

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JULY 16, 2023



Parish Staff

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

Contact Info

Parish Office - 540-338-6381
office email - l.sheldon@saintfrancisparish.org
Religious Education Office - 540-338-4497
RE email - RE@saintfrancisparish.org
In case of an emergency - 540-338-6440
37730 St. Francis Court, Purcellville, VA 20132
www.SaintFrancisParish.org

Welcome!

Please register and become part of our parish community. You may fill out a registration form in the parish office during business hours.

Office Hours - M-F 8:30am-4pm
(Office closed between 12noon and 1:15pm daily)

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

Sunday Mass

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

Daily Mass

Monday through Thursday - 6:30am and 8:30am
Friday - 6:30am and 12noon
Saturday - 9am

Benediction/Adoration

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

Sacraments

Confessions:

Friday 11am
Saturday 8am and 3:30pm; Wednesday 8pm;
One-half hour before Mass on Sunday.
Anytime by appointment. Confessions are held in the Church.

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

Baptism: Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1:30pm. Baptism class is the Friday before the 3rd Sunday of the month 7pm. Call the office for details.

Anointing of the Sick: We are privileged to bring Holy Communion and administer the Holy Anointing to the sick and homebound upon request. Please call the office to let us know your needs.

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 16, 2023

"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." Mt 13:23

Summer Series on the Patio

Come meet and talk with our seminarian, John Fimmuchime MONDAYS from 7-8 pm

Room 107 in the Religious Education Building

July 17 - **Various themes of the Acts of the Apostles**

July 24 - **The Acts of the Apostles - The Church and Sacraments**

July 31- **The Acts of the Apostles - Christianity Today**

Please join us on the patio this summer from 7-9 pm for talks with Father John Heisler - BRING A CHAIR FOR THE PATIO!

(Knights Hall in event of rain)

July 18 – **Living Liturgically**

July 25 – **The fruits of Lectio Divina Prayer**

August 1 – **"A cup of understanding, a barrel of love, and an ocean of patience"** Teachings of St. Francis de Sales

August 8 – **St Elizabeth of the Trinity** – lessons from a new saint

August 15 – Location TBD - **"Our Life, Our Sweetness, and Our Hope"** Relationship with the Blessed Mother

Gift shop is open on Sunday, July 23 after the 8:30, 10:30, and 12:15 masses. Come shop with us!

This Week

Sun., July 16	<u>Men's Basketball</u> 8:30, OLVH
	<u>Knights of Columbus Business Mtg.</u> 7:30pm
Mon., July 17	<u>Women's Council Business Mtg.</u> 7pm, Library
	<u>Seminarian Talk</u> 7pm, Room 107
Tue., July 18	<u>Men's Basketball</u> 8:30, OLVH
	<u>Fr. Heisler Talk</u> 7pm, patio
Wed., July 19	<u>SoulStitch</u> 9:30am, Knights Hall
	<u>Holy Hour for Miraculous Medal</u> 7pm, Church
Fri., July 21	<u>Women's Prayer Group</u> 7am, Chapel

Masses for the Week

+ deceased

Sat., July 15

9:00 am

Sat., July 15

5:00 pm

Sun., July 16

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:15 pm

5:30 pm

Mon., July 17

6:30 am

8:30 am

Tue., July 18

6:30 am

8:30 am

Wed., July 19

6:30 am

8:30 am

Thu., July 20

6:30 am

8:30 am

Fri., July 21

6:30 am

12:00 noon

Sat., July 22

9:00 am

Sat., July 22

5:00 pm

Sun., July 23

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:15 pm

5:30 pm

Saint Bonaventure

Stephen Hertz

Vigil: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gregory Brown

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

People of the Parish

Leo Beatty

Mattias Caro

Laura Burgess

Katy Ryland

Weekday

+ Zack Miller

Ryan Sweeney

Weekday

Corky and Mary Jo Corcoran

Vincent Rene Torrijos

Weekday

+ Rev. Michael Dobbins

+ Jack Burden

Weekday

Jennifer Hale

Mary Ferguson

Weekday

+ Francesca DiBenedetto

+ John Alai

Saint Mary Magdalene

+ John Bischoff, Jr.

