

# Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY APRIL 27, 2025

## Parish Staff

Reverend James Gould, Pastor  
Reverend Joseph Kenna, Parochial Vicar  
Mr. Larry Hammel, Deacon  
Mrs. Leslie Sheldon, Office Manager  
Mrs. Laura Burgess, Business Manager  
Mrs. Diane Taylor, DRE - Director of Religious Education  
Mrs. Lea Anne Kennedy, CRE, Communications  
Ms. Caitlin Orender, Director of Youth Ministry  
Mr. Michael Galdo, Director of Music  
Mr. Richard Smith, Facilities Manager  
Mr. Jerry Jones, Custodian  
Mrs. Maria Alvarenga, Custodian  
Mr. Antonio Alvarenga, Custodian

## Contact Info

Admin and Religious Education Office- 540-338-6381  
Office email - l.sheldon@saintfrancisparish.org  
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  
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



## 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 home-bound upon request. Please call the office to let us know your needs.

Second Sunday of Easter  
APRIL 27, 2025

“Blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have believed”  
- John 20:19-31



PARISH WEBSITE  
[www.saintfrancisparish.org](http://www.saintfrancisparish.org)

LIVE STREAM

[www.youtube.com/@Saintfrancisparishpurcellville](http://www.youtube.com/@Saintfrancisparishpurcellville)

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Week of April 12, 13, 2025

Pew/Mail \$ 14,700.00

Parish Giving \$ 15,303.50

**Total \$30,003.50**

Parish Debt reduction \$4,323.00



ALTAR FLOWER  
DEDICATION

Would you like to donate an  
altar flower arrangement in  
someone's memory or to  
honor a loved one?

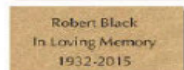
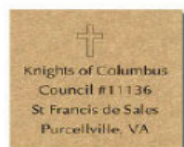
Contact Laura Burgess,  
(540) 338-6381, x104  
[l.burgess@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:l.burgess@saintfrancisparish.org)

**Write your Dedication on a Brick**

You have an opportunity to place your permanent

dedication etched on a brick on the church property in front of the parish center. Think of honoring someone for an anniversary or a birthday or to acknowledge a Sacrament.

[saintfrancisparish.org/commemorative-brick-campaign](http://saintfrancisparish.org/commemorative-brick-campaign)



## Masses for the Week

+ deceased

Sat., April 26

9:00 am

5:00 pm

Sun., April 27

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:15 pm

5:30 pm

Mon., April 28

6:30 am

8:30 am

Tue., April 29

6:30 am

8:30 am

Wed., April 30

6:30 am

8:30 am

Thur., May 1

6:30 am

8:30 am

Fri., May 2

6:30 am

12:00 pm

Sat., May 3

9:00 am

5:00 pm

Sun., May 4

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:15 pm

5:30 pm

**Saturday within the Octave of Easter**

Hayden Pultro

+Theresa Panko

**Second Sunday of Easter**

+Arthur Callahan

David Livelsberger

Chong Yi

People of the Parish

Jacob Speegle

**Easter Weekday**

+William McAndrew

+Barbara Webster

**Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church**

+Corky Corcoan

Elowen Kropat

**Easter Wednesday**

Joseph Pultro

David and Vicki LeGrys

**Thursday within the Octave of Easter**

Joseph Schlenz

+Alice Spadaccini

**Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

Aileen Corcoran

In thanksgiving for prayers answered

**Saint Philip and James, Apostles**

Family of Corky Corcoran

+Dr. Paul Schweisthal

**Second Sunday of Easter**

First Responders

+Ann Wien

Josie McHenry

Scott Bradley

+Cecile Dion

*Alleluia!*

## Readings for the Week

Sun.: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

Mon: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8

Tues: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15

Wed: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21

Thurs: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36

Fri: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Sat.: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

Dear Folks,

Holy Monday marked the death of poor Pope Francis. He was 88. Let us pray for him each day as we gather with our families and friends. And let us pray for the Holy Father's family and friends.

The pope's funeral took place yesterday at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. I am sure the ceremony can be found on YouTube. The conclave of voting cardinals will follow in the following weeks. I have been informed the conclave vote will start fifteen days after the death of Pope Francis. He, with great devotion to the Blessed Mother, has asked that his burial take place at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, in Rome. More on that to come later. I have been asked to post the recent letter of Bishop Burbidge to all of you. Let us pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis and for one another.



