

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church

3rd Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018

Parish Staff

Rev. Ronald S. Escalante, Pastor
Rev. Mark Mullaney, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Larry Hammel
Mrs. Amy Harrison, Business Manager
Mrs. Angela Baker, Secretary
Mrs. Laura Burgess, Sacristan
Mr. James Blankenship, DRE
Mrs. Janice Rees, CRE, Sunday Bulletin
Ms. Emily Glass, Director of Youth Ministry
Mr. Michael Galdo, Director of Music
Mr. William Gibson, Facilities Manager
Mr. Jerry Jones, Custodian
Mrs. Maria Alvarenga, Custodian
Mr. Antonio Alvarenga, Rectory Cook

Contact Info

Parish Office - 540-338-6381
office email - secretary@saintfrancisparish.org
Religious Education Office - 540-338-4497
RE email - RE@saintfrancisparish.org
In case of an emergency - 540-338-6440
Fax - 540-338-6431
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-4:30pm
(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.

Sacraments

Confessions: Friday 10:30am
Saturday 8am and 3:30pm; and anytime by appointment
Confessions are heard in Rooms 107 & 113 in Catholic Ed. Ctr.

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: The Sacrament is celebrated each month on the second and third Sunday at 1:30pm. Baptism class is the last Friday of the month at 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.



Christmas Market Village 2018 (before the big crowds arrived!)

Sunday Masses

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

Daily Masses

Monday and Wednesday - 9am;
Tuesday and Thursday - 6:30am
Friday - 6:30am & 12 noon;
First Friday - 12 noon & 7pm Extraordinary Form (Latin Mass)
Saturday - 9am
Check the bulletin for Holy Days of Obligation

Adoration/Benediction

Friday - Adoration is held every Friday following the 12 noon Mass until 5pm. The Rosary is prayed at 12:30pm and the Divine Mercy Chaplet is at 3pm.

First Friday - Adoration follows the 12noon Mass and the 7pm Mass, and ends with Benediction at 8:45am on Saturday.



3rd Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018

The King of Israel, the LORD,
is in your midst, you have no
further misfortune to fear.
— *Zephaniah 3:15b*

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Individual Advent Confessions

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - December 18, 19, 21, 7pm

Simbang Gabi Filipino Advent Mass

Friday, December 20, 7pm (*no* 6:30am Mass)

A pot-luck reception will follow Mass in Our Lady of Victory Hall.

Christmas Eve - Vigil of Christmas

5pm - Mass with Children's Choir

5:10pm - Overflow Mass with Cantor - Our Lady of Victory Hall

8pm - Mass w/Witness Band

10pm - Lessons and Carols

10:30pm - Night Mass w/Parish Choir

Christmas Day

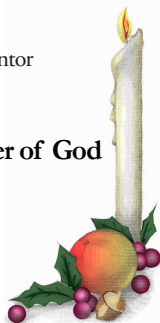
8:30am, 10:30am & 12:15pm - all with Cantor
(*no* 7am or 5pm Teen Mass)

