

# Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD    APRIL 2, 2023

## Parish Staff

Reverend James Gould, Pastor  
Reverend John Heisler, Parochial Vicar  
Mr. Larry Hammel, Deacon  
Mrs. Amy Harrison, Business Manager  
Mrs. Leslie Sheldon, Office Manager  
Mrs. Diane Taylor, DRE - Director of Religious Ed  
Mrs. Janice Rees, CRE, Sunday Bulletin, Website  
Mrs. Lindsay Glass, Director of Youth Ministry  
Mr. Michael Galdo, Director of Music  
Mrs. Laura Burgess, Sacristan  
Mr. Tim McGinn, Facilities Manager  
Mr. Jerry Jones, Custodian  
Mrs. Maria Alvarenga, Custodian  
Mr. Antonio Alvarenga, Custodian

## Contact Info

Parish Office - 540-338-6381  
office email - l.sheldon@saintfrancisparish.org  
Religious Education Office - 540-338-4497  
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)

**Moving?** If you are leaving the parish, please let us know by calling or dropping a note.

## 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

## Benediction/Adoration

**Friday** - Adoration is held every Friday following the 12noon Mass through the evening and overnight until Saturday morning before the 9am Mass  
**Wednesday** Holy Hour at 7pm



## 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 homebound upon request. Please call the office to let us know your needs.



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

April 2, 2023

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

### HOLY WEEK

#### Monday, April 3

7pm – "Come Walk with Me" Holy Hour with music by Mark Forest; Confessions

#### Tuesday, April 4

7pm – Confessions

#### Wednesday, April 5

7pm – Holy Hour  
8pm Confessions

### TRIDUUM

No morning Masses until Easter

#### Holy Thursday, April 6

7pm – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Confessions after Mass  
8:30pm – Eucharistic Adoration until Midnight

#### Good Friday of the Lords Passion, April 7

3pm – Passion of the Lord  
7pm – Stations of the Cross  
Confessions after Stations

8pm – Tenebrae (Confessions ongoing)

#### Holy Saturday, April 8

(no 9am Mass)

8am – Confessions

10:30am – Easter Egg Hunt (ages 0-12) followed by Blessing of Easter Baskets

3:30pm – Confessions

8:30pm – Easter Vigil Mass

#### EASTER SUNDAY – April 9

7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:15pm, 5:30pm

### FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Good Friday is an obligatory day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

**The Parish and Religious Education Offices are closed Good Friday, April 7th and Easter Monday, April 10th.**

## Masses for the Week

+ deceased

Sat., April 1

9:00 am

**Lenten Weekday**

Magin Family

Sat., April 1

**Vigil: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

5:00 pm

+ David Harrington

Sun., April 2

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

7:00 am

People of the Parish

8:30 am

Mai Catherine Sylvester

10:30 am

+ Rose Surak

12:15 pm

+ Susan McCoy

5:30 pm

Kerry Giattino

Mon., April 3

**Monday of Holy Week**

6:30 am

+ Msgr. John Sweeney

8:30 am

+ Alexander Papadopoulos

Tue., April 4

**Tuesday of Holy Week**

6:30 am

Mark Gaylord

8:30 am

+ Benjamin Belrose

Wed., April 5

**Wednesday of Holy Week**

6:30 am

Jean Burden

8:30 am

Rafael Lim Torrijos

Sat., April 8

**Vigil: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

8:30 pm

No Intentions

Sun., April 9

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

7:00 am

+ Jerome Miles

8:30 am

People of the Parish

10:30 am

+ John Bischoff, Jr.

12:15 pm

+ Hans Joachim Englisch

5:30 pm

Celeste Brown

## Readings for the Week

Sun: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

Mon: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

Tue: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wed: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25

Thu: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 16-16bc, 17-18 (see 1 Cor 10:16)/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Fri: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 (Luke 23:46)/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

Sat: Easter Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15—15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 119:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2)/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mt 28:1-10

Dear Folks,

This past weekend I had a wonderful time joining the parish youth group on their annual retreat down in Front Royal. One of the young ones asked me about the covering of statues in the Church. Well, little Virginia. Here is the answer. The practice of the coverings is an extension of the ancient Church's practice of penitents called to wear sack cloth and ashes as a personal penance for sins committed. That practice was extended to a communal identity with the introduction of Ash Wednesday. In the fifteenth century the Germans extended to covering to a liturgical affair where the altar was completely covered. From there it was only a small jump to covering statues and crucifixes... but not the stations nor stained glass. Some churches would cover the statues on Ash Wednesday but the recommendation is around the fifth Sunday of Lent, called Passion Sunday. The practice was discontinued after Vatican II but, like the prayer to St. Michael, has quietly returned to the devotional life of the Church.



