **Tracy Morgan** at **540-446-9426** or spiritualyogava@gmail.com. All Levels are welcome.

WANTED: CANDIDATES FOR PASTORAL COUNCIL:



The Pastoral Council of St. Francis of Assisi Parish is seeking to fill **6 seats** in an **October 20-21, 2018** Parish-Wide election. The Pastoral Council serves as a collaborative and consultative body to the Pastor as he carries out the mission, vision, and goals of the Parish. The Pastoral Council is comprised of the Pastor, select Parish Staff, and 12 representatives elected from the Parish at large.

The Pastoral Council meets monthly with the Pastor. Members serve a term of 4 years. In October we will elect 6 new members to join the 6 members elected in October 2017. Please consider putting yourself forward as a candidate or encouraging someone you know. Fill out a candidate questionnaire which may be found on the parish website (www.stfrancis.org); in addition, copies are available in the vestibule of the Church. **Completed questionnaires must be returned to the Parish Office by September 30, 2018.** If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please make sure they know and have them fill out the questionnaire.

All nominees will be reviewed by the Pastor and Nominating Committee and ten (10) will be selected for the October 20-21, 2018 election. Thank you in advance for considering yourself or someone you think would be a good candidate.


The Pastoral Council Nominating Committee.



Marriage Preparation Workshop
Saturday, October 27, 2018
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Br. Juniper Room
This will be our last workshop for this year.

The next workshop will be held on April 6, 2019. Please contact the Parish Office at **703-221-4044** to register.

The 55+ Ministry will host a weekly small faith group meeting on **Tuesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room, beginning September 25, 2018.** We will be studying various forms of Catholic prayer. Please register online and purchase your workbook/journal directly from Ascension Press before the first meeting using <https://ascensionpress.com/studies/29759/registrations/new> and contact Lisa Ostendorf with any questions at lostendorf@stfrancis.org.



Please Pray For All those who are sick: Randy Ransom; Laurie Coligan; David Tekverk; Herb Harmon; Kathy Miracco; and Aaron Childs.

And for those recently deceased: Dorothy Seitz.

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



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.

Item of the Month: Dish Soap

- Hamburger Helper
- Spaghetti, Pasta, etc.
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit

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

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, September 20th, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where: Grade 5 Classroom (Parish Center)

Who: All Adults who sew, knit, quilt, crochet, etc. are welcome.

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



New to St. Francis? Please think about joining the Columbiettes, a group of Catholic women who promote the spiritual, social and charitable welfare of its members. Please contact **Dee Weikert** at

deeweikert@hotmail.com for more information and to receive an invite to a small gathering.

Participate in the International Day of Prayer for Peace—Our Parish will be leading one of the prayers and songs at the International Day of Prayer for Peace at **St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Woodbridge, VA.** On **Sunday, September 23rd** all are invited to attend both the program, which runs from **3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**, and the dinner, immediately following. This is a wonderful opportunity for interfaith unity in prayer.



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.



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Knights of Columbus, Potomac Council #9259** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Boletín Semanal

Festival de San Francisco de Asís—Los invitamos a participar del 11 Festival anual de San Francisco de Asís el domingo, octubre 7 de 1pm-5pm en los campos de la iglesia. ¡Tendremos comida, actividades para todas las edades, entretenimiento y mucho más!

Misa Bilingüe—El domingo, octubre 7; día del Festival de San Francisco tendremos una misa bilingüe a las 12:15 PM y después daremos comienzo al festival. **Este día Octubre 7 NO tendremos misa en español**

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español serán el **viernes, septiembre 14.** 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.

Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francisco—Gracias a las donaciones de todos nuestros feligreses el Artículo del mes ha sido bien recibido por nuestros clientes. Con sus donaciones podremos continuar ayudando a los más necesitados.