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, January 1

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



Masses for the Week

+ *deceased*

Saturday, Dec. 15

9:00 am

Advent Weekday

+ Fr. Michael Kelly

Saturday, Dec. 15

5:00 pm

Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Father Tewes

Sunday, Dec. 16

7:00 am

3rd Sunday of Advent

People of the Parish

8:30 am

Henry Misik

10:30 am

+ John McCarthy

12:15 pm

Stephen Sutphin

5:00 pm

+ Jenny Elliott

Monday, Dec. 17

9:00 am

Late Advent Weekday

+ Fr. Gerard Ramotso

Tuesday, Dec. 18

6:30 am

Late Advent Weekday

+ William Bocek

Wed., Dec. 19

9:00 am

Late Advent Weekday

+ Rose and Charlie Baldi

Thursday, Dec. 20

7:00 pm

Late Advent Weekday

+ Daniel R. Midwinter

Friday, Dec. 21

6:30 am

Late Advent Weekday

Compassionate Heart of Mary

12:00 noon

Becky Mikel

Saturday, Dec. 22

9:00 am

Late Advent Weekday

Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Donnell

Saturday, Dec. 22

5:00 pm

Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent

+ Sylvia Mottola

Sunday, Dec. 23

7:00 am

4th Sunday of Advent

+ Gertrude Heelan

8:30 am

People of the Parish

10:30 am

Maralan O'Neil

12:15 pm

Janice Rees

5:00 pm

+ James Canan

*** There will not be a 6:30am Mass on Thursday, December 20
There will be a 7pm Mass on that day for Simbang Gabi.*

2018 Catholic Charities Parish Christmas Collection

Thank you for your support of the Catholic Charities Parish Christmas Collection this year. Your support is vital to our work, and we are grateful for your gifts. If you missed the opportunity to give, you may still do so by making a year-end gift in support of Catholic Charities by going online at www.cdda.net.

This Week

Sun., Dec. 16 Adult Basketball 8:30pm
Mon., Dec. 17 RCIA 7:30pm, Room 107
Wed., Dec. 19 TMIY 7pm, Room 202
Bible Study 7pm Room 113
Thu., Dec. 20 Rosary Group 7pm, Church
Fri., Dec. 21 Padre Pio Cenacle after noon Mass
Sun., Dec. 23 Adult Basketball 8:30pm

Parish Financial Status

In-pew Offertory - December 9	\$ 12,121
2nd Collection - Catholic Charities Christmas	\$ 2,482
In-Pew Offertory - Immaculate Conception	\$ 3,651
YEAR TO DATE	\$ 443,836

This week's 2nd Collection - Parish Center Debt Reduction
No 2nd Collection next week

Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;
Lk 1:5-25
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21;
Lk 1:39-45
Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10;
Lk 1:39-45

3RD SUNDAY OF *Advent*



REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin tag is derived from Paul's appeal in the second reading to "rejoice always in the Lord," and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God's work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is "the season of joy." Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

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Daily Advent Reflections with Bishop Burbidge

In anticipation of the joyful season of Advent, which begins this Sunday, the Office of Communications for the Diocese of Arlington has created a resource of daily spiritual reflections offered by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge. These reflections can be prayed privately or with the entire family throughout Advent. Below you will find a link to the reflections with a PDF that can be printed out on standard printer paper and folded into a pamphlet. www.arlingtondiocese.org/adventreflection2018/



Please take a tag from the Giving Tree and return the NEW, UNWRAPPED item with tag attached under the tree by

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16! Gift cards can be placed in the basket on the tree, left in the poor box or in the office. We will deliver the gifts to Birthright, Catholic Charities, the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter, the Leesburg Homeless Shelter, Mobile Hope, local nursing homes and needy families within our parish and community, as well as the Veteran's Hospital in Martinsburg.

The Community of St. Francis de Sales has always been very generous to our neediest neighbors. Thanks so much to all of you who have contributed to local organizations and individuals through the Giving Tree!

The Giving Tree is sponsored by the Giving Tree Social Justice Committee. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Erin Bucci at buccierin@comcast.net or Marilyn Gugliotta at 6gugs@comcast.net.



Sheila and I want to thank everyone who came to the Christmas Market Village this past weekend. It was a big success and we loved seeing so many familiar faces and meeting new ones. We would like to express our gratitude to all of you who volunteered to help us prepare before, during and afterwards for breakdown. Some even stepped in in the moment to help because they had time to lend a hand. It is because of all of you that our event was successful.

