

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Wednesday, February 22



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
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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 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.

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 19, 2023

"I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." - Mt 5:44

Parishioners are invited to return their palm branches from last Palm Sunday and place in the marked container in the narthex. Otherwise, blessed palms should be properly disposed of in your homes through burning, burying or breaking the palm into small pieces.

ASHWEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 22
BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT

Mass Schedule

6:30am, 8:30am, 12noon
5pm & 7pm



Ash Wednesday and **Good Friday** are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. Every person 14 years of age or older must **abstain** from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. 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.

Confessions during Lent - 7pm each weeknight, with exception of Wednesday. Wednesdays have Holy Hour at 7pm, Confessions at 8pm. Please note: no Holy Hour on Ash Wednesday

Stations of the Cross - Fridays @ 7:30pm (Confessions will follow Stations as needed)

This Week

Mon. Feb. 20	<u>Mom's Group Gym Playdate</u> , 9:30am OLVH <u>Women's Council Planning Mtg.</u> 7pm, Library <u>No Catholicism 101</u> <u>No RCIA</u>
Tue., Feb. 21	<u>Shrove Tuesday Spaghetti Dinner</u> 5pm
Wed., Feb. 22	<u>SoulStitch</u> 12pm-2pm, Knights Hall <u>No TMIY</u>
Fri., Feb. 24	<u>Women's Prayer Group</u> 7am, Chapel <u>Mom's Group</u> 9:30am, Rms. 106 & 107 OLVH
Sat., Feb. 25	<u>TMIY</u> 6:30am, OLVH <u>Compassionate Heart of Mary</u> 10am Library

Masses for the Week

+ deceased

Sat., Feb. 18

9:00 am

Sat., Feb. 18

5:00 pm

Sun., Feb. 19

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:15 pm

5:30 pm

Mon., Feb. 20

6:30 am

8:30 am

Tue., Feb. 21

6:30 am

8:30 am

Wed., Feb. 22

6:30 am

8:30 am

12:00 noon

5:00 pm

7:00 pm

Thu., Feb. 23

6:30 am

8:30 am

Fri., Feb. 24

6:30 am

12:00 pm

Sat., Feb. 25

9:00 am

Sat., Feb. 25

5:00 pm

Sun., Feb. 26

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:15 pm

5:30 pm

Weekday

+ Cynthia Ann Dixon

Vigil: 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time

+ Wanda Brown-Sloyer

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lina Cahan

Nan Gingras

Glenn and Joanna Willard

+ Maureen McCarley

People of the Parish

Weekday

+ Chris Maimone

Richard Shields

Weekday

+ Mary Kay Hajek

+ Jim Albanese

Ash Wednesday

+ Donald and Ruth Heying

+ Eugene Swedo

Katie Magin

+ Alexander Picard

+ Kim Obeid

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

+ Brian Adams

Maralan O'Neil

Friday after Ash Wednesday

+ Fred Shank

+ Richard Austin

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

+ Vivian Kennedy Kole

Vigil: 1st Sunday of Lent

Sophia Livelsberger

1st Sunday of Lent

People of the Parish

Jean Stanley

+ Cathy Mitchell

+ Salvatore Biscardi

Chris Gutshall

The Church Admin Office and Office of Religious Education will be closed Monday, February 20 in observance of Presidents Day.

Readings for the Week

Sun:	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 (8a)/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48
Mon:	Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29
Tue:	Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37
Wed:	Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thu:	Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25
Fri:	Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
Sat:	Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

Dear Folks,

Starting tonight (Sunday February 19, 2023), the parish will celebrate the annual Forty Hours Devotions in anticipation of the coming of Lent. Fr. William Kuchinsky, administrator of St. Peter's Church in Harpers Ferry will direct the devotions. The devotions start tonight at 7:00 PM and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will carry to 7:00 Devotions on Tuesday night. Needless to say, there will be 7:00 Devotions on Monday night. A sign-up for adoration will be in the narthex. I am taking the 1:00 AM slot, because I can't take an easy hour. I invite the young adults to join me, come one and all.



On Tuesday the Knights of Columbus are slated to host the Shrove Tuesday supper at 5:00 PM. All are welcome. A final fabulous feast... until the St. Patrick's Dinner. But I digress.

