

**From
the
Friars**



It was good to see so many at our Ash Wednesday services. It was the largest attendance that I have seen in the 19 years that I have been here at the parish. I do apologize for the difficulty that folks had leaving the parish grounds after the 5pm service. The problem is the growing number of cars on Fuller Heights Road and the challenging intersection at Route 1.

When I first came to the parish, Fuller Heights Road was very much a country road with very little development. In the last 20 years, hundreds of homes have been built off of Fuller Heights Road with no changes made to the road itself. Consequently we are seeing more and more serious traffic issues.

We will be working with County and State representatives to see what can be done. In the meantime we will look into hiring Police for major parish liturgical services and events (as we do at Christmas and Easter), to facilitate the flow of traffic from our parking lot.

A number of you recently witnessed the 'Blow out' of a section of the floor in the Church. This was caused by defective adhesive used when the Church was built. We are replacing the floor section by section. So far about a third of the floor has been replaced.

Some good news, once again this year we exceeded our goal for the annual Parish Fall Campaign. My deepest appreciation to all who donated to this important fundraiser for the parish.

Speaking of Fundraiser, we have begun the annual Bishops annual Lenten Appeal. I ask that you please be as generous as possible. This fundraiser is the major means of support for many of the functions of the diocese not the least of which is Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities is involved in numerous programs that help the poor and needy as well as a diocesan wide counseling program. I have been assured that for the first time, our parish will be assigned a Counselor. This person would be on campus once a week.

Finally, a reminder again of the many Lenten spiritual programs that we are offering this year. I do hope that you will take advantage of some of these opportunities to deepen your faith.

Sincerely,

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

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.**



Confession Schedule for Lent

Confessions will be heard every Wednesday during Lent from **7:30 pm until 8:30 pm.**
In addition to Saturday's from 4—5pm.

COME HOME—TAKE ANOTHER LOOK

If someone you know has been away from the Catholic Church for whatever reason; divorce, birth control, lifestyle, invalid marriage, or any other reason, we encourage you to have them "Take Another Look".

Easter will be a time of great joy as we celebrate the resurrection of the Messiah. But your friend may not be experiencing this joy and feel she/he doesn't belong to this rejoicing church. St. Francis is inviting her/him to "Take Another Look: without feeling pressure or experiencing a "recapture" mentality.

We will have a short program on three Monday nights:
May 14th, May 21st, and June 4th.
Each night will begin at 7:30 p.m. and last no more than 2 hours.

If your friend has an interest, have them contact
Lisa Ostendorf at 703-221-3127, ext. 277 or
Joe Mitcho at 703-967-9959 or
jfmitcho44@hotmail.com. *We will send them more detailed information.*

The **Rosary Guild** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Please join us **Tuesday, February 27th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the **St. Clare Room**. All are welcome. **For more information, please call Otella Creegan at 571-264-0312.**



Please Pray For All those who are sick: Richard Laffman; Aaron Childs; and Scott Evans.

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.

Marriage Preparation Class will be held on **April 7, 2018 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. (Br. Juniper Room).** *The next will be held in the Fall.*

For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 703-221-4044.



Respect Life Committee Meeting

The church holds the principle of human dignity as the foundation of all Catholic social teaching. All humans possess an equal dignity that is not based upon what they do, but who they are. This dignity gives all humans the right to life from conception to natural death. The next meeting of the Respect Life Committee will be **after the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday, February 25, 2018 in the St. Catherine Room.** For more information, please contact **Marv Floom** at marv_floom@verizon.net or 703-878-9243.

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: Toothpaste and Body Soap**
- Hamburger Helper
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned Fruit

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

Are you ready to be supported along your spiritual journey, loved by the community, and welcomed into the greatest, most alive group of Christians? Now is the perfect time to slip away for a weekend encounter called Cursillo.



The next **men's weekend** will be held on **March 1st-4th** at *San Damiano Retreat Center (near Winchester, VA)*. The next **women's weekend** is **April 12th-15th**, also at *San Damiano Retreat Center*. Come and be surprised by God!. Please check out our website for more information at arlingtoncursillo.org or email Pequette Schwerin at wislady@comcast.net.

