

From the Pastor's Desk

I was deeply moved and challenged by the response of the members of the Emanuel A.M.E. church in Charleston, South Carolina after nine members of their parish community were shot and killed by a lone gunman. They preached forgiveness! I am not sure I would've been so ready to forgive. A grandson of Ethel Lane, one of the victims, declared: "She is a victim of hate, but she can be a symbol for love. That is what she was in life. Hate is powerful but love is more powerful." As Christians you and I are constantly called to be ministers of reconciliation and instruments of God's peace especially in the midst of violence and hatred.

Recently the Supreme Court has legalized same-sex marriage. While we know that the Catholic Church officially does not recognize same-sex marriage, the important question now is how we respond officially and individually as Christians and Roman Catholics. Do we seek to be ministers of reconciliation or do we contribute to the climate of fear and hate that gay people have experienced throughout their lives. They have been victims of hate but they can also be symbols of love. Even if the Catholic Church does not officially recognize same-sex marriage we need to deal pastorally and loving with our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters as we all struggle to live out our common baptismal commitment.

I believe "central to our identity" as a parish is that we welcome all people. We are the open arms of Jesus on the cross in St. Francis church. We reach out and welcome all people, those who attend mass daily and those who come only on Christmas and Easter. We welcome those who have been estranged from the church because of divorce or sexual orientation or a bad experience in confession. I want all to continue to feel welcomed and nourished in our church. I would certainly make my own the words of Pope Francis: "Who am I to judge?" We are nourished and challenged at mass as we hear the word of God, break bread, sing praise to God and share peace with one another. We come with joy but also with broken lives.



After 23 years of service to St. Francis of Assisi, Anne Tunney is retiring. Please come by the [Dining Facility on August 2nd after the 5:30 pm Mass](#) to wish Anne well as she starts another chapter in her life's journey.

Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, August 16, 2015** from 1:15p.m.—2:00p.m. in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**

NOW WHAT?

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Now What: Scripture Study

Our Catholic faith tradition holds Holy Scripture (the Bible) to be a "sacred deposit" entrusted to our Church. The Church as the magisterium protects the faith tradition and ensures this tradition is passed on to future generations. The principle of "actualization" allows for every text to be reread in the light of new conditions and circumstances applied to modern communities of faith. In a very practical sense, scripture continues to shed light on many current issues such as: caring for the poor, the protection of the unborn, protecting the environment and speaking out against violence and war. The Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) is the record of the Jewish covenantal experience with Yahweh. For Christians, the Old Testament anticipates the coming of Christ. Through our faith in Jesus we have inherited the status of "a chosen people" and have entered a new phase in God's dealing with humanity; a "new covenant," a new dispensation. The New Testament writings provide the witness and testimony to Jesus' life, teachings and ministry. St. Augustine commented: "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old; the Old Testament is enlightened through the New." Scripture Study enriches your life, draws you closer to God and equips you with the tools to proclaim your faith to others.

In this year that St. Francis celebrates the 25th

Anniversary of its Cub Scout Pack's (Pack 1385) founding, the Scouting Community at **St. Francis will be establishing for the first time ever in the parish, a Boy Scout Troop (Troop 138)**, for boys from 11 to 17 years old. A small founding nucleus of boys has planned their own calendar of events for the year which include: an air show; spending the night on a submarine; climbing and rappelling in a cave; a ski trip in West Virginia; a Naval Academy Football game; and more!

While great fun in the outdoors is the highlight of the program—there is no **Scouting** without the "outing"—it is not all about that. Boy Scouts are also dedicated to service in the community and church as part of the Scouting ethos and development of the whole boy/soon to become young man. Service projects with the church, St. Francis House outreach center, and Quantico National Cemetery are already being planned.

St. Francis' Boy Scout Troop's first service project will be to collect much needed school supplies for St. Francis House, during the weekends of **August 1st-2nd, 8th-9th, and 15th-16th**. Boxes will be located in the vestibule for your generous contributions of these items (glue sticks, black and white marble composition books, wide-ruled notebook paper, pink erasers, etc.). *This year Virginia's sales tax holiday/tax-free weekend is August 7th-9th* (<http://www.tax.virginia.gov/content/sales-tax-holiday>).



If you are interested in becoming a founding member of Boy Scout Troop 138, please contact **Chanel Marquis at awlk2rmberva@yahoo.com**.

Social Justice: Franciscan Action and Advocacy (FA&A)

August FA&A meetings:

Sunday, August 2nd: V.O.I.C.E. (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) team is meeting to work on community issues at **10 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**.

Wednesday, August 12th: Anti-Human Trafficking Committee (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against the evil of human trafficking) is meeting at **7 p.m.** in the **Grade 6 Classroom**.

Saturday, August 15th: Respect Life Committee (advocating for the consistent ethic of life from conception to natural death) is meeting at **11:45 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**.

Sunday, August 16th: Care for Creation Committee (focused on environmental work/integral ecology) is meeting at **9 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**.