I join with Catholics and all people of goodwill across the Diocese of Arlington, the nation and the world in prayer as we mourn the death of Pope Francis. Over the course of his long life, the Holy Father served as a witness to the risen Christ, our source of hope for eternal happiness.

The Holy Father's pontificate was marked by his desire that all may draw nearer to the heart of Jesus and bear witness to his unconditional love. Pope Francis called us to live the joy of the Gospel and be a Church of missionary disciples who go out and accompany those on the peripheries of society. The Holy Father urged everyone to work together in a spirit of fraternal solidarity and dialogue to overcome conflicts and injustices, to care for our common home, and to build bridges of peace and reconciliation. In what has already become an enduring image of his pontificate, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis emerged alone on the steps of Saint Peter's Basilica to direct the gaze of the world to our Eucharistic Lord for an extraordinary moment of global Adoration and blessing. The Holy Father reminded us: "God turns everything to our good."

In the course of his Apostolic Journeys and in meetings with political and religious leaders, as well as people from all walks of life, Pope Francis constantly drew attention to the infinite dignity of every human person, especially the unborn, the poor, the migrant, the innocent, and those most vulnerable, observing that they can easily be cast aside by a "throwaway culture." In that light, the Holy Father spoke often of the parable of the Good Samaritan, reminding us that we are all brothers and sisters to one another and that our words and actions should reflect the Lord's closeness, compassion, and protection.

Providentially, Pope Francis gave us this Jubilee Year of Hope. Pope Francis recently observed that we are all pilgrims of hope, journeying together towards "the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called." It is this very Christian hope that makes possible our trust in God, our Heavenly Father, as he opens the doors of eternal life to Pope Francis. We unite now in prayer for our departed Holy Father, trusting that our loving God will grant him the reward of his labors and welcome him into the kingdom of heaven. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May our Holy Father Pope Francis rest in peace.

April 21, 2025

My gratitude to all who made this a glorious Easter. A letter will follow in next week's bulletin. All of you did a great job. I was very proud of every one of you. More to come. For now, let us mourn the loss of our dear Pope. For many of us we pray for the seventh pope who has shepherded the Church in our life time. He now sees what we hope to find. Again, let us pray for one another.

Our thoughts and prayers are with . . .



**Our Military Members:**

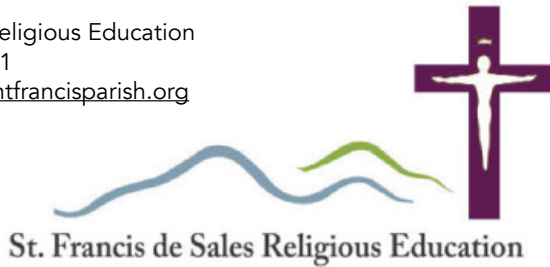
SGT Peter Audi, PFC Stephen G. Beard, LTC Andrew Cahan, Mary Elizabeth Castaneda, SGT Ernesto G. Castro, LCpl Paul Cotter, LT Scott Cypher, CPT Ryan Patrick Godfrey, 1LT Alexandra Goodnow, Captain Ryan Patrick Grady, 2LT Patrick Gutierrez, PO2 Robin Hunt, Christopher Largent (Army), MAJ Jamie (Jovene) Liddle, PFC Joseph Jovene, MAJ Vincent Jovene, USAF Mary Catherine Kuegler, CPT Rachel (Jovene) Malletts, LTC Chuck Marshall, SFC Tim Marshall, Blaise Mason (Army), Sam A. Mason (Army), 1st LT Caleb Magowan, PFC Brian McWilliams, 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, Lcpl John Owen Patterson, PFC Jorge Pedroza, Gy Sgt Jose O. Ruiz Pedroza, Army John Pileulsley, CPT Brendan Printup, Joe Pultro, CWO Jason Runner, 1LT Matthew Ryan, LT Michael Tappe, LCpl Frankie Thyson, Shahin Uddin (Army), SSgt Marnie Wickman, A1C Joshua Wilk, 1LT Jared Willard, Col. Theodore White, Andrew Yevoli (Air Force), LT Colin Conahue; Seaman Ryan Knowles, COL Therese Kreutzberg, 2nd LT Seth R. McRoberts; LT Colin Donohue; WO Paul Adam; 2L Matthew Owen; LT Alek Bissell, PVT Teddy Bratrud

