Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 10, 2023



Parishioners Gregory Treon and Noreen Kenyon receive a special greeting from Pope Francis at the Holy Father's weekly Papal Audience in Vatican city last week. Photo credit: Vatican photographer

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 Education

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 - I.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)

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

<u>Friday</u> - Adoration is held every Friday following the 12noon Mass through the evening and overnight until Saturday morning before the 9am Mass <u>Wednesday</u> 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.

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

<u>Baptism</u>: 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.

<u>Anointing of the Sick</u>: 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.

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 10, 2023

"Prepare the way of the Lord." - Mk 1:3



Christmas and Advent Calendar

Confessions in Advent

Weekdays (except Wednesday) 7-8pm Wednesday - 8-9pm (after Holy Hour)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Monday, December 12

Vespers - 5pm, followed by Pot-Luck Reception

Christmas Eve - Vigil of Christmas

5pm, 5:10pm (overflow Mass - Our Lady of Victory Hall) 8pm, 10:30pm

Christmas Day

Mass Times - 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:15pm 5:30pm 'Orphan Mass'



This Week

	11/10 11001
Sun., Dec. 10	Men's Basketball 8:30, OLVH
Mon., Dec. 11	Knights of Columbus Business Mtg 7pm
	OCIA 7pm, Room 206
Tue. Dec. 12	Vespers 5pm, Church
	Legion of Mary 7pm, Library
	Men's Basketball 8:30, OLVH
Wed., Dec. 13	Catholic Biblical School 9:30am / 6:30pm
	Holy Hour for Miraculous Medal 7pm, Church
	That Man is You 7pm Room 202
Fri., Dec. 15	Women's Prayer Group 7am, Chapel

Masses for the Week

+ deceased	
Sat., Dec. 9	Weekday
9:00 am	+ Robert Hanssen
Sat., Dec. 9	Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent
5:00 pm	+ Daniel Earl
Sun., Dec. 10	2nd Sunday of Advent
7:00 am	+ Edward Brennan
8:30 am	People of the Parish
10:30 am	+ Arno Hott
12:15 pm	The King Family
5:30 pm	+ Eugene and Jean Talbot
Mon., Dec. 11	Advent Weekday
6:30 am	+ Beverly Ann Regan
8:30 am	+ Wayne Gardiner
Tue., Dec. 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
6:30 am	Thomas and Robin King
8:30 am	+ Mercy Zignago
Wed., Dec. 13	Saint Lucy
6:30 am	Chris and Joanne Benthall
8:30 am	Ryan King
Thu., Dec. 14	Saint John of the Cross
6:30 am	Bro. Mary John Blaschik, OCSO
8:30 am	+ Fernando Salcedo
Fri, Dec. 15	Advent Weekday
6:30 am	+ John Veprek
12:00 pm	Isabella Maclane Torrijos
Sat., Dec. 16	Advent Weekday
9:00 am	+ Beatriz Bravo Merlo
Sat., Dec. 16	Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent
5:00 pm	Logan Hertz
Sun., Dec. 17	3rd Sunday of Advent
7:00 am	Anne Parkinson
8:30 am	+ John McCarthy
10:30 am	People of the Parish
12:15 pm	Isabel Pultro
5:30 pm	+James Daly

Knights of Columbus Rosary Program

2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7pm in the Chapel. Next gathering is Monday, December 11. "Prayer can truly change your life. For it turns your attention away from yourself and directs your mind and heart toward the Lord." - Saint John Paul II

Readings for the Week		
Sun:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8	
Mon:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26	
Tue:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	
Wed:	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30	
Thu:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/ Mt 11:11-15	
Fri:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19	
Sat [*]	Sir 48·1-4 9-11/Ps 80·2ac and 3b 15-16 18-	

19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Dear Folks,

Just a note to say we prayed all of you on our recent pilgrimage to Italy. Such a gathering with twenty one other wonderful folks. The travel agent, Dan Callahan, of JMJ Tours, was exceptional as were the delightful Italian guides. It is hard to say what was the outstanding place on the itinerary. We were included in the Papal audience in the indoor facility. The Holy Father greeted all of us but especially two of our pilgrims, one in a wheel chair. Seeing the relic of the True Cross at the church of



Santa Croce was spectacular. The cross seemed much larger than I viewed it the first time during my college days. St. Peter Basilica with tour of the burial site of St. Peter. A visit to St. Paul's burial site was also moving. The Colosseum and Pantheon... with our picture from the live web cam was fun. Clarity on the web cam was minimal because the late night view. Mrs. Diane Taylor was the focal point with her bright yellow jacket.