The same dynamic can be found in the return of people receiving Communion on the tongue, wearing of scapulars, and some women wearing veils in church... although aesthetically challenging with blue jeans. Ha! Ha! Ha! Just kidding. On a more serious note, in these days, with the closing of Lent, the readings are more confrontational to Christ and with the covering of statues, He is left... all alone. Let us pray for one another.

The coverings are removed after Good Friday and before the Easter Vigil. As an added feature, many years ago, some liturgists, possessed liturgists, called for the removal of the holy water from the fonts during Lent... replacing it with sand. Ah the "desert experience." Fortunately the word from the Vatican came down to bring back the water... until Good Friday."

Speaking of the youth group. I have noticed a number of them have been showing up for the 6:30 am Mass during Lent. They offer a great example to all the parish clubs/committees who may want to, as pastoral collectives, join with each other at one or more Lenten Masses during the weeks before Easter. Bravo to the kids!!! Bravo Zulu!!!

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION! To all bringing Easter Baskets to the Church on Holy Saturday. Please come to the church, following the Easter Egg Hunt. That should be around 11:30, please. The necessary rehearsals for the Easter Vigil will start in the Church at HIGH Noon. Please, Please, Please... try not to be late. God bless you. Let us all pray for one another.

Sad news on the parish basketball front. We are too small and to far away from the league teams. Now, we will approach some of our neighboring parishes, including West Virginia, to see if we can roust up a schedule to play among ourselves. Please stay tuned... don't give up hope.

**Collegiate Answer:** The man who saved the life of Robert Todd Lincoln, son of the US President, in the Jersey City Train Station as he almost fell between a moving train and platform was, Edwin Booth, son of John Wilkes Booth... the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln.

**Collegiate Question.** One of my favorites. Who was the lone convert to Christ in the experience of the Garden of Olives? He would later be martyred for his new found Faith.

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Join us for a Divine Mercy Novena starting Good Friday April 8. The Novena, offered at St. Francis De Sales, will be prayed every day at 3pm in the church. The Novena will conclude during a Holy Hour in the church from 3-4pm on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16. Father Gould will lead us in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Holy Rosary.

## Angel Wall

The "Angel Wall" is a special place in the Narthex where the names of children of our parish who died before birth or any time before adulthood will be remembered. It is a beautiful thing to remember the children, and a great comfort to so many parents and families. Contact Fr. Gould if you would like to memorialize your child in this special way. Remember to visit this wall from time to time, and say a little prayer for the babies and for their families, entrusting them to the mercy of our Dear Lord.



*May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

**Rosalie Lippert**  
d. March 26, 2023

**Jack Spisak**  
d. March 23, 2023

*Our thoughts and prayers are with ...*



**Our Military Members:** SGT Peter Audi, MAJ Andrew Cahan, SGT Ernesto Castro, LCpl Paul Cotter, LT Scott Cypher, CPT Patrick Godfrey, CPT Ryan Patrick Grady, 2LT Patrick Gutierrez, CPT Jamie (Jovene) Liddle; SSG Joshua Jovene, CPT Rachel (Jovene) Mallets, CPT Vincent Jovene, MAJ Chuck Marshall; SSG Tim Marshall, CPT Ross Mentzer; Lcpl John Owen Patterson; PFC Jorge Pedroza, GY Sgt Jose Pedroza; Joe Pultro, 1Lt Matthew Ryan, LCpl Frankie Thyson, 1LT Jared Willard, PFC Joseph Jovene, A1C Joshua Wilk, 2LT Alexandra Goodnow; 1LT Caleb McGowan

**The Sick:** Dominic Corcoran, Mike O'Brien, Sarah Nolan, Liz Keller; Joanne Harrington, Charles Williams, Patricia Naomi Alvarenga, Joe Graber, Rodney and Christina Huth, Candace Daly, Melissa Jewel, Peggy Johnson, Frederick Campos, Grace Costello, Daniel Ramirez, Cynthia Ramirez, Silvia Vizcarra, Elaine Marshall, Olga Howard, Diane Shirley, Brooke Cheney

