

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church

4th SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 30, 2025

Parish Staff

Reverend James Gould, Pastor
Reverend Joseph Kenna, Parochial Vicar
Mr. Larry Hammel, Deacon
Mrs. Leslie Sheldon, Office Manager
Mrs. Laura Burgess, Business Manager
Mrs. Diane Taylor, DRE - Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Lea Anne Kennedy, CRE
Ms. Caitlin Orender, Director of Youth Ministry
Mr. Michael Galdo, Director of Music
Mr. Richard Smith, Facilities Manager
Mr. Jerry Jones, Custodian
Mrs. Maria Alvarenga, Custodian
Mr. Antonio Alvarenga, Custodian
Mrs. Janice Rees, Sunday Bulletin

Contact Info

Admin and Religious Education Office- 540-338-6381
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37730 St. Francis Court, Purcellville, VA 20132
www.SaintFrancisParish.org

Welcome!

Please register and become part of our parish community. You may fill out a registration form in the parish office during business hours.

Office Hours - M-F 8:30am-4pm
(Office closed between 12noon and 1:15pm daily)

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil - 5pm
Sunday - 7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:15pm,
5:30pm (Mass with contemporary music)

Daily Mass

Monday through Thursday - 6:30am and 8:30am
Friday - 6:30am and 12noon
Saturday - 9am
Check the bulletin for Holy Days of Obligation

Benediction/Adoration

Friday - Adoration is held every Friday following the 12noon Mass through the evening and overnight until Saturday morning before the 9am Mass



Sacraments

Confessions:

Friday 11am
Saturday 8am and 3:30pm; Wednesday 8pm;
One-half hour before Mass on Sunday.
Anytime by appointment. Confessions are held in the Church.

Matrimony: Parish couples planning to be married must make arrangements with the Office at least six months prior to the intended date of marriage.

Baptism: Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1:30pm. Baptism class is the Friday before the 3rd Sunday of the month 7pm.
Call the office for details.

Anointing of the Sick: We are privileged to bring Holy Communion and administer the Holy Anointing to the sick and home-bound upon request. Please call the office to let us know your needs.

**4th SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 30, 2025**

“But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.” - Lk 15:32



Confessions in Lent

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday - 7pm
Wednesday Night Holy Hour at 7pm, followed by
Confession at 8pm

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7:30pm
(Confessions will follow Stations as needed)

Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of abstinence for Catholics. Every person 14 years of age or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat).

**Join Us For Our
Lenten Fish Fry!**

Every Friday evening during Lent
3:30 - 7:30 pm

Menu and Pre-orders will be available on our website
saintfrancisparish.org/fish-fry/

dine-in • take out • curbside available

**ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE FISH FRY
SUPPORTS OUR PARISH!!!**

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Week of March 15 & 16	
Pew/Mail	\$ 13,115.00
Parish Giving	\$ 17,693.00
Total	\$ 30,808.50

This Week

Mon., March 31	<u>Book of Revelations</u> 10am, Room 107 <u>OCIA</u> 7pm, Room 206
Wed., April 2	<u>Catholic Biblical Sch</u> 9:30am & 6:30pm OLVH <u>SoulStitch</u> 9:30am, Knights Hall <u>Holy Hour for Miraculous Medal</u> 7pm <u>That Man is You</u> 7pm, Room 202
Fri., April 4	<u>Women's Prayer Group</u> 7am, Chapel <u>Saint Peter Bible Study</u> 9am, Room 107
Sat., April 5	<u>That Man is You</u> 6:30am, Room 202