55+ Ministry Invites You to

Sight & Sound Theatres' Production of *Jesus*
Wednesday, April 25th in Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Cost: \$140 per person

Bluebird Tours of Prince William County is organizing a day trip to Sight and Sound Theatres in Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see the production, *Jesus*. This is an action-packed musical stage adventure that takes you on a miraculous journey alongside the most famous person to ever walk the earth. The cost includes a ticket to the 11:00 a.m. performance, a buffet luncheon at the Eden Roc Resort and round trip bus fare. Reservations opened on January 26th and are by phone only through Bluebird Tours 703-339-0333 until the tour is full. For more information, please visit www.pwcgov.org/bluebird. The 55+ Ministry will host a post-show discussion on Sunday, April 29th at 10:00 a.m. in the St. Catherine Room.

Theology on Tap will be held on **February 26, 2018 at the Ornery Beer Company and Public House, located at 14389 Potomac Mills Rd., Woodbridge.** *The Young Adult Gathering will start at 6:30 p.m. The talk is open to everyone at 7:30 p.m.*

The speaker for the February Theology on Tap will be **Fr. Michael Duffy, O.F.M.**, who lives and works in Philadelphia at St. Francis Inn, a soup kitchen. Please join us and hear how teaching in poor villages of Jamaica transformed Fr. Michael's life and led to him founding the Franciscan Volunteer Ministry.

Boletín Semanal

De Los Franciscanos—A menudo recibimos una solicitud de personas pidiendo una carta declarando que ellos son católicos y feligreses en buen estado (activo en su parroquia). Esto es para que puedan tener a sus hijos bautizados en otra parroquia. Generalmente para acomodar a parientes o a los padrinos.

Nos complace otorgar estas solicitudes. Sin embargo, según los reglamentos diocesanos, para que podamos escribir una carta, la persona o personas deben estar registrados en nuestra parroquia por lo menos 3 meses.

Cuando un niño es bautizado, los padres, en nombre del niño, están haciendo un compromiso de que los niños estarán creciendo en la práctica de la fe. Por lo tanto, es imperativo que los padres mismos están practicando la fe. Como uno de mis profesores de teología solía decir, el Bautismo no es magia!

Algunos han preguntado por qué ya no se publican en el sitio web de nuestra parroquia, el calendario de actividades. Hemos abandonado esa práctica en el asesoramiento de consultores de seguridad. Este cambio refleja lamentablemente el actual estado de las cosas en la sociedad.

Recientemente, la Diócesis de Arlington publicó estadísticas como qué porcentaje de católicos asisten a Misa del fin de semana (sábado y domingo) sobre una base regular. El promedio de asistencia en esta esfera de Virginia fue el 28 por ciento de los feligreses. El promedio de asistencia de nuestra parroquia es más del 50 por ciento.

Sinceramente,

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

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

Sopa y estaciones—Los viernes durante la Cuaresma celebraremos la sopa y estaciones comenzando el viernes febrero 16 a las 6:00 pm con una sopa y pan para la cena en el comedor del Centro Parroquial, seguido por las estaciones de la cruz en la Iglesia a las 8:00 pm en español. Cada semana un grupo diferente patrocinará la cena. Los lectores de San Francisco conducirá las estaciones cada noche. Por favor, únase a nosotros en este tiempo de comunión y oración. **Para mas información por favor llamar 703-221-4044, ext. 222.**



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. 25 Sunday RE Session
Mar. 1 Thursday RE Session
4 Sunday RE Session
8 Thursday RE Session
11 Sunday RE Session
15 Thursday RE Session
18 Sunday RE Session
22 Thursday RE Session

ENCOUNTER LENT—Please join our Religious Education community-and nearly 14,000

Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with **CRS Rice Bowls**. Pick up your family's **CRS Rice Bowl** from the



RE Office or in the vestibule of the Church. Each RE student and St. Francis of Assisi School student has received a Rice Bowl, but there are plenty more to be filled! **For more information, please go to crsricebowl.org or please contact Marianne Hayes, at recoor@stfrncis.org.**

First Reconciliation and First Communion Important Dates

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)

Baptismal Preparation Class

Our next class will be held on **Sunday, March 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.**



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Mountcastle Turch Funeral Home** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

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

The Parish is hosting a **Special Olympics Mash-Up Basketball Game Sunday, March 11th at 2:30 p.m. in the Parish Center**. Athletes from Special Olympics and St. Francis of Assisi Parish will combine teams to play basketball and raise awareness and support for those with intellectual disabilities. Each year, participants and attendees have come away from the experience with a better understanding of special needs children and adults. If you have not attended in the past it is a pretty awesome afternoon! Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and cheer. We will have food and games as well. This is a great family event!