So, Sheila and I want to say THANK YOU! to:

- *Dunkin Donuts & Dominos for their generous donation of coffee & pizza for our volunteers who helped on the day of the event and vendors. Please thank them if you get a chance of their generosity.*
- *Luke Rider for helping bake cookies, set up, kitchen duty and breakdown and sticking with me to the end. Also for keeping us entertained with wonderful Christmas music.*
- *Laura Bent for all your help in the kitchen, making dough and cookies plus, the late night decorating(thanks for hanging in there) - your help came at the perfect times.*
- *The St. Francis de Sales crew (William, Antonio, Jerry) with setting up tables and chairs, also, moving furniture where needed.*
- *Maria, for helping clean and use of supplies I needed to borrow.*
- *Mary Grace and Annie Menuey for helping bake, make icing, and decorate cookies.*
- *Angela Baker, St. Francis de Sales secretary, for keeping me straight and helping me plan many dates and times to prepare for this event.*
- *Bill & Scott, you guys were amazing with helping us get everything out of storage and moving furniture.*
- *Pam, for helping set up furniture and baking for the events Bake Sale. Your work is not only delicious, it's beautiful!*
- *Mark Donofrio and a couple others from the group(I didn't get their name so please extend our appreciation to them) that stepped up and was able to spare some time to move furniture and supplies where we needed it.*
- *Hershey Youngblood, for all your multiple tasks that helped us out tremendously and hanging out with us in the kitchen.*
- *For all the volunteers that worked the event, in the kitchen, front table, reindeer, elves and helpers that stepped up when I needed you. (Manry, Jose, Olivia Hildago, Grace Hill, Luke Rider, Hershey Youngblood, Alina Bhatti, Michael Dipietro, Connor Ney, Joe Groff, etc - I don't have all your names so please let Janice know when you worked)*
- *For the Church Chior - What a nice touch to hear carolers and I heard lots of positive feedback.*

• Scott, Pam, Gingras Family, Youngblood Family and those that again, took the time to stop and give us your time.

Sorry we didn't get everyone's names but you know who you are and we are very thankful for all of you.

Sheila and I would have loved to tell everyone personally and we hope we see you so we can. We enjoyed working with all of you and meeting some of you for the first time.

Thank you all again!!

With All Our Gratitude, Sheila & Cheryl
Christmas Market Village Hosts

WELCOME

We warmly welcome
new parishioners who have
joined St. Francis de Sales
during the month of November

Purcellville
Judith **Fezu**
Tara **Mooney**
Bob & Mina **Gaudette**

Lovettsville
Maria **Ziegler**

Welcome to the Family!
The following new
parishioners were baptized
during the month of November



Gavin Alexander Wilburn
son of Scott Wilburn & Rosemarie Mannix

Cressa Catherine-Marie Phillips
daughter of Jonathan & Corinne Phillips

Nolan Francis Bratrud
son of Theodor & Ellen Bratrud

Penelope Kate Ayers
daughter of Shane & Teresa Ayers

Henry James Damewood
son of Brian & Catherine Damewood

Joshua Mugisha Mwombeki
son of Jensen & Evetha Mwombeki

John Lechoslaw Zawacki
son of Marcin & Anna Zawacki

Our thoughts and prayers are with ...



Our Military Members:

Major Chuck Marshall; Lcpl John Owen
Patterson; Sgt. Tim Marshall; 2nd Lt.
Patrick Gutierrez, Capt. Andrew Cahan; 1st
Lt Matthew Ryan, Capt. Patrick Godfrey, Cpl Zachary
Gingras, LT Scott Cypher, Cap. Vincent Jovene, 1st Lt.
Jamie (Jovene) Liddle, A1C Joshua Jovene, 1LT Jared
Willard, Joe Pultro, LCpl Paul Cotter, 2dLt Rachel
Jovene, GySgt Jose O Ruiz Pedroza, PFC Jorge A Lara
Pedroza, LT Ross Mentzer, 2nd LT Ryan Patrick Grady;
PFC Stephen G. Beard, Sgt. Ernesto G. Castro

The Sick: Dominic Corcoran, Jack Lehtonen, Mary Jane
Arens, Zach Miller, Phyllis Heller, Madeline Gonzalez,
Mike O'Brien, Bill and Valerie Wieliczko, Sarah Nolan,
Liz Keller

The Deceased: Sophie and Pedro Macaraega, Rita
Hockenbury, Kim Castellano, David Young, Philippe
Laffitte-Smith, Shannon Stodar, Edward Versprille, Nancy
Anderson, Arthur Busher, Jim Dueppen, Dorothy Gessner,
Ellen Delaney, Daniel Duggan, Bud Nolan

