

From the Pastor's Desk

Yeah, we're busy people—and, frankly, we like it that way. We like to be constantly on the go, to keep moving, to always have several "balls in the air"—because we're afraid to stop. We may discover that we're NOT indispensable, that the world can carry on perfectly well without us. If we take a moment to look, we may realize that we're moving very quickly and efficiently—but we're not going anywhere or we're heading in the wrong direction. The things that "fill" our days may actually point to the emptiness of our lives.

In Mark 6: 30-34 Jesus said to his disciples "come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." Jesus is inviting us to do the same today. In calling us to a "deserted place," Jesus is asking us to stop and to see where we've been and where we're heading; to change directions, if needed. But most importantly, we need to stop and realize the good in our lives and rejoice in the blessings of God we have taken for granted or fail to realize because we're in too much of a hurry to notice.

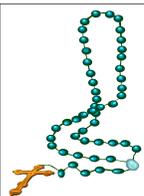
To provide you with a "deserted place" so you can slow down and reflect is why we are having a Parish Mission beginning next weekend. A Parish Mission is a mini retreat designed for busy people. We all need to step back, slow down and simply reconnect our lives with God. My friend and brother **Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM** will be leading the Mission and he is an awesome speaker. He led our Franciscan Pilgrimage to Assisi a year ago and his homilies were inspiring. Fr. Steve is coming to us from Wisconsin where he teaches. Please mark your calendars and keep **February 28th, 29th, and March 1st** free so that you can take advantage of this invitation to "come away to a deserted place and be with the Lord".

During Lent Mass will be celebrated at 8:45am and 12 noon Monday through Friday.

Confession Schedule for Lent

Confessions will be heard every Wednesday during Lent from **6:30 pm until 8:00 pm**.

In addition to Saturday's from 4—5pm.



The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, February 23rd** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Clare Room**. All are welcome. For more information, please call **Otella Creegan at 703-221-4692**.

THE FRANCISCAN CHALLENGE

Q & A's

Why do the Franciscan Friars need money?

The Franciscan Friars ask not for themselves, but for the sake of others, and often do so with some embarrassment and hesitation. However, there are times that need a stronger call, and that is now. The Friars, in our "tradition of begging" are asking for money for three very important causes:

For our young men who desire to become

Franciscan Friars – We need help for education and all its costs, their room and board and their intern expenses.

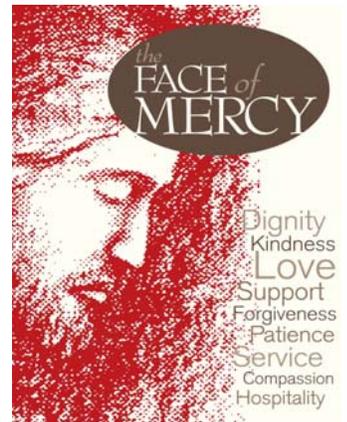
For our work with the poor and desperate—Saint Francis traced the beginning of his conversion to when God led him to live among lepers to serve them. Ever since that time, direct service to the materially poor and marginalized people of society has been a hallmark of Franciscan ministry. We are continuing that tradition over 800 years later.

For our sick and elderly Franciscan Friars—These Friars have served so many for so long—and are now in need of care themselves. The cost of their care has risen drastically while the quality of their care depends on those of us whom they have served so well.

Celebrate Lent with FRIENDS

HOSTS may pick up their materials next weekend (February 27th—28th) after all Masses or stop by the parish office during the week. **Sessions begin the week of February 29th. It is not too late to sign up!** Register today as a HOST or PARTICIPANT by visiting www.stfrancis.org/small-groups.

The FACE OF MERCY is a five-week series featuring readings, teachings and testimonials. This series provides time to build trust within existing friendships, and develop new ones. It is a way to help one another move forward on a path to spiritual growth. All are welcome!



There is a \$10.00 fee per participant, to be collected at your first meeting. Groups will not meet during Holy Week and Easter.