The story of Forty Hours has a very interesting twist. It seems somewhere around a thousand years ago the folks in the Walled city of Milan, Italy, were being threatened by an opposing army of those seeking to sack the city. The identity of the culprits have always been obscured by the multiple options. Were they Islamic or some collective of vandals. Not really important at this time.

Back to the story. The pious believers inside the walls decided to place the Blessed Sacrament on the church altar for a period of forty hours allowing prayers for protection from the outside invaders. The number of hours represented the number of hours Christ was in the tomb before His resurrection. The devotion passed among the parishes of Milan until the folks looked over the walls and found the oppositional force had gone home. It seems some form of cholera or plague had befallen the camp and all ambitions of sacking the city were abandoned.

In the current socio/political climate none of us is necessarily worried about outside invaders from Leesburg or Berryville. The invading elements are within us reaching into our hearts and souls by way of the world, the flesh, and the devil. None of us should feel safe and secure in our ignorance or indifference for the maladies that pass by our doors each day. The Forty Hours Devotions mean something. And our prayers for the safety and security of our hearts and souls mean something. Let us pray for one another.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. The Mass schedule is: 6:30, 8:30, Noon, 5:00 and 7:00 PM. Ashes will be offered at each Mass. Come one come all.

The Lenten Confession schedule, in addition to the current weekly schedule, is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 7:00 PM. The Wednesday schedule is 8:00, following the weekly holy hour. Let all the big fish come home to our small little pond in Purcellville. Typical, I will give anyone ten dollars for a sin I have not heard before...

So, what are the possible sins that might haunt our past lives. The Lord, in two gospels, offers a list. In Matthew the sins are: evil thoughts, murder, adultery, unchastity, theft, false witness, blasphemy. Mark adds a few extra: evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. Folly? Now that is an interesting one. In the scriptures it refers to a shameless fool who is not likely to show up for the "Box."

At this time I would like to extend the gratitude of all the parish for those who through the years have offered the Lenten Fish Fries. It is also a time of sadness to announce the Lenten Fish Fries are coming to end as no interest was offered to take over the longstanding program. Perhaps at another time in another generation we will revive the Fish Fries. For now we will return to the Lenten Soup Suppers.

May the hearts and souls of all the parishioners find a great nourishment in the Lenten programs.

Many thanks to Tim and Joyce Sparbanie, and Joe Schray. The Sparbanies started this parish tradition in 2011 and ran it for seven years. Joe picked it up in 2018 until last year. They were always supported by an incredible staff of volunteers. God bless those who did so much to enhance the life and love of the parish.

Collegiate Question: A tough one from Paris. What is the type of cage that helps to protect your electronic devices from an EMP.

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



Gabriel Michael

son of Michael and Monica Imbrenda

Lincoln Joie

son of Jeremy and Kristin Sundheimer

Declan Walther

son of Timothee and Ciara Chapie

Orlaith Therese

daughter of Timothee and Ciara Chapie

*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 Pultrio, 1Lt Matthew Ryan, LCpl Frankie Thyson, 1LT Jared Willard, PFC Joseph Jovene, A1C Joshua Wilk, 2LT Alexandra Goodnow

The Sick: Dominic Corcoran, Mary Jane Arens, 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

The Deceased: Ann Forrest, Nick Spadaccini, Pasquale Spera, Susan Keelor, Bob Zurschmeide, Jean Pelkey, Jeanne Sweet, Michael Craig, Edward Konchan, Patrick Gaine, Judith Miller, Jean Young, Colette Baine, Ellen Sullivan, Nicholas Misiti, Timotha Rainey, Mary Kay Madigan Ledue, Joan Jasinski, Heather Miles, Salome Torrijos



St. Francis de Sales Religious Education

First Penance

Saturday, February 25, 10 am – 12 noon
Assigned times slots have been emailed and are posted on the website

PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO WAIT IN OUR WARM BUILDING DURING CLASSTIME:

Please feel free to come in from the cold and enjoy a warm beverage during class time. Hot coffee and tea will be available for all parents in the library. You are welcome to stay while your child is in class.

REMINDER ABOUT PICK-UP PROCEDURE: Parents, please remember that we prefer that you pick up your child from their classroom at the end of the session. The safety of the children, especially on Monday evenings when the parking lot is dark and very busy, is a priority. Children are not permitted to walk across the parking lot to meet a parent. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

REMINDER FOR CONFIRMATION II STUDENTS

Confirmation Interviews are starting this week! February 21 through March 14. Please arrive 5 minutes early to your appointment!

