

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church

11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JUNE 13, 2021

Parish Staff

Reverend James Gould, Pastor
Reverend John Heisler, Parochial Vicar
Larry Hammel, Deacon
Mrs. Amy Harrison, Business Manager
Mrs. Leslie Sheldon, Office Manager
Mrs. Kim Livaudais, Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Janice Rees, CRE, Sunday Bulletin, Website
Ms. Emily Glass, Director of Youth Ministry
Mr. Michael Galdo, Director of Music
Mrs. Laura Burgess, Sacristan
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
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-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 Masses

Saturday Vigil - 5pm
Sunday - 7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:15pm,
2pm (Mass Required)
5:30pm (Mass with contemporary music)

Daily Masses

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
Wednesday 7pm - Weekly Parish Holy Hour



Sacraments

Confessions:

Friday 10:30am; 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 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.

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 13, 2021

"We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

(2 Cor 5:6-7)

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed, the tiniest of seeds. When planted, the tiny mustard seed grows into a tremendous tree with large branches. So too in each of our lives small things can have profound effects. God can use one of our more insignificant gestures to radically change another person's life. It may be the kindness of a smile, our willingness to accommodate someone, listening to someone's story, helping someone who is hurting, standing up for someone who is right or complimenting someone on something they did. We all have God given gifts and talents. What are some of yours? Our task is to use our talents creatively, consistently, lovingly, and generously. Because we are always guided by the Holy Spirit, things that may be insignificant or unnoticed to us can profoundly change the life of someone else. While we may think we are small and insignificant, God can make us large and magnificent. All we have to do is open ourselves to being used. We trust that God will take care of the rest.

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 lsheldon@saintfrancispark.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.saintfrancispark.org/prayer-requests/ and fill out the form and send the request on-line.

Readings for the Week

SUN 6/13	Ez 17:22-24/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/2 Cor 5:6-10/Mk 4:26-34
MON 6/14	2 Cor 6:1-10/Ps 98:1, 2b, 3ab, 3cd-4 [2a]/Mt 5:38-42
TUES 6/15	2 Cor 8:1-9/Ps 146:2, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a [1b]/Mt 5:43-48
WED 6/16	2 Cor 9:6-11/Ps 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 9 [1b]/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
THR 6/17	2 Cor 11:1-11/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 7-8 [7a]/Mt 6:7-15
FRI 6/18	2 Cor 11:18, 21-30/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [cf. 18b]/Mt 6:19-23
SAT 6/19	2 Cor 12:1-10/Ps 34:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 [9a]/Mt 6:24-34
SUN 6/20	Jb 38:1, 8-11/ Ps 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31 [1b]/2 Cor 5:14-17/Mk 4:35-41

Masses for the Week

+ deceased

<u>Saturday, June 12</u>	<i>The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
9:00 am	+Joan Rice
<u>Saturday, June 12</u>	<i>Vigil: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
5:00 pm	Jack and Jean Burden
<u>Sunday, June 13</u>	<i>11th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
7:00 am	+ Dennis Broadwater
8:30 am	People of the Parish
10:30 am	Maggie and Michael Mason
12:15 pm	Giattino Family
2:00 pm	Deceased members of th Wieliczko and Szarzanowicz Families
5:30 pm	Paul Beatty
<u>Monday, June 14</u>	<i>Weekday</i>
6:30 am	Kati Pultro
8:30 am	+ Joan Monastero
<u>Tuesday, June 15</u>	<i>Weekday</i>
6:30 am	+ Shelby Decker
8:30 am	Jennifer Prohaska
<u>Wed., June 16</u>	<i>Weekday</i>
6:30 am	+ Joseph and Lena Galdo
8:30 am	+ Anthony and Mary Witkowsky
<u>Thursday, June 17</u>	<i>Weekday</i>
6:30 am	+ Deacon Joseph Fuoco
8:30 am	+ Fred Shank
<u>Friday, June 18</u>	<i>Weekday</i>
6:30 am	+ Jake and Joyce Schnoor
12:00 noon	+ Martin Thompson
<u>Saturday, June 19</u>	<i>Weekday</i>
9:00 am	Rev. James Gould
<u>Saturday, June 19</u>	<i>Vigil: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
5:00 pm	+ Robert Cote
<u>Sunday, June 20</u>	<i>12th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
7:00 am	Deceased members of the D'Elia and Butts Families
8:30 am	Deceased members of the Dueppen and Darnell Families
10:30 am	People of the Parish
12:15 pm	Joe Giattino
5:30 pm	+ David Alfred Guilles, Sr.