Vigil: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Kevin and Kelly Sweeney

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rika Stanek

People of the Parish

+ Patrick Manno

Maralan O'Neil

Chris Goodwin

Readings for the Week

Sun:	Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:1, 11, 12-13, 14 (Luke 8:8)/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9
Mon:	Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Mt 10:34—11:1
Tue:	Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 11:20-24
Wed:	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/Mt 11:25-27
Thu:	Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27/Mt 11:28-30
Fri:	Ex 11:10—12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18/Mt 12:1-8
Sat:	Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Dear Folks,

I must say the composition of a weekly bulletin letter runs the gamut between a duty and a delight... but never a drudgery. Oh surely, not unlike the homiletic presentations on a Sunday morning where one wonders if he wasted God's time, his time, or those of the poor faithful... undeparted, of course. Today marks one of the great delights.

Last week I attended the funeral of one of my seminary classmates, Fr. Martin Cioppi. He was a wonderful priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and iconic figure of inspiration to all whom he served as evident with the attendance of the Archbishop, five bishops (including our own, Bishop Michael Burbidge), 120 priests and packed house of the laity. God bless the great priest who leaves behind eight of original sixteen classmates serving as priests.

One such, classmate, Fr. Jerry Wild, who may have been the top academic, mentioned to me that his secretary reads our parish letters and enjoys the stories on the church in the South, notably around the time of the Civil War, aka, "War of Northern Aggression." Just kidding!!! He informed me that he is an enthusiast for the Civil War History, and himself planned to be buried in the cemetery in Gettysburg. A place where his great grandfather fought in the War between the States. Of course, typical for this foolish pastor, I babbled some list of trivial pursuits on the matter. Only than realizing, he knew everything I was going to say. God bless the wonderful classmates that were, and are, such a great inspiration to all of us.

On the Homefront this weekend I want to acknowledge the recent wedding anniversary of one of our young couples... Grover ("Corky") and Mary Jo Corcoran... seventy years married. With nine kids, thirty four grandkids, and thirty five... and growing in the generation beyond they are nothing short of a dynasty in these here parts of Loudoun County. They were married at St. Louis Church in Groveton, Virginia. The old church still stands on the corner of Popkins Lane and Route One, South of Alexandria. The little wooden church, adorned in white, had so many people in attendance for Mass that many folks were left outside for the services. The altar boy would reach outside the church window ringing the altar bells to announce the consecration of the bread and wine, now Body and Blood of Christ. Boy, those were the days of giants. Like the Corcoran family the parish that once hosted Mt. Vernon has expanded, and has been divided three times with wonderful communities of the Faithful. Alexandria was the debarkation point for the Corcorans who would move on to California where Corky was employed by United Airlines. Ultimately the Corcorans, not unlike the Grapes of Wrath migrated back to Virginia.

Allow a cute story. On the great escape from California the family stopped in Utah... to go to Confession. They must have seemed the Catholic version of Brigham Young coming over the hills of Utah. Anyway the priest in the Box had a speaker to assist his poor hearing. The great grandmother jumped in first and announced for every one in the church to hear, "I have been married to the same man for over fifty years..." All in the C-family fled from the confession line... safeguarding the unknown sins and secrets of the great family. God love the four generations of Corcorans. The help to make the parish a great home for all of us.



Saving the best for last. We want to thank Sheila Cowling and Cheryl Rider for their great work in setting up the annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the parish. The program offered much to enhance the hearts and souls of the kids and their families. The theme on Joseph, in Egypt. I especially liked the chariot. The program wants makes you want to be a kid again. God bless the adults and high school kids and middle school who assisted in the VBS. You all did a great job and have been a great blessing to the parish. Well done.

We have a set date for the Pilgrimage to Rome, **Sunday, November 26 to Tuesday, December 5.** Still waiting for details as to cost and itinerary. Watch this space!!

Collegiate Question: Three great miracles happened during World War I. The first was the Christmas Truce of 1914 where the troops sang Christmas carols to each other. The second was the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917. What was the third? It impacted four different armies and happened on November 14, 1915? Good hunting.