Artículo del mes: Jabón de Lavar Los Platos

- Ayudantes de Hamburguesa (Hamburger Helper)
- Espagueti, Pasta, etc.
- Tuna Enlatada
- Fruta Enlatada

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

SEASON OF CREATION

Walking Together, Praying Together. Please reflect on the important issue of clean drinking water for all of creation and pray for everyone on earth to have access to clean water. **As Pope Francis said in his prayer for creation on September 1st:** "For us Christians, water represents an essential element of purification and of life. We think immediately of baptism, the sacrament of our rebirth. Water made holy by the Spirit is the matter by which God has given us life and renewed us; it is the blessed source of undying life. For Christians of different confessions, baptism also represents the real and irreplaceable point of departure for experiencing an ever more authentic fraternity on the way to full unity. Jesus, in the course of his mission, promised a water capable of quenching human thirst forever (cf. *Jn 4:14*). He prophesied, "If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink (*Jn 7:37*). To drink from Jesus means to encounter him personally as the Lord, drawing from his words the meaning of life. May the words he spoke from the cross—"I thirst" (*Jn 19:28*) – echo constantly in our hearts. The Lord continues to ask that his thirst be quenched; he thirsts for love. He asks us to give him to drink in all those who thirst in our own day, and to say to them, "I was thirsty and you gave me to drink" (*Mt 25:35*). To give to drink, in the global village, does not only entail personal gestures of charity, but also concrete choices and a constant commitment to ensure to all the primary good of water."



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 starts on
September 16th!



You can register your child(ren) online at
<http://www.stfrncis.org/welcome-and-introduction/>

Religious Education is in need of Sunday Catechists.
Please contact the RE office for more information.

Questions? Please call 703-221-3127.



Let's Talk Faith
Sunday speaker series

On **Sunday, September 23rd** from **10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. in the Parish Center Dining Facility**

we will kick off our Let's Talk Faith speaker series with a presentation by Mr. Joe Mitcho on where to look for God. Let's Talk Faith presentations are monthly opportunities for parishioners to gather and learn about their Catholic faith, while enjoying a cup of coffee and breakfast pastry. The series complements the book, *Believing in Jesus: A Popular Overview of the Catholic Faith* by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., which is available for purchase from Amazon. **Each talk is separate, so please plan to attend one or all of them.**

Discover Bible Studies for Adults

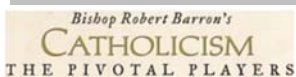
Sunday Study: "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass"
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in St. Catherine Room
Classes begin September 23, 2018



Monday Study: "The Psalms"
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in St. Catherine Room
Classes begin September 24, 2018

Self-paced Home Studies Available
September 1, 2018—December 31, 2018:

Please visit www.stfrncis.org/resources for course descriptions and to register for any study, and please contact Lisa Ostendorf at lostendorf@stfrncis.org with questions.



St. Francis of Assisi: *The Reformer*

Rebuild my Church! Christ's mission to St. Francis is the perennial task of the Church in every age of its life. But how is that reform and renewal accomplished? The radical simplicity of St. Francis' life demonstrates how the foundations of true and lasting reform are to be built on the solid rock that is the witness of the saints.

In this episode of the series CATHOLICISM: *The Pivotal Players*, Bishop Barron and his team travel to Italy to visit all of the locations that played a significant role in the formation and vocation of St. Francis of Assisi, which in turn formed the life of the Church.

Please join us to continue the celebration of the life of St. Francis and view this episode on **Saturday, October 6th at 6:30pm in the Br. Juniper room!** Please contact Sheila Noble at snoble@stfrncis.org with any questions.

Women's Group
Begins Thursday, October 4th
9:15 a.m.— 10:15 a.m.
Parish Center Dining Facility



Women of all ages are invited to join us for food, fellowship and discussion on two Thursday mornings a month, beginning October 4th. **Everyone is asked to pay \$20, and childcare is provided for an additional contribution of \$20 per family.** We will begin this year with the small group study, "What On Earth Am I Here For?" based on the best-selling book, *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. The book and study guide may be purchased through Christianbook.com or Amazon. More information is available on our website www.stfrncis.org/groups or contact Mary Smith errolmary@gmail.com 703-201-5681.