This Week

Mon., June 14	<u>Knights of Columbus</u> , 7:30pm
Tue., June 15	<u>Legion of Mary</u> 7pm, Library
Wed., June 16	<u>SoulStitch</u> 9:30am, Knights Hall <u>Charismatic Prayer Group</u> 7pm, Chapel <u>Weekly Parish Holy Hour</u> - 7pm
Thu., June 17	<u>Junior Legion of Mary</u> 3:45pm, Knights Hall
Fri., June 18	<u>Women's Prayer Group</u> 7-8am, Knights Hall

Dear Folks,
 Though I am writing this letter a week early as the bulletin editor is going on vacation I want to note that this Sunday, June 13th, is the final Mass for the 2pm time slot. It also serves to bring back the "Sign of Peace" at Mass and receiving Communion at the Rail.

In setting the painting of St. Martin De Porres some folks as Diane Waller for future designs in her work in the Church. First, the choir loft will host a painting of St. Cecilian, honoring the music program of the parish. Two paintings, one by the holy water font will be a painting of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. On the opposite side will be St. Faustina and Divine Mercy. Two statues will be used to stand above the confessionals. One will be the Cure of Ars, patron of Confessors. The other is up for grabs. Other statues above the altar will be praying angels facing toward each other and a scene at the top of the altar wall... the scene is up for grabs. I asked the good artist to be careful not to finish everything in two years. Nine and a half years will suit my calendar... I retire at the end of that time and I would like to leave the assignment with creative designs offered by the parishioners. Please stay tuned.

Next week is Father's Day. In that bulletin/parish letter we will submit the annual list of songs that sing of fathers. We are open to any suggestions. God bless one and all. Let us pray for one another

Collegiate answer: The Japanese Navy sported one Catholic in her ranks in World War II. His name was Admiral Shinjiro Stefano Yamamoto. He was not the famed Isoroku Yamamoto that planned the Pearl Harbor attack. Shinjiro was a decade older and himself died in 1942.

Collegiate Question: Why are people in the public eye said to be 'in the limelight'?



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

Easton Connor
 son of Ryan and Megan Binkley

Belinda-Kate Hope
 daughter of David and Catherine Maloney

Garrett Brennan
 son of Ryan Houde and Nikka Jane Centeno

Blake Nicholas
 son of Nicholas and Amy Centeno

Ainsley Grace
 daughter of Christopher and Kaitlyn George

Madelyn Marie
 daughter of Thomas and Lindsay Russow

Elsie Rose
 daughter of Daniel and Rebecca Brennan

Lincoln Barry
 son of Daniel and Rebecca Brennan

Maxwell Alexander Chapin
 son of Nicole McGinnis

Pierce Edward
 son of Robert and Selina McPherson

Viviana Freya
 daughter of Christopher and Marsha Lessard

Stephen Louis
 son of Joshua and Anna McCullough

Our thoughts and prayers are with ...



Our Military Members: SGT Peter Audi, PFC Stephen Beard, MAJ Andrew Cahan, SGT Ernesto Castro, LCpl Paul Cotter, LT Scott Cypher, CPT Patrick Godfrey, 2LT Ryan Patrick Grady, 2LT Patrick Gutierrez, CPT Jamie (Jovene) Liddle; SSG Joshua Jovene, 1LT Rachel Jovene, 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

The Sick: Dominic Corcoran, Jack Lehtonen, Mary Jane Arens, Mike O'Brien, Sarah Nolan, Liz Keller; Joanne Harrington, Rebecca Alvarez, Charles

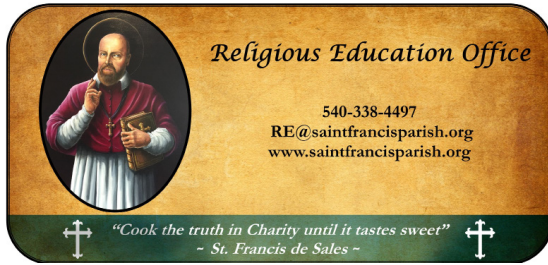
Williams, Patricia Naomi Alvarenga, Joe Graber, Timothy Rainey, Rodney and Christina Huth, Candace Daly, Nancy Eastman, Melissa Jewel, Peggy Johnson

The Deceased: Steven Domine, Dick Austin, Jim Mark Gallagher, Phyllis Heller, Vito Pappano, David Esquerra, Nick Hallam, Tom Dudek, Hugh 'Andy' Williams, Bill Wieliczko, Joan Monastero, Deacon Jack Vassallo, Patrick Michael Walsh, David O'Konski, Marty McMichael, Shelby Decker, Estela Fitzgerald, Robert Cote, Thomas McGorry, Mary Sue Couser

Our thoughts and prayers are with ...