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 25th

6:30 PM—8:30 PM

St. Catherine Room

REAL TIME (Youth Group)

All Teens Grades 9-12

Sunday, March 4th

6:30 PM—8:30 PM

St. Catherine Room

REAL LEADERSHIP

Leadership Team Only

Saturday, March 10th—Sunday, March 11th

After All Masses—Church Foyer

REAL LIFE—Sell Lenten Crosses

All Teens Grades 9-12

Questions? Please contact Brandon Jubar at

bjubar@stfrncis.org.

Second Sunday of Lent

SATURDAY, February 24—Lenten Weekday

4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 PM †Cy Kelly
 †Phyllis Dumoulin
 †Lee Orsini

SUNDAY, February 25—2nd Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM †Eileen Bolen
 People of the Parish
 †George and †Helen Callaway
 9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †Jerry Fitts
 †Frank Piorkowski, Sr.
 10:45 AM †Loretta King
 †Jimmy Burress
 †Roberto Dela Vega
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
 †George and †Helen Callaway
 1:30 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM †Sara Belli
 †Ligia Lizarralde
 †George and †Helen Callaway

MONDAY, February 26—Lenten Weekday

8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik

TUESDAY, February 27—Lenten Weekday

8:45 AM Karen-Anne McArthur

WEDNESDAY, February 28—Lenten Weekday

8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 †Kathryn Gonsorcik
 †Helen Polakovsky

THURSDAY, March 1—Lenten Weekday

8:45 AM †Jane Sequeira
 †Harry Rodman
 †Emanuel Elomina

FRIDAY, March 2—Lenten Weekday

8:45 AM †Deborah Barber McNeill
 †Will MacDonald
 †Ignatius Keevan

SATURDAY, March 3—Lenten Weekday

4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 PM †Cy Kelly
 †Anna Sullivan
 †Adolfo and †Maria Pereira

Mass Intentions on Sunday, March 4, 2018

7:30 AM †Kristin Adcock
 †Mary L. R. Cotton
 †Harold Cotton
 9:00 AM †Florence Fogarty
 People of the Parish
 †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
 10:45 AM †Jane Sequeira
 †Diem Bui
 †Loretta King
 12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
 1:30 PM Misa en español
 5:30 PM †Albert Bart Lorenzoni

Readings for the Week of February 25, 2018

Monday Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38
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 20:1-17 or
 Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17;
 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25

SAVE THE DATE: Join us on Saturday, March 3rd at 9 a.m. in the parish parking lot for our first "Adopt-A-Spot" litter clean-up.



Calling artists of all ages: Create a Care for Creation logo. All entries should be at least 3"x3" in black and white; submit to sfaccm2018@gmail.com by **March 30th**. Please contact **Kathy Radigan at 703-835-7194, or kathyradigan24@gmail.com** for more information.



How heavy we make situations in our life. Some get so out of hand that we cannot carry the load ourselves. Before things in your life get out of control, please call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4044, ext. 233 or email kwalker@stfrncis.org**, to talk about having a Stephen Minister help you with you issues, crisis, or personal concerns. We are always here to listen.



**Women's Cornerstone Retreat
 Registration is open!**

Registration is open for the popular 4th Annual Women's Cornerstone Retreat, scheduled for **April 6 – 7, 2018** at the San Damiano Spiritual Life Center in White Post, Virginia. Whether you are looking to build camaraderie with other women or simply longing for an opportunity to deepen your spiritual life, this 26-hour retreat is an unforgettable experience. **To register and pay online, please visit www.stfrncis.org/cornerstone or contact Lisa Ostendorf lostendorf@stfrncis.org.**

Soup and Stations—Fridays during Lent we will celebrate



Soup and Stations 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.