*** PARISH WISH LIST ***

• **New Altar Guild members needed**—The *Altar Guild* volunteer crew prepares our beautiful new sanctuary ready for the Sunday & Holy Day Masses. No experience necessary and Altar Guild coordinator, *Laura Burgess*, will gladly train new members. The Saturday morning duty includes flower arrangements and light spot cleaning to prepare the altar and the sanctuary for the celebration of the Mass. Please contact Laura Burgess to volunteer for this very important duty and care for Our Lord's sacred house of worship: llburgess@verizon.net

• **Boxing Team for Boys being formed in the parish!**—There are at least three parishes in the diocese this year that have a boys' boxing team so we are now forming our own Saint Francis de Sales Boys' Boxing Team! No boxing experience is necessary and I now have at least two trainers who are willing to teach the kids the art of boxing. Gloves and headgear will be used during sparring. If interested in participating, including adult boxing trainers and monitors, please contact me directly. To comply with child safe and protection I will need a few adult monitors on hand. Monitors don't need to have boxing experience.

• **Looking for Ushers for the "New Ushering Ministry"**—*Pat Orender* is heading the new ushering ministry and we're looking for new ushers to serve the parish community to help the worshipers who come to Mass. This will be a great opportunity to volunteer in the parish. We need more adult volunteers but we also welcome *Junior Ushers* (young kids) to serve with the adults. Contact Pat to sign up: theorenders@gmail.com

• **Donate to our new Ambo (Pulpit)** You are invited to donate any amount for the new Ambo (Pulpit) and be a part of the "Book of Life Circle." Donations of \$1k or more will give you the option to add a dedication to our future Memorial Wall to be displayed in the narthex. We need \$35k for this important part of the sanctuary where we hear the Word of God proclaimed. As of November 2, 2018, we have received \$23,000. (See July 30, 2017 Shepherd's Notes re the Ambo.)

• **Pipe Organ" donation**—Help us pay for the church organ that was installed in April 2017. We have received \$48,810 & now owe just \$68,890 for this beautiful organ!

• **Write your dedication on a brick...on church property!**—You now have an opportunity to place your permanent dedication etched on a brick on the church property: in front of the new parish center. Proceeds go directly to pay our center's mortgage. Go to our website: www.saintfrancisparish.org.

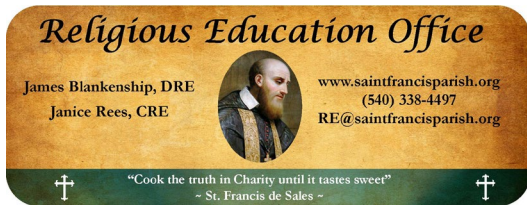
• **Hosting the Pilgrim Virgin statue sign up**—You can now schedule to sign up for hosting the *Pilgrim Virgin* in your home. Go to saintfrancisparish.org/hosting-the-pilgrim-virgin/ and pick a date. Then just sign up at j.rees@saintfrancisparish.org and pick up the statue in the chapel after the Sunday Mass you attend and return it no later than **Saturday afternoon** for the next person to host our *Blessed Mother*. Great blessings will come along your way when you invite *Our Lady* and pray the rosary in your home. She will not be outdone in generosity!

• **Look up our parish on Facebook**—Search for: *St. Francis de Sales, Purcellville...* and "Like" us.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS - DECEMBER 2018

Evangelization – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.



Small Change. Big Impact. Advent Baby Bottles

Please help us support those facing unplanned pregnancies through the 2018 Religious Education Advent/Christmas Baby Bottle Drive. We will have baby bottles in the classrooms on the first class of Advent, please take a bottle, fill it with your loose change, cash or check. This project will go through the Epiphany. All monies will directly support the free, life-affirming programs offered at Birthright of Loudoun County. It is a great way to get the entire family involved and goes a long way in reaching the women and babies within the community. Thank you for your participation.

Help Us Deck the Halls!