Confirmation II Retreat will be here soon. All students being confirmed this year are expected to attend. Get ready for a night of contemplation and forming bonds with friends. Bonfire, pizza, and games!!! **Saturday, April 15, 3-10pm.** More info will be coming soon.

LOST AND FOUND

We have acquired a large collection of hoodies, jackets, hats, sneakers, pants, umbrellas, books and a lunchbox. They are laid out in the lobby of our building, please take a look and see if something belongs to you. All items will be taken to the Hospice Thrift Shop by March 1st if not claimed. Thanks!

FORMED Resources for Lent

Did you know our parish has a FORMED account offered for FREE to our parishioners? If it has been a while since you visited the FORMED website, you need to check out all the new material and videos. Begin the Lenten season with the Lenten Daily Reflections with Dr. Tim Gray, The Chosen, or Lent with Brother Francis. There is something for everyone. Check it out!

Religious Education Calendar

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19 - NO CLASSES



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

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. Friends are welcome! Our next meetings scheduled are Sunday, February 19 and March 5 from 6:30-8:00pm.



WorkCamp is June 17-23, 2023 in Frederick County, VA. If you are an adult interested in assisting as a "contractor" or would like to learn about how you can help our mission, reach out to Shahin Uddin (familyuddin@gmail.com) ASAP! Our next WorkCamp Formation meeting is February 26th from 6:30-8:00pm in the gym. Those

registered or planning to register for WorkCamp are required to attend. Come bring your gift to the altar!

SPRING RETREAT: Spring Retreat is officially scheduled for March 24-26 at the Northern Virginia 4-H Center in Front Royal, VA. More details to come!

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP: Are you a student heading off to college who is passionate about sharing the faith? The Michael Burke Sr. Memorial Scholarship aims to encourage and empower young adults to be active witnesses of the Catholic faith. This will be done through the execution of a project, developed by the awarded recipients. Awardees will receive \$5000 per school year (\$2500 per semester) to help offset costs of tuition. For more information go to www.youthapostles.org/scholarship Applications are due March 31st, 2023.

REMIND APP: Sign up to receive text message reminders and updates. Go to <https://remind.com/join/a4d636> or text @a4d636 to 81010.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM: [stfdsyouthministry](https://www.instagram.com/stfdsyouthministry)

Middle School

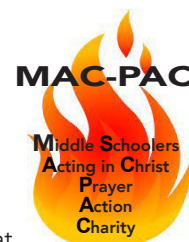
BASH: BASH (the middle school version of RALLY) is the largest gathering of Catholic middle school students in the diocese each year! It's a celebration of our Catholic faith and love of the Lord. Expect music, games, inspirational speakers, confession, and Sunday Vigil Mass with the Bishop! All middle schoolers are welcome! Saturday, April 22 from 3:30-8:30pm. \$25 per participant includes entertainment, dinner, snacks and a t-shirt. Let me know if you would like to register!

Sunday, February 19th 6:30-8:00pm in the gym

"Friends"

We'll play games, have discussion, enjoy dinner, hear about upcoming events, and talk about what a real friend is.

Dinner will be provided.
Spread the word and bring a friend!
For more info, contact Dan and Lindsay Glass at
l.glass@saintfrancisparish.org



St. Francis Council 11136 News



THANK YOU: Thank you to all those who volunteered their time last weekend to support both the annual Car Raffle envelope stuffing event Saturday and the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday. Both events were very successful. Thank you to those this weekend who are collecting the Share Sunday food donations.

COUNCIL DUES MAILED: 2023 annual dues bills were mailed to all eligible members. Please look for the bill in your mail and please promptly provide your bill payment to the Council Financial Secretary.

VIRTUAL FRATERNAL BENEFITS NIGHT: We will participate in a state level virtual Fraternal Benefits Night the evening of 23 February. More details to follow. To sign-up please email GK Jay Hallam at gksf11136@gmail.com

FEBRUARY OFFICER MEETING: We will hold our monthly officer planning meeting on Monday 27 Feb at 7:30 pm in the Knights Hall.

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARTY PLANNING MEETING: We will hold a St Patrick's Day Party meeting on Tuesday 28 Feb at 7:00 pm room TBA to continue planning for the 18 March event.

COUNCIL SUPPORT TO YOUTH WORK CAMP: The Council is supporting the Youth Work Camp in several ways. If you wish to volunteer to support please contact the GK Jay Hallam at gksf11136@gmail.com for more information.

