



The
Epiphany
of the
Lord



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

EUCHARIST

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

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frjoconnor@stfrncis.org
Fr. James Scullion, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar x227
frjscullion@stfrncis.org
Fr. George Corrigan, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar x228
frgcorrigan@stfrncis.org
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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frljara@stfrncis.org
Angelica Silva, Pastoral Associate 703-221-6344
asalguero@stfrncis.org

PARISH STAFF

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Chanel Marquis, Compliance Officer x222
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Barbara Stouffer, Bookkeeper x232
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Marianne Hayes, DRE x236
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Sheila Noble, Assistant DRE x238
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Kathy Walker, Director of Stephen Ministry x233
kwalker@stfrncis.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

703-221-4044 x231

Nikole Girdali, Director
nikoleg@stfrncis.org

Colleen Wells, Assistant Director

703-221-4044 x231

cwells@stfrncis.org

CYM

540-273-0777

Brandon Jubar, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
bjubar@stfrncis.org

When they saw the star,
they rejoiced exceedingly
with great joy.

Matthew 2:10



Unless you happen to be like my muse, Calvin, in the comic strip, I suspect you are about to make some New Year's resolutions. How did you do on last year's resolutions? About the same as the rest of us? One *ad hominem* wisdom saying defines "insanity" this way: to keep doing the same thing and expect a different result. Perhaps 2022 is a time to consider changing the way resolutions are considered, made, and hopefully, kept.

While you are considering all this, ask yourself this: is it necessary to practice a virtue? Let me simply say that my experience as a priest listening to folks in all phases of life – and looking at my own life – we forever underestimate the power of "habit" over us. The question is simply: is it a good habit or a bad habit? Which is another way of asking – is the habit formed by a virtue, a fruit of the Spirit or formed in other, less holy ways?" So many of the resolutions we make are attempts to address habits that we want to eliminate, reduce, or reform.

During the Advent season, many people took the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a spiritual preparation for Christmas and the New Year. When someone lists out their sins and the areas of their lives that are in need of God's forgiveness, I often respond with, "If you could only work on one thing from your list, what would be the priority? What would be the one thing you would take into prayer and ask God's help?" Most people intuitively know their lives and have an answer. I encourage them to do just that: Focus on the one thing with God's help.

It is good to know that my intuitive encouragement has some scientific foundation. According to Roy Baumeister and John Tierney in their book "Willpower," it's incredibly difficult to make a change in more than one area of your life at a time. Why? Because each of us has only a limited supply of willpower, and we deplete our supply when we try to ward off some temptation or persevere in some new virtue. Did you spend all day resisting the sweets at the office? You will find it incredibly difficult to not have "just a little dessert" after dinner. Choose one habit you want to quit first and conserve your willpower for that priority. Only after the resolution is no longer daunting, should you then move to a new resolution.

What if the habit or behavior that you would like to change involves sin? Now temptation, free will, and choice are mixed in the blender of humanity, the siren's call of "modern" life, and a whole host of other items. I would suggest that Baumeister and Tierney's advice – focus on one sin/sinful habit – is still good advice. But I would also add that there is another dimension in play. While the Sacrament of Reconciliation offers God's forgiveness, it also provides grace to seek God's wisdom in addressing the underlying element of one's life that needs healing. Is human willpower involved? Absolutely, but it is fortified by God's grace, the Holy Spirit, and Wisdom of God in discovering what requires healing in one's life. But there is more.

The Letter of James 5:16 is a verse many folks are not familiar with: "*Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.*" I would add, however, be careful whom you tell. As Derek Sivers shares in his succinct [TED Talk](#), it's often better to keep your goals to yourself. Counter to our intuition, sharing our aspirations with others doesn't encourage us to persevere or keep us accountable. Sivers goes on to explain that if you really need to tell someone, enlist that person to help keep you accountable by, for instance, checking in weekly on how you're doing. And in the context of our faith, that means share your success, your failures, and prayer with your fellow Christian.

It is in the power of prayer that the grace of God fortifies free will, resolution, and commitment. It is in the power of your prayer/accountability partner that perseverance is reinforced.