The Names of The Deceased will be remain until the first anniversary of their death. Thereafter the deceased will be remembered on the first Sunday of the monthly anniversary of their death in a special column.

Names of The Sick and Our Military Members are included *only at the request of the individual or family*. If you would like to publish the name of a loved one who is sick, contact j.rees@saintfrancisparish.org. Please let us know if there any changes to military rank, or if you would like name taken off Names of the Sick.



Dear Parents,
Please check your email for important registration information for next year's programs. Feel free to call our office with questions. We look forward to hearing from everyone very soon! Our class schedule for next year will be:

Sunday, 9 to 10:15 am - (K through 8th grade, RCIC)
(followed by Family Mass at 10:30)

Monday, 5 to 6:15 pm - (K through high school, RCIC and RCIT)

Wednesday: two sessions
3:30 to 4:45 pm (Preschool through 5th grade)
5 to 6:15 (6th through 8th grade)

Please make sure to check the weekly parish bulletin and your email for updates about our programs and summer happenings at St. Francis. We look forward to seeing everyone over the summer...at VBS, around the grounds, in the office, or at Mass! Stay well, and have a healthy, happy and holy summer!

Don't forget to say your prayers :-)
God bless, - *Kim and Janice*

Homeschooling Parents: Please make sure your child has completed all online work for their grade level before registering for next year's classes. Registration for the 2021-2022 school year begins in early summer. The online platform will still be available through the summer, for those who need more time.

Registration for 2021-2022 School Year: Registration for the next school year have begun. All children are expected to successfully complete their current grade-level curriculum before registering for the upcoming school year.

Registration for 2021-2022 Confirmation Preparation: Students who would like to begin the first year of Confirmation preparation (usually in the 7th grade) must have an understanding of material covered on the 6th grade assessment.

The 6th grade exam covers the basic truths proclaimed in the Creed (taught in 5th grade *Faith and Life* textbook), and the Ten Commandments (from 6th grade *Faith and Life* textbook). The 6th grade assessment is available on the parish website, under Religious Education, Parent Resources.

Those beginning Confirmation preparation should also know the basic parts of the Bible (primary knowledge of Old and New Testament stories; names of gospel writers, and how to look up Bible passages), and basic prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, Apostles Creed).

Please contact Kim Livaudais, Director of Religious Education with questions about preparation for Confirmation.



Emily Glass
Director of Youth Ministry
540-338-6381 or
e.glass@saintfrancisparish.org

HEY 8TH GRADERS! – Starting in July, you are ALL invited to join us at Youth Nights. Youth Nights are weekly meetings where the teens of the parish get together and grow closer to God and to each other. Come dive deeper into your relationship with Jesus! We have discussions, read Scripture, laugh, listen to music, pray, and more, and we are so excited for you all to join us.

WORKCAMP MEETING – Our next Teen Workcamp Meeting will be Sunday, June 6th in the gym, 6:30-8pm. All teen Workcampers are expected to attend the meetings. See you there! Your appeal letters should be mailed out by now. Remember that if you do not mail appeal letters, you are responsible for the whole \$600. Please contact Emily with any questions.

PARENT WORKCAMP MEETING – Meeting for all parents of 2021 Workcampers on Sunday, June 6th, 4:15 - 5:15 PM in the gym. Please plan on attending even if your child has attended Workcamp in the past.

ADULTS NEEDED FOR WORKCAMP – We are still in need of a few more adults (age 21+) to join us at Workcamp, June 27 – July 3. Adult participation makes Workcamp possible for all the teens of our parish who want to attend. Workcamp is just as exciting and impactful for the adults! Contact e.glass@saintfrancisparish.org for more information or to sign up.

NEED VEHICLES – We are looking to borrow any vans or SUVs with 6 or more seatbelts for Workcamp from June 27 – July 3. Please contact Emily at e.glass@saintfrancisparish.org if you have a vehicle that you'd be willing to loan us. We are very grateful for all of the support we receive from the parish community!!

