 **From the Friars**

I am pleased to announce that through the efforts of Lisa Bongiorno, our school and parish Marketing Director, and Prince William County Supervisor, Maureen Caddigan, the County will be posting signs indicating the location of our parish, on the Southbound and Northbound lanes of Route 1, Jefferson Davis Highway.

A simple sign placing ceremony is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 5th at 10:30 a.m. Many thanks to Lisa and Maureen.

We have ordered 6 small Holy Water Fonts for the Church. While we will continue to use the larger Holy Water fonts in the lobby, these smaller fonts will make it easier to access the holy water. They will be installed inside the main body of the church near the glass doors.

Thank you also to Marv Floom and the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring the bus to take our parishioners to the March for Life. It was a great day for all who participated, with an exciting finish; the bus got into a fender bender in Washington DC on the way home!


Sincerely,

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

REMINDER

Please remember to bring in your blessed palms from home and leave them in the basket in the vestibule of the church **by February 11th**. They will be burned and used for ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Thank you.



 **Ash Wednesday Service**

**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. The next rehearsal will be held on February 7th.

All rehearsals take place in the choir area of the church. For more information, please contact **Nikole Girdali** at nikoleg@stfrancis.org.

 **MINISTRY FAIR**

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE

Please come enjoy coffee, donuts, and light snacks while you explore the **more than 60 ministries and organizations offered here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish**. The Ministry Fair will be held on **Sunday, February 11th from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** in the Parish Center Gym.

 **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.

For more information, sign-up on the bulletin board in the foyer of the Church or contact Colleen Wells at cwells@stfrancis.org or 703-221-4044, ext. 231.

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:** Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Hamburger Helper
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter & Jelly

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

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.

55+ Ministry Lenten Small Group
Wednesdays, beginning Feb 14th
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Parish Center Dining Facility

The 55+ Ministry is hosting a Lenten Small Group to discuss "Amazed and Afraid: Discover the Power of Jesus" on Wednesday mornings, beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14th. The start time conveniently follows weekday morning Mass. There is no need to register to participate. Just show up! If you'd like to purchase your own copy of the guide, please visit the parish small group page and click the link www.stfrncis.org/small-groups. For questions, please contact **Lisa Ostendorf** at lostendorf@stfrncis.org.

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Fay Faylor; Angie Powell; Tom Hines; Aaron Childs; Nancy Brown; S.P. Defibaugh; and B. Lyle.

And for those recently deceased: 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.

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:** Mezcla de Panqueques y Jarabe
- Hamburger Helper
- Espagueti
- Crema de Maní y Jalea

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, febrero 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.**

Feria de Ministerios—Por favor ven y disfruta de café y donas mientras explora los más de 60 ministerios y organizaciones ofrecidos aquí en la Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís. La Feria de Ministerio se celebrará el domingo 11 de febrero desde las 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. en el Gimnasio del Centro Parroquial.



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).

Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes... even yourself! Taking

time to unplug is easier said than done. But if and when you are ready for that reset... Talk to Kathy Walker and start a discussion about how Stephen Ministry can help; to have someone listen, pray, and care about what you have to say. Taking that time for yourself is the greatest gift you can give to yourself. **Please e-mail kwalker@stfrncis.org.**



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. 4 Sunday RE Session
8 Thursday RE Session
11 Sunday RE Session
15 **NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday**
18 **NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday**

**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)

Confirmation Year II (2018) Important Dates

Questions, please contact **Sheila Noble** at snoble@stfrncis.org

March 10, 2018—Confirmation Reconciliation Service
12pm—Sun. 8:45am and Sun. 10:30am Sessions
1:30pm—Thurs., Homeschool, and High School Sessions

March 18, 2018—Mandatory NET retreat (1:30-7:30pm)
****Please note this is a Sunday and candidates only**

April 27, 2018—Confirmation Rehearsal
6:45pm—St. Francis School, Homeschool, and Sun. 8:45am Sessions
8:00pm—Sun. 10:30am, Thursday, and High School Sessions

April 28, 2018—Confirmation
10:00am—St. Francis School, Homeschool, and Sun. 8:45am Sessions
2:00pm—Sun. 10:30am, Thursday, and High School Sessions

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 4th
SUPER BOWL
NO **REAL** ACTIVITIES



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

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

Valentine Dinner Dance

The Columbiettes are sponsoring a Valentine's Dinner Dance on **February 10, 2018, from 6:30 PM to 10 PM in the Parish Center Dining Hall**
18825 Fuller Heights Road, Triangle VA 22172.
Cost is \$38 per person/\$75 per couple
All profits will be going to Parish needs.
Tickets will be sold after masses on:
January 20th-21st, 27th-28th, and February 3rd-4th.

Please contact **Irene Sullivan** if you have any questions at dan_irene@verizon.net.



You can also buy tickets on line at Columbiettes.yapsody.com



Music By Slable

CATERING
By Darlene

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.



Baptismal Preparation Class
Our next class will be held on **Sunday, February 11, 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, February 3—St. Blaise
 4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 PM †Wilma Jean Strati
 †Cyril Kelly
 †Lester Ricard

SUNDAY, February 4—5th Sunday In Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM †David King Beaudoin
 †Lucy King Beaudoin
 †Robert Earl Williams
 9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †John Lazzara
 †Herminia Junio
 10:45 AM †Diem Bui
 †Verna Bronzo
 People of the Parish
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
 †Donald Widener
 †Numeriano Tornes
 1:30 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM †John, †Lynne, and †Nicole Belli
 †Keith and †Charles Harris
 Special Intention

MONDAY, February 5—St. Agatha
 8:45 AM †Patricia Rose Victory

TUESDAY, February 6—St. Paul Miki and Companions
 8:45 AM Gretchen May

WEDNESDAY, February 7—Weekday
 8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †Kathryn Gonsorcik
 †Arlene McCann

THURSDAY, February 8—Weekday
 8:45 AM †Ted Geary

FRIDAY, February 9—Weekday
 8:45 AM †George Britton
 †Ignatius Keevan
 †Deborah Barber McNeill

SATURDAY, February 10—St. Scholastica
 4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 PM Jean Stoddart
 †Cy Kelly
 †Leann Stumm

Mass Intentions on Sunday, February 11, 2018
 7:30 AM †Stan Sebring
 †Beth Malaby
 †Kathryn Freed
 9:00 AM †Marie Newman
 People of the Parish
 10:45 AM †McKenna Marie Flood
 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

Readings for the Week of February 4, 2018

Monday 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Mark 6:53-56
Tuesday 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Mark 7:1-13
Wednesday 1 Kings 10:1-10; Mark 7:14-23
Thursday 1 Kings 11:4-13; Mark 7:24-30
Friday 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Mark 7:31-37
Saturday 1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Mark 8:1-10
Sunday Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46;
 1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1; Mark 1:40-45

Secular Franciscan Order Open House
 Come and see...what it means to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis. There will be an Open House held on **Saturday, February 10th at 9:30 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room.**
 For more information, please contact **John Carlson at 540-623-8316** or twinspappy@gmail.com.

St. Francis' Cub Scout Pack 1385 and Boy Scout Troop 138 will be holding their 5th annual **Undie Sunday** to collect [mens and/or womens underwear \(new-still in the unopened packages please\)](#). Boxes will be located in the vestibule for your generous contributions of these items (underwear, thermals, t-shirts, socks, etc.) on **Scout Sunday, February 11, 2018**. These clothing items will be delivered to those in need at the Bill Mehr Drop-In Shelter.



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.](#)



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK
 We would like to thank **Dr. James E. Lupi, DDS** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.