**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, Frederick Campos, Grace Costello, Daniel Ramirez, Cynthia Ramirez, Silvia Vizcarra, Olga Howard, Diane Shirley, Patrick Whipp, Barney Smith, Corinne McHugh, Pam Austrich, Bobby Decker, Maureen Sengpiehl, Jerry Franks, Anthony Gianino, Maria Madigan, Martha Ruiz, Judith Livingston; Jose Arias, William and Susan De Loziedr, Adam DeWitt, Neda Carpenter, Lisa Salicinas, Rick Hill

**The Deceased:** Valerie Danet, Ruth McHenry, Brenda Vinton, Thomas Bradford, Richard King, Dr. Joel Madrid, Mary Anna Strov, Mary Louise Oliver, Mary Regina Meaney, Dr. Paul Schweisthal, G.E Corky Corcoran II, Barbara Curran, Alexander McMinn, Felisa Hight, Norma Jean Early; Charles Appel, Daniel Curtis, Lorenzo Osorio Rosa



Diane Taylor  
Director of Religious Education  
540-338-6381  
[d.taylor@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:d.taylor@saintfrancisparish.org)



## St. Francis de Sales Religious Education

Dear Families,

There are just a handful of classes left in this academic year. Please help our youngsters finish strong in their faith formation. The final day of class is Sunday, May 4, Monday, May 5, and Wednesday, May 7. Please join me in extending gratitude to our catechists and their assistants for sharing their talents in our program.

God Bless,  
Diane Taylor

### Confirmation Day!!

The Holy Spirit poured Himself out generously upon 79 of our Confirmand this past Thursday evening. We are especially grateful for our Catechists and their assistants: Kerry Pascarella, Beth Creighton, Heidi Miles, Laura Mayers, Beth Ann and Billy McRoberts, Nan Gingras, and Chris Bongiovanni, who generously gave of their time and talents to prepare our Confirmand to receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thank you, parents, and sponsors, of the Confirmand. You indeed are witnesses to the power of Christ and the Church, preparing these young men and women to love and live their faith with their whole heart.

We were happy to have Bishop Michael Burbidge to Saint Francis de Sales to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation along with Father Gould and Father Kenna. We are thankful to the ushers, musicians, liturgical ministers, and the 7th grade families who hosted the receptions. It was a beautiful evening!

First Holy Communion: Saturday, May 10 @10:30AM and 1:30PM.

We have a boy's suit, navy blue, size 7 slim. Contact the RE office if you are interested.

**May Crowning, Sunday, May 18 @ 12:15PM Mass.** All children who recently received their first Holy Communion are encouraged to attend and wear their FHC outfits.

**Special Religious Development (SPRED) Program** serves children ages 6-16 with developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome, autism, and learning disabilities. Participants do not use a textbook and the ability to read is not necessary.

During each session, the participants, or 'friends,' share in catechesis and joyful activities designed to lead them closer to their best friend, Jesus. Sacramental instruction is provided and is based on readiness of the individual. The SPRED program needs more adult helpers for the 2025-2026 school year. The class meets 12 times per year. Please consider becoming a SPRED volunteer helper. Contact the RE office for more information and to become VIRTUS certified.

SPRED Mass End of Year Celebration with Bishop Burbidge on Sunday, May 18th at 9:30 am Mass at All Saints in Manassas

### *Religious Education Calendar*

#### **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Sunday	<u>Pre-K - 8th Grades, RCIT</u> -9-10:15am <u>9th - 12th Grades</u> (Fr. Gould) - 4-5pm
Monday	<u>K - 8th Grades</u> 5-6:15pm
Wed	<u>1st Grade-5th Grade</u> - 3:30-4:45pm

**Registration for 2025-2026 School Year:** Registration for the next school year will begin at the end of May. All children are expected to successfully complete their current grade-level curriculum before registering for the upcoming school year.

