

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD APRIL 20, 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, Communications
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

Contact Info

Admin and Religious Education Office- 540-338-6381
Office email - l.sheldon@saintfrancisparish.org
RE email - RE@saintfrancisparish.org
In case of an emergency - 540-338-6440
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

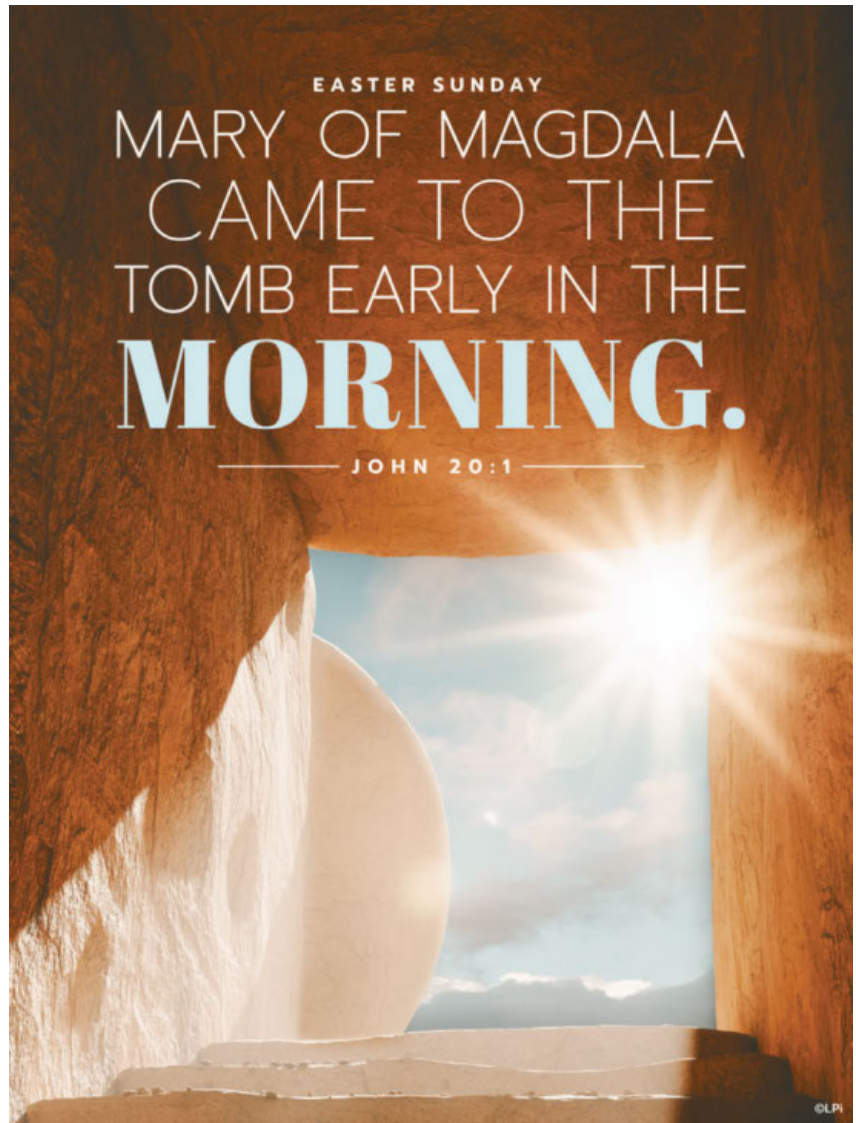
Saturday Vigil - 5pm
Sunday - 7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:15pm,
5:30pm (Mass with contemporary music)

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.



The Divine Mercy Novena Continues This Week



Join us in praying the Divine Mercy Novena each day at 3:00 PM at St. Francis de Sales Church. If you're unable to be with us in person, we encourage you to pause and pray wherever you are at 3:00 PM. You may also participate by watching the Novena on our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@Saintfrancisparishpurcellville>. The Novena will conclude with a Holy Hour in the church on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, at 3:00 PM. *All are welcome to join in this powerful time of prayer and reflection.*

Mass Celebrant Schedule

Saturday, April 26
5pm: Fr. Frankline

Sunday, April 27
7am: Fr. Frankline
8:30 am: Fr. Kenna
10:30am: Fr. Kenna
12:15pm: Fr. Gould
5:30pm: Fr. Gould

