



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Roman Catholic Church

18825 Fuller Heights Road

Triangle, Virginia 22172

703-221-4044

www.stfrncis.org

Parish Office Hours - Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 AM—3:00 PM

Fri. 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

Phone 703-221-4044

Fax 703-221-3246

In a Sacramental Emergency—703-468-1180

EUCCHARIST

Saturday Vigil - 5:30 PM (with Live Stream)

Sunday - 8:00 AM; 9:30 AM; 11:00 AM; 5:30 PM

12:30 PM - Español (with Live Stream)

Monday - Friday - 8:45 AM

BAPTISM

Baptismal preparation is required of all parents who have not attended a class within the last three years prior to the celebration of baptism. Please call the parish office.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 PM—5:00 PM and by appointment (English)

Saturday: 4:00 PM—5:00 PM and by appointment (Spanish)

MARRIAGE

Arrangements are made with the parish office.

VISITS TO AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Inform the office when someone needs a visit from a Communion Minister or one of the Friars.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

To register in the parish, please fill out a registration form found in the vestibule, at the parish office, or on the Parish website, and return it to the office.

PARISH COUNCIL

Terry Danner (Chair) 703-680-0860

Maggie Eves (Vice Chair) 703-304-8058

PARISH SCHOOL 703-221-3868

Grades Pre-school—8th FAX 703-221-0700

Dr. Tricia Barber, Principal

tricia.barber@verizon.net

Elizabeth Orille, Office Coordinator/Admissions

orillee.sfas@gmail.com

FRANCIS HOUSE: 703-221-6344

(Emergency Financial Assistance)

Francia Salguero, Director

francias@stfrncis.org

2606 Heth Court, Dumfries, VA 22026

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

703-221-4044

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

x226

frjoconnor@stfrncis.org

Fr. James Scullion, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

x227

frjscullion@stfrncis.org

Fr. George Corrigan, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

x228

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Fr. Lalo Jara, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

x229

frljara@stfrncis.org

PERMANENT DEACON

Dcn. Michael Gomes (Leave messages at Parish phone)

dcnmike@stfrncis.org

HISPANIC MINISTRY

x229

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Angelica Silva, Pastoral Associate

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Marianne Hayes, DRE

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Sheila Noble, Assistant DRE

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Kathy Walker, Director of Stephen Ministry

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MUSIC MINISTRY

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Nikole Giraldi, Director

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CYM

540-273-0777

Brandon Jubar, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

bjubar@stfrncis.org

 **From the Friars**

Dear Parishioners,

You will be receiving a letter in the mail from me announcing the annual Fall Appeal. We did not do the appeal last year because of the challenge of the COVID epidemic.

With the advent of very effective vaccines we are now beginning to return to some semblance of normalcy, which is very good news.

Needless to say the COVID situation had a negative impact not only on our parish life but also our parish finances. Our yearly weekend collection was down by almost \$100,000.

The aging and ongoing maintenance needs of our parish facilities did not “take a break” during COVID. We have recently been told that we will need to replace large sections of the roofing on our Parish Center/School at an estimated cost of \$94,000.

And so I come to you for help. Our goal for the Fall Appeal this year is \$200,000. I know that many of you have been challenged during these difficult times, so please know that whatever you can do to support the appeal is most appreciated.

You and your families continue to be in my prayers and the prayers of the friars. There is now light at the end of what has been a most difficult tunnel: COVID. Hopefully it is getting brighter.

Sincerely in Christ,

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

We invite all Catholic men, at least 16 years of age and of Irish birth or descent, to join the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), which is America’s oldest Irish Catholic fraternal organization. For membership and other information about the Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM, AOH Division at St. Francis, please contact **Tom Kelley:** president@mychal-judge-va-aoh.org or 703-217-2554.