Follow us on:

Facebook: *St. Francis of Assisi Church*

Twitter: *@StFrancisVA*

Instagram: *stfrancischurchva*



St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **65** families this week. At this moment we are in need of **cereal** and **reusable bags (no paper bags)**. For more information about the St.



Francis House Food Pantry, please call Francia at 703-221-6344. Thank you for your continuing support.

When Did I see You Hungry, Lord?

St. Francis has pledged to provide Saturday dinners during the winter months at the Winter Shelter and **we need your help**. Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the vestibule. **For more information please contact Francia at 703-221-6344 or calisa3@verizon.net.**

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales serán el **viernes, marzo 18** a las 7:00pm en la librería de la escuela. Para mas información por favor llamar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francis—gradecemos a todos nuestros parroquianos por todas sus ofrendas a la Despensa de Comida; con sus donaciones pudimos ayudar a **65** familias. En estos momentos estamos necesitados de **cereal** y **bolsas reusables**. **Muchas gracias por sus donaciones.**

Cuando te vi con hambre, Señor?—San Francis se ha comprometido a proveer cenas para el alberge todos los sábados. Necesitamos su ayuda. Para mas información por favor llamar a **Francia al 703-221-6344** o escribirle a su correo electrónico calisa3@verizon.net o firmarse en las hojas que están en el vestíbulo de la iglesia.

Sopa y Las Estaciones (Vía Crucis)—Los viernes durante el tiempo de Cuaresma estaremos celebrando “Sopa y las Estaciones” empezando el **12 de febrero a las 6:00pm** con una cena de sopa y pan en el comedor del Centro Parroquial seguido por las estaciones en español a las 8:00pm en la iglesia. Los esperamos a que se una con nosotros en este tiempo de comunión y de oración.

Servicio Penitencial—El miércoles, **Marzo 16 de 6:30-8:00pm** tendremos en nuestra parroquia el Servicio Penitencial, oportunidad para reflexionar en la palabra de Dios, examinar nuestra conciencia y confesar nuestros pecados.

Horario de Confesiones durante el tiempo de Cuaresma—Las confesiones serán escuchadas todos los viernes de 8:00-9:00pm.

Sacramentos para Adultos—Cualquier adulto que desee celebrar algún Sacramento por favor contactar al **Padre John Heffernan al 703-864-2053**. El Padre John se encuentra de viaje en estos momentos y regresara en marzo 10. por favor llamarlo después de esta fecha.

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

Year of Mercy Franciscan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Are you ready for the trip of a lifetime? To walk the streets of Bethlehem and Jerusalem in the footsteps of Jesus? To take a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee? Are you open to discover the presence of Christ in the midst of the descendants of the first disciples of Jesus who continue to live and worship in the Holy Land? This unique pilgrimage, scheduled for **May 17-27, 2016**, is designed for those who **want not only to visit the holy places, but also to learn about the struggles and hopes of present-day Palestinian Christians** in their pursuit of dignity, justice and freedom. The pilgrimage will be led by a Franciscan friar of Holy Name Province, Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM. The cost of the pilgrimage is \$4,010 per person from Dulles-Washington airport. For more information and to register, please visit:

<https://holylandtours.ps/pilgrimages/lsp-2016-04/>. For any questions, please contact **Fr. Jacek, O.F.M.** directly at jacek@hnpfriar.org or call **301-502-7621**.

Our **Care for Creation Committee** (focused on environmental work/integral ecology) is meeting **this Sunday, February 21st, at 9 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**.

Other upcoming FA&A meetings: The **V.O.I.C.E.** (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) team here at the parish is meeting to work on community issues on **Sunday, March 6th, at 10 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room**. Our **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting on **Wednesday, March 9th, at 7 p.m.** in the **Grade 7 Classroom**. Our **Respect Life Committee** (advocating for the consistent ethic of life from conception to natural death) is meeting on **Saturday, March 19th, at 11:45 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room**. Our **Franciscan Action and Advocacy Council (FAAC)** is meeting on **Saturday, March 19th, 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.)

