



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Roman Catholic Church
18825 Fuller Heights Road
Triangle, Virginia 22172
703-221-4044

www.stfrancis.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@stfrancis.org

2606 Heth Court, Dumfries, VA 22026

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

703-221-4044

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

x226

frjoconnor@stfrancis.org

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

x227

frjscullion@stfrancis.org

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

x228

frgcorrigan@stfrancis.org

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

x229

frljara@stfrancis.org

PERMANENT DEACON

Dcn. Michael Gomes (Leave messages at Parish phone)

dcnmike@stfrancis.org

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Nikole Giraldi, Director

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CYM

540-273-0777

Brandon Jubar, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

bjubar@stfrancis.org



The 2021 Virginia elections are quickly approaching. You still have time to register—October 12th deadline for the November 2nd election! Thanks to the parish VOICE ministry for their recent voter registration drive.

The U.S. Catholic bishops have updated their “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship”, a teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement represents guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. The statement lifts up our dual heritage as both faithful Catholics and American citizens with rights and duties as participants in the civil order. You can download and read the document from the uscbb.org website.

As the Church teaches: “the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics,” the Church, “cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.” (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 183). As the bishops note in their document:

We are a nation founded on “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” but the right to life itself is not fully protected, especially for unborn children, the terminally ill, and the elderly, the most vulnerable members of the American family. We are called to be peacemakers in a nation at war. We are a country pledged to pursue “liberty and justice for all,” but we are too often divided across lines of race, ethnicity, and economic inequality. We are a nation of immigrants, struggling to address the challenges of many new immigrants in our midst. We are a society built on the strength of our families, called to defend marriage and offer moral and economic support for family life. We are a powerful nation in a violent world, confronting terror and trying to build a safer, more just, more peaceful world. We are an affluent society where too many live in poverty and lack health care and other necessities of life. We are part of a global community charged with being good stewards of the earth's environment, what Pope Francis calls “our common home,” which is being threatened. (Faithful Citizenship, #2)

That is a wide-ranging list! And yet that is the teaching of the Church of what it means to be Pro-Life—fully pro-life from conceptions to natural death. We all too easily reduce ourselves to single-issue focus and hold one issue, not above the others, but to the exclusion of the others. As the bishops write: “The right to life implies and is linked to other human rights—to the basic goods that every human person needs to live and thrive. All the life issues are connected, for erosion of respect for the life of any individual or group in society necessarily diminishes respect for all life. The moral imperative to respond to the needs of our neighbors—basic needs such as food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work—is universally binding on our consciences...” (Faithful Citizenship, #25) They also tell us we must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing, and health care—it's all Pro-Life.

The bishops recognize that modern politics is complex and often, no candidate is fully pro-life as the Church and our bishops define it. But then some “actions are so deeply flawed that they are always opposed to the authentic good of persons. These are called “intrinsically evil” actions. They must always be rejected and opposed and must never be supported or condoned. A prime example is the intentional taking of innocent human life, as in abortion and euthanasia.” (Faithful Citizenship, #22: quoting John Paul II's Gospel of Life) In our day “euthanasia” is politely called “doctor assisted death.”

The Bishops also write: “Catholics often face difficult choices about how to vote. This is why it is so important to vote according to a well-formed conscience that perceives the proper relationship among moral goods. A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act, such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, deliberately subjecting workers or the poor to subhuman living conditions, redefining marriage in ways that violate its essential meaning, or racist behavior, if the voter's intent is to support that position. In such cases, a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate's opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity.” (Faithful Citizenship, #35)

We strongly encourage you to know the candidates and their positions on abortion, euthanasia, and the range of fully and truly Pro-Life topics. Your vote, your voice. It is our duty as Faithful Citizens.

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

The Parish Office will be closed on October 11th in observance of Columbus Day



Sister Parish Collection

October 16th and 17th
at all Masses

"If someone who has the riches of this world sees his brother in need and closes his heart to him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (1 Jn 3:17)

Who does not remember the impact by the COVID pandemic on food security here in the United States? The evening news had stories nightly. And this was in the United States.

Life in our Sister Parish in Lima. The impact of the pandemic was particularly hard on the people of Peru. For months Peru held the grim title of first worldwide in per capita COVID-19 deaths. But the effects of the pandemic are not only in illness and death, but there are other effects that ripple throughout the nation. The pandemic hit Peru after a period of economic struggles in which the nation's GDP growth was slow and unemployment, already a problem, grew. In 2020, the GDP fell almost 13% - and the impact is felt at every level in the nation and most urgently among the poor. In the wake of the pandemic, the poverty rate in and around Lima went from 14% to 28 % of the population in one year. Our Sister Parish especially feels the impacts.