The walks through Assisi and Florence were breathtaking... both physically and figuratively. They were stunning. To say Mass in the Franciscan Basilica where Francis is buried, to visit the site of St. Clare. And the coup de gras was to visit the church where the body of Carlo Acutis, child saint of the Internet lies in state.

Did I mention the food? I have always said, Purcellville needs to open a good Jewish Deli. Now I add the need for a good Gelato Shop. To die for. Figuratively, of course.

A shout out to the unsung heroes in my absence. Fr. Heisler and the visiting priests from St. Timothy's Rectory in Chantilly. In my time away almost thirty Masses were offered for the folks of St. Francis De Sales Parish. And than add on the hours of Confessions in ordinary time

and the extra time with the CCD students. Well done good priests. We are blessed to have you.

On the home front, I want to thank all involved in the recent Christmas Market this past weekend. We had a parish float in the town Christmas parade on Saturday, see photos page 7! God bless the Knights of Columbus and Women's Council for the preparation for Christmas. The season begins.

Also a shout out to those leading the nightly rosary for Peace in the Ukraine and Conversion of Russia. "God bless Ukraine. God bless America. And, God bless all who join in the rosary each night." SaintFrancisParish.org

I hope to be past my current bout of the Covid Virus. Hope to be back in the Confessional each night at 7pm ... starting Thursday December 15th. The rush is on.

It is nice to be home. There is no place like. Let us pray for one another.

Please Give to the 2023 Annual Parish Catholic Charities Christmas Collection

We are all called to serve the poor, protect the vulnerable, and welcome the newcomer. You can do so with your support of today's Collection. If you forgot to bring a check, you may make a gift in next week's collection by making your check payable to the parish and noting Catholic Charities on the memo line. You may also make an online gift at ccda.net/Christmas, or add this second collection to Parish Giving parishgiving.org



Join the Choir for

Vespers

Tuesday, December 12 at 5pm to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Potluck reception in Our Lady of Victory Hall afterwards

Weekly Collection

In-Pew collection 11/25 & 11/26: 1st collection: \$ 8,599 2nd collection (Debt Reduction): \$ 2,863

In-Pew collection 12/2 & 12/3: 1st collection: \$ 9,854 2nd collection (Christmas Flowers): \$ 2,167

Our thoughts and prayers are with ...

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

The Sick: Dominic Corcoran, Mike O'Brien, Sarah Nolan, Liz Keller; Joanne Harrington, Charles Williams, Patricia Naomi Alvarenga, Joe Graber, Christina Huth, Candace Daly, Melissa Jewel, Peggy Johnson, Frederick Campos, Grace Costello, Daniel Ramirez, Cynthia Ramirez, Silvia Vizcarra, Olga Howard, Diane Shirley, Richard King, Patrick Whipp, Barney Smith, Corinne McHugh, Pam Austrich B.J. Szemborski, Bobby Decker, Alexander McMinn, Maureen Sengpiehl, Jerry Franks, Anthony Gianino, Maria Madigan

The Deceased: Jack Burden, James Lippert, Jack Spisak, Rose Lippert. Rodney Huth, Elaine Marshall, William Stark, Kevin Malone, Betsyanne Black, Roberto Costantino, John Sharockman, Camille Munday, Larry Small, Martin Hamberger, William Maykrantz, St. Francis de Sales Religious Education

As a reminder:

Students in the RE program grades 3-8 will have an opportunity to go to confession during class during Advent through January 8. Our catechists will review the steps to making a good confession during class, it will also be helpful if parents could reinforce the process at home. Pamphlets are available in the Narthex.

We still need substitute catechists! Please contact the Re office if you may be interested in volunteering once or twice a month as a substitute teacher. Not Virtus trained? No problem. We will help you get Virtus trained.

Arrival and Dismissal Reminder: Please be alert in the parking lots and driveway, especially in the evenings.

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." Proverbs 16:3



This week on FORMED:

- The Spirituality of Advent
- That Time Mary Changed History, Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Advent Word Study: Yakhal: "Hope"
 Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

 Download the FORMED app to your phone.

Mark your calendars VBS 2024 will be July 15-19

Religious Education Calendar

WEEK OF DECEMBER 10and 17

Sunday Pre-K - 8th Grades -9-10:15am

RCIT - 11-1:15pm

9th - 12th Grades (Fr. Gould) - 4-5pm

11th-12th Grades (Fr. Heisler) - 4-5pm

Monday <u>K - 8th Grades</u> 5-6:15pm

Catholicism 101 Adult Class - 5-6:15pm

Wed <u>Pre-K-5th</u> - 3:30-4:45pm



Lindsay Glass Director of Youth Ministry 540-338-6381 Lglass@saintfrancisparish.org

High School

SUNDAY YOUTH NIGHT: ALL high schoolers are invited to Youth Nights most Sundays from 6:30-8:00pm in room 213. Deepen your relationship with God, learn more about Jesus, and grow your desire for life-long discipleship with Him. Our next Youth Night will be December 10th. Teens are asked to donate a new pair of matching sweats (size XL) for the veterans at the Martinsburg VA Hospital. On December 17th, we'll celebrate "Gaudete Sunday" with a potluck dinner! Please bring a dinner dish to share. Friends are welcome at all of our Youth events!

