



*Merry
Christmas
from the
Friars and
Staff of
St. Francis of
Assisi
Catholic
Community*

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

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

12:30 PM - Español

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

Dan Sullivan (Chair)

dan_irene@icloud.com

Christine Arroyo (Vice Chair)

christinevarroyo539@gmail.com

PARISH SCHOOL

703-221-3868

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

Dr. Sally Nicholson, Principal

snicholson@stfas.org

Elizabeth Rayhel, Assistant Principal

erayhel@stfas.org

Liz Orille, Director of Admissions

lorille@stfas.org

Megan Quinn, Operations Administrative Assistant

mquinn@stfas.org

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. James Scullion, O.F.M., Pastor

x227

frjscullion@stfrncis.org

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

x228

frgcorrigan@stfrncis.org

Fr. Chris Dunn, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

x229

frcdunn@stfrncis.org

PERMANENT DEACON

Dcn. Michael Gomes (Leave messages at Parish phone)

dcnmike@stfrncis.org

HISPANIC MINISTRY

x229

Fr. Chris Dunn, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

frcdunn@stfrncis.org

PARISH STAFF

703-221-4044

Lisa Bongiorno, Business Manager

x223

lbongiorno@stfrncis.org

Chanel Marquis, Compliance Officer

x222

cmarquis@stfrncis.org

Jessica Ulsenheimer, Bookkeeper

X232

julsenheimer@stfrncis.org

Lina Morales, Receptionist

X221

lmorales@stfrncis.org

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

703-221-3127

Sheila Noble, Director of Faith Formation

x238

snoble@stfrncis.org

Angelica Silva, CRE

x236

asilva@stfrncis.org

Elizabeth Brack, Secretary

x234

lizb@stfrncis.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

703-221-4044

Nikole Giraldi, Director

x231

nikoleg@stfrncis.org

Colleen Wells, Assistant Director

x237

cwells@stfrncis.org

CYM

540-273-0777

Brandon Jubar, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

bjubar@stfrncis.org



**From
the
Friars**

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.... For a child is born to us." Isaiah proclaims to us the meaning of Christmas. It is new birth; it is light shining in the darkness; it is "an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Since I was the second oldest of ten children, I got to see many baby sisters and one baby brother "wrapped in swaddling clothes" and lying in a bassinet. It was always a great source of joy and wonder. It is almost impossible to be gloomy around little babies. We experience this same joy as we stand before the baby Jesus lying in the manger.

While we are not blind to the darkness in our world and especially in Jesus' birthplace we are also called to be filled with wonder and joy this Christmas. We sing and pray with the heavenly angels, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

This Christmas we remember the joy we experience in our parish throughout the year as we hear little babies calling out during mass or see the children running up with food for the poor and needy during mass. We rejoiced with our choirs last week during our Festival of Praise as the children and choirs retold the Christmas story.

Let us take time this Christmas to hear what God wants to say to each one of us: Jesus is Emmanuel, "God is with us and walks with us on the journey of life."

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Jim Scullion, O.F.M.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve - Dec 24th (church)	Christmas Eve - Dec 24th (gym)
4:00 pm	4:00 pm
6:00 pm	6:00 pm
8:00 pm	8:00 pm (<i>Spanish with live nativity</i>)
10:30 pm	
<i>Children's Christmas Pageant at 3:15 pm</i>	Christmas Day - Dec 25th (church)
<i>Preludes at 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 pm</i>	8:00 am, 9:30 am
<i>Christmas Day, no mass in Spanish or 5:30 pm</i>	

**PLEASE
NOTE:**

**December 22nd-January 1st the Parish Office is closed.
We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd.**



An outreach ministry of the parish



Food Pantry Needs:

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, the St. Francis House pantry is well stocked at this time.

On behalf of St. Francis of Assisi Church and The St. Francis House Ministry I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with joy, health, love, and prosperity.

Francia Salguero

(703)-221-6344

francias@stfrncis.org

Items of the Month:
Personal Hygiene Care
(ex. Toothpaste,
Toothbrush, Body
Soap, Shampoo, and
Conditioner)

If you or your family find yourself in need, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Francis House is open:

- Tuesday 9:00 am until 12:00 pm
- Wednesday 9:00 am until 1:00 pm
- Thursday 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

Thank you for all that you do!