Masses for the Week

+ deceased	
<u>Sat., Mar. 29</u>	Lenten Weekday Erin Lienhard
9:00 am	
<u>Sat., Mar. 29</u>	Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent
5:00 pm	+ Neal Brown
<u>Sun., Mar. 30</u>	4th Sunday of Lent
7:00 am	+ Frank Daly
8:30 am	+ Thomas Muroski
10:30 am	Catholic Charities Food Pantry Volunteers
12:15 pm	+ Elizabeth Devine
5:30 pm	People of the Parish
<u>Mon., Mar. 31</u>	Lenten Weekday
6:30 am	+ Corky Corcoran
8:30 am	+ Marty Weygandt
<u>Tue., April 1</u>	Lenten Weekday
6:30 am	+ Alexander Feliu
8:30 am	+ Barbara Webster
<u>Wed., April 2</u>	Lenten Weekday
6:30 am	George and Brenda Amino
8:30 am	Tim and Katie Magin
<u>Thu., April 3</u>	Lenten Weekday
6:30 am	+ Msgr. John Sweeny
8:30 am	+ Richard Vann
<u>Fri., April 4</u>	Lenten Weekday
6:30 am	+ Corky Corcoran
12:00 noon	+ Corky Corcoran
<u>Sat., April 5</u>	Lenten Weekday
9:00 am	+ Elton Jackson Killmon
<u>Sat., April 5</u>	Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent
5:00 pm	+ Peter DeCicco
<u>Sun., April 6</u>	5th Sunday of Lent
7:00 am	People of the Parish
8:30 am	+ Agnes Borneman
10:30 am	Mai Sylvester
12:15 pm	+ Sr. Mary Emmanuel Stahl
5:30 pm	+ John R. Robinson

**The gift shop will be open TODAY after the
8:30, 10:30, and 12:15 masses.
Stop by and shop!**

Readings for the Week

Sun:	Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32; Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:814/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Mon:	Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54
Tue:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wed:	Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
Thu:	Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
Fri:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat:	Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-5

Dear Folks,

On this day I offer my final Dear Folks Letter under the guidance of Mrs. Janice Rees. It is either the depth, or lack of, of my letters... or an apt time to retire from the role of communication director for the parish that Janice steps down after 28 years of service. Many of you also remember her from the Religious Ed office and Summer Bible camp Program. Gone is our great corporate memory of the parish. Lost are stories of humor and sadness that will carry along for many years to come. She served under seven pastors. God bless Janice and her wonderful husband, John. They will continue with us in parish but will also spend a loving time with friends and relatives down at their beach house on the Chesapeake. Many thanks to Janice for the memories.



Speaking of memories. Last week I enjoyed a most enjoyable time at the twenty-fifth anniversary for the Theology on Tap program. Two hundred people showed up and Bishop Burbidge offered a wonderful talk on Pope Francis theme on Hope for the current Holy Year. I leave you with his talk. www.arlingtondiocese.org/2025/03/19/25th-anniversary-of-theology-on-tap/

Off to the races in the parish and beyond.

Nightly Confessions will be heard in the church at 7:00 PM... with the exception of Wednesday where confessions will follow the weekly holy hour and start at 8:00 PM. This schedule follows the normal Confession Schedule of Wednesday 8:00 PM; Friday 11:00 AM; Saturday 8:00 AM, and 3:30 PM; plus a half hour before all the Sunday Masses. Why so many hours of confessions? Fear of the pastor who doesn't want to go Hell for not helping to keep the parishioners out of Hell for their interesting little sins of indifference and sundry actions that offend the Lord. Please come one and come all. Especially... the big fish. Not to worry little Virginia, we have the Act of Contrition printed on a card in the confessional.

Fr. Kenna is leading the charge for every one going to the Virginia Pro-Life March in Richmond. He will join Bishop Burbidge of Arlington and Bishop Nestow, of Richmond along with many priests and laity. Our Knights of Columbus extraordinaire have lined up and bus to leave after the 8:30 Mass on April 2. I expect the great marchers will return by 4:30 PM. I encourage everyone to sign up for the bus. If you are worried about walking, the distance is about a little more than a third of the DC March... in warm weather. Let us pray for one another.

Every Friday evening during Lent 3:30 - 7:30 pm Menu and Pre-orders will be available on our website saintfrancisparish.org/fish-fry/ Join Us For Our Lenten Fish Fry! dine-in • take out • curbside available. Those wonderful folks at the Friday Fish Fry offered the foolish pastor a special on "Onion Rings." They were tremendous. Please join us in the parish hall for the culinary delights on Friday nights in Lent. Thanks to Rick Smith you can now order the fish on line. Come one come all.

Stations of the Cross follow the fish fry at 7:30 PM. God bless one and all.

As we are racing to Easter please stay close for the information on the annual Easter Egg Hunt for the kids and Blessing of Family Easter Baskets. It won't be long now.