FYI: **Franciscan Action and Advocacy Council (FAAC)** is meeting on **Saturday, August 15th**, at **9:30 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**. (FAAC meetings are only open to council members. Parishioners are encouraged, however, to submit questions or ideas for FAAC discussion or consideration.)

We welcome everyone to get involved in these issues and/or in other social justice efforts the parish is actively engaged in.

For more information on any of the above and/or to get involved in justice/advocacy, please visit the FA&A section on the parish website and/or contact Rob Goraieb, O.F.S. at rgoraieb@stfrancis.org or 703-221-4978, ext. 228.



Save the Date, and Save your Stuff!

Our 8th Annual **Francis Fest** is scheduled for **Sunday, October 4th from 1pm-5pm** on the parish grounds. Great food, activities for all ages, entertainment and camaraderie 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:

- **Start setting aside your unwanted treasures and extra wine for the tag sale and wine wheel.** These two events are very popular and help to offset the cost of the festival. Look for further information in upcoming bulletins.
- **Volunteer to help the Francis Fest Committee.** The next planning meeting will be held on **August 9, 2015 from 10-11am** in the **St. Catherine Room**.

Questions? Please call Maureen Deutermann: 703-203-2752.

St. Francis House Corner

The St. Francis House Food Pantry Provided food for **70** families this week. We are in dire need of **Peanut Butter & Jelly**. For more information, please call Francia at 703-221-6344. Thank you for your continuing support.



Boletín Semanal

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales se realizaran el **viernes, Septiembre 18 a las 7:15pm** en el Salón del San Catherine. (No habrán Charlas bautismales el mes de agosto) Por favor recuerde que para tomar la charla y recibir el sacramento del bautizo los padres tienen que estar registrados en nuestra parroquia y registrarse para la charla con anterioridad. Ambos padres y padrinos deben asistir a la charla y no se permiten niños. Para mas información por favor llamar a **Francia al 703-221-6344**.

Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francis—Agradecemos a todos nuestros parroquianos por todas sus ofrendas a la Despensa de Comida; con sus donaciones pudimos ayudar a **70** familias. Muchas gracias por su apoyo constante.

Picnic del Día del trabajo—Vamos a celebrar el Día del Trabajo en la parroquia con una barbacoa en el **Parque de Locust Shade** el **lunes, 7 septiembre** de las **11am-3pm**, con servicio de oración a las **12pm**. Tendremos mas detalles en los futuros boletines. Este será un gran momento para unirnos y divertirnos en comunidad. Por favor, reservar la fecha con su familia y amigos!

How often do you think about your Personal Relationship with God?



Can you describe it or define it?

COME TO CURSILLO AND BECOME MORE AWARE OF YOUR SELF AND GOD.

ASK...WHO ARE YOU JESUS; AND WHO AM I?

**Woman's Weekend—Sept 17th-20th
Men's Weekend—Oct 15th-18th**

COME AND SEE!

For more information, please call Pequitte Schwerin at 703-590-8492 or go online to www.arlingtoncursillo.org.

Thank you so much to those candidates and parents who volunteered to be part of our childcare ministry this year! Because of your efforts and willingness to give of your time, several parents were able to attend the spring Bible Study who otherwise would not have been able to do so and they were very appreciative!! We are hoping to be able to offer babysitting at other programs for the 2015-2016 year as well and are in need of additional teen and adult volunteers. Please consider volunteering a couple of hours for this very important ministry. *Teen volunteers must be at least 13 years old and all adults must be VIRTUS trained and have completed a background check (please see Chanel Marquis in the Parish Office for paperwork).* St. Francis will host one of the **Virtus Sessions on Sunday, August 9th** from **11:00am to 3:00pm**, in the **Parish Center Dining Facility**. Registration can be completed on line at www.virtus.org. Please contact Sheila Noble at snoble@stfrncis.org if you are interested in volunteering.



Summer Hours

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



RE Registrations for 2015-2016 Catechetical Year

Registration is well underway for next year's Religious Education. Forms are available in the vestibule of the church and online (<http://www.stfrncis.org/Ministry/Religious%20Education-441-Home/>).

Volunteers Needed

Be a Catechist! We are in need of Catechists for grades 1st-8th for our Religious Education Program. Please volunteer for this wonderful ministry. No experience is necessary, training will be provided and ongoing support will be available.



Questions? Or for more information, please contact Marianne Hayes, DRE at 703-221-3127 or recoor@stfrncis.org.



RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

If you or someone you know is considering being initiated into the Roman Catholic faith, make plans to attend our first RCIA meeting on **Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:30pm in the Br. Juniper Room**. It will be a great opportunity to discover more details about the program and ask questions. You may also contact Lisa Ostendorf lostendorf@stfrncis.org or 703-221-4044, ext. 277.

RCIA Sponsors Needed

Sponsoring a RCIA Candidate/Catechumen is a unique opportunity to share your faith. If you are a confirmed Catholic and are interested in sharing the journey with an adult seeking full initiation, please contact Lisa Ostendorf lostendorf@stfrncis.org or 703-221-4044, ext. 277.