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

(<http://www.stfrncis.org/welcome-introduction/>) and/or contact Rob Goraieb, O.F.S. at rgoraieb@stfrncis.org or **703-221-3127, ext. 228.**

Could not find the perfect Christmas gift for your friend? Why not sponsor someone for the next Cursillo weekend? This is a weekend opportunity to get closer to Christ, and share in the Catholic community. **The women's weekend will be held March 3rd-6th**, at San Damiano Retreat Center at White Post. **The men's weekend will be April 21st-24th** at Missionhurst. If you are interested in more information, please call **Pequitte Schwerin at 703-590-8492** or email at wislady@comcast.net. You can also access the website at arlingtoncursillo.org.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Brightness House Cleaning
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Faith Formation Office

Phone: 703-221-3127 Fax: 703-221-3246

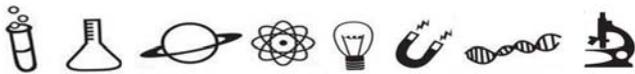
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday: 8:00 am—2:00 pm
Friday: 8:00 am—1:00 pm

Religious Education Calendar

Religious Education has a New Website Page! Parents please check out the new Parish website at stfrancis.org. Religious Education has a new page along with some new added features. We have a Parent Blog with insightful articles and we are on Pinterest! Please feel free to email me with Catholic resources that you have found helpful.

Email Marianne Hayes, DRE at recoor@stfrancis.org

Feb. 21	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
25	Thursday RE Session
28	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
Mar. 3	Thursday RE Session
6	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
10	Thursday RE Session
13	Sunday RE Sessions I&II



STEMFest 2016 is coming to St. Francis!

St. Francis of Assisi School will be holding a Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) festival ("STEMFest 2016") in May and we need your help!

You don't need to be a Scientist, Engineer, or Mathematician to help! Yes, we can use anyone with a STEM-related background who is willing to speak to students about their career. We can also use volunteers willing to help brainstorm learning activities, collect materials, solicit potential sponsors and speakers, set up for the festival, run activities, conduct demonstrations, and help with cleanup.

If you can help, please contact **Marc DiCocco** at 703-897-4311 or via e-mail at MarcDFlyer@gmail.com. Mr. DiCocco will be holding a kick-off meeting soon to discuss plans, needs, and ideas. Please consider helping in any way you can!

Cyber Seniors

Join us on **Thursday, March 3, 2016, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Br. Juniper Room.** Among other things, we will be exploring the various types of computer devices, (i.e. iPad, Chromebook, laptop, Surface Book, etc...) and the advantages and limitations of each. We will also look at the types of storage devices available (i.e. flash drive, external hard drive, disc, etc...) as well as the Cloud. We will talk about options for backing up critical information from your electronic devices. These are **entry level sessions** designed for seniors who want to become more comfortable with the electronic devices that are now part of all our lives. **No prior computer experience or technical vocabulary required!**



Please Pray For All those who are sick: Clyde Richardson, and Annelies Gendron.

And for those recently deceased: Craig Weirich; Bill Skillman; and Ron Emmons.

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way: Bo Bosak, Joseph Sheridan, Ian French, Jeffrey Miller, Jeffrey Monken, James Moore, Kyle McVay, Kyle Traylor, Kasey Eggie, Eustaquio Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

BE THE DIFFERENCE

THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTS MARCH 1ST IN PERU!! IT'S TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE.

This year we have children from 3 different Catholic schools who need help with their tuition. Their needs range from \$90-\$500 for a year of schooling. This year we are adding two more opportunities to help our sister parish families. Santa Ana school is offering a badly needed after school program. Could you donate \$5 to pay for one child to have 1 month of tutoring and childcare? Any increments above that would be appreciated. The entire cost of the program, for 50 children, is only \$2,250 for the school year. Santa Ana has a highly effective micro-loan program that has benefited several groups of women to start or enhance new businesses. This year we would like to supplement this fund so that they can increase the number of loans. You will find marked envelopes for all these donations on the bulletin board. Please be sure to return them by **March 6th**. See the bulletin board and/or website for more information or call **Sharon Danner at 703-680-0860**.