Enjoy a non-contact Christmas Wreath purchase from the comfort of your home. There are 11 items available, wreaths, door sprays and table top trees. The Holiday Evergreens you purchase for yourself, family, and friends will be delivered via Fed-X in a festive carton with your personalized message **November 16th-23rd**. A tree will be planted for every item sold. Free Shipping! Free Wreath Hanger! Please order online at www.GiftItForward.com and use our coupon code **KNIGHTVA003**. St. Francis’ Knights of Columbus THANK YOU!


If you get tired, learn to rest not quit!
Let a Stephen Minister help. We can talk, listen and pray for you. We are here for support. So please contact **Kathy Walker** at kwalker@stfrncis.org for a Stephen Minister to help you find your rest.



Readings for the Week of October 17, 2021

Monday	2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9
Tuesday	Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12:35-38
Wednesday	Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48
Thursday	Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53
Friday	Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59
Saturday	Romans 8:1-11; Luke 13:1-9
Sunday	Jeremiah 31:7-9; Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52

Meals for the Shelter



During this time of need, St. Francis of Assisi Church is continuing to support our homeless brothers and sisters by providing meals. **From Saturday, April 4th until Saturday, October 31st**, our church will be providing breakfast every Saturday. Due to the Coronavirus we have to do things a little differently than we used to do. Below you will find the sign-up information for the of items that you can donate to contribute to the meals for the shelter:

If you would like to provide support for the homeless shelter, please visit the following **Sign-Up Genius** link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094EA5A622A3FD0-shelter>.

For more information or to support our meal program for the shelters in Prince William County, please visit us at www.stfrncis.org and sign-up in the **shelter sign-up Genius** or contact the **Director of St. Francis House and Meals Coordinator, Francia Salguero** at francias@stfrncis.org or 703-221-6344.

Respect Creation Live Simply

Francis of Assisi: A Period of Crisis—San Damiano

In the previous article we had left Francis in the spring of 1205, in his early 20's, just released from a year as a prisoner of war, suffering severe physical effects and psychological burdens that, to the modern mind, fit the description of PTSD. He returned with compromised health, face drawn and sallow, digestion impaired, and was plagued with bouts of recurring fever. When he was out of bed he was listless and kept to the house. A biography written within two years of Francis' death (by Thomas of Celano, 1C) records Francis' convalescence from his imprisonment in Perugia as follows: "When he had recovered a little, he began to walk about through the house with the support of a cane... [and] one day, he went outside and began to gaze upon the surrounding countryside. But the beauty of the fields, the delight of the vineyards and whatever else was beautiful to see, could offer him no delight at all [and he] considered those who loved these things quite foolish." (1C4)

Francis tried to return to his former life: apprentice to his father's business, night-time reveler, would-be knight—but none of these pursuits gave him purpose or direction. It is in this period that the various sources we have available to us begin to diverge in their telling of the story. The ones written closer to Francis' life, cast the account of a young man mired in a quiet, resigned desperation. The ones written much later tend to portray him as already a saint with every step as God-directed, even predestined; a journey from holiness to even greater holiness.

But the early accounts also tell of Francis hiding in his bedroom for days, brooding and given to compulsive acts of hoarding food, then suddenly rushing out to give the food away to beggars. The same was true of his father's merchandise, as Francis would acquire and then give away clothing. His parents seemed to indulge Francis to a degree, perhaps worried their son was slipping from eccentricity into madness. It is at this point that Francis—in a typically medieval fashion—went on pilgrimage to Rome to pray at the Tomb of St. Peter. While there he cast an extraordinary sum of money through the grates towards the altar, went outside, exchanged his well-to-do clothing with a beggar and took up begging in the streets of Rome. Were these the acts of typical medieval penance: prayer, fasting, and alms giving—or perhaps desperate acts of a soul increasingly lost?