St. Francis of Assisi School has several openings available in our *Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade and 5th grade classes for the 2015-2016 school year*. Our Kindergarten has always been a full day program with a strong curriculum and a stimulating learning environment. Spanish, Music, PE, Health, Art and Technology are all part of the K through 8 curriculum. Band is offered from grades 4th-8th as are sports. All teachers are Virginia certified and assisting teachers have degrees. **Please call the school office for more information at 703-221-3868.**



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank CatholicMatch.com/goVA for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Due to a high volume of calls, an additional phone line/number has been added at the church. If the main 703-221-4044 line is busy, please call **703-221-3127**.

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Jeffrey Miller, Jim Kearns, Fran Phoenix, Gizzy Slocum, Corrine McCann, Joan Matochik, Donna Stoyas, Celine Nebbia, Josephine Selepak, and Annelies Gendron.

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way: Tom Girdali, Elizabeth L. Keegan, James Moore, Kyle McVay, Kyle Traylor, Kasey Eggie, Eustaquio Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

Votive Candles

Due to a recent robbery, the **candle money should be placed in the envelopes provided**. Then drop in the Catch-All slot, located in the vestibule of the church.



Readings for the Week of July 26, 2015

Monday	Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34; Matthew 13:31-35
Tuesday	Exodus 33:7-11, 34:5b-9, 28; Matthew 13:36-43
Wednesday	Exodus 34:29-35; John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42
Thursday	Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38; Matthew 13:47-53
Friday	Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Matthew 13:54-58
Saturday	Leviticus 25:1, 8-17; Matthew 14:1-12
Sunday	Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The **VIRTUS Protecting God's Children** is the adult safe-environment program being offered by the Diocese of Arlington. **The Diocese requires all adult employees and also volunteers who have substantial contact with children to attend the seminar. This includes:**

- ⇒ Vacation Bible School volunteers
- ⇒ Nursery volunteers
- ⇒ Confirmation retreat parent volunteers
- ⇒ School parent volunteers, who chaperone field trips, volunteer in the classroom, etc.
- ⇒ Mommy & Me volunteers
- ⇒ Coaches for all sports
- ⇒ Boy Scout/Girl Scout leaders and assistants (regardless of whether they are parishioners)
- ⇒ Catechists and Assistant Catechists
- ⇒ CYM and MSYM volunteers
- ⇒ All church and school employees

St. Francis of Assisi Parish will host a seminar on **Sunday, August 9th** from **11 am—3 pm**



in the Parish Center Dining Facility (begins promptly at 11 am). To attend this workshop you must pre-register with your full legal name. The seminar is limited to 60 people, but there are a number of seminars offered throughout the Diocese; please check

availability on the VIRTUS website.

To register: Go to www.virtus.org and click on the yellow link labeled "Registration" (you may either view a list of sessions or begin the registration process). To register for a specific session, select "Begin the Registration Process". Then, from the pull-down menu, select "Diocese of Arlington, VA". Then follow the online prompts.

Every adult member of the parish is invited to register and attend the workshop—it is our duty as members of this community of faith to be aware of how we can support and protect all children.

**Maryland Catholic Women's Conference Presents:
SEEK A Retreat: Relax, Refresh, Discover**

Come and rest! Join your sisters-in-Christ, quiet your soul, and listen to His voice. Seek to grow in Him through talks, Mass, sharing, journaling, music, walking, reflecting, and spending time with each other. As in all relationships, we must seek to nurture our relationship with Christ. Invite your sisters, mothers, daughters and friends. **October 10th and 11th, Mt. St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg MD.** Visit www.marylandcatholicwomen.com or please call **Jeanne at 443-324-8487**. Discounts for groups of 10 or more.

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Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, 5:30 PM	July 26—17th Sunday In Ordinary Time †Owen Czapiewski Chip Frey Humphrey Family
7:30 AM	†Joan Weber Mrs. Elaine E. Minor
9:00 AM	†George Beck †Liza Heenan †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik Katherine Gonsorcik Marie Chery
10:30 AM	†Alex Galatro †Ricardo G. Catindig
12:00 PM	†Clara Kennedy †Don and †Joyce McVay
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish
MONDAY, 8:45 AM	July 27—Weekday †Joseph and †Constance Demers
TUESDAY, 8:45 AM	July 28—Weekday †Charles deGruy
WEDNESDAY, 8:45 AM	July 29—St. Martha †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
THURSDAY, 8:45 AM	July 30—Weekday Theresa Brooks
FRIDAY, 8:45 AM	July 31—St. Ignatius of Loyola †Martha Vierheller
SATURDAY, 4:00 PM	August 1—St. Alphonsus Liguori Sacrament of Reconciliation
Mass Intentions on Sunday, August 2, 2015	
5:30 PM	†Joyce McVay †Scott Kujawa
7:30 AM	†Janet Sarsfield
9:00 AM	Renee Roccato †Liza Heenan †Britt Courtney †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:30 AM	†Eileen Bolen
12:00 PM	†Clara Kennedy Paul and Cindy Devoe †George Beck
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish



**GO ON A
PLASTIC DIET**

The two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why—Mark Twain. Please call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312 and then press 4** to talk and discuss if Stephen Ministry is your "WHY".