Kairos Asks for Your Support

The Kairos Program is a prison ministry, which involves screened volunteers visiting and interacting with those who are incarcerated. Its purpose is to build a Christian community internal to the prison. Ideally, there are approximately 42 residents selected to participate during each Kairos weekend that is conducted semi-annually. On **March 10-13, 2016, John Cipparone will be visiting members at Deep Meadow Correctional Center.** You can assist our Kairos volunteer in the following manner:



Prayer Wheel/Chain: Intercessory prayer is powerful—for those incarcerated as well as their families. If you would like to offer prayers for those attending the Kairos weekend, please **John Cipparone at (H) 703-580-6406 or (C) 603-512-9680 or e-mail him at johncip11@verizon.net.**

Make Cookies: Each Kairos volunteer is asked to bring 100 dozen cookies as a metaphor for abundant love. These cookies are for those attending the weekend plus one dozen for the entire population. As one released prisoner said, "There's a whole world in a dozen cookies." **You can deliver cookies to the parish office up to Monday, March 7, 2016.**

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



Second Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY, February 21—2nd Sunday of Lent
 5:30 PM †Lee Orsini
 †John Shooksters
 †Catherine Selepak
 7:30 AM †Hazel Orsini
 9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †Louie and †Cherrie Takacs
 10:30 AM †Jose Agustine Garcia
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
 †Craig Weirich
 †Helen and Frank Cordes
 1:45 PM †Javier Duque Portugal
 5:30 PM People of the Parish

MONDAY, February 22—Chair of St. Peter
 8:45 AM †Helen O'Connor
 †Donald French

12:00 PM
TUESDAY, February 23—Lenten Weekday
 8:45 AM †John Bernard MacKinnon
 12:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, February 24—Lenten Weekday
 8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 Souls In Purgatory

12:00 PM
THURSDAY, February 25—Lenten Weekday
 8:45 AM
 12:00 PM

FRIDAY, February 26—Lenten Weekday
 8:45 AM †Ligia Lizarralde
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †Albert Symes

12:00 PM
SATURDAY, February 27—Lenten Weekday
 4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mass Intentions on Sunday, February 28, 2016

5:30 PM †John Shookster
 †George and †Helen Callaway
 †Jean Stanley
 7:30 AM †George Winckler
 †Judy Cloy
 9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 10:30 AM People of the Parish
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
 †Arlin Pryor
 †Adrian Steven Robinson
 1:45 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM †Sara Belli
 †George and †Helen Callaway

Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, March 13, 2016 from 1:30p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**

Readings for the Week of February 21, 2016

Monday 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19
Tuesday Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
Wednesday Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
Thursday Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31
Friday Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9

The same water that softens the potato hardens the egg. It is about what you are made of, not the circumstances. Need help finding your purpose? Please call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312 and then press 4 or email at kwalker@stfrancis.org** and start the process with a Stephen Minister to find out!



CALLING.....ALL YOU IRISH LADIES by BIRTH OR MARRIAGE

Come by and see what is going on within our group! We would enjoy meeting you and having you JOIN us.



The Ladies of the Fr. Mychal Judge, O.F.M. Ladies Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians **will be meeting on Saturday, February 27, 2016** in the **St. Catherine Room** (located near the Pre-school on the right side of the church). **Social time will be from 9:45 a.m.-10:00 a.m. and the meeting will be from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.** You must be: Catholic female of 16 years of age or older and Irish, Irish decent OR married to an Irish gentlemen, you are welcome to join us. You may further seek admittance to the **FINEST Irish Catholic Organization in the World**—all we 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.

Go on a Mission Without Leaving Triangle

Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM will be leading our Lenten Parish Mission on discipleship in the Franciscan tradition in this Year of Mercy. Please join us in the church for three evenings—**February 28th, 29th, and March 1st from 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.**

What is a parish mission? A mission is a mini retreat designed for busy people; an opportunity to step back a bit, to slow down and simply reconnect our lives with God; a time of spiritual refreshment and invigoration.