Collegiate Question: This one a challenge. In the museum of the Bible in DC you can find one of the earliest tile settings for an early Catholic Church. How they picked it up in four pieces and brought it to America is any ones guess. What is the name of the "Mosaic" on the floor, that is the setting of the early church? Good hunting.

Our thoughts and prayers are with ...



Our Military Members: SGT Peter Audi, PFC Stephen G. Beard, LTC Andrew Cahan, Mary Elizabeth Castaneda, SGT Ernesto G. Castro, LCpl Paul Cotter, LT Scott Cypher, CPT Ryan Patrick Godfrey, 1LT Alexandra Goodnow, Captain Ryan Patrick Grady, 2LT Patrick Gutierrez, PO2 Robin Hunt, Christopher Largent (Army), MAJ Jamie (Jovene) Liddle, PFC Joseph Jovene, MAJ Vincent Jovene, USAF Mary Catherine Kuegler, CPT Rachel (Jovene) Malletts, LTC Chuck Marshall, SFC Tim Marshall, Blaise Mason (Army), Sam A. Mason (Army), 1st LT Caleb Magowan, PFC Brian McWilliams, SPC Kenneth Kyle McWilliams (Army Reserve National Guard), CPT Ross Mentzer, Kyle Minogue (Air Force), Marine Nate Nelms, Kristin Ober (Air Force), Marine Anthony Oliverio, 2LT Jonathan Owen, Lcpl John Owen Patterson, PFC Jorge Pedroza, Gy Sgt Jose O. Ruiz Pedroza, Army John Pileulsley, CPT Brendan Printup, Joe Pultro, CWO Jason Runner, 1LT Matthew Ryan, LT Michael Tappe, LCpl Frankie Thyson, Shahin Uddin (Army), SSgt Marnie Wickman, A1C Joshua Wilk, 1LT Jared Willard, Col. Theodore White, Andrew Yevoli (Air Force), LT Colin Conahue; Seaman Ryan Knowles, COL Therese Kreuzberg, 2nd LT Seth R. McRoberts; LT Colin Donohue; WO Paul Adam; 2L Matthew Owen; LT Alex Bissell, PVT Teddy Bratrud

The Sick: Dominic Corcoran, Mike O'Brien, Sarah Nolan, Liz Keller; Joanne Harrington, Charles Williams, Patricia Naomi Alvarenga, Joe Graber, Christina Huth, Candace Daly, Melissa Jewel, Frederick Campos, Grace Costello, Daniel Ramirez, Cynthia Ramirez, Silvia Vizcarra, Olga Howard, Diane Shirley, Patrick Whipp, Barney Smith, Corinne McHugh, Pam Austrich, Bobby Decker, Maureen Sengpiehl, Jerry Franks, Anthony Gianino, Maria Madigan, Martha Ruiz, Judith Livingston; Jose Arias, William and Susan De Loziedr, Adam DeWitt, Neda Carpenter, Lisa Salicinas

The Deceased: Valerie Danet, Ruth McHenry, Brenda Vinton, Thomas Bradford, Richard King, Dr. Joel Madrid, Mary Anna Strovoy, Mary Louise Oliver, Mary Regina Meaney, Dr. Paul Schweisthal, G.E Corky Corcoran II, Barbara Curran, Alexander McMinn, Felisa Hight, Norma Jean Early; Charles Appel, Daniel Curtis, Lorenzo Osorio Rosa

Mass Celebrant Schedule

Saturday, April 5

5pm: Fr. Kenna

Sunday, April 6

7am: Fr. Kenna

8:30 am: Fr. Gould

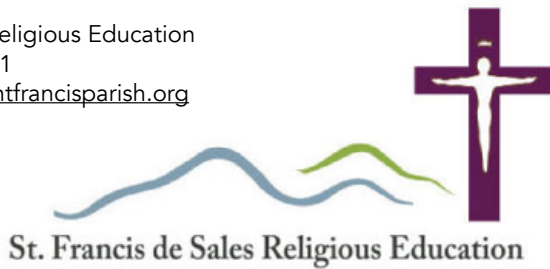
10:30am: Fr. Gould

12:15pm: Fr. Frankline

5:30pm: Fr. Frankline

* note: subject to change

Diane Taylor
Director of Religious Education
540-338-6381
d.taylor@saintfrancisparish.org



Attention Confirmation II students- Confirmation is in 4 weeks!
Confirmation Retreat is THIS SATURDAY, April 5. 3pm – 10pm
(required for all 8th grade through high school students receiving confirmation this spring)

Attention, Monday Families – There will be religious education classes on Monday, March 31 even though LCPS has a teachers' workday.