**The Deceased:** Susan Keelor, Bob Zurschmeide, Jean Pelkey, Jeanne Sweet, Michael Craig, Edward Konchan, Patrick Gaine, Judith Miller, Jean Young, Colette Baine, Ellen Sullivan, Nicholas Misiti, Timothea Rainey, Mary Kay Madigan Ledue, Joan Jasinski, Heather Miles, Salome Torrijos, Jack Burden, James Lippert, Jack Spisak, Rose Lippert

Diane Taylor, DRE  
d.taylor@saintfrancisparish.org



Lindsay Glass  
Director of Youth Ministry  
540-338-6381 or  
l.glass@saintfrancisparish.org

### Confirmation RETREAT

April 15 from 3-10pm.

All 8th graders are expected to attend this in-house retreat. If you must miss the retreat, you need to let the RE office know. Check your emails for details.

### SPRING SACRAMENTS:

• Confirmation Saturday, April 22, at 10 am

(Rehearsal Friday, April 21 at 6 pm)

RECEPTION immediately following Confirmation Mass

**ATTENTION ALL 7th GRADE FAMILIES:** We still need more volunteers to host and families to donate prepared food for the confirmation reception. Thank you so much for helping us make this a memorable celebration for our newly confirmed and their families! Please see signup genius [www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4cabaa2ba7fb6-confirmation14#/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4cabaa2ba7fb6-confirmation14#/)

• First Holy Communion Saturday, May 13, at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm (Rehearsal Friday, May 12 at 5pm and 6:30pm)

**Check your emails** – The RE office uses email to communicate important information about classes, events, and sacraments. Not getting the messages? Be sure to check your spam box or call the office to be added to the email distribution list.

**Hosanna!** -The last weeks of Lent offer families' reminders to slowdown and prepare for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. Afterall, "He is the reason for the season!" Build a faith-filled and reverent holiday beyond the bunny. Establish traditions to enrich your children's understanding and experience of this sacred season. Online resources such as The Religion Teacher have simple resources for the week of Palm Sunday including a book "[The Donkey Who Carried a King](#)" by RC Sproul to read aloud and a video on how to make a cross out of palm leaves.



All middle schoolers are invited...

**Sunday, April 16th**  
6:30pm-8:00pm in the gym

Hang out with friends, meet new ones, play games, have great discussion, and learn about Jesus. Dinner will be served followed by s'mores on the patio.

## Religious Education Calendar

**WEEK OF APRIL 2 and APRIL 9 - NO CLASSES**

## High School

**SUNDAY YOUTH NIGHT:** ALL high schoolers are invited to Youth Nights most Sundays after 5:30pm Mass in room 213. Deepen your relationship with God, learn more about Jesus, and grow your desire for life-long discipleship with Him. New friends are always welcome! Our next meeting is **Sunday, April 16th** (due to spring break and Easter).

**6:30AM MASS:** Meet at 6:30am Mass every Tuesday morning during Lent.

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT DINNER:** Enjoy dinner with the 8th graders at their Confirmation Retreat on Saturday, April 15th. Share with them your Confirmation experience, how you live out the Faith in high school, and invite them to be a part of Youth Ministry next year! **LET ME KNOW** if you can make it!

### PARISH 5K & FUN RUN

All parishioners and friends are invited to our 2nd biannual Parish 5K & Fun Run on April 23rd at 2:00pm to support Youth WorkCamp! Cost to pre-register is \$15/person and \$30/family. Price goes up on race day. To initiate pre-registration, email Lindsay Glass with the name and age of each participant. WorkCampers, let's work this! Volunteer AND run the race, too! Email me to sign-up.

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Mark your calendar for the May 7th Pancake Breakfast! Proceeds from this breakfast will go directly towards WorkCamp 2023, thanks to the Knights of Columbus! The WorkCamp team will step up to volunteer, but all teens will be invited to lend a hand. Let me know if you can help!