Regarding registration for the first year of the Confirmation program (usually in the 7th grade): All students must successfully complete the 6th grade curriculum assessments (available on the parish website), know the basic parts of the Bible and how to look up Bible passages, and know basic prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, Apostles Creed) before beginning Confirmation preparation. Please contact Diane Taylor, Director of Religious Education, with questions about preparation for Confirmation.

**Become a Catechist:** If you are looking for a fruitful way to get involved in parish life, please join the religious education team. You do not have to be a Catholic scholar to teach, and your understanding of the Catholic faith will grow even more. Consider becoming a catechist, catechist assistant, hall monitor, or substitute teacher. Our program cannot run without our wonderful volunteers! Catechists with children registered in the RE program get free tuition. Please visit the RE office to get more information.

“To be perfectly holy, we must be perfectly humble.” ~St. Francis de Sales



**Our parish has a FORMED subscription! It's FREE!**

### The Boy from Milan

You may have heard of him, the sneaker-wearing, computer-loving “gamer saint” of our time. But beyond the headlines and hashtags, the real story of Carlo is something deeper, something the world desperately needs to hear. Known for his deep love of God, devotion to the Eucharist, and quiet acts of charity, Carlo's life was a testament to everyday holiness.

**The Wild Goose In this Easter season**, join Fr. Dave Pivonka in the Wild Goose, a 14-part series on living a life inspired by and with the Holy Spirit.

**Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley** Renowned speaker and author Fr. Michael Gaitley tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope St. John Paul II.

Need help getting set up with FORMED? See the instructions on the parish website.

**VIRTUS:** All adults (18 yrs and older) working/volunteering with the youth must be VIRTUS trained. This includes Work Camp, Religious Education Catechists and substitutes, hall monitors, retreats, CHRSM, MACPAC, Youth Group, Trail Life, American Heritage Girls, and any ministry/general volunteers working with the youth.

We will be hosting a VIRTUS training on Thursday, May 22 @ 6PM in Our Lady of Victory Hall. Registration is required. Contact Lea Anne Kennedy in the RE office for information.



STAY CONNECTED

Join Remind:  
Text @sfdsysg to 81010

<https://saintfrancisparish.org/teen-faith-youth-group/>

@sfdsyouthministry

Caitlin Orender  
Director of Youth Ministry  
540-338-6381 x103  
c.orender@saintfrancisparish.org

DIocese OF ARLINGTON PRESENTS

# BASH

**SATURDAY, MAY 10**

SFDS Contact: Caitlin Orender, Director of Youth Ministry at c.orender@saintfrancisparish.org

AN EXCITING DAY FOR MORE THAN A THOUSAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO GATHER WITH BISHOP BURBIDGE TO CELEBRATE THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH!

- FUN WITH FRIENDS!
- INFLATABLE GAMES
- VIOL MASS
- PIZZA & ICE CREAM
- MESSAGE FROM OSCAR RIVERA

**\$15** per person

Registration form in the narthex

## SPRING SAVE THE DATES



<b>4</b> MAY	<b>MONTHLY MEETING</b> 6:30-8:00PM OUR LADY OF VICTORY HALL (GYM)
<b>10</b> MAY	<b>ARLINGTON DIOCESE BASH</b> 2-10PM BISHOP O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL
<b>8</b> JUNE	<b>MONTHLY MEETING</b> 6:30-8:00PM KNIGHTS HALL (CHURCH BASEMENT)
<b>4</b> MAY	<b>YOUTH NIGHT</b> 6:30-8:00 PM THE UPPER ROOM BRING A FRIEND
<b>12</b> JUNE	<b>BACCALAUREATE</b> GRADUATE CELEBRATION 7 PM, RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

No Youth Night April 27 (Work Camp meeting)

## VISIT THE WORK CAMP CREW AT THE PANCAKE BREAKFAST MAY 4TH



## Congratulations to...



## THE NEWLY CONFIRMED!

As you are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, may you continue to be a witness to Christ through faith and love.

## St. Francis Council 11136 News



**CONGRATULATIONS**– Your SFDS Knights would like to congratulate all the teens that received the Sacrament of Confirmation this past week. May God continue to Bless each and every one of you.