RE Events:

Confirmation Mass: Thursday, April 24 @ 6:30pm
First Holy Communion: Saturday, May 10 @10:30am and 1:30pm
May Crowning, Sunday, May 18 @ 12:15pm Mass

Parents are invited to a Wine and Cheese event to meet Caitlin Orender, the Director of Youth Ministry. Saturday, April 12 @ 6PM. Join us in the rectory.

Become a Catechist: If you are looking for a fruitful way to get involved in parish life, please join the religious education team. You do not have to be a Catholic scholar to teach, and your understanding of the Catholic faith will grow even more. Consider becoming a catechist, catechist assistant, hall monitor, or substitute teacher. Our program cannot run without our wonderful volunteers! Catechists with children registered in the RE program get free tuition. Please visit the RE office to get more information.

"The measure of Love is to Love without measure." ~St. Francis de Sales

Religious Education Calendar

WEEK OF MARCH 30 and APRIL 6

Sunday Pre-K - 8th Grades, RCIT -9-10:15am
9th - 12th Grades (Fr. Gould) - 4-5pm
Monday K - 8th Grades 5-6:15pm
Wed 1st Grade-5th Grade - 3:30-4:45pm

How Are You Preparing for Lent?

Lent Prep: The Exodus and Jubilee - Spirit Juice/ Poco A Poco: this popular podcast can be found on You Tube, Spirit Juice, or on your favorite podcast app. In this episode, Dr. John Bergsma - Series on Jesus and the Jubilee (Part 5) **What role do the prophets play in this Jubilee?** The heart of the Jubilee is spiritual freedom and spiritual reconciliation, and the prophets saw that. They saw that the Jubilee is a year to *recall ourselves to our fundamental relationship with God*. Once again, this year, we are invited to reconcile with God and dive into this virtuous circle of reconciliation, forgiveness, and freedom to be relieved of our sins and internal struggles that enslave us and ultimately express the same circle with others. God continues sending prophets to keep calling us back to our relationship.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription! It's FREE!

The Boy from Milan You may have heard of him, the sneaker-wearing, computer-loving "gamer saint" of our time. But beyond the headlines and hashtags, the real story of Carlo is something deeper, something the world desperately needs to hear. Known for his deep love of God, devotion to the Eucharist, and quiet acts of charity, Carlo's life was a testament to everyday holiness.

Metanoia In the Gospel of Mark, the first words of Jesus are an invitation to metanoia, to repent, to change, to be converted. Join Fr. Dave Pivonka in this incredible series as he preaches on conversion.

Lent and New Life in Christ What is the importance of almsgiving? Dr. Michael Barber discusses the transformative power of almsgiving for your life.

A Song for Nagasaki: The Story of Takashi Nagai- Scientist, Convert, and Survivor of the Atomic Bomb an audiobook by Paul Glynn

Need help getting set up with FORMED? See the instructions on the parish website.

GET THE APPS These apps are free for most of the content with an optional paid subscription for access to more.

AMEN App on your phone for daily readings, reflections, prayer and inspiration.

Ascension App: Bible Studies, Bible in a Year, Catechism in a Year, Rosary in a Year, and more.

FORMED App: All the features of FORMED on your phone.

Hallow App: Improve your prayer time: *Lent Pray 40: The Way* and more.



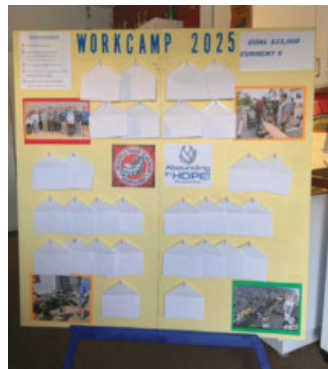
Caitlin Orender
 Director of Youth Ministry
 540-338-6381
c.orender@saintfrancisparish.org



We have 27 teens registered to attend WorkCamp in Quicksburg, VA from June 21-27! In order for them to attend, the diocese requires us to attain the following number of volunteers:

- **5 Contractors** (license not required) to work on the job site with teens **Mon-Thurs**
- **5 Security Volunteers** to work **one shift** Sunday June 22nd 3pm-8pm
- **Homebase volunteers** to assist the diocesan WorkCamp Logistics Team when available.