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

Michael Kevin Malone

d. July 1, 2023

Brigitte Laffitte

d. July 8, 2023

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, Brooke Cheney. Richard King, Patrick Whipp, Barney Smith, Corinne McHugh
The Deceased: Jean Pelkey, Jeanne Sweet, Judith Miller, Jean Young, Colette Baine, Ellen Sullivan, Nicholas Misiti, Timotha Rainey, Mary Kay Madigan Ledue, Joan Jasinski, Heather Miles, Salome Torrijos, Jack Burden, James Lippert, Jack Spisak, Rose Lippert. Rodney Huth, Elaine Marshall, William Stark, Kevin Malone

Diane Taylor, DRE
d.taylor@saintfrancisparish.org



St. Francis de Sales Religious Education

Summer Office Hours - M-TH 11am-3:30pm

We need YOU!

Catechists, Classroom Assistants, Hall Monitors, and Substitutes, for the 2023-'24 school year.

We are expanding the RE program and need more adult catechists! Please prayerfully consider joining our religious education team. Student classroom assistants are also needed.

NOW OPEN!

Registration for Religious Education

Sunday, 9 to 10:15 am

(Mass begins at 10:30, for families who would like to attend)
Preschool through 8th grade

11am-12:15pm RCIT 4 to 5pm

High school classes:
Fr. Gould-Theology of the Body
Fr. Heisler- Philosophy

Monday, 5 to 6:15 pm

Kindergarten through 8th, RCIC
Adult class with Fr. Heisler-Catholicism 101

Wednesday, 3:30 to 4:45pm

Preschool through 5th grade
5 to 6:15 pm
Grades 6-8 (pending enrollment)

Saturday, 10am-12pm

SPRED (ages 6-12)
13 sessions

Remember that every year of religious education is important! Please make sure to register early. All children are expected to successfully complete their current grade-level curriculum before registering for the upcoming school year.

Sacrament preparation is a two-year process. All children preparing for sacraments: Communion 1 & 2 (1st and 2nd grade), Confirmation 1 & 2 (7th and 8th grade), RCIC and RCIT are asked to attend classes in person. The homeschooling option is only available under extreme circumstances, with the approval of the Director of Religious Education and Father Gould.



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 from 6:30-8pm in room 213. Deepen your relationship with God, learn more about Jesus, and grow your desire for life-long discipleship with Him. Newcomers and friends are always welcome! Our next Youth Night is Sunday, July 16th.



Rising 9th-12 graders are invited to work on crews at local job sites, engage with residents and other high schoolers. Then come back to SFDS for games, food, music, Mass, Adoration, and fellowship! God Squad is July 19, 8:30am-6pm, July 20, 8:30am-6pm, and July 21, 8:30am-9pm. Registration forms are on the

parish homepage saintfrancisparish.org. Return form and payment to Youth or Parish

All high schoolers (rising 9th-12th) and families in the Diocese are invited to Diocesan Kings Dominion Day on July 26th! Meet at SFDS at 8am. Tickets are a reduced rate of \$38 and include entrance into Soak City Waterpark! Email Carie Losinski skigators@icloud.com to purchase tickets. If under 18 and unaccompanied by a parent, complete the Permission Form (on our webpage) and return with cash or check to the Youth or Parish Office by July 25th.



Middle School



Sunday, July 16th
6:30-8pm in the gym
Spread the word and bring a friend!
Dinner will be provided.

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For rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders  
MAC-PAC's 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



**RISING 6th-8th GRADERS!** 3-9pm each day. Sign-up forms are at [saintfrancisparish.org](http://saintfrancisparish.org) under Youth Ministry. Return Registration form, Permission form, and payment to the Youth or Parish Office by 7/17 to get a t-shirt.

## St. Francis Council 11136 News



**JULY OFFICERS PLANNING MEETING.** The next council Officers Planning Meeting will be on Monday 24 July 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, 24 July.