It is insanity to keep doing the same thing and expecting a different result. Maybe this year try something new regarding your resolutions for a better, more holy life: include prayer, partnership, and the power of God when choosing the one thing.

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:

- Canned soup
- Canned fruit
- 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.**

Meals for the Shelter

Winter is here, and it is a very rough season for the homeless. Our parish is committed to provide dinners for the homeless shelter. At this moment, we are in great need of dinners.



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.**



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

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

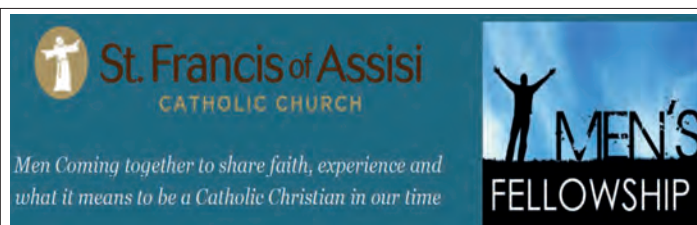
Francia Salguero y Angelica Silva;

Artículos del mes:

- Sopa enlatado
- Fruta enlatado
- 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.**



Men of the parish! Looking for a chance to strengthen your faith? As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic we want to re-vitalize the SFA Men's Fellowship Ministry. Rather than waiting for the time the parish returns to in-person meetings (hopefully this spring) we will be starting on a [weekly virtual basis in January of 2022](#).

Our goal is focused on bringing together Catholic men to discuss, share, and support one another in our lives of faith and to act and encourage one another to strengthen their faith in Christ to become better husbands, fathers, sons, brothers and friends.

Virtual sessions will include an introduction, short videos by folks like **Father Casey Cole, OFM (Reclaiming Catholicism)**, **Chris Stefanick (Real Life Catholic)**, and **Father Mike Schmitz (Ascension Press)** and questions/points to consider.

Sign-up information will be provided in upcoming parish bulletins, the weekly e-Newsletter, and on the parish website.

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.



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
J. David Alachnowicz, DDS, PC
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 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Friday: Closed

Religious Education for 2021-2022

Jan. 9	Sunday RE Session
13	NO RE—Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend
16	NO RE—Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend
20	Thursday RE Session
23	Sunday RE Session

December 23rd-January 8th
NO RE—Christmas Break



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!



Did you know that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to St. Francis of Assisi School? It is very easy to set up!

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to St. Francis of Assisi School if you select the school as your charitable organization of choice.

Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "*Eligible for AmazonSmile donation*" on their product detail pages.

For more information about the AmazonSmile program, please visit <http://smile.amazon.com/about>. Thank you for choosing St. Francis of Assisi School as your charitable organization of choice!!!!

What gives ultimate meaning and purpose to life?

Why do we search for Jesus?

Join us to deepen your relationship with Him!!



Discovering Christ will be presented at St. Francis of Assisi beginning in January!! Participants in this 7-week series will meet virtually on Thursday evenings **beginning January 6th** for fellowship, to listen to a dynamic teaching and join in a small group discussion about the meaning of life in Jesus Christ.

Please contact Sheila Noble at 703-221-3127, ext. 238 or snoble@stfrancis.org for more information.



High School Placement Test—
Saturday, January 8, 2022
Registration information can be found here: <https://www.jpthegreat.org/apps/pages/HSPT>

How to High School—Saturday, January 8, 2022
JP's hit readiness and skills workshop is back for 2022! This free event is open to all 7th and 8th graders, and lunch is included. Registration information can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdCvS3MaG1YV2ArUq9cmkIC9b8pCzAmH40eO1cHgDSdFeexA/viewform>

Drama Workshop—Saturday, January 22, 2022
Join JP's Drama Director on January 22nd for a day of mini-master classes. Open to all 7th and 8th graders. Registration information can be found here: <https://saintjohnpaul.mypaysimple.com/s/middle-school-event-registration>

Boys Basketball Clinic—Saturday, February 5, 2022
Skill-building clinic open to 5-8th graders! Registration information can be found here: <https://saintjohnpaul.mypaysimple.com/s/middle-school-event-registration>

Super Science Saturday—Saturday, March 5, 2022
Fun-filled day for middle school students to explore the sciences at John Paul, with opportunities for activities in our collegiate style labs. More information to come soon!