Please consider taking an envelope off the Work Camp fundraiser board in the narthex. Return it to the collection basket at mass, or in the drop box at the Religious Education building. Your support is so important to us.



6:30AM MASS FOR LENT - Meet Mrs. G in the front left rows of church every Tuesday morning during Lent

STAY CONNECTED

Join Remind:
 Text @sfdsyg to 81010

 <https://saintfrancisparish.org/teen-faith-youth-group/>

 @sfdsyouthministry

MAC-PAC
 Middle Schoolers Acting in Christ
 Prayer - Action - Charity

SPRING SAVE THE DATES

6 APRIL	MONTHLY MEETING 6:30-8:00PM OUR LADY OF VICTORY HALL (GYM)
4 MAY	MONTHLY MEETING 6:30-8:00PM OUR LADY OF VICTORY HALL (GYM)
10 MAY	ARLINGTON DIOCESE BASH 2-10PM BISHOP O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL
8 JUNE	MONTHLY MEETING 6:30-8:00PM KNIGHTS HALL (CHURCH BASEMENT)

VOLUNTEER AND JOIN



THE YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM
 ADULTS 21+ WHO LOVE SHARING THE CATHOLIC FAITH AND BUILDING OUR CHURCH'S FUTURE

If you are interested in learning more about our team please reach out to the Director of Youth Ministry.

SAVE THE DATE!
HIGH SCHOOL

April 5: Volunteer at the Confirmation Retreat
 April 6: High School Youth Night
 April 7: Homeless Shelter cooking
 April: 27 Work Camp Meeting
 May 4: Work Camp Pancake Breakfast
 May 18: Work Camp Car Wash
 June 1: Work Camp tool training
 June 12: Baccalaureate Mass

St. Francis Council 11136 News



THE SFDS KNIGHTS ARE FUNDING A BUS TO THE VA MARCH FOR LIFE

from St. Francis de Sales Church to the Virginia March for Life in Richmond on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. The Virginia March is the biggest gathering of pro-life Virginians in our Commonwealth.

On April 2nd, come to Mass at 8:30am and then load the bus right after, please be on time. We will stay and walk together as a group. We will arrive in Richmond before the noon March start time. We will depart Richmond at 3pm to head back to SFDS. Our arrival time to SFDS is 5:45pm, depending on traffic. Please scan the QR code (below right) to register how many seats you need. Please provide the names of all that need seats, cell phone #'s and email for the adults attending. Enter your cell # in the public comment section; this is needed in case we get separated. Please direct any questions to Ms. Leslie Sheldon l.sheldon@stfrancisparish.org.

DID YOU KNOW? – In November 2024, the Knights of Columbus local councils have surpassed \$100 million in financial support for seminarians, postulants, and novices through its Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). The RSVP program was founded in 1981 and provides aid to seminarians and entrants into religious life so that they can continue to discern their vocations. Financial support for vocations is a special cause for the knights, whose founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, had almost been forced to leave the seminary due to financial pressure in the wake of his father's death. RSVP and our other vocation scholarships are really our way of paying it forward and supporting the next generation of priests and religious. Your SFDS knights support 2 seminarians and 1 novitiate with our RSV.

THANK YOU TO THE SFDS PARISHIONERS – The SFDS Knights would like to thank the SFDS Parishioners who came out to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. It was a wonderful event with the Irish dancers, who never disappoint, and our own SFDS Grandmaster DJ, Walt Shearrow.

THANK YOU SFDS WOMEN'S COUNCIL – Thank you for your partnership in making the St. Patrick's Day celebration a rousing success and for all the other efforts around the parish. May God continue to Bless you.

KNIGHTS ALERT!! BE ADVISED – Your dues are critical to the SFDS knights continuing to serve our SFDS Priests, Parish, and Parish Community. You can pay your dues one of four ways: (1) Bring your dues to a knight's meeting; (2) mail your dues to the knight's P.O. box; (3) drop your dues in the knight's mailbox by the stairwell leading to knight's hall; or (4) via ZELLE.