It's easier than ever to join the KofC. For more information go to <http://www.kofc.org/join>

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

Special Event- Community Mass for Special Needs

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church and the **Joy of Life Apostolate** in coordination with the Knights of Columbus Council will be hosting a Mass for People with Special Needs on Sat., March 4 at the 5pm Mass. People with special needs resulting from physical, emotional, mental, or cognitive conditions are all around us, whether at school, at work, or in our families. It can be challenging for these important members of our community to participate in church services due to physical and social barriers, or even family member anxiety.

As such, the **Joy of Life Apostolate** and the Knights of Columbus Council at St. Francis have designated the March 4, 5pm Mass for people with special needs and their families with a special reception to follow. Everyone is welcome to support our brothers and sisters. Please email info@joyoflife.org if you can attend, the number of people attending with you and if you need any special assistance so we can plan accordingly.

Annual Men's Conference 2023 Saturday, March 4, 8:30am-2:30pm

"My Soul Rejoices in the Lord"

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Herndon. Join Catholic men from around the Diocese for a day of prayer, fellowship and reflection. Keynotes include: Fr. Thomas Petri, OP, President of the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception and prolific writer; and Tim Staples, Convert Apologist at Catholic Answers and author of Behold Your Mother. Sign-in begins at 7:30am with confessions, coffee and pastries. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Burbidge at 11:15am. \$65 until February 1st; \$80 after. Register at familylife@arlingtondiocese.org/men.

Annual Women's Conference Saturday, March 11, 8:30am-2:30pm

"Love Rejoices in Truth"

Join women from around the diocese for an opportunity to be inspired, to connect with likeminded women and to raise our voices together in prayer. Come and hear Nikki Kingsley's remarkable conversion story. Hear how she, a devout Muslim, was guided by the voice of the Blessed Virgin Mary that would eventually lead her to Jesus and into the Catholic Church. Sign-in begins at 7:30am with confession, coffee and pastries. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Burbidge at 11:15am St. Joseph Catholic Church, Herndon. \$65 until February 1st; \$80 after For inquiries, please call (703) 841-2550 or email familylife@arlingtondiocese.org/women

Holy Father Prayer Intentions for February

For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

SFDS MOM'S GROUP

Are you a mom with young kids looking to connect with other women in the parish? You are invited to join the Saint Francis de Sales Moms Group! We meet regularly for playdates, confession, and to study the Catholic faith together. Email Elise Daniel at eliseamyr@gmail.com to get on the email list or for more info.

Homeless Ministry

"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



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

• **The Parish-Wide Blessing Bag Event is Sunday, February 26th, after the 8:30 and 10:30am masses. Please check your emails to purchase items and to help build these little care packages.**

• **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, March 9th; meal delivered and served, March 11th.

• **Loudoun Homeless Shelter** – Numbers vary; Last month we served over 80 people and ran out of food!

- 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, February 22; meal delivered and served, Feb. 23rd.

Join us in works of charity by signing up to purchase items, make casseroles, 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 franbeebe7@gmail.com
- Carie Losinski: skigators@me.com
- Suzanne Robinson suzannedrobinson@gmail.com



Compassionate Heart of Mary

Bereavement Support Group
Saturday, February 25
@ 10am in the Library

If you are grieving a spouse, family member, or friend, whether recently or some time ago, or you know someone who is grieving, please call us for more info, Laura Burgess at 703-727-7117.

Women's Council Corner

"And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful." Colossians 3:14-15



Next planning meeting-Mon, February 20th

6:30pm Rosary in the chapel | 7pm meeting in the Library.
All women of the parish are welcome to join to help create and plan our community events. Please join us as we could use your help!

Shrove Tuesday Dinner - Tue., Feb 21st

5pm in the Knight's Hall
All parishioners are invited to the Shrove Tuesday Italian Cuisine hosted by the Women's Council. Join us for food & fellowship before lent. Fill your belly like it's your last as Ash Wednesday begins your fast! RSVP Online. Volunteer if you can!



Next social- Garden Chit Chat & Seed Share - Monday, March 6th

7pm Room 207 Parish Education Center
Getting ready to plan your spring garden? Come share your expert knowledge with others just learning the basics. If you have any seeds or gardening items to trade, bring them for our seed share. Bring a dish made with your favorite item from the garden (mashed potatoes, arugula salad, apple pie, etc.) and we will provide the drinks.

