

**From  
the  
Friars**



Dear parishioners, on behalf of the Friars and staff I thank you for your great generosity in sharing your time talent and financial resources in so many ways this Christmas.

Thankyou for the gifts you donated to children, the food donated to those less fortunate.

The financial donations that you made for the poor.

Thank you to those who helped prepare the Church with its beautiful decorations. Thank you to our Choir directors, musicians and choirs for their beautiful choral presentations at the Masses.

Thank you to our sacristans, Eucharist ministers, lectors, ushers, altar servers, counters.

And many thanks for the many cards and gifts that we friars received.

Finally thank you for your commitment to our parish , in no small part evidenced by the largest attendance that I have seen at the Christmas masses in the 16 years that I have been associated with the parish

Best wishes for a blessed and happy New year !

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

The Christmas Flowers were donated in memory of the following families:

**Badami; Taravella; Ward and Richmond; Ferenschak; Burke and Deitz; Shroyer, Altenburg, and Warrelmann; and Lim-Torrijos.**



And the following individuals: **Joseph Pennell; Frank Olga; Allen Irwin; John Prell; Joseph Carroll; John Carroll; Vera Prell; Florence and Stan Rezler; Iren and Ray Wagner; Dan Morris; Joseph Delash; James Kubasiak; Gerard Egal; Rober Macumber; Juanita Checon; Theora Loidouer; Rosemary and John Wenzel; Dorothy and Arthur Peitler; Kenneth Lieb; Mary and Samuel Deitz; William D. Stoddart, III; John P. Lawton; Audrey Jones; Carmen and Anna Paglio; Stanley and Josephine France; Jean Jurick; Vernon, Gloria and Trudy Unger; Phyllis Taylor; Charles and Betty Miller; Gaston and Zelmira Gianni; Blaine and Mary Hoover; Helen C. Buckley; Richard Boron; William Marceau; The Columbiettes; and Harriet Biscitoff.**

**Please Note: The Mass Intention book for 2017 is now open.**

To schedule a Mass you may come in or call the office. We also have envelopes located on the tables in the vestibule. Just drop the envelope in the catch-all slot.

**We will be taking 3 intentions per Mass.**

**Mission 2017**

**Join St Francis Parishioners in July 2017 on a journey to our Sister Parishes in Lima. Peru.**

**Departs Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Returns Monday, July 10th**

- Applications and a **deposit of \$100** now being accepted. The final date for receipt of applications is **January 31, 2017.**
- Fee includes airfare, lodging, most meals and local transportation.
- Full payment (**\$1,500**) is due by **January 31, 2017** Applications are available on line at <http://www.stfrancis.org/sister-parish-in-peru/> and next to the Sister Parish section of the church bulletin board.

**Questions? Please contact:**

Terry Danner at  
703-680-0860 or [terrydanner@verizon.net](mailto:terrydanner@verizon.net)

or contact

Chuck O'Hern at  
910-795-6203 or [Charles.ohern@usmc.mil](mailto:Charles.ohern@usmc.mil)

**Christ Centered Yoga begins multi-week sessions** on Tuesday evenings starting January 10th and Saturday mornings starting January 21st. Beginner and mixed level classes are available. Information can be found on the parish website or email/ call. **For Tuesday classes, please contact Rita Evans at 540-270-0667 or [breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com](mailto:breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com) and for Saturday classes, please contact Tracy Morgan at 540-446-9426 or [spiritualyogava@gmail.com](mailto:spiritualyogava@gmail.com).**



**There is a book located in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** next to the Tabernacle for you to write your own prayers of petition. During the *Prayer of the Faithful* during weekend liturgies, an intercession will call to mind those prayers in a general way. In this manner, the public prayer of the church is bound to the many prayers of the faithful who live in the body of Christ!