HOMELESS SHELTER – Every month, high schoolers are invited to cook dinner for the Loudoun County Emergency Homeless Shelter. Our next cooking date is Monday, June 7th, 4:30 – 6:00 PM in the Education Center kitchen.

YOUTH NIGHTS – No Youth Night on Sunday, May 30th. After Memorial Day, every Sunday night will be a Teen Workcamp Meeting. Youth Nights will resume in July.

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sign up to receive free Remind.com text message updates, reminders, and upcoming meetings. Text **@sfdsteens** to the number 81010. Also, follow the Youth Ministry Instagram account *St.FrancisYouth* for event updates and announcements.

St. Francis Council 11136 News

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: will be Monday June 14th at 7:30 pm. The Knights have recently revised its Meeting Structure to streamline the meeting process and get more involvement from other Ministries. With prior approval, non-Knights may attend the meeting. If you, or your Ministry are interested in joining us to discuss ways to work together, please let me know.



FREE ONLINE MEMBERSHIP:

Free Membership Promotion Extended through June 30!
Interested in joining the K of C? We are offering one year of FREE online membership to men who join before the fraternal year's end. Just use the code MCGIVNEY2020 when signing up at www.kofc.org/join Act now – this offer expires June 30, 2021.

Why Are You A Knight? Be more than a Knight in name only. We help in the parish, the community and the world. Our Council will be focusing on the Knights of Columbus Program "Faith in Action". We will be focusing and looking for volunteers in these four main program types: FAITH, COMMUNITY, FAMILY and LIFE. Contact GK Bob Craig and tell me what would it take for you to come help your church and community. Be active again.

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 Bob Craig or Chancellor John Losinski (skigators@icloud.com), or look for any man wearing a Knights of Columbus name badge. Let your Light Shine!

May God bless you!

Bob Craig, Grand Knight
St. Francis Council #11136
Knights11136@gmail.com;
www.facebook.com/knights11136/

SHARE SUNDAY

The next St. Francis de Sales Share Sunday will be held this weekend, June 12/13.

The Knights of Columbus Share Sunday program has donated over 8,000 pounds of food and \$7,500 in Checks/Cash/Gift Cards to the Catholic Charities food bank in Leesburg from 7/1 to 03/13. This would not have been possible without the generous donations made by you!!! We have another opportunity to help those less fortunate. The first weekend of every month the bags are passed out after every Mass and then collected the following week full of donated food.

Altar Flower Arrangement Dedication



NEW!! St. Francis de Sales is offering Altar flower dedications beginning the weekend of June 12th. Flower arrangements may be dedicated in "loving memory of" or "in celebration of" a particular family or individual (living or deceased).

For two weeks, a \$100 donation sponsors two Altar Arrangements and an announcement in the bulletin.

Should you wish to dedicate a flower arrangement, please contact Amy Harrison for more information by email a.harrison@saintfrancisparish.org or call the parish office (540) 338-6381, x104.

Payments will be accepted by credit card through Parish Giving by visiting www.paritygiving.org and payable by check to St. Francis de Sales (please note altar flowers in the memo line).

Ushers Needed

Are you willing to serve?

To better facilitate our Masses and assist and greet our Mass goers, the Parish has an Usher Ministry. The Usher ministry currently needs additional members and anyone who is interested should contact Pat Orender. It is realized that some people's schedules prohibit them from committing to attending a particular Mass on a regular basis and are not able to serve as ushers. However, we are flexible you may only be able to serve one mass a month that's not a problem.... We will accept all who are willing and interested helping.

Individuals and families are encouraged to participate. There are no requirements except for a friendly smile and a willingness to welcome all to our faith community. Ushers (Adult) assist in all masses by taking up the collection, assuring the gifts are ready and carried to the celebrant (after COVID retractions are lifted), distribution of bulletins, and other duties as appropriate. When available to assist with funerals, weddings, or any special occasions that occur in the church. There are no scheduled meetings, only those called on an as-needed basis.

Pat Orender Theorenders@gmail.com

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

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS - JUNE 2021

The Beauty of Marriage

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

Parish Homeless Ministry

In the St. Francis de Sales Church homeless ministry, we are humbly seeking ways to show special love for our brothers and sisters without sufficient food and/or shelter. Each month we serve food and supplies to the homeless in Leesburg and in Anacostia (DC). We are grateful for the generosity of our parishioners already working in this ministry.