YOU CAN BECOME A KNIGHT - The SFDS Knights have many wonderful, faithful, and inspiring programs; there's bound to be something that would appeal to our Parish Catholic Men. If you are interested in finding out more about the Knights and our programs, please contact Grand Knight Michael Carducci (gksf11136@gmail.com). To become a Knight, contact either Grand Knight Michael Carducci or Brother Knight Richard Jacob (jakeman58@aol.com). All Catholic men 18 years of age or older are eligible to become a Knight, and it is easier than ever - go to kofc.org/join or scan the QR code below and with just a few entries you will be a member of the Knights of Columbus!



Michael Carducci, Grand Knight
St Francis Council # 11136,
gksf11136@gmail.com; www.kofc11136.org



Welcome to the Family!
The following new parishioner was baptized during the months of January, February and March

Gabriel Paul

son of Paul and Kristin Szczenski

Allison Claire

daughter of Arkeith and Amanda Cunningham

Michael Thomas

son of Michael and Kimberly McHugh

Reagan Elizabeth

daughter of Alexander and Ashley Smith

Sebastian Gabriel

son of Alexander and Grace Cecere

Rafael Antonio and Miguel Santiago

sons of Yonatan and Sarah Holz

Aviella Ivy and Rex Matteo

daughter and son of Josue and Jessica Flores

VIRGINIA



Join us for the Virginia March for Life in Richmond, VA on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. We will meet at St. Francis de Sales church at 8:30am for Mass and board the bus right after. We plan on returning to SFDS before 5:45pm.

If you are interested in joining us, please use the link or QR code to sign up. We only have 50 seats available, so don't miss out!

May God bless you for all you do to protect all babies and mothers.



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0444AAAF2DA0FB6-55080076-virginia>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the parish office at l.sheldon@saintfrancisparish.org.

Homeless Ministry

The homeless ministry is thankful for all the volunteers who have given time and talent to help the hungry and homeless.



• Missionary Sisters of Charity in

Anacostia – Serve between 60 and 100 meals.

o We prepare and serve meals every 2nd Saturday of the month. All donated items are due to Knights Hall the preceding Thursday by 2pm.

o Items due **April 10**; meal delivered and served **April 12**

Join us in works of charity by signing up to purchase items, prepare the main dish, bake cookies and cakes, or to transport meals and supplies.

Contact one of us, and we will direct you to the Signup Genius

- Fran Beebe franbeebe7@gmail.com
- Carie Losinski: skigators@me.com

Women of St. Francis de Sales Calling All Young Ladies! Apply for the Women's Council Service Grant



A \$600 Women's Council Service Grant will be given to a young woman attending Diocesan WorkCamp 2025 to cover tuition expenses! Please visit the Women's Council website for instructions. Applicants are asked to express what our mission statement means to you and how you can live it out.

Apply by April 13!

The Women's Council would like to thank the Knights of Columbus and especially their Lucky Leprechaun, Jay Hallam, for a delightful celebration of St. Patrick's Day. We would also like to thank all the women, girls, and boys who helped us decorate, it was very festive!



Women's Council Corner

"...For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name". Luke 1:48-49



Next Social Event - Paint Sip and Dip

Monday, April 7th, 9:30am or 6:30pm
Location Parish Education Center



Join us and our talented artist Diane Waller, who will guide us through creating a beautiful work of art. Bring a dip to share! See our website for registration details, sign up by March 31st.

Please check our website for more details on each event. Also visit our website for a list of useful spiritual references.
saintfrancisparish.org/womens-council

Next Planning Meeting

Monday, April 21st, 6:30pm, Parish Education Center, Library
All women are invited to our business meeting where we plan our spectacular socials & special events and discuss current news. We welcome your ideas. Join us and Fr. Gould for the Rosary for Ukraine in the Church after the meeting.

New to the parish or not getting our emails?
Email us at womenscouncil.sfds@gmail.com to be added to our directory.



Easter Pew and Parking Raffle

Wouldn't it be nice to have a reserved front pew for you and your family at a morning Easter Mass?

Participate in our fundraising raffle and you just might win one!

Winners won't need to stress about finding parking as you will get your own VIP spot right near the door.

Being raffled are one pew & parking spot at each the 8:30 and 10:30a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday.