** note: subject to change*



Masses for the Week

+ deceased
Sat., April 19 **Holy Saturday**
 The Newly Initiated
Sun., April 20 **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**
 7:00 am +Rose Surak
 8:30 am Gerard Sylvester
 10:30 am +Sr. Mary Emmanuel Stahl
 12:15 pm +John Bischoff
 5:30 pm +Paul Schweisthal
Mon., April 21 **Monday within the Octave of Easter**
 6:30 am Emma Pultro
 8:30 am Donald and Philomeno Saucedo
Tue., April 22 **Tuesday within the Octave of Easter**
 6:30 am William Flowers Family
 8:30 am Abigail Magin
Wed., April 23 **Wednesday within the Octave of Easter**
 6:30 am + Corky Corcoran
 8:30 am Maralan O'Neil
Thur., April 24 **Thursday within the Octave of Easter**
 6:30 am Christopher Fell
 8:30 am Tyler Rowles
Fri., April 25 **Friday within the Octave of Easter**
 6:30 am Sr. Maria Grace Dateno
 12:00 pm +Lea Sonia Biscardi
Sat., April 26 **Saturday within the Octave of Easter**
 9:00 am Hayden Pultro
 5:00 pm +Theresa Panko
Sun., April 27 **Second Sunday of Easter**
 7:00 am +Arthur Callahan
 8:30 am David Livelsberger
 10:30 am Chong Yi
 12:15 pm People of the Parish
 5:30 pm Jacob Speegle

Readings for the Week

Sun: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/ Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31
 Mon: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8
 Tues: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15
 Wed: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21
 Thur: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/ Jn 3:31-36
 Fri: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
 Sat: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Week of April 5, 6, 2025

Pew/Mail \$ 17,953.00
 Parish Giving \$ 15,570.50
Total \$33,523.50

Easter Flowers \$3,263.00

Dear Folks,

God bless one and all on this glorious Sunday called Easter. The Lord has Risen and we join with the Blessed Mother and all the angels and saints in offering all praise and glory to the Messiah. The trial is over and victory come to all the world. In the light of our call to new life we welcome the many who recently joined the Church. Like frosting on the cake they offer a luster to our little home in Northern Loudoun County. We are blessed to have them. Let us pray for one and all.

It has been a wonderful gathering for one and all in the Season of Lent. God bless the "Big Fish" who were caught in the "Box." There is no greater love than the one who responds to God's graces to... come home, where we all belong. Speaking of belonging. Does anyone remember the St. Patrick's Day party, the Father Daughter Dance, the glorious Fish Fries each Friday night? Does anyone remember collecting food for the food pantry? And probably, no one noticed those who, called "Guardian Angels," brought food to Mother Therese's Sister (Sisters of Charity) in Southeast D.C. What we may not have noticed will never be forgotten by those in the streets in Southeast. Job well done.

Does anyone recall the vitality of life found in the Trail Life and American Heritage Girls awards ceremonies. Of course... I am still waiting for their education in "Land Navigation." I so enjoyed the annual Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday. We never had that in my childhood... not because we were all poor but they probably didn't make plastic easter eggs in those days. How far we have advanced.

Speaking of Advanced... we are grateful to Mr. Mark Forest for once again leading our Eucharistic Devotion in the beginning of Holy Week. He, the great tenor, was marvelous in the hymns he offered. A good start for Holy week.

Heads up for the future. We started the Divine Mercy Devotions on Good Friday at 3:00 PM and will continue every day following at 3:00 until Divine Mercy Sunday. It won't be long until the Confirmation Ceremonies next week and the First Communion a few weeks beyond. Let us pray for one another.

Collegian Question. What is the meaning of "Fig Monday?" 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 Kreutzberg, 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

GIFT SHOP IS OPEN ON SUNDAY MAY 4TH



FOLLOWING THE
8:30AM, 10:30AM AND 12:15PM
MASSES.

STOP BY AND SHOP
FOR MOMS AND GRADS!!

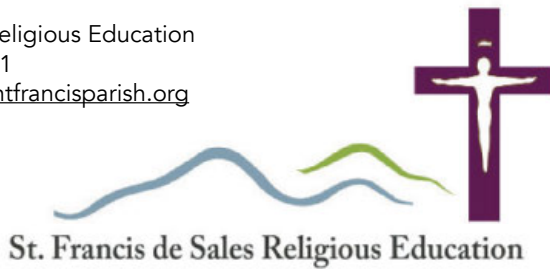


ALTAR FLOWER
DEDICATION

Would you like to donate an altar flower arrangement in someone's memory or to honor a loved one?

Contact Laura Burgess,
(540) 338-6381, x104
l.burgess@saintfrancisparish.org.

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



**Attention Confirmation II students
Confirmation is this Thursday!**

Rehearsal Wednesday, April 23 at 5:30 pm; Bring your sponsor!