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Saturday December 22 starting after the 9am Mass and we are looking for volunteers! If you are interested in decking the halls with boughs of holly and want to help out, please contact James Blankenship at j.blankenship@saintfrancisparish.org. The more people we get, the merrier (and quicker) the decorating will be.

Sponsor/Confirmation Candidate

Potluck Supper

Sunday, January 6 at 6pm

Our Lady of Victory Hall

Feast of the Epiphany!

Our Confirmation Potluck supper is an evening dedicated to food, faith and fellowship, and a great opportunity to bring the sponsors and candidates together in preparation for the upcoming Confirmation in the spring. **Candidates and sponsors are strongly encouraged to attend this supper.** This fellowship is an important part of their Confirmation preparation.

We understand that a sponsor may live out of state or may be unable to travel at this time, if that is the case, a parent of the candidate may attend in your place.

The candidate is requested to bring their favorite dish to share. Sponsors are our guests!

All are invited to attend the 5pm Teen Mass before the supper. We look forward to seeing you.

Follow Bishop Burbidge

Bishop Burbidge has over 12,200 followers on Twitter! His daily reflections and posts are popular and insightful. Follow him @BishopBurbidge. Want to hear relevant, pastoral inspiration from our Shepherd? Selected homilies of Bishop Burbidge are posted on our YouTube page. Please visit youtube.com/



MOUNT2000 – Want to grow closer to Jesus, make tons of new friends, and have the best weekend ever? Sign-ups are now open for Mount2000! February 8-10, 2019, hosted by Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. 3 days of nationally-renowned, teen-oriented Catholic speakers, Mass, Adoration, opportunities for Confession, getting to know seminarians, vocation exploration, awesome music and worship, and SO much fun! \$90 per participant. E-mail e.glass@saintfrancisparish.org to sign up or get more info! All high schoolers are invited! Sign-ups are open until January 10th.

GINGERBREAD THROWDOWN – This year's *Prepare the Way* Advent Gingerbread Competition is on Sunday, 12/16 in the old parish hall after the 5pm Mass. All high schoolers welcome! Who can come up with the best gingerbread creation to celebrate Advent?! Come compete for prizes! \$2 per person.

5PM MASS – Every Sunday at 5pm, join us in the front 4 left rows to celebrate Mass together. All high school students are welcome!

YOUTH NIGHT – Join us on Sundays from 6-8pm for fellowship, food, and fun. Bring a friend!! All high schoolers are welcome! Come to grow in friendship with Christ and one another.

BIBLE STUDY FOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS – Join us at Market St. Coffee on Wednesdays from 5-6pm for Bible study. There will be no Girls Bible Study on Wednesday, November 21st or December 5th.

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS – If you would like to receive text message announcements about time changes, event cancellations, etc., you can go to this link: remind.com/join/eglass16 and enter your information to be added to the recipient list! Also, follow the Youth Ministry Instagram account *St.FrancisYouth* for event updates and announcements.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

MAC-PAC (Middle Schoolers Acting in Christ – Prayer, Action, Charity) is for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The goal is to inspire, to grow our love for God and neighbor, and to provide fellowship for the Middle School youth of St. Francis De Sales. We usually meet the 2nd Sunday of the month. Watch this column for upcoming events!



Religious Education Calendar

WEEK OF DECEMBER 16

Sunday	Grades 1st-8th Session 1 - 8:45am
	Grades K-8th Session 2 - 10:30am
Monday	Grades K-8th - 4:45pm
Wednesday	Grades K-8th - 4:45pm

WEEK OF DECEMBER 23

No Classes

ST. FRANCIS COUNCIL 11136 NEWS



Have You Ever Considered Becoming a Knight and Helping Others in Your Parish and Community?:

Find out how you can be a part of the largest Catholic men's organization in the world. With nearly 2 million members and growing, discover how the Knights can support you, your family, your faith and your community. Contact GK Tracy Beglau or Chancellor Scott Grimard (Grimster845@gmail.com), or look for any man wearing a Knights of Columbus name badge. The needs are many, but the laborers are few.

May God bless you!