### WORKCAMP Adult volunteers needed!

**June 17th-23rd, 2023 in Frederick County, VA**

**NEEDED:** Adult Contractors and Security Volunteers  
Contractors must be available June 19th-23rd, be comfortable using various tools, and be able to lead small groups through a basic construction project. Contractor training is provided prior to the week. Security Volunteers will help provide a safe environment for our campers and adult crew leaders on June 21st from 2:25-7:30pm. Reach out to Shahin or Maggie Uddin (familyuddin@gmail.com) if you can help. Come bring your gift to the altar!

### SAVE THESE DATES:

PARISH 5K/FUN RUN - Sunday, April 23rd

SENIOR BACCALAUREATE CEREMONY & RECEPTION - Friday, June 2nd

PARISH CAR WASH - Sunday, June 11th

COLLEGE NIGHT at ST. MARK'S (for seniors) - Wednesday, June 28th  
"GOD SQUAD" HS SUMMER CAMP FOR 9th-12th – July 19th-21st

## Middle School



Saturday, April 22nd 3:30-8:30pm. Hundreds of middle schoolers will gather at Bishop O'Connell HS for a day of music, games, food, speakers, and Mass with the bishop! The cost is \$20 and includes transportation, entertainment, dinner, ice cream, and a t-shirt! We'll leave SFDS at 2:30pm and return at 9:30pm. Email Lindsay Glass by April 14th to register. **Adults are needed to help chaperone/drive.** Reach out to volunteer!

## St. Francis Council 11136 News

### SAVE THE DATE COUNCIL 30th ANNIVERSARY:

On Sunday 30 April at 08:30 am Mass, the 5th Sunday of April, we will celebrate two momentous events with. 1) The 30th Anniversary of our Council and 2) We will honor all members of our Council who have been Knights for 30 years or more. If you are interested in helping plan this event, please contact GK Jay Hallam or Joe Borne-man.



**APRIL COUNCIL MEETING:** We will hold our April council meeting on Monday 10 April at 7:30 pm in the Knights Hall. Rosary at 7:00 pm in the church. We will finalize the coordination for our Council Anniversary Mass and other events.

**APRIL SHARE SUNDAY CHANGE:** Due to the timing of Easter this month, we have changed the Share Sunday collection date to the week-end of April 15/16; however, we will still distribute Blue Bags today. Speaking of Share Sunday, a very special THANK YOU! to you, our fellow SFDS Parishioners for donating a record 3+ TONS of food so far this year. Your generosity in these very tough economic times is quite humbling. In addition, our Knights' "Food Warriors" (Michael Corrigan, Scott Grimard, Bill Talamantes, Scott Cypher), are getting quite a workout delivering the food to Catholic Charities. May God Bless our Knights' "Food Warriors" and you, our fellow Parishioners.

As we enter Holy Week, we again look to the Knights' Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop William E. Lori. Archbishop Lori, in the March 2023 edition of the Columbia Magazine inspires us with the following: Lent is "about opening the heart anew to God's love. It is a gift from God, a time rich in grace when He helps his children get rid of all that hinders us from sharing in His life and love. Bodily penances and spiritual exercises are the means the Holy Spirit employs to purify our hearts, enabling us to renew and deepen our relationship with God and neighbor. The more deeply we grow to love God, the more we will be like God and love like Him."

Jay Hallam, Grand Knight  
St. Francis Council #11136. Knights11136@gmail.com;  
[www.facebook.com/knights11136/](http://www.facebook.com/knights11136/)

SAVE THE DATE!

### Vacation Bible School - July 10-14

*EGYPT Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace*

There are few openings for youth and adult volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, go to [saintfrancisparish.org/vacation-bible-school/](http://saintfrancisparish.org/vacation-bible-school/)

Registration for campers (Pre-K thru 5th grade) will begin May 1

**We have a great need for people to help build the sets in the gym. The sets are already created, we just need the manpower to put them together. If you have simple building skills, please consider lending us a hand in the days before the start of VBS**

**We really a teenage tech person to be on-hand 8:30am-noon to help with the audio-visual aspect of the Drama Station.**

Please contact [j.rees@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:j.rees@saintfrancisparish.org)



Save the date!

## TALENT SHOW

Saturday evening, May 20 in OLOV Hall

Performing is open to any adult parishioner and entry forms will be available in late April.