**NOTABLE KNIGHT – BLESSED MICHAEL McGIVNEY:** In October 1881, a young parish priest named Michael McGivney gathered a small group of men from his parish in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT. His purpose was to form a fraternal organization that would "promote the principles of unity and charity so that members would gain strength to bestow charity on each other". In a country that was then hostile to Catholics, the organization would help protect and provide for the families of its members while keeping them strongly connected to the Catholic faith. This group of men would become the Knights of Columbus which is now over 2 million strong. The genius of Fr. McGivney and the men he brought together to found the order's mission to protect the member's faith, to protect the financial viability of Catholic families in the event of the death of a breadwinner, and to help make the case that faithful Catholics could also be good American citizens. By 1909, the Knights of Columbus had expanded domestically and became established in Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, and Cuba.

**KNIGHTS ALERT!! BE ADVISED** – Your dues are critical to the SFDS knights continuing to serve our SFDS Priests, Parish, and Parish Community. You can pay your dues one of four ways: (1) Bring your dues to a knight's meeting; (2) mail your dues to the knight's P.O. box; (3) drop your dues in the knight's mailbox by the stairwell leading to knight's hall; or (4) via ZELLE.

**YOU CAN BECOME A KNIGHT** - The SFDS Knights have many wonderful, faithful, and inspiring programs; there's bound to be something that would appeal to our Parish Catholic Men. If you are interested in finding out more about the Knights and our programs, please contact Grand Knight Michael Carducci (gksf11136@gmail.com). To become a Knight, contact either Grand Knight Michael Carducci or Brother Knight Richard Jacob (jakeman58@aol.com). All Catholic men 18 years of age or older are eligible to become a Knight, and it is easier than ever - go to <https://kofc.org/join> or scan the QR code below and with just a few entries you will be a member of the Knights of Columbus!

**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. Everyone and anyone is welcome to pray the Rosary with the Knights! To quote Father Gould, "Let us pray for one another" -and- as we say, "let us pray with one another."

Michael Carducci, Grand Knight  
St Francis Council # 11136,  
[gksf11136@gmail.com](mailto:gksf11136@gmail.com); [www.kofc11136.org](http://www.kofc11136.org)



### Volunteers Needed for the St. Francis Homeschool Ministry (CHSRM)

CHSRM is a ministry of St. Francis that supports homeschool families of our parish, diocese and local community. CHSRM meets Tuesdays-Thursdays in the Parish Education Center from August through May. We are in need of volunteers to greet families at our welcome desk, assist our teachers in the classroom and to serve as hall monitors, for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. We are reaching out to our parish community to ask for your help. If you enjoy children, social interaction and serving your parish, you will love being part of CHSRM.

Please see the note below from our beloved and long time volunteer BJ Szemborski:

*I was retired and bored. I asked Fr. Escalante if he knew of any volunteer opportunities in the parish and he suggested I check with the new parish homeschooling ministry, CHSRM. Volunteering as a greeter every week for CHSRM has literally changed my life. The students and their parents have brought me new friendships, laughter and best of all, a chance to evangelize our beautiful Faith.*

Your wisdom and dedication are invaluable assets to our homeschool ministry and we would love to have you join us in making a difference. If you have some time to give and would like to make a positive impact, please consider volunteering! For more information or to sign up, please contact Amy Grady at [sfchrsm@gmail.com](mailto:sfchrsm@gmail.com). Your involvement would be greatly appreciated! Thank you for your support!

## FATHERS RAISING SAINTS

PREPARING OUR KIDS TO BATTLE SECULARISM

### TOPIC: VOCATIONS

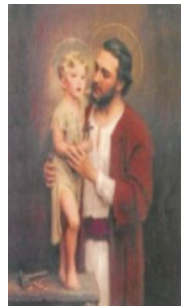
#### SUPPORTING OUR CHILDRENS VOCATIONAL JOURNEY

**WHAT:** Join our panel discussion with local Parish Priests, Deacons, Sisters, and Consecrated to discuss how we can support our children discovering their vocation.

**WHO:** All Parish Families

**WHEN:** May 2nd 7:30 PM

**WHERE:** SFDS - Knights Hall



*"A good vocation is simply a firm and constant will in which the person who is called must serve God in the way and in the places to which almighty God has called him." St. Francis de Sales*

Sponsored by your SFDS Knights of Columbus, however you do not need to be a Knight to attend. To sign up to be on our emailing list about monthly events respond to: [knights11136@gmail.com](mailto:knights11136@gmail.com)



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025

### Event Volunteers

Come to our next planning meeting on Tuesday, May 6th. 7:00pm Room 113  
We are in need of a few Volunteer Planner Leads to help us plan the next incredible Oktoberfest. Join our fun-loving committee in planning some of the events. It is a wonderful feeling to see the results of months of planning end in an amazing celebration enjoyed by our parishioners. Please come and offer your time, talent and ideas. We look forward to meeting you.