Only \$1 per chance!

All proceeds go to funding the Women's Council's initiatives throughout the year.

Look for ticket sales in the Narthex after Mass on: April 5th & 6th and again on April 12th & 13th.



Link for SUG for website for Easter Pew & Parking Raffle:
www.signupgenius.com/go/409044CA4AA2CAAF58-55899333-2025/5054943#/



Pilgrim Virgin Home Visitation Program

Have Mary bring graces into your home!

Our Blessed Mother asked during her apparitions at Fatima:

- 1 - Return to God
- 2 - Pray the rosary every day for Peace
- 3 - Make reparations for our sins and the sins of others by some form of penance and sacrifice.

If interested in hosting the Pilgrim Virgin Statue you may sign up at the table in the narthex by the statue of our Blessed Mother (or www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4CABAA2BA7FB6-48752496-pilgrim#)



Mother Teresa's Garden

It's getting warmer outside, time to think about our Mother Teresa Garden! Thank you for all your hard work in making the garden so successful last year! This year we will be utilizing the rest of the planters, installing an irrigation system and putting up a Mother Teresa sign!

GROUP VOLUNTEER

Trellis: We need volunteers to work with Woodgrove Capstone Project students do design and build trellises in the trellis garden.

Flowers: Flowers to be planted in the Prayer Garden Easter flowers from Mass can be planted in addition to summer flowers.

Irrigation: Constructed as an Eagle Project, assisted by Woodgrove Capstone Project students, supervised by Vern Conaway from View of Heaven Farm.

Thank you for all you help. We look forward to another big harvest this year!

Bountiful Blessings,

Mary Ann Winner and Beth Creighton

To be added to the email list, or for more information about the garden, please contact Mary Ann or Beth at mother.theresas.garden@gmail.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 14-18 ~ 9am-12noon

Youth volunteer opportunities have been filled
Contact L.kennedy@saintfrancisparish.org to get on waitlist.

We need adult volunteers!

To Volunteer, go to saintfrancisparish.org and click on the Babylon logo



Registration for campers will begin May 1

SFDS YOUNG ADULT GROUP

18-35 year old

Grow in faith and fellowship!

Upcoming Fellowship Adventures:

- April 21st - Hike to Buzzard Hill

Next Meeting April 9th at 6:30 PM, Room 107

Email clare.mjk@gmail.com with any questions or to RSVP

Calling All Contractors and Tradespeople: Join Our Parish Resource List!

Dear Parishioners,

As a parish, we are blessed with many talented and skilled individuals, and we are looking to compile a list of **contractors, tradespeople, and skilled professionals** who would be willing to offer their time and expertise when needed.

Whether your talents lie in **plumbing, electrical work, carpentry, painting, landscaping, general maintenance**, or any other trade, we would love to be able to call on you for advice, consultation, or assistance with parish projects as they arise. By joining this resource list, you would help ensure that **Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church** continues to maintain its facilities in a cost-effective way, allowing us to focus more of our resources on serving our community and living out our mission.

If you are interested in being added to this list, please contact **Rick Smith, Facilities Manager** at r.smith@saintfrancisparish.org or by phone at **540-338-6381 Ext 133**. Whether you can occasionally offer your time or simply provide valuable guidance, your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration and for being part of our parish family! God bless, Rick Smith, Facilities Manager

Holy Father Prayer Intentions for MARCH

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

around the Diocese ...

Holy Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

Resources on the Jubilee Year

www.usccb.org/resources/Indulgence_Vatican_Bollettino.pdf

www.arlingtondiocese.org/the-holy-year-tour/

www.arlingtondiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Holy-Year-2025-Plenary-Indulgence59.pdf



Holy Year of Hope Hotline

As we journey through this Holy Year of Hope, we invite you to be a beacon of light and encouragement. Call us on the Holy Year Hope Hotline 703-778-9100 and share your personal messages and stories of hope. Your words may be featured in the Walk Humbly Podcasts throughout the year—uplifting others in both joyful moments and challenging times. By sharing your story, you're offering a gift to the community—a reminder that no one is alone, and that hope lives in all of us. Let's inspire one another with hope.