Upcoming Admissions and Financial Aid Deadlines:
Friday, January 7, 2022: School Application Priority Deadline
Friday, January 7, 2022: JP Scholarship Application Deadline
Wednesday, January 19, 2022: JP Financial Aid Priority Deadline
Friday, February 18, 2022: Decision Letters Mailed
Friday, March 11, 2022: Priority Registration Deadline

Visit jpthegreat.org for details, registration information and more!

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

January 2, 2022

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

My husband is a bird watcher by day and a stargazer by night. I confess it drives me a little bonkers on our evening dog walks. I tend to want to keep moving; between him and our dog (who seems to want to sniff every mailbox), it's the pedestrian equivalent of stop-and-go traffic. Hearing about the journey of the Magi, however, reminds me to pause and look, too. Just as they saw the star rising and followed it to Jesus, we, too, can seek God in our surroundings, our relationships, and the beauty of creation - the next step is to follow where God leads us. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, the Magi represent "the journeying of humanity toward Christ." (*Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*) We may falter from the path from time to time, but Isaiah's prophesy reminds us of our destination: "You shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Epiphany is early this year, falling right on the heels of New Year's Day. If we haven't made our New Year's resolutions yet, now is a good time to do so. In addition to typical resolutions such as reducing clutter or getting fit, we can set some spiritual goals as well. The definition of epiphany (lower case) is "a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way." As we reflect on today's readings, let us ask the Holy Spirit to provide us an epiphany - into how we can grow closer to Jesus during this year ahead. Just as their encounter with the infant Jesus caused the Magi to be transformed from outsiders to faithful believers, and to take a different route home, our encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist is meant to transform all of us, and set us on a new path to light and life.

RESOLVE New Year's resolutions are great! Why not add a couple of spiritual resolutions to the list - perhaps to pray the rosary more often, spend time in eucharistic adoration, or go on that retreat you have been meaning to attend. Ask the Holy Spirit for inspiration and see where it leads.





Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, 4:00 PM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM	January 1—Mary, Mother of God NO RECONCILIATION †Eileen Bolen †Alice Tippit †Betsy Dennison †Cesar Castaneda
SUNDAY, 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM 5:30 PM	January 2—Epiphany of the Lord People of the Parish †Jack Haneklau †Peter Curto †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik Obdulio DeLeon Christmas Novena †Jose Giovanetti †Ruth Galligan Aurea Simbulan Misa en español †Stephen Gomez †Joseph Gomez
MONDAY, 8:45 AM	January 3—Christmas Weekday Christmas Novena
TUESDAY, 8:45 AM	January 4—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton †Maye Schanuel Christmas Novena Gretchen May
WEDNESDAY, 8:45 AM	January 5—St. John Neumann †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik Christmas Novena
THURSDAY, 8:45 AM	January 6—Christmas Weekday Christmas Novena
FRIDAY, 8:45 AM	January 7—Christmas Weekday Heri Matos
SATURDAY, 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	January 8—Christmas Weekday Reconciliation †Alice Tippit †Harry Wahl †Maria Auxiliadora Angulo

Mass Intentions on Sunday, January 9, 2022

8:00 AM	†Jack Haneklau †Barbara Joan Irvine
9:30 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik Daniela Diaz
11:00 AM	†Jose Giovanetti
12:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish

The Christmas Flowers were donated in memory of the following families: **Ward, Richmond, and Coone.**



And the following individuals:

Jack and Phyllis Conway;
Mary Jo Wolfe; C.B. Wolfe; Fred Wolfe;
Charles and Betty Miller; and Blaine and Mary Hoover.