Please check our website for more details on each event.
saintfrancisparish.org/womens-council All women of the parish are members of the Women's Council.
No dues or membership forms are required.
New to the parish or not getting our emails? Contact us:
womenscouncil.sfds@gmail.com

GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL

A Classical school, rooted in the Catholic Tradition and serving children PK through 8th grade in Purcellville. Our 2023-24 Admissions Season has begun, we are currently accepting applications for the 2023-2024 academic year. If you would like to learn more about the school, please join us for an open house:

• Tuesday, February 21, 3:30 pm
Please email our Admissions Director, Cathy Struder at admissions@goodshepherdschoolva.com, if you plan on attending.

Did you notice something at St. Francis de Sales that needs repair or maintenance? Our staff is hard at work maintaining our beautiful property. If you would like to make a suggestion, please direct all repairs and maintenance requests to our Facilities Manager, Tim McGinn at t.mcginns@saintfrancisparish.org or give him a call at the parish office (540) 338-6381, x133.

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School - July 10-14
EGYPT Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace

Watch your emails this week for the
opportunity to sign up as a volunteer.
Registration for campers will begin May 1.

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

Birthing 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/JJJ2X48CEMTI/guest-view or by going to Amazon.com, "Find a Gift", "Custom Gift List" and entering "Birthing of Loudoun".

If you prefer, cash donations can be sent to:
Birthing of Loudoun, 16 Royal St, SE, Leesburg, VA 20175

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@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 web-page at www.saintfrancisparish.org/prayer-requests/ and fill out the form and send the request on-line.

**Day of Prayer and Healing After Abortion
Retreat for Women**

After Abortion Retreat: A Day of Prayer and Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be on Saturday, March 25, 2023. This group healing event is held in a private and peaceful setting, based on the Entering Canaan model. There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: (703) 841-2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org.

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

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES

Bible Studies are held in Room 113 and are facilitated by Mrs. Jeanne Lamana. To register for the bible studies, please go to saintfrancisparish.org/upcoming-bible-studies/

Divine Mercy Part Two - starting March 1

8 sessions Wednesday 7-8:30 pm; and Friday 10-11:30am
The Divine Mercy study will examine aspects of historical and political events, biblical prophecies, lives of Saints, and the timing of Pope John Paul II's declaration that "now is the time of God's Mercy". We will draw from Scripture, Church teachings, and the Diary of St. Faustina to reveal what is at the heart of Divine Mercy. God offers us the overflowing love from the Holy Trinity. We will come to a better understanding of why God has to be Trinitarian and that mercy is the highest form of love. We will analyze the deeper meaning of the Divine Mercy image and learn how sin interrupts our own "image and likeness" to God. Divine Mercy's relevance to our daily life will become clear as we find new ways to more fully respond to the Merciful love of God. All of our relationships will benefit from this discovery as we learn to accept it and imitate it.

Consoling the Heart of Jesus - starting Feb. 27

10 sessions. Monday 10-11:30 am & Tuesday* 7-8:30 pm
(*Tuesday women only)

How often do you ask God for something? Have you ever wondered if there was a way to give back to Him more than thanks for our many blessings. All of us can offer something significant back directly to Jesus for all he has given to us. Then, over time, watch how His grace increases and our soul begins to overflow with God's very essence as He empties himself out upon us. The result? Love, goodness, mercy and joy all increase as does our spiritual growth and union with the Body of Christ thru the Eucharist. The study, "Consoling the Heart of Jesus", gives us an awareness of God's infinite mercy and how we can give Him joy in return. We will learn the way to console His Sacred Heart by accepting His love, learning to love Him back and trusting in Him completely. The study also focuses on what to do with the suffering we all encounter, as well as the pain we experience in family members who have drifted from the faith.

Help Parish Families with a Home-Cooked Meal

Are you available to occasionally bring a home-cooked meal to a family after the birth of a new baby, during medical recovery, or bereavement? Do you know of any expecting mothers or parishioners who could use a meal train? Please contact Kathryn Pultro at kathryn.pultro@gmail.com to sign up for the meal train email list or to set up a meal train for an individual or family in the parish.

Help for Troubled Marriages

Marriage Help -- Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. For confidential information about how to register for the program beginning on the weekend of February 17. Please call 703.351.7211 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org.

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