Holy Hour for Encounter Every First Thursday

All you who are burdened by sin, grief, loneliness, shame, addiction, self-hatred, abortion, or any other wound, come and place all your cares on the Heart of the Eucharistic Lord who desires to free you and restore you to new life. The Holy Hour, **every first Thursday at 7pm** at St. Thomas à Becket in Reston, will include a Eucharistic Procession, opportunities for confession, as well as worship music led by a different musician each month. The celebrant will be Fr. Rich Dyer, Pastor, St. Thomas à Becket. Contact us at (703) 841-2550.

Pastoral Resources for Those Suffering After Miscarriage, Infertility & Infant Loss

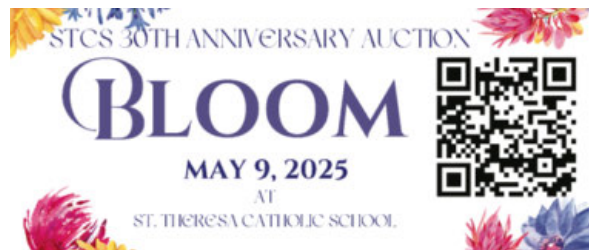
For those who are suffering the cross of infertility and miscarriage, you are not alone. Visit the diocesan website for a list of resources to support you and your family during your most difficult days. www.arlingtondiocese.org/find-support/miscarriage-and-infant-loss/



New Name-Same Mission
Birthright of Loudoun County is now
**Agapé Pregnancy
Center of Loudoun**

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Ministry:
888-456-HOPE or visit: www.helpafterabortion.org.

Gabriel Project Pregnancy Assistance Ministry:
(703) 841-3810 or
info@helpforpregnantwomen.org



Finding Jesus with the Wisdom of Years

A retreat for Seniors. Isn't it a challenge, living in the midst of our "throwaway culture," for those who are elderly and "full of years" to understand our place in the world—and in our Church? Although many of those about us may think that we are irrelevant, it is actually an opportune time to bring grace into the world and prepare for the Adventure ahead. Join Fr. John Riley at the Arlington Diocese's San Damiano Retreat Center in White Post, VA, to "rest and pray" with Christ. We will search the Scriptures and savor the wisdom of the Gospels as we consider the Crosses and the Consolations of our Senior Years. Our retreat begins at 6 pm Friday May 9th and concludes Sunday May 11th at noon. Retreat cost is \$285. For further information, please contact Father John Riley at:

john.riley@arlingtondiocese.org

FIAT Day with the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist (For high school girls) What do sisters do all day?

Sometimes they garden! In the spirit of St. Francis, spend a day working in God's creation with the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and gets some good insights to prepare for Holy Week. It's Saturday April 12 from 9am – 3pm at their convent in Falls Church. Day will include Mass, talk, lunch and gardening. Bring gardening gloves and tools if you have them. Cost is \$15. For more information and to register visit ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT, or contact vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. Deadline to register and submit permission form is April 6.

Local Adult Mission Trip

Join Commissioned By Christ, chaplain Fr. Rich Miserendino and other adult missionaries to help complete necessary home repairs for individuals in need in Shenandoah County, VA! June 28–July 1. \$415 — Cost includes registration fee, lodging, CBC T-shirt, bag, and journal. www.cbc-missions.org

Project Rachel: Hope & Healing After Abortion

Project Rachel is the Diocese's post-abortion healing ministry, offering compassionate support to anyone affected by abortion. Our mission is to reach all women wounded by abortion with a message of hope, healing, and forgiveness, inviting them back into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

We provide confidential care from trained staff, priests, and licensed mental health professionals who understand the deep sorrow, trauma, and grief that can follow abortion. **You are not alone.** Project Rachel offers a path to healing with sensitivity, compassion, and understanding. If you or someone you know is in need of post-abortion healing, reach out today. **Confidential help is available.**

For more info, visit arlingtondiocese.org/projectrachel.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to be truly thankful for all the gifts you have given me.

Mission for the Week

Name three good things God has given you. Say "thank you" to God for those gifts in a prayer.

Sharing the Gospel

Everything you have is a gift from God -- your body, your mind, your food, your clothes -- everything! Sometimes people become proud, and they think they have earned God's gifts. Sometimes people run away from God, and they waste God's gifts. Just remember, it is never too late to run back to God. Every good gift comes from God.

Now color
the picture! →

Complete the picture.



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