SHELTER COOKING & SERVING: Monday, December 11th from 5-6:30pm- Meet in the kitchen to cook for the Loudoun County Homeless Shelter. Let me know if you can make it!

Tuesday, December 12th from 5-7pm- Meet at the Loudoun County Homeless Shelter (or SFDS at 4:30 if you need a ride) to serve dinner to the guests. A Permission Form is required, so let me know if you can make it!

6:30AM MASS: Meet in the front left rows every Tuesday morning during Advent beginning December 5th.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Students in grades 8-12 and their families are invited to lay wreaths at Antietam National Cemetery in Sharpsburg, MD on December 16th, National Wreaths Across America Day. Meet us there or drive on your own. We'll depart SFDS at 11:00am for the 12:00pm ceremony. Please let me know if you'd like to attend and if you need transportation! Permission Form is required if attending without a parent.

MOUNT2000: This powerful Eucharistic Retreat will be held at Mount St. Mary's University February 2-4th. Registration is OPEN and occurs through the Youth Office. Read more about it at mount2000.com, and let me know if you are interested!

COMMUNICATION High schoolers and parents, email me to receive weekly email communication and go to https://remind.com/join/a4d636 or text @a4d636 to 81010 for text reminders and event updates.



Sunday, December 17th

6:30-8pm in the gym Spread the word and bring a friend!

Potluck Dinner

Please bring a dish to share! Enjoy food, games, fellowship, and Jesus!

"Sweats for Vets"

Donate a new pair of matching sweats (XL/zip-up) for the veterans at the Martinsburg VA Hospital.

St. Francis Council 11136 News

DECEMBER MEMBERS BUSINESS

MEETING The next council Members
Business Meeting will be on Monday, 11
December in the Knights Hall at 7:30 pm. All
members of the council are welcome to attend.



ROSARY PROGRAM Come join the Knights in praying the Rosary in the small chapel on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7 pm. Next Rosary will be Monday, 11 December. Everyone and anyone is welcome to pray the Rosary with the Knights!

SHARE SUNDAY The December Share Sunday bag distribution is this weekend after the Sunday Masses, the food collection will be next weekend, 09 - 10 December following the Masses.

COATS FOR KIDS - see right

SHARE SUNDAY BLUE BAG DISTRIBUTION: This weekend is the Share Sunday Food Collection, following the Sunday Masses.

Interested in becoming a Knight? All Catholic men 18 years of age or older are eligible to become a Knight, and it is easier than ever to submit an application for membership - go to kofc.org/join and with just a few entries you will be a member of the Knights of Columbus!

Richard Vale, Grand Knight St. Francis Council #11136. <u>Knights11136@gmail.com</u> <u>www.kofc11136.org</u>



The Knights of Columbus will be selling religious-themed Christmas cards in the narthex until we are sold out. Buy early for best selection. Cash or check only, please.

Please Consider a Christmas Gift to Those in Need

The Advent Giving Tree is Here! Please take a tag from the Giving Tree and return the NEW, UNWRAPPED item with tag attached under the tree BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17! 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



lic Charities, the Loudoun Abused Women's shelter, the Leesburg Homeless Shelter, Mobile Hope and needy families with our parish and community, as well as the Veteran's Hospital in Martinsburg. Thank you in advance for your generosity to those in need! If you have any questions please contact Erin Bucci at buccierin@comcast.net

The Children's Choir for Christmas We are accepting new members for the Christmas

We are accepting new members for the Christmas Eve, 5pm Mass. All students Grades 2-8 are invited to join. Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays in December from 3:30 - 4:30 pm, and a dress rehearsal on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 10am. All rehearsals are in the church. Please contact the music director, Michael Galdo m.galdo@saintfrancisparish.org if you are interested in singing with the Children's Choir for Christmas.