**Confirmation Mass - on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 6:30 pm.
Confirmation candidates and sponsors please arrive by 5:30PM.
Go directly to the Knights Hall.**

Proper dress attire: All confirmandi will wear a red robe provided by the parish. If you have not picked up your robe, please stop by the RE office ASAP! Be sure to take the robe out of the bag and hang it on a hanger.

Girls wear a knee-length dress with sleeves (no spaghetti straps), closed-toe shoes (no flip flops).

Boys wear dress slacks, button-down shirt, tie, and dress shoes (no flip flops, no sneakers, no jacket)

Confirmation Reception hosted by the 7th grade class. Immediately following Confirmation. Our Lady of Victory Hall.

First Holy Communion: Saturday, May 10 @10:30AM and 1:30PM

We have a boy's suit, navy blue, size 7 slim. Contact the RE office if you are interested.

May Crowning, Sunday, May 18 @ 12:15PM Mass. All children who recently received their first Holy Communion are encouraged to attend and wear their FHC outfits.

Special Religious Development (SPRED) Program serves children ages 6-16 with developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome, autism, and learning disabilities. Participants do not use a textbook and the ability to read is not necessary.

During each session, the participants, or 'friends,' share in catechesis and joyful activities designed to lead them closer to their best friend, Jesus. Sacramental instruction is provided and is based on readiness of the individual. The SPRED program needs more adult helpers for the 2025-2026 school year. The class meets 12 times per year. Please consider becoming a SPRED volunteer helper. Contact the RE office for more information and to become VIRTUS certified.

SPRED Mass End of Year Celebration with Bishop Burbidge on Sunday, May 18th at 9:30 am Mass at All Saints in Manassas

Religious Education Calendar

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

WEEK OF APRIL 13 - NO CLASSES



Registration for 2025-2026 School Year: Registration for the next school year will begin at the end of May. All children are expected to successfully complete their current grade-level curriculum before registering for the upcoming school year.

Regarding registration for the first year of the Confirmation program (usually in the 7th grade): All students must successfully complete the 6th grade curriculum assessments (available on the parish website), know the basic parts of the Bible and how to look up Bible passages, and know basic prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, Apostles Creed) before beginning Confirmation preparation. Please contact Diane Taylor, Director of Religious Education, with questions about preparation for Confirmation.

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.

"Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God." ~St. Francis de Sales



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

The Resurrection - What Catholics Believe Join Dr. Michael Barber as he answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Did the Resurrection actually happen? Was Jesus a ghost when he appeared to the apostles? And what's the deal with the Easter Bunny?

Easter and the Resurrection - The Augustine Institute Show Alleluia! He is Risen! Join Fr. Brian Larkin, Pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Denver, Colorado, as he discusses the Resurrection and the Easter season with Dr. Tim Gray on the Augustine Institute Show.

He Is Risen! The Power of the Resurrection Join Brother Francis as he celebrates the power and splendor of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in this moving, instructive, and joyful animated presentation!

Minno, Laugh and Grow bible for Kids - Easter, Based on the award-winning Bible! Join Minno kids Margot, Lexi, Miguel, and Logan as they continue their journey through Jesus' life and learn the story of Easter. This gentle retelling—from Jesus' miracles to the greatest miracle of all—His resurrection, will help kids understand why Jesus came to earth to be our Savior and our friend.

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

VIRTUS: All adults (18 yrs and older) working/volunteering with the youth must be VIRTUS trained. This includes Work Camp, Religious Education Catechists and substitutes, hall monitors, retreats, CHRSM, MACPAC, Youth Group, Trail Life, American Heritage Girls, and any ministry/general volunteers working with the youth. We will be hosting a VIRTUS training on Thursday, May 22 @ 6PM in Our Lady of Victory Hall. Registration is required. Contact Lea Anne Kennedy in the RE office for information.



STAY CONNECTED

Join Remind:
Text @sfdsyg to 81010

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

@sfdsyouthministry

Caitlin Orender
Director of Youth Ministry
540-338-6381 x103
c.orender@saintfrancisparish.org



DIocese of ARLINGTON PRESENTS

BASH

SATURDAY, MAY 10

SFDS Contact: Caitlin Orender, Director of Youth Ministry at c.orender@saintfrancisparish.org

AN EXCITING DAY FOR MORE THAN A THOUSAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO GATHER WITH BISHOP BURBIDGE TO CELEBRATE THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH!