- **Special thanks** to those who volunteered to make food and to deliver it to the Leesburg shelter on May 27th and to the Missionary Sisters of Charity in Anacostia (DC) on June 10th!

- The sisters are still not yet accepting unwed mothers, due to Covid restrictions. We will notify you when they resume this part of their ministry.

- Those participating in the ministry should look for emails from "Saint Francis" for volunteer sign-ups.

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

Interested? Contact:

* Mark Ippoliti mark.ippoliti@gmail.com

* Tracy Ippoliti tracy.ippoliti@gmail.com

* Suzanne Robinson suzannedrobinson@gmail.com



Soul Stitch is a ministry that knits and crochets for those in need. Our members make whatever they would like and we find a place to donate what is made.

Soul Stitch meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30am. Anyone who knits, crochets or would like to learn is welcome to join us. We provide the yarn. We have patterns or you can use your own. If you are unable to meet with us but are interested in making things to donate please contact us. For more information contact Karen Gaylord windingwoodsfarm@gmail.com

Good Shepherd School is a Montessori and Classical school, rooted in the Catholic Tradition and serving children preschool through 8th grade in Purcellville. We are seeking experienced teachers to join our faculty for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Interested applicants are encouraged to email their resume, cover letter with references to office@goodshepherdschoolva.com.

Current openings include:

- Montessori Guide/Teacher (ages 3-5)
- Pre-School Teacher/Co-Teacher (ages 3-5)
- Middle School Teacher – General
- Middle School Teacher – Math
- Middle School Teacher – Science
- Physical Education Teacher (all ages)
- After School Music Lessons – Guitar



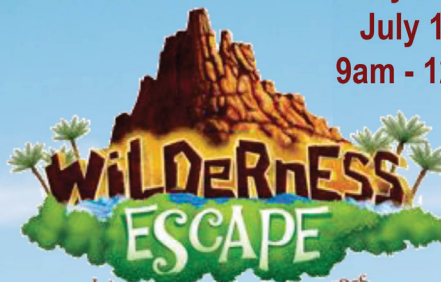
Come to our totally Catholic VBS, where we'll meet Moses, hang out with the Israelites, and join their amazing adventure of trusting God in the wilderness

Vacation Bible School

Monday thru Friday

July 12-16

9am - 12noon



WHERE GOD GUIDES & PROVIDES



\$25/child ~ \$15 each add'l child

Pre-K and rising K thru 5th Grade

We provide a nursery for children of all Adult Volunteers

Registration ends Thursday, June 17

Registration forms can be downloaded from our website

www.SaintFrancisParish.org

click on Vacation Bible School

MORE ADULT (AND YOUTH) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Please visit our website saintfrancisparish.org, click on VBS, and click on the Signup Genius to volunteer.

TRIBE LEADERS - Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 4th Grades
Tribe Leaders will have a group of children that they will be assigned to for the week. Will check-in the children each morning and lead them around to their various stations. Does not require teaching.

CRAFT STATION - Crafts are already planned out. We have two veteran adults in this station, need one more. Help prepare the crafts for each day and work with a revolving group of children throughout the morning. You will have plenty of youth helpers.

PRE-SCHOOL GAMES - take our 4 year olds each day out in the sun for 45 minutes of fun games!

SNACK STATION - adult positions filled! Thank you!

MISSION - our Mission is Sadie's Smile. Keep a running total of donations brought in each day. The tribe who brings in the most donations wins a prize!!

The Legion of Mary Our Lady of Victory

- Ages 18 and over, meets Tuesdays at 7pm in the library. Visit us!
 - Junior Legion: Our Lady of the Lake: ages 7-17, Thursdays at 3:45 in Knights Hall.
- June prayers are for all Fathers of the parish both living and deceased. Be sure to pick up a rosary when you come to mass for First Saturday Devotions, and consider staying after mass to pray the Holy Rosary with us. Thank you!

**First Saturday Devotions after the 9am Mass, next one on July 3rd.

JUNE IS THE MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS!

'I will give to Priests the grace to touch the most hardened hearts.' From the Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a powerful devotion. It offers us a unique opportunity to crown our Lord Jesus as King and center of our family's life under God the Father and our Blessed Mother Mary. The portrait of the Sacred Heart which we enthrone in our homes becomes a means by which we can deepen our love of God and enlighten our souls with divine truths.