Tracy Beglau, Grand Knight
St. Francis Council #11136

knightsofcolumbusfrancis11136@gmail.com

SWEATS FOR VETS

Comrades help us cooperate with KofC and provide new sweatsuits as gifts for our hospitalized veterans at Martinsburg VAMC

Guidelines:

- new sweatsuits only (sets preferred)
- all sized accepted with a focus on XL, 2XL, 3XL, and 4XL
- do not wrap the sweats in gift wrap but tie each set with Christmas ribbon
- bring sweats to box in the Narthex labeled "Sweats for Vets"

COURAGE a group that assists individuals with same-sex attractions to live chaste lives according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, meets in the Diocese of Arlington. Meetings are for men and women and strict confidentiality is maintained. For more info: courage@arlingtondiocese.org and www.couragerc.net

KofC Coat Drive

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank our Parishioners for your donated coats.

You donated over 100 coats, and with the help of our Council we also bought new jackets too. They have already been delivered to Lovettsville Elementary, Kenneth Culbert Elementary, Harmony Middle and Catholic Charities. All the parent liaisons were very Grateful.

God Bless You and Have a Very Merry Christmas,
Knights of Columbus
Saint Francis Council 11136

Ladies Auxiliary News



- No meeting in December
- Monday - January 7th - Join the Ladies Auxiliary in kicking off the new year!! Come help us plan the corporal and spiritual works of mercy for the year as a lady of the parish.
7:00 p.m. Rosary in the chapel; 7:30 p.m. Meeting in the Parish Hall

Please e-mail your questions or comments to ladiesaux11136@gmail.com

COUNSELING OFFERED AT SFDS

Jennifer Barry, LCSW from Catholic Charities' Family Services will begin taking appointments offering Individual, Family or Couples Counseling on Wednesdays at St. Francis de Sales. Jennifer is a licensed clinical social worker who received her Master of Social Work (MSW) from the Catholic University of America. If you would like to schedule an appointment with her, please contact Family Services at 703-425-0109. Initial consultations are available without charge at both St. Francis on Wednesdays and St. Theresa in Ashburn on Thursdays. If you are interested in scheduling a consultation with Jennifer, please contact her at 703-772-4022.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

Unwrap the gifts in your marriage on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter. It is a weekend for married Christian couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. Start your new year out right and sign up today for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on Mar 22-24, 2019 in Herndon, VA and Sep 20-22, 2019 in Herndon, VA. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: RenewMarriage-VANorth.org or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vanorth.org or 703-646-1521.

Oplatki Christmas Wafers (Oplatek)

Oplatki (blessed by Fr. Escalante) are once again available this year, FREE (one per family - donations are accepted). Stop by the Knights' Christmas Card table and start or continue your own family tradition. The tradition of the Oplatki originated in 10th century Poland. Just as we share in the Eucharist as one body in Christ and receive Jesus and His love through the Eucharist, Oplatki allows for family and friends to come together and to share the love they have for one another. This is a heartwarming tradition that will complete your family's time together during the Christmas season.

Save the Date! Simbang Gabi
Filipino Advent Mass 2018



Simbang Gabi, also known as the Misa de Gallo (mass of the rooster) or Misa de Aguinaldo (mass of gifts), is a rich part of the Philippines Christmas tradition. The Filipino immigrants have proudly introduced this beautiful tradition to the Church in United States. Since winter weather in most parts of the country makes it impractical to hold the Mass celebrations at dawn, local parishes have adapted the practice and celebrate Simbang Gabi in the evenings. Please join us Friday, December 20 at 7pm. Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Carlos Melocoton. A pot luck reception will follow after the mass in Our Lady of Victory Hall. Families attending are asked to bring a dish to share. Committee volunteers are greatly needed from our parish to make this annual Advent Celebration a success. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the parish office.



A long-time parishioner from ur parish has entered hospice care and the family is in need of support with meals. Thank you for helping out if you can! Please visit the Take Them a Meal website www.TakeThemAMeal.com/YODV7037

Catholic Charities Is Here For You!