- FUN WITH FRIENDS!
- INFLATABLE GAMES
- VIGIL MASS
- PIZZA & ICE CREAM
- MESSAGE FROM OSCAR RIVERA

\$15 per person

Registration form in the narthex

3rd annual
**Work Camp
Car Wash!**

CAR WASH \$20

OUR CAR WASH PACKAGE
TRUCKS, SUV, AND SEDANS **\$20**
ADD ON...
MAINTENANCE CHECK **\$10**

Trusted Since 2023
A full car wash and dry while you attend Mass. Add on a maintenance check to ensure your vehicle is running smoothly.

SIGN-UP TODAY!

MAY 18TH
6:30AM-1:30PM
AND
5PM-7PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BUILDING, SIDE PARKING LOT (FOLLOW THE SIGNS)

SPRING SAVE THE DATES

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)

4 MAY	YOUTH NIGHT 6:30-8:00 PM THE UPPER ROOM BRING A FRIEND
12 JUNE	BACCALAUREATE GRADUATE CELEBRATION 7 PM, RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Note: No Youth Night April 20 (Easter), or April 27 (Work Camp meeting)

St. Francis Council 11136 News



FATHER GOULD'S NIGHTLY ROSARY FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE FUN FACTS

–for the past 3+ years, the nightly Rosary has been facilitated by the SFDS knights. *These fun facts were provided by Br. Mark Gaylord:* At the 3-year mark (Feb 24th), there have been 1,095 days the Rosary has been prayed with (conservative estimate) 50 people participating each night (combined in-person and logged in for the Rosary live stream) which resulted in at least 54,750 Rosaries being said during that time. Considering we recite 54 Hail Marys per Rosary per person, at least 2,956,500 Hail Marys have been recited and the 7 Our Fathers per Rosary, equate to approximately 383,250 Our Fathers recited.

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.

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!

ROSARY PROGRAM. Come join the Knights in praying the Rosary in the small chapel on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7 pm. Everyone and anyone is welcome to pray the Rosary with the Knights! To quote Father Gould, "Let us pray for one another" -and- as we say, "let us pray with one another."

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



Volunteers Needed for the St. Francis Homeschool Ministry (CHRSM)

CHRSM is a ministry of St. Francis that supports homeschool families of our parish, diocese and local community. CHRSM meets Tuesdays-Thursdays in the Parish Education Center from August through May. We are in need of volunteers to greet families at our welcome desk, assist our teachers in the classroom and to serve as hall monitors, for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. We are reaching out to our parish community to ask for your help. If you enjoy children, social interaction and serving your parish, you will love being part of CHRSM.

Please see the note below from our beloved and long time volunteer BJ Szemborski:

I was retired and bored. I asked Fr. Escalante if he knew of any volunteer opportunities in the parish and he suggested I check with the new parish homeschooling ministry, CHRSM. Volunteering as a greeter every week for CHRSM has literally changed my life. The students and their parents have brought me new friendships, laughter and best of all, a chance to evangelize our beautiful Faith.

Your wisdom and dedication are invaluable assets to our homeschool ministry and we would love to have you join us in making a difference. If you have some time to give and would like to make a positive impact, please consider volunteering! For more information or to sign up, please contact Amy Grady at sfchrsm@gmail.com. Your involvement would be greatly appreciated! Thank you for your support!

FATHERS RAISING SAINTS

PREPARING OUR KIDS TO BATTLE SECULARISM

TOPIC: VOCATIONS

SUPPORTING OUR CHILDRENS VOCATIONAL JOURNEY

WHAT: Join our panel discussion with local Parish Priests, Deacons, Sisters, and Consecrated to discuss how we can support our children discovering their vocation.

WHO: All Parish Families

WHEN: May 2nd 7:30 PM

WHERE: SFDS - Knights Hall



"A good vocation is simply a firm and constant will in which the person who is called must serve God in the way and in the places to which almighty God has called him." St. Francis de Sales

Sponsored by your SFDS Knights of Columbus, however you do not need to be a Knight to attend. To sign up to be on our emailing list about monthly events respond to: knights11136@gmail.com



Summer 2025

WINE & WISDOM IS BACK BEGINNING IN MAY!

The Women's Council of St. Francis de Sales cordially invites you to come and enjoy an evening of wonderful fellowship, great wine, and enlightening speakers every third Thursday of the month from May to August. Doors open at 4:30pm to socialize and purchase your food and beverages.

Speakers begin at 5:30/5:45 pm.

We close out the Vineyard at 7pm.

Bluemont Vineyard Harvest Room

(Harvest Room donated by Bluemont Vineyard)

18755 Foggy Bottom Road, Bluemont, VA 20135

May 15 - Grace Gets Better with Age: Embracing the beauty of midlife through faith, surrender, and second chances - Maria Morera Johnson

Like a fine wine, your story only gets richer with time. Join Maria for an evening of wit, wisdom, and grace as she shares how God writes beautiful second acts. Through laughter, real talk, and a reminder that God saves the best for last, we'll explore how your second act might just be your most beautiful yet.