**PARKING AT LOUDOUN COUNTY FAIR.** We are supporting the Loudoun County Fair again this year with the Parking Detail on Friday 28 July and Saturday 29 July. The sign-up genius link is [www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4BA4A92FA6FA7-loudoun1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4BA4A92FA6FA7-loudoun1). This is a significant fund raiser for our council; fundraising events like this provide the resources needed for the council's many activities supporting charitable causes, Faith building activities, and community events. Please come sign up for a shift; family members are welcome to support as well. Br Kenny Jenkins is our lead, please contact him with any questions ([kenny.jenkins@onedayfarm.com](mailto:kenny.jenkins@onedayfarm.com)). Thank you for your thoughtful consideration to support this fundraising opportunity.

### Recent Council Activities:

- **Share Sunday:** 1605 pounds of food were delivered to the Leesburg Food Pantry - thank you for your generous giving!
- **Blood Drive:** 31 Units collected - thank you as well for the gift of life!
- **Battle of the Golden Helmet Softball Tournament:** Knights from the St Francis Council supported this Special Olympics Virginia - Loudoun County softball contest for children and adults with intellectual disabilities

**Did You Know?** In 1904 Knights and their families attended ceremonies at The Catholic University of America (CUA) in Washington D.C., in which the Order presented the school with a grant to establish a KofC chair of American history. From 1909 to 1913, Knights raised \$500,000 to establish a permanent endowment for CUA. In 1910, Notre Dame Council 1477 of CUA was the Order's first college council, launching college councils that today includes 244 schools worldwide.

**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 <https://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. [Knights11136@gmail.com](mailto:Knights11136@gmail.com);  
[www.kofc11136.org](http://www.kofc11136.org)

## 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/JJJ2X48CEMTI/guest-view](http://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/JJJ2X48CEMTI/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

## NEED HELP? GOD SQUAD

The God Squad wants to help parishioners with small projects in and around the home, specifically during their summer camp July 19-21st. Jobs may include but are not limited to yard work, cleaning, moving, organizing, painting, and small construction projects. We have dedicated adults to guide the teens through these jobs. Please reach out to Lindsay Glass so we can help you out! [l.glass@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:l.glass@saintfrancisparish.org)

### *Pastoral Resources for Those Suffering After Miscarriage, Infertility & Infant Loss*

For those who are suffering the cross of infertility and miscarriage, you are not alone. Visit the diocesan website for a list of resources to support you and your family during your most difficult days. [www.arlingtondiocese.org/find-support/miscarriage-and-infant-loss/](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/find-support/miscarriage-and-infant-loss/)

### **After Abortion Retreats: A Day of Prayer & Healing**

for women who have experienced abortion will be on Saturday, July 29. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and in Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model (2 separate retreats in 1 location). 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](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org).

Project Rachel Post Abortion  
Healing Ministry:  
888-456-HOPE or visit:  
[www.helpafterabortion.org](http://www.helpafterabortion.org).

Gabriel Project Pregnancy Assistance Ministry:  
866-444-3553 or  
[info@helpforpregnantwomen.org](mailto:info@helpforpregnantwomen.org)

## Homeless Ministry

*"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,\* and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." Matthew 11:28-30*



- **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.

- Items due August 10th;  
meal delivered and served August 12th.

- **Loudoun Homeless Shelter – Serve between 40 and 80 meals.**

- o We prepare and serve meals every 4th Thursday of the month. All items are due to the Knights Hall the preceding Wednesday by 5pm.

- Items due July 26th;  
meal delivered and served July 27th.

*"Keep the joy of loving God in your heart and share this joy with all you meet especially your family." – Mother Teresa*

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

## OKTOBERFEST PLANNING MEETING

**Tuesday, July 18th, 7pm in Room 113**

**ALL ARE INVITED to help plan for this festive event.**

**Please come and share your ideas.**

### Holy Father Prayer Intentions for July

#### For a Eucharistic life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

## Women's Council Corner

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17



### Funeral Reception Coordinator Wanted

We have a tremendous team to handle this very special task on short notice, but we need a team leader. If you could help we would be very appreciative! If interested, please email [womenscouncil.sfds@gmail.com](mailto:womenscouncil.sfds@gmail.com) so we can add you to our team!