****Contact us to arrange an enthronement! - Email us at legionofmarysfdsgmail.com

*** PIONEER TOTAL ABSTINENCE ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART INVITATION

The primary aim of the Association is the glory of God through the promotion of sobriety and temperance; its chief means of attaining this aim are prayer and self-sacrifice. Members are inspired by their personal love of Christ

- (a) to be independent of alcohol in order to do good;
- (b) to make reparation for the sins of self-indulgence, including their own sins;
- (c) to win, through prayer and self-sacrifice, grace and help for those who drink excessively and for those who suffer as a result of excessive drinking.

*** Contact us if you are interested in taking the Pioneer total Abstinence of the Sacred Heart Pledge.

Membership: To inquire about active or auxiliary (praying) membership, please email legionofmarysfdsgmail.com and visit our webpage in the SFDS website.

Coming Soon: Hispanic Legion of Mary - If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved or has questions, please contact Maria Byrd at maria.nog.byrd@gmail.com for details.

Pronto: Legion de Maria Hispana - Si usted o alguien que usted conoce está interesado en formar parte o tiene preguntas, por favor contacte a Maria Byrd at maria.nog.byrd@gmail.com por detalles.



Compassion Coupled With God's Grace

By Susan Pace Gilbert

*"When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest in his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil."*

This lyric from the song "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" was written by Edward Mote (1797-1874). It aptly describes our steadfast hope and faith in Christ when we are tossed about in the stormy seas of life. Yet, Christ is there for us, reaching out his hand to save us from drowning in disbelief and stilling the storm around us.

By the grace of God and with the compassionate care from others, many lives were saved during the lengthy COVID19 pandemic. Some of the acts of compassion were publicized by media and others were private gifts of selfless service during serious illness known only to the individual assisted and to God. These acts of care with thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated. I am "speaking" from personal experience, because our son got COVID19 from working his part-time job at Auto Zone and then I got it caring for him.

Friends and family sent nourishing soup, care packages, cards and healing prayers to help us during a lengthy recovery period. We will always remember the love and support we received during a difficult time in our family life. We pray for God's graces to be bestowed upon these people.

Illness of a more serious nature draws us closer to God. I read and prayed a lot, including a book entitled: Nothing Short Of A Miracle - God's Healing Power In Modern Saints, by Patricia Treece. The stories about miraculous healings because of prayers to our Catholic Saints provided daily hope and courageous inspiration. Veneration of individual Saints through novena prayers over nine days brought amazing results in numerous documented cases.

The Spring 2021 Franciscan University of Steubenville Magazine arrived by post, with a lead article entitled: "Asking for Miracles - Experiencing the Gift of Healing", by Emily Stimpson Chapman. This article includes stories about alumnus's own personal healing experiences. These healings are more recent testaments to the power of prayer and God's continual presence in our lives. (This issue should be available to read on-line eventually, because other back issues are.)

We can pray to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for the seriously sick, as follows:

*"Our Loving Mother of Perpetual Help, (Name person) is seriously sick,
May he/she find in each day renewed strength and
a deeper faith and trust in you. Help him/her to
develop a greater awareness of your presence in every area of life.*

*May he/she turn to you in prayer and accept the
love and support that family members and friends so want to give.*

*And Lord thru Mama Mary Our Mother of
Perpetual Help, if it is in the Father's plan, restore
health to this seriously sick person so that he/she
may continue to serve you as a witness to your love
and healing power. AMEN"*

After a lengthy illness and recovery, we decided to take a few days and go away to enjoy a change of scenery, to celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary (and 25 years in friendship). We explored the town of Abingdon, in Southwest Virginia. When biking on a sunny, beautiful day on the Creeper Trail, (so-named because of the train which used to climb the second highest mountain in Virginia), we encountered Christ in Good Samaritans, when one bike got a flat tire. Kind people offered their assistance, reminding us of the goodness in others along the path of life. Once again, we truly appreciated the offers of assistance, especially on our wedding anniversary, when we were further from home.

I offer these personal life experiences as "food for thought". How do we respond to a person in need of assistance - be they known to us as a friend or a family member, or a stranger encountered on the road to Emmaus, when a Good Samaritan comes along? How do we treat others in our daily encounters, even when it is not a worldwide pandemic? Pope Francis would like us to follow the Golden Rule - "Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You."