Upon his return to Assisi, Francis sought out the advice of Bishop Guido. There are no accounts of what transpired between the two, but we are sure of the "road" Francis took after that meeting: he took to wandering the wild places—forests, caves, and uninhabited countryside. The descriptions seem to match someone emulating the life of a "brother of penance" (an emerging lay spiritual movement of the day) or emulating the life of a hermit. But in these sojourns Francis was also racked with demonic fears and possible hallucinations. When he sees a hunchbacked woman in Assisi, he becomes convinced that this is the fate that awaits him because of his sinfulness—her deformed exterior revealing his deformed interior.

During the wandering of late 1205, Francis came upon the abandoned chapel of San Damiano, just outside the city of Assisi. This became a place of temporary refuge and prayer. It seems as though Francis discovered a peace there, as he often returned. While praying before the altar, he begged God to reveal His will. It is on one of his visits, praying before the cross at San Damiano that "the image of the Christ crucified spoke to him in a tender and kind voice: "Francis, don't you see that my house is being destroyed? Go, then, and rebuild it for me." (*Legend of the 3 Companions*, L3C-12) "Francis," it said, calling him by name, 'go rebuild my house; as you see, it is all being destroyed.'" (2C-10; 2C also called *The Remembrance of the Desire of A Soul*). Both of these accounts appear somewhat late, although Thomas of Celano, writing some 15 years after his first biography (2C) includes this account—something he did not tell in his first biography. Thomas explains that these were stories that were known only to the first of the brothers (*the 3 Companions*), who thought it better to leave some stories as private, "For it is better for us to remain silent about it too." (2C-10)



Written in the margin of two very old copies of L3C is this prayer: "Most high glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true Faith, certain Hope, and perfect Charity; give me perception and knowledge, Lord, that I might carry out your holy and true command." It is known as Francis' prayer before the Crucifix and seems to point to a part of the beginnings of conversion in the life of Francis. The many trips to San Damiano seem to have a cumulative effect—not so much in the "aha" moment of conversion when everything becomes luminescent and clear in a single moment, but the slow realization and conviction that there is a meaning and a direction—even though it is not clear at the moment. The Crucified Christ became the focus of Francis' spirituality and form of life.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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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](http://www.stfrancis.org)

www.stfrancis.org

Faith Formation Office

Phone: 703-221-3127 Fax: 703-221-3246
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday: **8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**
Friday: **Closed**

Religious Education for 2021-2022

- Oct. 17 Sunday RE Session
21 Thursday RE Session
24 Sunday RE Session
28 Thursday RE Session
31 Sunday RE Session
- Nov. 4 Thursday RE Session



At this time, all sacramental parent sessions will be held virtually. There are three opportunities provided to attend for each, but you need only choose one. If you have not received prior email communication regarding these sessions, please contact **Sheila Noble** (snoble@stfrncis.org). Please see the schedule below:

First Communion Parent Session #1:

- Sunday, October 17th at 12:30pm (English)
Tuesday, October 19th at 6:30pm (English)
Tuesday, October 19th at 7:30pm (Spanish)

Year I Confirmation Preparation, Candidate and Parent Session:

- Tuesday, October 26th at 7:00pm (English)
Sunday, October 31st at 12:30pm (English)
Sunday, October 31st at 2:00pm (Spanish)

Year II Confirmation Preparation, Candidate and Sponsor (or Parent) Session:

- Tuesday, November 16th at 7:00pm (English)
Sunday, November 21st at 12:30pm (English)
Sunday, November 21st at 2:00pm (Spanish)



Keep those used printer cartridges coming!

Faith Formation has been helping to be good stewards of our earth by recycling. With your contribution of used ink cartridges, we can help care for the earth and it is so easy to do.

Please **do not** drop the cartridges in the Catch-All Slot.
(No laser cartridges.)

You can drop the cartridges off in the [basket](#)
on the table in the vestibule
or stop by the Faith Formation Office.

Thank you for your continued support!



High School Youth Ministry

REAL Youth Ministry is getting ready for the new school year!

REAL Time Online (Youth Group)

Sunday, October 17th—8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
All Teens Grades 9-12

REAL Online Halloween Party!