### Fundraising Volunteers

**Are you a savvy fundraiser? If you are, we need you!**

Join the Oktoberfest Fundraising Committee and show off your skills.

Do you have contacts in the local business community?  
Do you know retail merchants that could help us with our silent auction?

**Oktoberfest is the St. Francis de Sales Parish Picnic but we also want to raise some funds to pay down the parish debt.**

All proceeds from the Silent Auction and the Pie & Cake Silent Auction will do that. 50% of the Cash Raffle will go to pay down the debt as well.

Help us make it a great fundraiser this October!

**E-mail Megan Hamberger at [mmhamberger@gmail.com](mailto:mmhamberger@gmail.com) to join the Oktoberfest Fundraising Committee.**



WINE & WISDOM IS BACK BEGINNING IN MAY!

The Women's Council of St. Francis de Sales cordially invites you to come and enjoy an evening of wonderful fellowship, great wine, and enlightening speakers every third Thursday of the month from May to August. Doors open at 4:30pm to socialize and purchase your food and beverages. Speakers begin at 5:30/5:45 pm. We close out the Vineyard at 7pm. Bluemont Vineyard Harvest Room (Harvest Room donated by Bluemont Vineyard) 18755 Foggy Bottom Road, Bluemont, VA 20135

**May 15 - Grace Gets Better with Age:** Embracing the beauty of midlife through faith, surrender, and second chances - Maria Morera Johnson  
Like a fine wine, your story only gets richer with time. Join Maria for an evening of wit, wisdom, and grace as she shares how God writes beautiful second acts. Through laughter, real talk, and a reminder that God saves the best for last, we'll explore how your second act might just be your most beautiful yet.

Maria is an award-winning author, speaker and digital missionary. She inspires women to embrace faith, boldness and joy in midlife and beyond through her talks, podcast and books, including her latest A Beautiful Second Act: Saints and Soul Sisters Who Taught Me to Age with Grace, My Badass Book of Saints, Super Girls and Halos, and Our Lady of Charity. Maria will bring books to purchase.

**June 19** - Therese Lipovsky  
**July 17** - Sofia Cuddeback  
**August 21** - TBA

Women of St. Francis de Sales

**"Grace Gets Better With Age"**  
with Maria Morera Johnson

**Thursday, May 15th 4:30-7pm**  
Bluemont Vineyard, Bluemont Virginia

*"Like a fine wine, your story only gets richer with time."*

**O Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us!**

**Women of St. Francis de Sales**  
**Kentucky Derby Bingo & Elections**

**Monday, May 5th @ 7pm**  
Corcoran Vineyards and Cidery  
Waterford, VA  
RSVP by May 2nd

We've got your number!  
Join us for some bingo, and meet your new executive team!

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS**

Please check our website for more details on each event. Also visit our website for a list of useful spiritual references.  
[saintfrancispriah.org/womens-council](http://saintfrancispriah.org/womens-council)

**Next Planning Meeting**  
**Monday, April 28th**, 6:30pm, Parish Education Center, 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. Join us and Fr. Gould for the Rosary for Ukraine in the Church after the meeting.

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.



## Homeless Ministry

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



### • 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 **MAY 8**; meal delivered and served **MAY 10**

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

- Fran Beebe [franbeebe7@gmail.com](mailto:franbeebe7@gmail.com)
- Carie Losinski: [skigators@me.com](mailto:skigators@me.com)



## Mother Teresa's Garden

It's getting warmer outside, time to think about our Mother Teresa Garden! Thank you for all your hard work in making the garden so successful last year! This year we will be utilizing the rest of the planters, installing an irrigation system and putting up a Mother Teresa sign!

### GROUP VOLUNTEER

**Trellis:** We need volunteers to work with Woodgrove Capstone Project students do design and build trellises in the trellis garden.