Meals for Prince William County Homeless Shelter

Dinners for the Shelter at The Ferlazzo Building

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 scan the QR code below.

Sign up to
provide
breakfast for
the shelter



Don't have time , but want to help? It is okay!
You can donate the following items milk,
juice, fresh fruit, desserts, bags of green salad,
other deli salads. **Or donate gifts cards from
BJs, Costco, Sams, Food Lion or Walmart.**

✉ Tithing Information

End of Year Statements: Due to the high cost of postage, we have decided that the end of year tax statements for 2023 will not be automatically sent to each parishioner. **We will provide a tax statement to any parishioner that requests one** by contacting **Chanel Marquis** at cmarquis@stfrncis.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**

Children's Faith Formation



Registration for the 2023-2024 year is now closed, unless you are transferring in from another program. **Questions?** Please contact **Sheila Noble** at snoble@stfrncis.org.

Children's Faith Formation for 2023-2024

December 21st-January 4th
NO CFF—Christmas Break

Jan.	7	Sunday CFF Session
	11	Thursday CFF Session
	14	NO CFF—Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
	18	Thursday CFF Session
	21	Sunday CFF Session
	25	NO CFF (Thursday Session)
Feb.	28	NO CFF (Sunday Session)
	1	Thursday CFF Session
	4	Sunday CFF Session
	8	Thursday CFF Session
	11	Sunday CFF Session



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 on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. **beginning January 4th** to share a delicious dinner and fellowship, listen to an enlightening teaching and join in a small group discussion about the meaning of life and the identity of Jesus Christ. Sessions will conclude on February 15th and include a retreat on Saturday, February 3rd. **Please register using the link below and contact Sheila Noble at snoble@stfrncis.org with any questions.**



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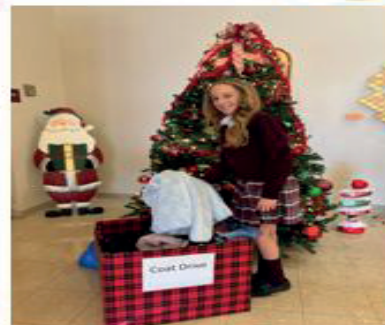
snicholson@stfas.org



School News

The Virtue of the month is Generosity. This month our student Jackson M, collected coats for the Salvation Army.

We wish you a Christmas filled with Joy and Peace!



Save the Date!

If you are interested in learning more about St. Francis of Assisi School, please join us for one of our upcoming "Open Houses" on January 20th, February 24th, or March 23rd. Please scan the QR code for more information and to RSVP.





DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

Christmas 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At Christmas, we hear the proclamation: *"For unto us a Savior is born who is Christ and Lord."* This good news of great joy is the reason for our renewed faith and hope.

In a world experiencing so much unrest, a Savior is born who announces peace, brings glad tidings, and comforts his people. In a nation that is divided, a Savior is born who unites us as God's holy family, as brothers and sisters. In our lives, when we are overwhelmed by our crosses and sufferings, a Savior is born who embraces us in his love and mercy with the strength and grace we need.

And for all these gifts, the Lord asks so little in return. He simply wants us to strive every day to trust him, to be faithful, and to be instruments of his peace to all those we love and meet. What we do at Christmas teaches us the way.

So, with the help of Mary and Joseph, strive to be what our Church and world need more than ever: *holy families*. Do so by loving and respecting one another and giving to each other the most precious gifts of all: your time and attention. As you have been forgiven, ask for the grace to forgive others, especially those who have offended you, so that no bitterness is within your heart. Continue the spirit of giving that is so prevalent at this time of year, especially as you share your resources and blessings with our brothers and sisters in most need.

Dear friends in Christ, please be assured of a special remembrance at the Christmas Masses I will celebrate, and please pray for me. Through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, trust in the power of the Lord to renew and transform our world, nation, and each one of us. May the peace that only Christ can give be yours at Christmas and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Burbidge".