Sunday, October 24th—8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
All Teens Grade 9-12

Sign-up for text messages to get information on Fall Activities!

Text @sfacym to 81010 to receive texts with meeting information.

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

**Women's Group: Thursday, October 21st
10:30 a.m.—Virtual sessions**



Women of all ages are invited to join us for fellowship and discussion on two Thursday mornings a month, beginning October 21st. We will begin the year with a small group book study of Danielle Bean's *Whisper: Finding God in the Every Day*, which can be purchased through Ascension Press using this link: <https://ascensionpress.com/products/whisper-finding-god-in-the-everyday>. For more information or to obtain the zoom link for the study, please contact **Sheila Noble** (snoble@stfrncis.org).

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.



Hearing Assistance Earphones are available for use during the Mass, for those who would like sound amplification. They have been checked and are functioning well. See one of the friars or come to the sacristy before Mass.

Assisted Death

Known by many names—Physician-Assisted Death/Suicide, Euthanasia, Dignity with Death—by whatever name, it is the planned termination of a life with the assistance (direct or indirect) of a doctor. It is not a question of end-of-life-care, decisions to stop medical treatment, or decisions to let nature take its course. It is question of state-legalized suicide and the moral assessment of such actions. A campaign to legalize assisted suicide moves forward in most state legislatures. The former Hemlock Society—now under the more appealing name “Compassion & Choices”—has garnered success in 7 states since 2015—bringing the total to 10.



They were aided in their efforts when three justices of the Supreme Court wrote: “At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.” (Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the 1992 case that dramatically reaffirmed Roe v. Wade.) This basic theme was repeated by the 1996 US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in the case of Compassion in Dying v. State of Washington.

As Catholics we do not concur. These things are not part of human liberty, but are part of the mystery of God’s creation and our search for God in our lifetimes. Life is precious. And as we all too sadly know, death is inevitable—but it is not ours to control.

“To concur with the intention of another person to commit suicide and to help in carrying it out through so-called “assisted suicide” means to cooperate in, and at times to be the actual perpetrator of, an injustice which can never be excused, even if it is requested... Moreover, the act of euthanasia appears all the more perverse if it is carried out by those, like relatives, who are supposed to treat a family member with patience and love, or by those, such as doctors, who by virtue of their specific profession are supposed to care for the sick person even in the most painful terminal stages.”

Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, (The Gospel of Life), no. 66

Live long enough and each one of us will know someone who will face terminal illnesses. No one wants them to die. We want healing and restoration, but we all know that death is inevitable for each of us. We are just not in a rush to face that inevitability. But when the immediacy of ending a life before its natural death is the only discussion, we fail to recognize the effect such laws and social acceptance have on Palliative Care, research into pain relieving medications, and many other things, including insurance coverage.

Barbara Wagner, a retired school bus driver, learned this lesson first hand. Barbara had been in remission from her lung cancer. When it recurred, her oncologist wanted her to be given a drug that (statistically) would increase the chance of her being alive in one year by 45%. The State of Oregon denied this treatment stating that her prognosis wasn’t good enough to warrant expensive medication to treat her cancer. Yet in the same letter denying coverage for her medication, the State offered full coverage (100%) for her assisted suicide.

What implications does this attitude portend for national health care reform? How many older individuals with serious illnesses or disabilities could be determined “no longer worth treatment” under federal cost-saving measures? What is the status of related laws here in the Commonwealth of Virginia?

Did you know that Virginia’s “Futile Care Law” gives health care providers the right to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment without consent or even against the wishes of the patient or the patient’s designated decision maker? A bill to legalize assisted suicide, called “Medical Aid in Dying” (HB 1649), was introduced in Virginia in January 2020 which is similar to Oregon’s laws—it remains in committee for the moment. The current state of the law in Virginia is that aiding someone in assisted suicide opens them to civil damages. There are no criminal charges involved.