**Flowers:** Flowers to be planted in the Prayer Garden Easter flowers from Mass can be planted in addition to summer flowers.

**Irrigation:** Constructed as an Eagle Project, assisted by Woodgrove Capstone Project students, supervised by Vern Conaway from View of Heaven Farm.

Thank you for all you help. We look forward to another big harvest this year!

Bountiful Blessings,

Mary Ann Winner and Beth Creighton

To be added to the email list, or for more information about the garden, please contact Mary Ann or Beth at [mother.theresas.garden@gmail.com](mailto:mother.theresas.garden@gmail.com)

### Holy Father Prayer Intentions for APRIL

#### For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 14-18 ~ 9am-12noon



Youth volunteer opportunities have been filled  
Contact [L.kennedy@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:L.kennedy@saintfrancisparish.org) to get on waitlist.

*We need adult volunteers!*

To Volunteer, go to [saintfrancisparish.org](http://saintfrancisparish.org) and click on the Babylon logo



Registration for campers will begin May 1

Inova Blood Center Services

### St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church Blood Drive

**Sunday, May 11, 2025**  
8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Knights of Columbus Hall  
37730 St. Francis Ct., Purcellville, VA

**Contact**  
Mark Furman  
[furmanma@outlook.com](mailto:furmanma@outlook.com)

**Donate and receive a Heroes supporting Heroes t-shirt\*.**





Photo ID required. Allow one hour for your donation.  
\*While supplies last. Sizes may vary. Must complete screening process to receive giveaway.



**Book your appointment today!**  
Visit <https://bit.ly/SFDS0511>  
Call 1.866.256.6372, use code 3026

inova@inova.org



### YOUNG @ HEART LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 30  
at Noon in Knights Hall

RSVP to Leslie at  
[L.sheldon@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:L.sheldon@saintfrancisparish.org)

## GIFT SHOP IS OPEN ON SUNDAY MAY 4TH



FOLLOWING THE  
8:30AM, 10:30AM AND 12:15PM  
MASSES.

STOP BY AND SHOP  
FOR MOMS AND GRADS!!



## around the Diocese ...



### Summer Adult Bible Study

**A Study on the Teachings of  
Saint Therese of Lisieux.**  
by: Fr. Jean d'Elbee



Most of us familiar with Saint Therese know her best through her autobiography, *A Story of A Soul*. In it she speaks of her "littleness". Humility is that littleness which recognizes the truth about ourselves. Therese teaches that we must strive to live this truth and that our place in the universe must remain rather small, until we allow our immense God whom heaven and earth cannot contain to come into us. For in emptying ourselves, holding onto nothing we receive everything. During this study, we will come to recognize the truth of God's merciful love, the highest form of love there is. We will practice St. Therese's way of trusting by living with humble but great confidence in God's love. Therese believed confidence in His love is the key to His heart. Without it, our lives are shallow, without love, everything is painful, everything is tiring, everything is burdensome. If we take up our cross hesitantly it is crushing. Taken with confident love, our crosses will carry us more than we carry it! No one has to ask anyone else if they have suffered. We all have and we all will again. Do you have a difficult time understanding that there is meaning in your sufferings? Would you like to learn a sanctifying way to carry your cross? Do you have a hard time believing God loves you? Is it hard to accept that you are really forgiven for that confessed sin? These topics are all addressed in this short 5 week study. So, if you are looking for answers, this study may very well be the one to sign up for. If you are interested, please contact Jeanne Lamana at [jeannelamana@gmail.com](mailto:jeannelamana@gmail.com)

#### The Study Format:

The book had 10 chapters which we will discuss in 5 sessions. The participants will be asked to read 1 chapter a week, approximately 23 pages and to jot down a few thoughts in their study guide in response to the reading. We will meet every other Monday morning in May, June, July for a total of 5 sessions to discuss 2 chapters at time.

**Dates: May 12, May 27, June 9, 23, July 7 Please Mark your Calendars!!!**

Time: 10-11:30

Supplies: They are available for less, than I listed below, at Amazon and Sophia Institute Press as well as others.