Questions? Contact Chris Grande at [chris-w-g@comcast.net](mailto:chris-w-g@comcast.net) or 240-409-1641

We need volunteers on Holy Saturday to help prepare the Church for Easter

Saturday, April 8 at 10am  
(two hours or so)

Please email  
[j.rees@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:j.rees@saintfrancisparish.org)

### Holy Father Prayer Intentions for April

**For a culture of peace and non-violence**  
We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

## Homeless Ministry

*"This is what our people need. They need your hands to serve them, and they need your heart to love them."*

- Mother Teresa



**The needs are great! Consider doing what you can to support the ministry this Lent.**

- **Missionary Sisters of Charity in Anacostia** – Serve between 60-100 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.
    - Items due, April 6; meal delivered and served, April 8.
- **Loudoun Homeless Shelter** – Serve between 40 and 80 meals
  - o We prepare and serve meals every 4th Thursday of the month. All items are due to the Knights Hall the preceding Wednesday by 5pm.
    - Items due, April 26; meal delivered and served, April 27.

Join us in works of charity by signing up to purchase items, make casseroles, bake cookies and cakes, or to transport meals and supplies.

*"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But if that drop was not in the ocean, I think the ocean will be less because of that missing drop." - Mother Teresa*

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

- Fran Beebe [franbeebe7@gmail.com](mailto:franbeebe7@gmail.com)
- Carie Losinski: [skigators@me.com](mailto:skigators@me.com)
- Suzanne Robinson [suzannedrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:suzannedrobinson@gmail.com)



The Mother Teresa's Garden is seeking an individual to help organize the volunteers and guide the ministry to its full potential to help feed the hungry. Gardening expertise is not necessary. Please contact [Jaclyn.Jenkins@onedayfarm.com](mailto:Jaclyn.Jenkins@onedayfarm.com) for details.

**PLANT A ROW~** As you plan your backyard garden, be sure to plant a little extra to donate to this ministry. We will start collecting donated bounty in the late spring. Check out our ministry page online for suggested items to plant. Thank you!

[saintfrancisparish.org/ministry/mother-teresas-garden/](http://saintfrancisparish.org/ministry/mother-teresas-garden/)

## Women's Council Corner

*"Make known to me your ways, Lord; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior." Psalm 25:4-5*



### Next planning meeting-

Monday, April 17th  
6:30pm Rosary in the chapel | 7pm meeting in the Library.

All women are invited to our business meeting where we plan our spectacular socials, special events and current news. We welcome your ideas.

**Executive Team Nominations-** Interested in joining our Executive Team? Please come to our next business meeting to find out more about the **President, Marketing & Secretary** positions coming up for election.

### Next social- Jeopardy! & Committee

**Nominations** - Wednesday, April 12th (moved due to the holiday)

7pm Room 207 Parish Education Center

I don't think so, Trebek. The Women's Council has brought Jeopardy! to a holy level. Come play, come watch, come eat! All women are invited to join in on the fun. Bring an international themed dish to share, we will provide the drinks.



New to the parish or not getting our emails? Contact us: [womenscouncil.sfds@gmail.com](mailto:womenscouncil.sfds@gmail.com)

## WIN A CAR or CASH

The Knights of Columbus will have a table set up in the Narthex to sell additional car raffle tickets and collect tickets prior to and following all the masses for the following weekends:

**April 1/2 and April 15/16**

The Knights will not sell or collect car raffle tickets Easter Weekend. If you have any questions, you can contact Tracy Beglau at [tracywbeglau@aol.com](mailto:tracywbeglau@aol.com). Thank you.

## FIREWOOD

A dead tree has fallen and is laying across Fr. Heisler's bike path behind the Parish Education Building. If anyone would like to cut it up and take the firewood, please contact Fr. Gould [frgould@gmail.com](mailto:frgould@gmail.com).



Get connected with other young people in our diocese, local, and parish communities. If you are interested in being a part of this new

ministry, please let me know!

**SUMMER JOBS:** Keep abreast of internship and job opportunities within the Catholic Diocese of Arlington:

[www.arlingtondiocese.org/human-resources/employment-opportunities/](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/human-resources/employment-opportunities/) Contact Lindsay Glass

[l.glass@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:l.glass@saintfrancisparish.org) for info about these opportunities

## Blessing of the Easter Baskets in the Polish Tradition

In many Eastern European countries, it is a tradition to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday. In Poland, for example, the blessing of the baskets is known as *święcenie pokarmów wielkanocnych*, a practice dating to the 15th century or earlier, and one which is still maintained by most families in Poland (and to some extent in other countries) on Holy Saturday.