Maria is an award-winning author, speaker and digital missionary. She inspires women to embrace faith, boldness and joy in midlife and beyond through her talks, podcast and books, including her latest *A Beautiful Second Act: Saints and Soul Sisters Who Taught Me to Age with Grace*, *My Badass Book of Saints*, *Super Girls and Halos*, and *Our Lady of Charity*. Maria will bring books to purchase.

June 19 - Therese Lipovsky

July 17 - Sofia Cuddeback

August 21 - TBA

Women of St. Francis de Sales

"Grace Gets Better With Age"

with Maria Morera Johnson

Thursday, May 15th 4:30-7pm

Bluemont Vineyard, Bluemont Virginia

"Like a fine wine, your story only gets richer with time."

O Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025 3-9PM

Event Volunteers

Come to our next planning meeting on Tuesday, May 6th. 7:00pm Room 113

We are in need of a few Volunteer Planner Leads to help us plan the next incredible Oktoberfest. Join our fun-loving committee in planning some of the events. It is a wonderful feeling to see the results of months of planning end in an amazing celebration enjoyed by our parishioners. Please come and offer your time, talent and ideas. We look forward to meeting you.

Fundraising Volunteers

Are you a savvy fundraiser? If you are, we need you!

Join the Oktoberfest Fundraising Committee and show off your skills.

Do you have contacts in the local business community?

Do you know retail merchants that could help us with our silent auction?

Oktoberfest is the St. Francis de Sales Parish Picnic but we also want to raise some funds to pay down the parish debt.

All proceeds from the Silent Auction and the Pie & Cake Silent Auction will do that. 50% of the Cash Raffle will go to pay down the debt as well.

Help us make it a great fundraiser this October!

E-mail Megan Hamberger at mmhamberger@gmail.com

to join the Oktoberfest Fundraising Committee.

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 21st, 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 28th, 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



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 **MAY 8**; meal delivered and served **MAY 10**

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



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

Holy Father Prayer Intentions for APRIL

For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

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



Hike to Buzzard Hill and Pua Falls

Easter Monday April 21st 6:30 PM

Young Adults 18-35 Years old

4 miles round trip

Rain or Shine!

Morgans Mill Rd

Bluemont, VA 20135

39.07196° N, 77.91182° W

Email Clare.mjk@gmail.com
for Carpool or Questions

Parking is LIMITED

Carpool is available



Compassionate Heart of Mary

Bereavement Support Group
Saturday, April 26
@ 10am in the Library

If you are grieving a spouse, family member, or friend, whether recently or some time ago, or you know someone who is grieving, please call us for more info, Laura Burgess at

703-727-7117

around the Diocese ...

Bishop Burbidge's Easter Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Alleluia! Jesus Christ is truly risen. The Christian rejoices and is glad at Easter for the marvelous sign of God's love and mercy: the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of our Savior and all that our Lord promises.

Pope Francis, in opening this Jubilee Year for the Universal Church, encouraged all to see this holy year, with its focus on the virtue of hope, as an "opportunity to appreciate anew, and with immense gratitude, the gift of the new life that we have received in Baptism, a life capable of transfiguring death's drama."

Our Lord's victory over sin and its consequences makes possible our hope. By God's grace, when we see by the light of faith our vision extends beyond the limited horizon of this world and into the glory and splendor of eternal life.

At Eastertime, Sacred Scripture tells us that Peter "ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened" (Luke 24:1-12). We follow in the footsteps of Peter in the Easter season, marveling at our Savior's triumph with the same amazement. May we resolve to carry the joy of this season in our hearts throughout the rest of the year so that we may enjoy the true freedom that God offers.

May Our Lord Jesus bless you with his peace and increased faith, hope, and love throughout the Easter season, the Jubilee Year, and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

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.

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/



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



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

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.

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

Prayer

Jesus, you died and rose from the dead so I can share your life on earth and in heaven. Thank you.

Mission for the Week

I will tell someone that Jesus is alive.

Sharing the Gospel

Mary Magdalene was surprised when she found the empty tomb of Jesus. She ran and told Peter and John that his body was gone. Peter and John ran to the tomb. They found no body, just strips of cloth. One piece was the cloth that covered the face of Jesus. Peter and John knew that Jesus was not in the grave, even though they did not understand what it meant to rise from the dead.

Now color the picture!



Circle the group in each row that has more.
Then color in all the pictures.





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