1. I Believe In Love by: Fr. Jean C.J. D'Elbée  
Published by Sophia Institute Press. \$18.95
2. Study Guide for I Believe In Love  
(by Fr Jean D'Elbee) By: Rita Brandt Ford  
Published by Sophia Institute Press. \$ 7.95

### Finding Jesus with the Wisdom of Years

A retreat for Seniors. Isn't it a challenge, living in the midst of our "throwaway culture," for those who are elderly and "full of years" to understand our place in the world--and in our Church? Although many of those about us may think that we are irrelevant, it is actually an opportune time to bring grace into the world and prepare for the Adventure ahead. Join Fr. John Riley at the Arlington Diocese's San Damiano Retreat Center in White Post, VA, to "rest and pray" with Christ. We will search the Scriptures and savor the wisdom of the Gospels as we consider the Crosses and the Consolations of our Senior Years. Our retreat begins at 6 pm Friday May 9th and concludes Sunday May 11th at noon. Retreat cost is \$285. For further information, please

### Holy Year of Hope Hotline

As we journey through this Holy Year of Hope, we invite you to be a beacon of light and encouragement. Call us on the Holy Year Hope Hotline 703-778-9100 and share your personal messages and stories of hope. Your words may be featured in the Walk Humbly Podcasts throughout the year—uplifting others in both joyful moments and challenging times. By sharing your story, you're offering a gift to the community—a reminder that no one is alone, and that hope lives in all of us. Let's inspire one another with hope.

### Project Rachel: Hope & Healing After Abortion

Project Rachel is the Diocese's post-abortion healing ministry, offering compassionate support to anyone affected by abortion. Our mission is to reach all women wounded by abortion with a message of hope, healing, and forgiveness, inviting them back into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

We provide confidential care from trained staff, priests, and licensed mental health professionals who understand the deep sorrow, trauma, and grief that can follow abortion. **You are not alone.** Project Rachel offers a path to healing with sensitivity, compassion, and understanding. If you or someone you know is in need of post-abortion healing, reach out today.

**Confidential help is available.**

For more info, visit [arlingtondiocese.org/projectrachel](http://arlingtondiocese.org/projectrachel).

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

**Gabriel Project Pregnancy Assistance Ministry:**  
(703) 841-3810 or  
[info@helpforpregnantwomen.org](mailto:info@helpforpregnantwomen.org)



**New Name-Same Mission**  
Birthright of Loudoun County is now  
**Agapé Pregnancy  
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## Prayer

Lord, come to me when I am afraid.

## Mission for the Week

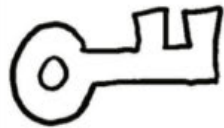
When I am afraid, I will ask Jesus to come and help me.

## Sharing the Gospel

Jesus, the best friend of the apostles, had just been killed for his teachings. The apostles were afraid the soldiers would come and kill them, too. They were so frightened that they locked all the windows and the doors in the upper room where they had the Last Supper. They huddled together in fear. When Jesus appeared right in the middle of them, they were amazed. He said, "Do not be afraid. I am with you."

Now color the picture! →

Find the matching shadow.



A



B



C



D

1



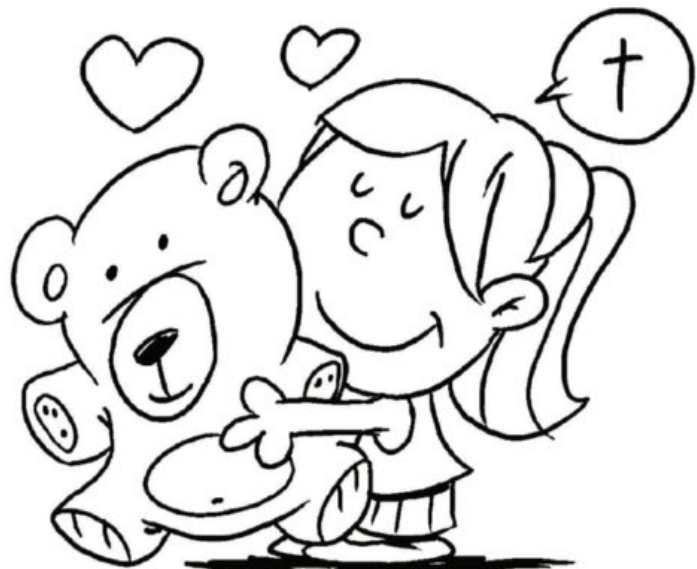
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3



4





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