The food items in the Easter basket, as well as at the Easter Sunday breakfast when the blessed food is eaten, have special significance. Each family may have its own traditions, but there are some practices that are universal.

### Basket Decorations

A lot of thought, time, and care are put not only into the foods that will go into the basket but also to how the basket is assembled. The basket is lined with an embroidered cloth or traditional folk fabric. Once the basket is filled, it is covered with a white linen cloth representing the shroud of Christ. The basket can then be decorated with sprigs of box-wood (*bukszan*) or dried flowers and colorful paper.

In rural Poland, the size and contents of a woman's basket (some used wooden bowls and even dresser drawers) was a matter of pride and standing.

### Symbolic Foods

A typical Eastern European Easter basket would include a variety of symbolic foods, although families can personalize to their liking. There is a special blessing for meat, egg, cake, and bread, so baskets will most likely include these ingredients.

- Bacon is a symbol of the abundance of God's mercy.
- Bread is usually a braided, representing the staff of life given by God.
- Easter bread is a round cake of rich, eggy yeast dough with raisins that is reminiscent of the risen Lord.
- Butter is one of the dairy products included to celebrate the end of Lent and the richness of our salvation. The butter is often shaped into a lamb, which is symbolic of the Paschal Lamb. Sometimes the bread is made of dough, wood, or even plastic. It can also be made of sugar.
- Candles symbolize Jesus, the "light of the world," and can be lit when the priest blesses the baskets of food.
- Cheese is a symbol to remind Christians of moderation.
- Colored eggs, as well as uncolored hard-cooked eggs, indicate hope, new life, and Christ rising from his tomb.
- Ham, as well as other meats, symbolizes great joy and abundance in celebration of Christ's resurrection.
- Sausage links (*kielbasa*) are symbolic of the chains of death that were broken when Jesus rose from the dead, as well as of God's generosity.
- Horseradish is a reminder of the bitterness and harshness of the Passion of Jesus, and the vinegar it is mixed with symbolizes the sour wine given to Jesus on the cross.
- Salt is present to add zest to life and preserve us from corruption.
- Sweets suggest the promise of eternal life or good things to come.

### Family Traditions

Although every family might have its own traditions when it comes to the Easter baskets, many make sure to include enough food so every family member can have a bite of all the blessed foods after Mass on Easter Sunday. This can be a taste of the Easter dinner foods, plus some daily staples.

The basket may hold a little bird's nest cake made with leftover batter from the lamb cake and hard-cooked eggs studded with cloves representing the nails of the cross, as well as *kielbasa*, ham, salt, and pepper. Also common are a butter lamb, or butter stuffed into a shot glass studded with a clove, and a small, round bakery rye bread topped with a paper decal in the shape of a purple cross.



## 2023 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)

The 2023 BLA is underway! The BLA theme this year is "My soul rejoices in the Lord," which is shared with the second preparatory year of the Diocesan Jubilee. After reflecting upon the blessings God has given you, please prayerfully consider a pledge. The BLA funds programs and ministries that serve thousands of people in our diocese. Through the inspiration of the BLA theme, let us joyfully make a pledge to support God's Kingdom in our diocese! You make a gift at: [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) or scan the QR code

## ADULT CONFIRMATIONS

If you are a baptized Catholic adult, have received First Communion, but have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Church welcomes you to take part in this grace-filled Sacrament. Individuals who desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation should contact Diane Taylor at [d.taylor@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:d.taylor@saintfrancisparish.org).

## THE MINISTRY OF PRAISE

St. Francis de Sales' group of dedicated people of prayer, is on its third decade of service. The Ministry of Praise is a Spiritual Ministry in which prayer, joys and suffering are offered to God for the salvation of souls. Membership includes the sick, the handicapped, the homebound and senior citizens. We are currently inviting anyone interested in joining our team of pray-ers to contact Leslie Sheldon at the parish office [L.sheldon@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:L.sheldon@saintfrancisparish.org) (please designate Ministry of Praise on e-mail). Those who wish to have concerns prayed for may write their prayers and slip them into the Ministry of Praise box attached to the wall in the Narthex. You can also visit our webpage at [www.saintfrancisparish.org/prayer-requests/](http://www.saintfrancisparish.org/prayer-requests/) and fill out the form and send the request on-line.



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