COATS FOR KIDS DRIVE

Your Knights of Columbus Council's "Coats for Kids" drive is underway and will complete on January 12th, 2024. The Council has been advised that this year the LCPS has seen an increase of families asking for assistance with obtaining coats from the school parent liaisons. There are four main ways to donate:

- 1. Place any new or cleaned gently used coats in the donation box in the Narthex;
- 2. Purchase a box of 12 Adult / Teen sized coats for \$304.24 via check;
- 3. Purchase a box of 12 Children sized coats for \$247.38 via check, and/or
- 4. Make a donation of any amount via check. For methods 2 4 above make the check payable to Knights of Columbus Council 11136 with "Coats for Kids" in the memo line. Place the check in the Knights Box in the hallway or drop it off in the Parish Office. Thank you for the support!

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Would you like to assist in Spiritual Works of Mercy like welcoming new parishioners and visiting the sick and homebound? We need your help! Men and women 18 and older are invited to join us Tuesdays from 7–8:30pm in the Parish Center library where we are nourished and prepared through prayer and spiritual reading to assist Our Blessed Mother in these good works. Please join us! For more info, email legionof-marysfds@gmail.com,

SWEATS FOR WETS

Absolutely no veteran in our country should be without proper clothing. Please help our **Sweats for Vets** effort by donating NEW sweatshirts or sweatpants to a needy veteran. Donations will be collected in the narthex or parish hall through the end of December. All donations will be distributed to veterans at the VA Hospital in Martinsburg WV. For more information, contact Team McRoberts at bmcroberts13@gmail.com.

Homeless Ministry

"When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your broth-



ers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Luke 14:12)

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

Who we serve:

- Missionary Sisters of Charity in Anacostia -Serve between 60 and 100 meals.
 - o We prepare and serve meals every 2nd Saturday of the month. All donated items are due to Knights Hall the preceding Thursday by 2pm.
 - o Items due, January 11th; meal delivered and served, January 13th
- 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 Wednes day by 5pm.
 - o Items due, December 22nd; meal delivered and served, December 23rd.

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

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

- Fran Beebe <u>franbeebe7@gmail.com</u>
- Carie Losinski: <u>skigators@me.com</u>

Holy Father Prayer Intentions for December

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Women's Council Corner

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

Next Planning Meeting - Monday, December 18th 6:30pm Rosary in the Chapel I 7pm Meeting in the

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

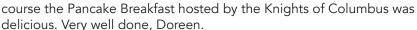
Please check our website for more details on each event. Also visit our website for a list of useful spiritual references.saintfrancisparish.org/womens-council New to the parish or not getting our emails? Email us at womenscouncil.sfds@gmail.com to be added to our directory.





Thank You!
The Women's Council would like to thank St. Nicholas for making an appearance at the Christmas Market and visiting the young children in the Religious Education classes. The children were in awe, and chatted to him about Christmas, and how very good they were!

We would also like to express our appreciation and gratitude to Doreen Garcia for organizing the magnificent Christmas Market along with it's whimsical and magical Christmas Trees! The event was fantastic and enjoyed by all. The vendors were wonderful, the decorations absolutely breathtaking and of















Several families led by the Jenkins
Family had a great time in representing
St. Francis de Sales at the 2023
Christmas Parade in Purcellville. The
weather was beautiful and everyone
enjoyed being townspeople and
shepherds in "O Little Town of
Bethlehem"! We were proud to be one
of only a couple of churches representing
the true reason for the season.





Give a Gift for Life

Please give a Gift for Life this season to help Gabriel Project financially support a mother's maternity care. An expectant mother in need wrote: "I did not know how I was going to bring this child into the world, but now I feel at peace and am so grateful for your support and the support of my 'Angel'. Thank you so much for your kindness to me and my family." For more information and/or to donate: www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife



Pilgrim Virgin Traveling Statue

We offer Pilgrim Virgin visitations to our parishioners for a weeklong visit. The primary purpose of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue home family visitation is to aid families in responding to the requests made

by the Blessed Mary during her apparitions at Fatima. The essence of her request is threefold: Return to God, Make reparation for sins, and to pray the rosary for Peace. Pick up the statue in the narthex after 9am Mass on Saturday and return in the following Saturday before the 9am Mass 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! Visit www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4CABAA2BA7FB6-pilgrim1#/ or contact j.rees@saintfrancis parish.org to sign up for your week.

Looking for a way to help support Women who Choose Life?

Birthright of Loudoun, a crisis pregnancy center in Leesburg, maintains an Amazon Gift Registry with a wish list of reasonably priced items most wanted by new moms in need. Access the registry at www.amazon.com/registries/custom/JIJ2X48CEMTI/guest-view or by going to Amazon.com, "Find a Gift", "Custom Gift List" and entering "Birthright of Loudoun". If you prefer, cash donations can be sent to: Birthright of Loudoun, 16 Royal St, SE, Leesburg, VA 20175

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

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