Why it's important. There have been interruptions in the US economy, but we are blessed in our access to the basics of life: home, water, food and health care. We have concerns, but we are spared disruptions in the basics of life. Not so Peru. Not so the people of Parroquia Santa Anna. We are called to help:

"...everyone has the right to possess a sufficient amount of the earth's goods for themselves and their family. [The Church has always] taught that people are bound to come to the aid of the poor and to do so not merely out of their superfluous goods. Persons in extreme necessity are entitled to take what they need from the riches of others." (Gadium et Spes para. 69)

The economic reports from Peru reflect a troubled nation. The impact is felt most deeply by the poorest, especially in the informal settlements outside the city proper—like our Santa Ana. The impact of the pandemic economy is felt in many ways—most especially access to water, food, healthcare, and jobs.

"If someone who has the riches of this world sees his brother in need and closes his heart to him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (1 Jn 3:17)... To quote Saint Ambrose: "You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor person. You are handing over to him what is his. For what has been given in common for the use of all, you have arrogated to yourself. The world is given to all, and not only to the rich." Populorum Progressio ("On the Development of Peoples"), Pope Paul VI, 1967, #23.

The weekend of October 16th and 17th there will be a second collection for the needs of our Sister Parish. If you have the envelope already, please use it. If you are writing a check, please include "Sister Parish" on the memo line. And if you are giving cash, there will be a dedicated collection basket in the lobby of the church. **Want to learn more?** Watch a video message from Fr. Tony Wilson, OFM, the pastor about the needs of the parish: <https://bit.ly/SisterParishvideo>.

Make a difference in how you live so that all God's creatures can thrive. This week the Ivory Billed Woodpecker was declared extinct.

Care for Creation Ministry

Seasons of Creation 2021 - a time of grace each year that the Catholic Church, in ecumenical dialogue, offers to humanity to renew its relationship with the Creator and with creation, through celebration, prayer, worship, action, conversion and common commitment.

You can learn more at <https://stfrncis.org/category/C4C>

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. 10	NO RE—Columbus Day Weekend
14	Thursday RE Session
17	Sunday RE Session
21	Thursday RE Session
24	Sunday RE Session
28	Thursday RE Session
31	Sunday RE Session



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).



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.

John Orille and Fr. George are for the Birds.... Are you?



John's son, Connor, a senior at Saint John Paul the Great HS, built and installed six bird feeders and four bird habitats as part of his Eagle Scout project. The Orille's clean and refill the feeders as does Fr. George. Then the birds do their part and they do it very well. Every two weeks they are able to go through a 12 lb. bag of wild bird seed. Are you for the birds? If you would like, please donate bird seed and be for the Birds!

Readings for the Week of October 10, 2021

Monday	Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32
Tuesday	Romans 1:16-25; Luke 11:37-41
Wednesday	Romans 2:1-11; Luke 11:42-46
Thursday	Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54
Friday	Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7
Saturday	Romans 4:13, 16-18; Luke 12:8-12
Sunday	Isaiah 53:10-11; Hebrews 4:14-16; Mark 10:35-45 or 10:42-45



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!

Abortion as Health Care?

As Catholics we are rightly opposed to abortion for the simple reason that it takes a life. Life, which St. John Paul II called “the most fundamental of human rights.” We celebrate life with the birth of a child; we mourn the loss of life and in that moment we celebrate and recall all the moments that made up the life. We understand all life comes to its own natural end, that death is inevitable. We don’t understand the end of life needlessly caused by human accident, carelessness or intention.



Why it’s Important. When faced with deadly disease we marshal the forces of medicine to the cause of life. When faced with conditions that impact safety we monitor, regulate, and make changes. And yet when death comes via the route of abortion we do not marshal the same defense of life. This right to take a life has the protection of law, the communal shrug of “it’s a personal choice” yet since the ratification of Roe v. Wade, tens of millions of lives have been ended via abortion. It is done under the moniker of “reproductive health care.” Is it health care? Are there unintended effects?

Go Deeper. “In recent years pro-abortion groups have radically altered their messaging strategy, abandoning the slogan of “choice” to claim instead that abortion is simply essential health care for women. References to abortion or abortion “services” have been replaced in pro-abortion literature by the euphemism “care.” By claiming an objective basis in medicine, abortion supporters seek to marginalize health care providers and others who disagree with them, dismissing these Americans as not living up to “the standard of care.” (Abortion is not Health Care, Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, USSCB)

The topic of abortion can generate report after report, statistics upon statistics. It is a moral issue with complex socio-religious-economic factors. But as regards “standard of care” it is noteworthy that only 3% of abortions are performed in hospitals, and a little more than 1% in physicians’ offices. It has become a specialized practice in which 74% of abortions are done by facilities that do a thousand abortions or more a year; 16% are done by facilities that do 5,000 or more a year. This conjures the image of the efficiency and production of an assembly line. Are there complications from such production rates? The post-abortion complication rate is estimated between 2-4% with the majority of the complications passing with post-abortion care.