**Is the Holy Spirit calling you to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis?** Secular Franciscans dedicate their lives to a closer relationship with the Lord. Please come to our Open House to see if

Franciscan spirituality is calling you. Join us on **Saturday, January 14th at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room.** For more information, please contact **John Carlson at [twinspappy@gmail.com](mailto:twinspappy@gmail.com).**

**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**



St. Francis House Corner  
Thanks to the donations from all our Parishioners we were able to provide Food for 50 families this week.  
Because of the increase of families in need we are in need of:

- Sugar
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Reusable Bags
- 

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

**Bill Mehr Drop-In Shelter**

Winter is here, and it is a very rough season for the homeless. Our parish is committed to providing assistance for the Bill Mehr Homeless shelter. At this moment, they are in great need of the following items:

- Sugar
- Coffee
- Coffee Creamer
- Women's overnight pads with wings
- Dark wash cloths.

**For more information call Francia at 703-221-6344 or email her at [calisa3@verizon.net](mailto:calisa3@verizon.net). Thank you for your support.**

**Boletín Semanal**

**Charlas Bautismales**—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español serán el viernes, enero 13. Las charlas bautismales son a las 7:00pm 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 Francis—gradecemos a todos nuestros parroquianos por todas sus ofrendas a la Despensa de Comida; con sus donaciones pudimos ayudar a 50 familias.

En estos momentos estamos necesitados de:

- Azúcar
- Crema de Maní Y Mermelada
- Bolsas Reusables

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



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.

**Are you frustrated using your new iphone, tablet, computer, e-reader?** Do you feel sometimes your electronic devices are smarter than you are?



Then come for an **Introductory Session of Cyber Seniors** on **Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Br. Juniper Room.** We will help you make friends with the technology that has become such an integral part of all our lives. Beginning **February 9th,**

on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays we will be addressing your issues with your phone, tablet, computer, etc.... and helping you make those personal electronic devices work for rather than against you!

**"I am still learning." Michelangelo at age 87**

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.



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.

**An Epiphany Potluck**—Many Members, One Body, our parish support group for Catholics who are gay or Lesbian and their families and friends, will hold their Annual Epiphany Potluck on **January, 5th at 7pm in the Br. Juniper Room.** Please bring a dish to share. Drinks and dessert will be provided. **Questions? Please contact Anne Tunney at [annetunney@yahoo.com](mailto:annetunney@yahoo.com).**



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

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

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

**End of Year Statements: Parishioners will be provided with a statement of their donations for 2016. Statements will be mailed by the end of January. It is not necessary to request a statement.**

### 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 2016-2017

December 22nd—January 5th NO RE—Christmas Break

**Change in RE Schedule 2016-17** effective January 8, 2017. The Summer Program 2017 is being cancelled. A letter with all the details went out to all RE students. **Please contact the RE office with any questions** [lizb@stfncis.org](mailto:lizb@stfncis.org) or 703-221-3127.

**Religious Education is still in need of Catechists** for the Third and Fourth grades for the Sunday Session at 4pm-5:15pm. If you are interested please contact Marianne Hayes at [recoor@stfncis.org](mailto:recoor@stfncis.org)

St. Francis High School Youth Ministry is now 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 1st**  
**No REAL Activities**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Sunday, January 8th**  
6:30 PM—8:30 PM  
St. Catherine Room  
**REAL Time (Youth Group)**

**Sunday, January 15th**  
**No REAL Activities**

**Please Pray For** All those who are sick: Carol Orton; Richard Laffman; and Teddy Placek.

**And for those recently deceased:** Annelies Gendron.

**Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way:** Josh Bookout; Brianna French; William Place, Glenn Harms; Bo Bosak, Joseph Sheridan, James Moore, Kyle McVay, Kyle Traylor, Kasey Eggie, Eustaquio Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

**Baptismal Preparation Class**—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, January 8, 2017 from 1:30p.m.—2:30p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**



**Registration Opens January 9, 2017!**  
**Men's Retreat: March 10 – 11, 2017**  
**Women's Retreat: March 24 – 25, 2017**

**Cornerstone is a 26-hour retreat**, held on separate dates for men and women ages 21 and over. It provides the opportunity to get away from all the stress of the outside world and enjoy all that God has to offer, while meeting others in our Christian community.