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington



SATURDAY,	December 23—Advent Weekday
4:00 PM	Reconciliation
5:30 PM	†Alice Tippit †Ronald Hall Christmas Novena
SUNDAY,	December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00 AM	†Thomas Dibbley †Jerri Gall †Mark Haneklau
9:30 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Nieves and †Spencer Sagudan †John Rocco Gonsorcik
11:00 AM	†Betsy P. Dennison People of the Parish †Steven Muir
12:30 PM	†Candelaria Mejia †Genaro Herculano Castillo
4:00 PM	Christmas Novena †Dominga Mariano
4:00 PM	(GYM) †Jane Wilson
6:00 PM	†Helen C. and †Clifford Buckley †Robert E. Williams †Anthony Alexander Smith
6:00 PM	(GYM) †Eileen Bolen
8:00 PM	†Imelda Pine
8:00 PM	Misa en español (GYM)
10:30 PM	†Gregory Edward Sanderson †Normand Richard Marquis †John A. Shookster
MONDAY,	December 25—Christmas
8:00 AM	Christmas Novena †Marion Noel Trudnak
9:30 AM	†Bob Piccoli
TUESDAY,	December 26—St. Stephen
8:45 AM	Christmas Novena †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Dario C. Jimeno
WEDNESDAY,	December 27—St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
8:45 AM	Christmas Novena †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Kathryn Gonsorcik
THURSDAY,	December 28—Holy Innocents
8:45 AM	Christmas Novena †Mary Lou Jackson
FRIDAY,	December 29—Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas
8:45 AM	Christmas Novena †Margarita Salvador †Samuel Robinson
SATURDAY,	December 30—Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas
4:00 PM	Reconciliation
5:30 PM	Christmas Novena †Ninfa M. Carpino Maximo Tavarez

Mass Intentions on Sunday, December 31, 2023

8:00 AM	†Eileen Bolen
9:30 AM	†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Nieves and †Spencer Sagudan †John Rocco Gonsorcik
11:00 AM	People of the Parish †Frank DiMaria
12:30 PM	†Edelmira Arenas
5:30 PM	Christmas Novena †Sara Ryan

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Bill Saliski; Dolly Brunk; Sarah Morgan; Maria Suarez; Jean C. Tekverk; Joseph Keady; Jeff Dietze; Jonathan Hernandez Mata; Phyllis Mitchell; Kate Schell-Smith; Cecilia Fellner; Butch Asselin; Mary Kay Jones; Gaston Gianni; Mirian Yanet Segovia; Maira Pena; Larry Evans; Andrew Wagner; Jim Riordan; Randy Chapman; Kevin Sliwinski; Estrella Monzon; JJ Powell; Michelle Fornelli; Collin Callahan; Solange Wahl; Ricardo Sayson; Recaredo Monzon; Juliet Erasmo; Maureen Caddigan; S.J. Defibaugh; Corazon N. Atienza; Eric Brown; Jan Bond; Delores Baytan; Tomas Bernardo; David Back; Chad Burns; Bill Myers; Sue Long; Gary Ward; and Ted Zamerski.

Readings for the Week of December 24, 2023

Monday	Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20; or Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18; or Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14
Tuesday	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
Wednesday	1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a and 2-8
Thursday	1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
Friday	1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
Saturday	1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
Sunday	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40



The Christmas Flowers were donated in memory of the following families: **Thomas; and Tarantino.**

And the following individuals: **Lorenzo and Tillie Sabourin; Mary and John Misyak; Edna and Jack Rozier; Irene and Ray Wagner; Charlotte Stafira; John Francis Carpino; Ninfa Carpino; Laurence O'Brien; Mildred O'Brien; Phyllis and Jack Conway; Stan and Florence Rezler; Barbara Porciello; Morgan Davoren, Jr.; Jane Wilson; Tom Dibbley; Jerrine Gall; Clifford E. Brady, Sr.; Kathryn Savage; Mary Lou Jackson; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gregory; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nicastro; Ruth W. Brady; and Mary F. Smith.**

Merry Christmas

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

Fourth Sunday of Advent | Luke 1:26-38

Year B

BE AWARE, PREPARE, REJOICE, SEE THE LIGHT!

The Angel Gabriel came to Mary with good news. She would give birth to Jesus, and her cousin Elizabeth would give birth to John the Baptist, for nothing is impossible with God.

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FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

ARRIVAL OR COMING OF CHRIST

1ST Day of Winter even in the short daylight hours
We See the Light!

4 bright candles – Jesus is coming soon...

WEEK 4, evening lighting prayer
Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy Grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Through Christ our Lord, Amen".

Father or head of household lights all the candles.

**We are Aware, We are Prepared,
We Rejoice, We see the Light!**
Christ, Light of the World.



Color 3 purple & 1 rose/pink candle. Draw flames on 4 candles & color the holly leaves green.

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