The advocates of abortion are now moving beyond the clinic as they recommend the abortion drug mifepristone can be prescribed via telemedicine and provided by mail to women. Studies indicate the rate of complications is in the 8-16% range. But these women are in their own homes without access to medical care. One wonders how that contributes to a “standard of care.”

Is abortion “health care?” Women seeking abortions overwhelmingly report they are not doing so for “health” reasons. Only 6% cite any concern for their own health among the reasons for the abortion. Choosing abortion often results in more devastating consequences. Women find themselves dealing with unexpected emotions of guilt and remorse. These lives also can be lost to the tragedy of abortion.

Suicide rates among women of childbearing age are approximately 11.3 out of 100,000. What about women of childbearing age who have given birth? The suicide rate less than half of the general population of childbearing aged women. What about women who have had abortions? Their rate of suicide is three times higher than the general rate. “Compared with women who give birth, those who had abortions were more likely to subsequently die of suicide, accidents, homicide, mental disease, and cerebrovascular disease. Previous psychiatric disease does not appear to explain the higher relative death rates.” (California Study cited in Abortion is not Health Care)

A Standard of Care. The standard of care for the unborn is delineated and specific. “It has been the policy of the American Academy of Pediatrics since 1988 that the unborn child is a patient eligible for treatment by the pediatrician. The Academy reaffirmed this policy in 2017: ‘Pediatrics is a multifaceted specialty that encompasses children’s physical, psychosocial, developmental, and mental health. Pediatric care may begin periconceptionally and continues through gestation, infancy, childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood.’” (emphasis added)

For this and many other reasons, this is why we care. Not because the women or unborn children are Catholic, but because we are Catholic. It is incumbent upon all of us to promote and defend a culture of life, remembering that sovereignty over life is in the will of God.

Seeking to defend all life, let us continue to pray and work for a softening of hearts towards the most vulnerable of our society, help for those who find themselves in untenable situations and an infusion of grace from the Holy Spirit that these goals will be accomplished. Let there truly be a standard of health care for women and their unborn children.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY,	October 9—Weekday
4:00 PM	Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Alice Tippit
	†Sr. Kathleen Kean, S.J.
	†Steve Pishock
SUNDAY,	October 10—28th Sunday In Ordinary Time
8:00 AM	†Filomena Ponsi
	†Steve Carlson
	The Carlson Family
9:30 AM	†Kay Mercogliano
	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
	†Laurie Zeiszler
11:00 AM	†Ann Cunnick
	Kevin Neary
	†Oligario and †Claudia Tornes
12:30 PM	†Maria Luisa Velazquez
	†Inosencio Rodriguez
5:30 PM	People of the Parish
	†Adelina Pimentil
MONDAY,	October 11—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Eileen Bolen
TUESDAY,	October 12—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Frank and †Chic Maris
	†Betsy Dennison
	Sarah Ecklund
WEDNESDAY,	October 13—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
	†Kathryn Gonsorcik
	†Betsy Dennison
THURSDAY,	October 14—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Chic Maris
	†Lois Brown
	†Oscar Castaneda
FRIDAY,	October 15—St. Theresa of Jesus
8:45 AM	†Grace Lechleitner
	†Carmelia Senno
SATURDAY,	October 16—Weekday
4:00 PM	Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Alice Tippit
	†Steve Pischok
	†Danny O'Connor

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.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Military Historical Tours, Inc.
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Mass Intentions on Sunday, October 17, 2021

8:00 AM	†Janet Sarsfield
9:30 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
	†Caridad Balena
11:00 AM	Tyler J. Mangus
	Pedro Rincon Martinez
	Peter Joseph Schwartz
12:30 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	People of the Parish
	†Bobby Synan
	†Emma Schwarz

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

At this time we are not in need of any food donations.

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.**



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!

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 10:17-30

Through the goodness of God we are blessed with eternal life when we follow the Commandments and love God more than earthly possessions.

Year B

Jesus said,

**"ALL THINGS ARE
POSSIBLE FOR GOD."**

Mark 10: 27

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words... left,
right, up, down or diagonally.

Goodness
All
Things
Possible
God
Blessed
Eternal
Life
Commandments
Love
More
Earthly
Possessions
Teacher
Treasure
Heaven
Everything
Give
Poor
Follow
Jesus
Enter
Kingdom
Saved
Children

E	S	A	V	E	D	L	A	N	R	E	T	E
S	S	E	A	R	T	H	L	Y	E	V	H	L
A	E	E	H	E	A	V	E	N	T	O	I	S
E	N	R	T	H	S	W	T	E	N	F	N	N
H	D	O	A	C	N	L	O	V	E	L	G	O
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E	N	T	S	I
H	O	R	J	E	S	U	S	R	P	W	I	S
I	G	M	O	T	N	E	A	Y	A	O	G	S
L	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	T	L	V	E
D	E	S	S	E	L	B	H	H	R	L	L	S
R	I	T	H	I	N	E	V	I	G	O	D	S
E	L	B	I	S	S	O	P	N	P	F	O	O
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