Readings for the Week of January 2, 2022

Monday	1 John 3: 22- 4: 6; Matthew 4: 12-17. 23-25
Tuesday	1 John 4: 7-10; Mark 6: 34-44
Wednesday	1 John 4: 11-18; Mark 6: 45-52
Thursday	1 John 4: 19-5: 4; Luke 4: 14-22
Friday	1 John 5: 5-13; Luke 5: 12-16
Saturday	1 John 5: 14-21; John 3: 22-30
Sunday	Isaiah 40: 1-5. 9-11; Titus 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7; Luke 3: 15-16. 21-22

Please Pray For

All those who are sick:

Ross Johnson; Don Clausen; Delores Baytan; Tomas Bernardo; David Back; Mark Cramer; Chad Burns; Bill Myers; Sue Long; Aaron Childs; Gary Ward; Ted Zamerski; and Aurea Simbulan.

And for those recently deceased: Eldon and Monica Streff; John 'Jack' Haneklau (husband of Joan Haneklau).

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

If you are moving/changing your address, please notify the Parish Office so that we may be able to keep our records up-to-date. **Change forms are also available on the tables in the vestibule, from the Parish Office, or from the parish website www.stfrancis.org.** If you are changing your phone number because you are using a cellular phone and/or forgoing your land phone, the Parish Office would also like that information. **Please call us at 703-221-4044, ext. 222. Thank you.**



End of Year Statements: Due to the high cost of postage and current financial concerns due to COVID, Fr. John has decided that the end of year tax statements for 2021 will not be automatically sent to each parishioner. **We will provide an electronic tax statement (no later than January 31, 2022) to any parishioner that requests one** by contacting **Chanel Marquis** via email only at cmarquis@stfrancis.org. We understand that this is a departure from our usual method of handling the tax statements and thus we will reassess for next year at a later date.

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.**



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Year C

< **KID'S KORNER** >

Gospel Today

The Epiphany of the Lord | Matthew 2: 1-12

The Magi followed the star to where Jesus was and offered Him fine, expensive gifts. "And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way." *Matthew 2: 12*

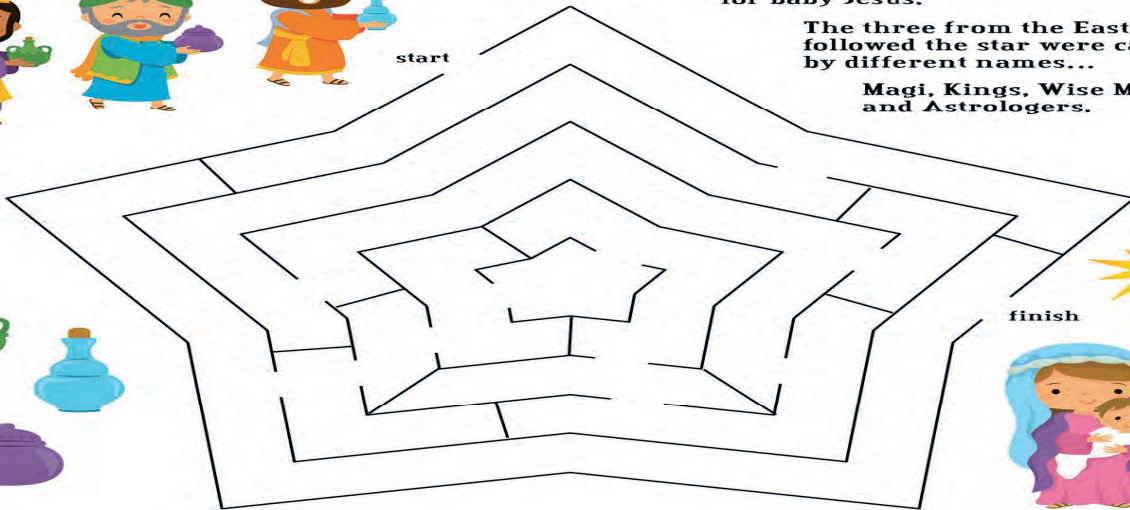
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Follow the Wise Men as they search for baby Jesus.

The three from the East who followed the star were called by different names...

Magi, Kings, Wise Men and Astrologers.



finish



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VISIT OF THE MAGI

Do you know what the gifts were? Unscramble the words to find out...

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703-221-2899

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