What are we Catholics called to do on this topic? In a later article we will address the topic of End-of-Life Care. But at all times, be compassionate and caring with those facing the looming threshold of death. Life holds meaning and hope. Respect Life.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	October 16—Weekday Reconciliation †Alice Tippit †Steve Pischok †Danny O'Connor
SUNDAY, 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM 5:30 PM	October 17—29th Sunday In Ordinary Time †Janet Sarsfield †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Caridad Balena †Everett Newman †Tyler J. Mangus †Pedro Rincon Martinez †Peter Joseph Schwartz Misa en español People of the Parish †Bobby Synan †Emma Schwarz
MONDAY, 8:45 AM	October 18—St. Luke, evangelist William Ignatuck, Jr. †Christina Garcia Quinones †Donnie Lee Hensley
TUESDAY, 8:45 AM	October 19—Sts. John de Brebeuf, St. Isaac Jogues and Companions †David Lee Maris †Barbara Borthwick
WEDNESDAY, 8:45 AM	October 20—Weekday †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik †Grace Bergwall
THURSDAY, 8:45 AM	October 21—Weekday †Carole Zovak †Sheila Connolly †Betsy P. Dennison
FRIDAY, 8:45 AM	October 22—Weekday †Miriam Longo
SATURDAY, 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	October 23—Weekday Reconciliation †Alice Tippit †Michael John Trudnak, Sr. †John Francis Carpino

Votive Candles

Envelopes are provided for candle money. **Please place them in the boxes located on the wall (next to the candles) in the church.**



Please Pray For

All those who are sick: Mark Cramer; Harry Wahl; Chad Burns; Bill Myers; Sue Long; Aaron Childs; Gary Ward; Richard McClevey; Ted Zamerski; and Aurea Simbulan.

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way: Leo N. Company; and S. Defibaugh.

Mass Intentions on Sunday, October 24, 2021

8:00 AM	†Joseph Piorkowski †Enrique Cuellar Ferreira †Cookie Senno
9:30 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †John Martin Wade †Servanda DePuna and †Constancio Huayta
11:00 AM	†Manuela Andaya †Barbara Borthwick †Anita Faye Kapper
12:30 PM	†Percy Antonio Sosa
5:30 PM	People of the Parish Cathie Maris

Boletín Semanal

Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francisco
Casa St. Francisco Un Programa de Ayuda Social de la
Parroquia de St. Francisco de Asís
2606 Heth Court, Dumfries, VA 22026
703-221-6344
Francia Salguero y Angelica Silva;

Artículos del mes:

- espaguetis y pasta
- salsa de espagueti
- atún enlatado

Si usted o su familia necesitan ayuda nosotros estamos aquí para ayudarlos. La Casa de San Francisco esta abierta **los miércoles y jueves de 9:00 a.m. a 1:00 p.m.**

Gracias por su continuo apoyo y generosidad. Para obtener más información, no dude en comunicarse con nosotros al **703-221-6344** o francias@stfrncis.org.

St. Francis House Corner



St. Francis House an Outreach Program
from St. Francis of Assisi Parish
2606 Heth Court, Dumfries, VA 22026
703-221-6344
Francia Salguero and Angelica Silva

Items of the Month:

- Spaghetti and Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Tuna

If you or your family find yourselves in need, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. St. Francis House is open **Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

Thank you for your continuing support and generosity. For more information, please contact **Francia Salguero** at **703-221-6344** or francias@stfrncis.org.

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 10:35-45

When James and John ask Jesus if they can be seated with Him in Heaven, they are told only God decides this. To gain a place in Heaven Jesus tells the twelve, they must be servants to others, not expect to be served.

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"For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

- Mark 10:45



Write the letters not found in the heart in the space below...

Unscramble the letters and fill in the correct answer below...

Jesus said,

"Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your..."

- Mark 10:43

**Think of others first!
Treat them with love and kindness.**



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