### Next Planning Meeting - Monday, July 17th

6:30pm Rosary in the Chapel | 7pm Meeting in the Library  
All women are invited to our business meeting where we plan our spectacular socials & special events and discuss current news. We welcome your ideas.



### Next Social Event - Escape Room Adventure

Monday, August 7th, 7pm

Escape Room Loco, Leesburg, VA

Feeling trapped? Try your hand at an escape room with us! Work as a team with the ladies of St. Francis to escape a room by solving a series of realistic brainteasers in 60 mins or less. Check our website for more information. RSVP details coming soon.

Please check our website for more details on each event.

[saintfrancisparrish.org/womens-council](http://saintfrancisparrish.org/womens-council)

New to the parish or not getting our emails?

Email us at [womenscouncil.sfds@gmail.com](mailto:womenscouncil.sfds@gmail.com) to be added to our directory.



The Mother Teresa's Garden is seeking volunteers to help us with donating, volunteering & building a new garden fence. Do you have access to fence posts, wire or the ability to install it? Or are you able to help us financially with a donation to get these items? We need you!

Do you have extra produce from your garden? Bring it to mass! We are collecting fresh produce in a marked cooler in the Knights Hall on Sunday's only. We accept fruits and veggies that do not need to be immediately put in the fridge (no lettuce.)

More information: [saintfrancisparrish.org/ministry/mother-teresas-garden/](http://saintfrancisparrish.org/ministry/mother-teresas-garden/)

*Make us worthy, Lord, to serve those people throughout the world who live & die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands, this day, their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give them peace and joy. Amen. ~Mother Teresa*





## Another Totally Great Catholic VBS

This year's vacation bible school we welcomed 229 children who joined the faith filled fun by participating in bible-based activities as we learned about Joseph from prison to palace. Daily "lessons" through the drama program taught how Joseph was betrayed by his brothers when they sold him into slavery to Egypt. Campers learned how he gained favor with

the Pharaoh by interpreting the Pharaoh's dreams and foretelling of the coming famine and leading Egypt through rough times. Joseph forgave his brothers their betrayal when they came seeking help from the famine. At last, he received his father and brothers and took care of them.

Focused themes were introduced each morning by our talented emcees and the large group of campers enjoyed learning songs and dances. Church Time was filled with Catholic devotionals, lessons, scavenger hunts, and Adoration. Clever snacks and crafts were created to match the theme of the day. Fun games were played outside, and groups talked about God and posted their God Sightings on a pyramid.

We finished up the week with noon Mass on Friday and a hotdog cookout on the patio with ice cream for all.

The VBS mission theme this year was "Comfort Bags for Kids", supporting the local Mobile Hope Program. Many items for collected for youth to age 24.

We are very grateful to ALL of our youth, adult volunteers (150 strong!) and custodial staff who worked to make each day a success and tons of fun for the kids. Most of our volunteers are returning pros, including many middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults, all giving up a week of their summer for our little campers. We welcomed new recruits as well. We truly could not have had such a successful week without them!

As always, we thank the **Knights of Columbus** for their generous financial support, providing funding to offset the cost of the t-shirts for the huge number of volunteers and campers.

Once again, **Sheila Cowling and Cheryl Rider** transformed our gym into an ancient world, this time Egypt and Pharaoh's palace! They do this every year! We were happy to present them with a commemorative brick in recognition and appreciation of their nearly 24 years of service to the children of St. Francis de Sales.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Upcoming Retreat At San Damiano Spiritual Life Center In Whitepost, VA Seniors Silent Retreat

Isn't it a challenge, living in the midst of our 'throwaway culture,' for those who are 'full of years,' to understand our place in the world -- and in our Church? Join Fr. John Riley, Spiritual Director at San Damiano, from **Friday-Sunday, July 21-23**, as we search the Scriptures, pray with Jesus in the Gospels, and consider the Crosses and the Consolations of Old Age. Retreat cost is \$285, and financial assistance may be available.

For further info or to register for this retreat, please contact Deacon Mark Maines at [mark.maines@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:mark.maines@arlingtondiocese.org).