**The retreat begins on Friday evening** at 5:00pm and ends at approximately 7:00pm on Saturday evening with Mass. Cornerstone will take place at the San Damiano Spiritual Life Center in White Post, VA. Sleeping accommodations, all meals and snacks are provided. During the weekend, there will be time for prayer, Scripture reading and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Registration and payment is online today at <http://www.stfncis.org/cornerstone/>.

**Rates are:**

**\$130 for a double room and \$145 for a single room.**

**ChristLife is a lay Catholic ministry established in 1995**



ask.  
seek.  
knock.

in response to the Church's call to a New Evangelization. Their vision is to equip Catholics for the essential work of evangelization so that others might come to know personally the love of God through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, becoming his followers and members of the Church. **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 5<sup>th</sup> and continuing through February 23<sup>rd</sup>** to enjoy 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 4<sup>th</sup>**. *The cost for registration for this event is \$25 per person and all meals are included.* **For more information, please contact Sheila Noble at 703-221-3127, ext. 238 or [snoble@stfncis.org](mailto:snoble@stfncis.org).**

# Respect Creation Live Simply



## Mass Intentions

<b>SATURDAY,</b>	<b>December 31—Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas</b>
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	Christmas Novena †Cecilia Kulina †Scott Kujawa
<b>SUNDAY,</b>	<b>January 1—Mary, Mother of God</b>
7:30 AM	People of the Parish
9:00 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Frank Piorkowski, Sr. †Joseph Botta
10:30 AM	†Clara Kennedy
12:15 PM	Misa en español
1:30 PM	Christmas Novena
5:30 PM	†Anneliese Gendron
<b>MONDAY,</b>	<b>January 2—Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen</b>
8:45 AM	Christmas Novena †Joseph Carroll
<b>TUESDAY,</b>	<b>January 3—Christmas Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	Gretchen May
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b>	<b>January 4—St. Elizabeth Seton</b>
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
<b>THURSDAY,</b>	<b>January 5—St. John Neumann</b>
8:45 AM	†Al Maziekus
<b>FRIDAY,</b>	<b>January 6—Christmas Weekday</b>
8:45 AM	
<b>SATURDAY,</b>	<b>January 7—Christmas Weekday</b>
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Marvin Halbur

### Mass Intentions on Sunday, January 8, 2017

7:30 AM	People of the Parish
9:00 AM	†Roger Bataille †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Joseph and †Alice Piorkowski
10:30 AM	†Robert Bernosky †Charles Giampietro
12:15 PM	†Clara Kennedy
1:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	

### Readings for the Week of January 1, 2017

<b>Monday</b>	1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 John 2:29—3:6; John 1:29-34
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
<b>Thursday</b>	1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
<b>Friday</b>	1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
<b>Saturday</b>	1 John 5:14-21; John 2:1-11
<b>Sunday</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

### New Monday Morning Bible Study! Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Do you ever wonder what someone means when they say they have a "personal relationship with Christ," or are you looking to deepen your own relationship? The Gospel of John invites us, in a unique way, to become intimately involved in the rich stories of Jesus' life and ministry, and witness the transformation of many people along the way. A new session of the Monday morning Bible study begins **January 9<sup>th</sup>**, and you are invited to join fellow parishioners on the journey to meet Jesus in the Gospel of John. Register and purchase your workbook through the website <http://www.stfrancis.org/programs-retreats/#biblestudy> and bring it to the first session, **January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room.** Monday classes are scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>.



Please contact Lisa Ostendorf with any questions at [lostendorf@stfrancis.org](mailto:lostendorf@stfrancis.org).

### ST. FRANCIS MEN'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Br. Juniper Room.** Our topic will be "*Church & State—The Christian as a Citizen and the Citizen as a Christian*". All men of the parish are welcome. 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.stfrancis.org](http://www.stfrancis.org).

# HAPPY NEW YEAR