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, September 16th

6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room

REAL Fun—Cornhole Tournament
All Teens Grade 9-12

Sunday, September 23rd

6:30 PM—8:30 PM
St. Catherine Room

REAL LEADERSHIP
Leadership Team Only

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



Fall Cleaning and Decluttering FUNDdrive

Everyone is invited to drop-off donations of good condition used clothing and household items on **September 22nd from 8:00a.m. - 12:00p.m. in the St. Francis of Assisi Back Parking Lot.**

The donated items will be brought to Woodbridge Savers. St. Francis of Assisi School's Robotics Club and Sports programs will receive funds per pound of donations. Our collection goal is 400 bags/boxes of donated items.

We cannot accept large furniture, baby gear (strollers, car seats, etc), mattresses, large appliances, building materials, tires, cleaning supplies, flammable materials or auto parts.

Please contact Durell Notz at notzd.sfas@gmail.com with any questions about donations and for additional information.

Baptismal Preparation Class

Our next class will be held on
Sunday, October 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.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	September 15—Our Lady of Sorrows Sacrament of Reconciliation †Marion and †Bill Richmond †Cy Kelly †Alice Tippit
SUNDAY, 7:30 AM 9:00 AM 10:45 AM 12:15 PM 1:30 PM 5:30 PM	September 16—24th Sunday in Ordinary Time †Betty Jane Carmack †Patricia Mooney †Alice Tippit †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Esther Jean Matochik †Dr. William H. Walker †Pham Quoc Viet †Judi Schatte †Clara Kennedy †Dale and †Lena McCleary †Paul and †Connie Arcudi Misa en español People of the Parish Chris Maris †Bill and †Margaret Ignatuck
MONDAY, 8:45 AM	September 17—Weekday †John and †Margaret Curry
TUESDAY, 8:45 AM	September 18—Weekday †Maryann Shepherd Sarah Ecklund
WEDNESDAY, 8:45 AM	September 19—Weekday †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
THURSDAY, 8:45 AM	September 20—Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Ha-sang John Scott †Rhoda Brindle †Enrique Lizarralde
FRIDAY, 8:45 AM	September 21—St. Matthew, Apostle †Gladys Spring †Alice Tippit †Marcus Wilson
SATURDAY, 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	September 22—Weekday Sacrament of Reconciliation †Cy Kelly †Gladys Spring †Margaret Potter
Mass Intentions on Sunday, September 23, 2018	
7:30 AM	†Charles Longuemare, I †Charles Longuemare, II †Alice Tippit
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Vu Van Long †Timothy West
10:45 AM	†Joseph Powers †James L. Mooney †Marguerite H. Mooney
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Virgilio Echevaria †Anita Tornes Echevaria
1:30 PM 5:30 PM	Misa en español †Teopisto and †Conchita Alorro People of the Parish John Maris

Readings for the Week of September 16, 2018

Monday	1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33; Luke 7:1-10
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a; Luke 7:11-17
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13; Luke 7:31-35
Thursday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 7:36-50
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13
Saturday	1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49; Luke 8:4-15
Sunday	Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; James 3:16—4:3; Mark 9:30-37

Francis Fest: Important Notes!



Our 11th Annual *Francis Fest* is scheduled for **Sunday, October 7th from 1-5pm on** the Parish Grounds. Great food, activities for all ages, entertainment and comradery guaranteed!

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 9/22-9/23 and 9/29-9/30, as well as the weekend of the festival.**
- **Gently used, clean stuffed animals needed for our game prize booth.** Please drop off donations in church foyer, **clearly marked for Francis Fest** the same weekends as mentioned above for wine donations.
- **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.** Please go to bit.ly/francisfest2018 to sign-up.
- **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 **9/22-9/23 and 9/29-9/30** 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.



As part of our **Annual Francis Fest** on **October 7th**, 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 contact **Rosemary Schatz with questions, or to request space at 703-670-2450.** Table space is limited so do not delay to reserve your spot.