People in need can find help on our new website www.cca.net/ with food, housing, medical care, counseling, legal assistance, and other services, click on 'Need Help'. Visitors will find opportunities to serve the poor under Give Help or donate by clicking on 'Support Us'. The website features compelling images, resources, current events and news, and describes Catholic Charities' more than 20 programs and locations, as well as the Catholic principles that inform its work.
"All good and all transformative love comes from the cross. We thought it was the best way to convey the ongoing and never-ending love of Christ that animates Catholic Charities and our Church." —President and CEO Art Bennett

This Advent Season, give a
Gift For Life
to help expectant mothers, children, and families in need.

Post-Abortion Healing *Project Rachel* Pregnancy Assistance *Gabriel Project*

Two ways to donate:

1. Donate online at: www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife
2. Mail a check payable to CDA-Gift For Life
 Please mail donations to:
 Catholic Diocese of Arlington
 P.O. Box 1960
 Merrifield, VA 22116-1960

Office for Family Life
 Catholic Diocese of Arlington
 (703) 841-2755



MARCH FOR LIFE

Join us for The March For Life on Friday, January 18th! We will be leaving from St. Francis De Sales by bus around 6:30am. We will be going to the Life is Very Good Morning Rally and Mass at George Mason University. After Mass, our bus will take us to DC for the March. We expect to return back to Saint Francis by 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$17 which include the Rally and Lunch from Chick-fil-a. Please contact Kelly Wakefield at kewake@yahoo.com or 703-975-0070 if you would like to join us!

Parish Homeless Ministry



Thank you everyone for your generous donations of foods and volunteer time at the last Homeless Soup Kitchen December 8 at The Sisters of Charity in Anacostia. The Sisters are very appreciative to our Soulstitch ladies for their donation of more beautiful baby blankets. We have promised and delivered 10 blankets for the Unwed Mothers cared for by the Sisters, thank you Soulstitch Ladies! Our next Soup Kitchen Day will be **Saturday January 12**, we invite everyone 13 years and up, families and all to join us! Please note, on our St. Francis website, there is a new link to easy access the Sign-Up Genius to volunteer! Thank you also to Maria Byrd for hosting our booth at the Christmas Market to share our message, as well as Beverly Bryant and husband attending the Cup of Joe bagging production in Landover. In 2019, we will be discussing many new ways to help our local homeless community, our committee is very excited and passionate about! Please feel free to share any thoughts or ideas.

Tracy Ippoliti - Tracy.ippoliti@gmail.com 703-727-4125
 Mark Ippoliti - Mark.ippoliti@gmail.com 571-748-8584
 Please contact us if you have any questions to be added to our mailing list.

Job Opportunity: Director, San Damiano Spiritual Life Center

The San Damiano Spiritual Life Center located in White Post, VA is seeking a Director. The Director will be responsible for providing the strategic direction for the Center and has direct responsibility for its programming, administration, facilities, and operations. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/SDDirector>

Dear Friend of Project Rachel

Advent is a good time to remember that this time of year can be difficult for those who have experienced abortion. Instead of being a time of "joyful expectation", Mary's "yes" may remind them of their "no" to God's will in their lives and may serve as a painful reminder of the child or children missing every year during the Christmas season. We have the opportunity to keep the doors to the Church open and invite those in need of reconciliation to find healing within our Church. There are three very simple ways you can help us:

1. Become a Project Rachel Parish Promoter. Please visit our website for more info.
 2. Pray for the ministry.
 3. Make a commitment to attend and join us to pray for a monthly Praise & Worship on the 2nd Tuesday of every month beginning on January 8
- Please join us for prayer, praise & worship on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. to pray for the special intention of healing and conversion in families. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. All are welcome, so please bring a friend. To learn more please contact the Office for Family, Marriage and Respect Life by calling 703-841-2550, emailing info@helpafterabortion.org or visiting arlingtondiocese.org/healingandconversion

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

Gabriel Project Pregnancy Assistance Ministry:
866-444-3553 or info@helpforpregnantwomen.org