

FATHER'S CORNER



Cynicism

Yes, the political “silly season” is upon us. And that is just the tip of the iceberg. The Subprime Mortgage meltdown is having an effect on almost everything around us, from property values to taxes. Oil is 100 bucks and barrel, we are hurting for things as elemental as water, and the world seems to be getting more unstable at the moment. Top it off with LSU winning the BCS championship with 2 losses and you have a pretty ugly picture.

How easy it would be for us to become cynics.

That is, if we only knew what being a cynic was.

If you were to look up the word “cynic” in the dictionary (you know – the book with a half-inch of dust on it? No. Not the one with a **full** inch of dust – that’s the Bible), you would find that the standard understanding of the word – one who believes that everyone is motivated by selfishness – is NOT the primary definition. The word is derived from *Cynosagres* or “dog’s tomb” – the building where the Greek philosopher Antisthenes taught. He was a devout disciple of Socrates, and held fast to the necessity of a life of virtue.

Far from disdaining human moral values as meaningless, as we “moderns” think of cynicism, Antisthenes proclaimed that virtue was the basis for any happiness in life. His later disciples, exaggerating his teaching to the point where this pursuit of virtue seemed to be a contemptuous dismissal of any other activity, are the ones who provoked people to think of the Cynical school of philosophy to be a put-down of everything.

It would be easy to look around and feel better about oneself by examining the lack of goodness in everyone else. That would be “modern” cynicism.

It is harder to strive for virtue in oneself, for holiness and sanctity, in order to attain true happiness.

But I think that is more of what Antisthenes, and Jesus, had in mind.

2008 BISHOP’S LENTEN APPEAL BEGINS

A mailing from Bishop Loverde that begins the 2008 Bishop’s Lenten Appeal will be sent to many of you this week. When you receive the mailing, please review it carefully.

The programs, services and ministries supported by this annual appeal require financial support of each of us in order to continue to meet the challenges of the rapid growth in our area.

This year’s BLA theme is “Led by the Holy Spirit, We Live our Faith and Share our Gifts.” As you reflect on your contribution, please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Think about the many gifts that God continuously provides to you including the gift of Faith. Consider that your gift will enable the Diocese of Arlington to continue God’s work here in Virginia. Please give your pledge out of gratitude for God’s gifts to you.

This is NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS

WEEK. Celebrate our common vocation of Baptism. Pray for those who are discerning a call to live their baptismal commitment as religious brothers, sisters, priests or as deacons. If you feel God is offering you the grace of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, call Father Brian Bashista at (703) 841-2514, or write b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org.

WORKCAMP INFORMATION MEETING- Sunday, January 13, 4:30pm. This meeting is for all parents, teens, and adults interested in more information about Workcamp. It is ideal for first time Workcampers and for teens and adults just considering going to Workcamp and wanting more information.

Our Thoughts and Prayers Are With ...



The Deployed: Afghanistan:, Michael Stone
Iraq: Charlie Balding, Paul Clark; Edmund Michael Hoffman, Joe Cooper, Casey Kershner, The Soldiers in our Adopt-a-Soldier program, Christopher Palm
The Sick: Liam Anderson, Wilhelmina Spreybroock, Liam Davidson, Donna Krafcheck, Anne Schroth
The Deceased: Virginia Moorcones, Robert Frederick Neal, Patricia Shea, Becky Rukowski, Jennifer Zilke, Robert Orme, Peter Gabby, Violet Brown, Dorothy Burns, Ernest Pavlock, Walter Risceck, Harold Ditzler



“RE-GIFTING” FOR WORKCAMP!

After receiving the tenth coffee mug or candle, re-gifting that present might sound pretty tempting. Our next fundraiser for Workcamp is the Casino Night, Auction and Dinner Dance in April. You are invited to bring any new/unused item you receive for Christmas that you simply cannot use and “Re-Gift” it for our worthy cause. We will create gift baskets for the auction using donated items from parishioners. It’s a win-win situation for everyone! Please bring your unwrapped gift to the church during the month of January, clearly marked “Auction”.

RESPECT LIFE NEWS **March for Life:** The parish is invited to participate in the March for Life that will take place **Tuesday, January 22, 2008** in Washington, D.C. The rally begins at 9am where we will celebrate mass at 10am. at the Verizon Center. St. Francis will have a bus leaving at 7am to participate in the Youth Rally, Mass and the National Rally for Life and March for Life to the U.S. Supreme Court. Come as a family. Take the day off, get an excused absence from school, and let us celebrate the beautifulness of life. Sign up sheets will be available after all masses beginning the first weekend of January. Space is limited so sign up early. For more information or questions please call Michele Cohoon at 540-554-2049.

A HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE

Monday, January 21 at 7:30pm in the Church. Come to the Source of Life and Love, Himself, Jesus present in the Most Blessed Sacrament and intercede for life. The Holy Hour will conclude with Benediction.

ST. FRANCIS HALL KITCHEN TO BE

RENOVATED Beginning early January and lasting through to the 3rd week of March, our kitchen will be under construction. Please contact the parish office at 338-6381 if you have any questions regarding the usage of the kitchen/hall.

CUPBOARDS ARE BARE AT FOODBANK

“Area food banks are experiencing a critical shortage of supplies as donations drop dramatically and as demand for free and discounted food continues to soar” reports the Washington Post, dated December 8, 2007. Please bring non-perishable items to the church in the month of January, we will deliver them to Interfaith Relief.



ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNER’S AND PROFESSIONALS

In February 2008 we will provide all of our parishioners with our new Ministry Handbook. This full color book will contain important info about our church including staff contacts and a comprehensive list of the ministry opportunities active in our parish. The new book will also serve as a parish business directory, and will allow all of us to become familiar with the services available from fellow parishioners and vendors. To reserve your space, please call the office at 338-6381.

J.A.M. SKI TRIP FOR 6, 7 & 8TH

GRADERS We’re going to Whitetail on **Friday, January 25**. We will leave St. Francis parking lot at 7:30am and return at 8pm and travel by coach bus. *Seats on the bus are limited so reserve your space now!* Permission slip and ski packages will be mailed out this week. They must be turned in **no later** than Tuesday, January 22.



Friends are welcome to come along.



You can have your blood pressure taken after all the masses on the 2nd Sunday of every month, including the 5pm and 7pm on Saturday. This is done in the parish office.

If you are taking a number of different medications please stop by when we are taking blood pressures to pick up a File of Life packet. This is a card you fill out with your medical information including the medications you are taking, insurance information, and a contact person, this magnetizes to your refrigerator and is ready in the event of an emergency. Also enclosed is a small version of the card to carry in your wallet.

We do have a small inventory of durable medical equipment: walkers, canes, crutches, shower chairs to lend to anyone for as long as they need it.

Looking for a resource in the community? Give us a call.

Please remember to call the parish office when someone in your family is hospitalized, or has entered a nursing home or an assisted living facility so that we may arrange for a priest to visit, and for your parish family to support you in whatever way they can.

Any questions? Call Nancy Grish, RN, BSN, FCN at 540-338-8004.

Religious Education

Melissa Gobs, DRE
338-4497

or dre.stfrancis@comcast.net

Upcoming Parent Meetings

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting Two

Sunday, January 13 during class time at LVHS *or*
Wednesday, January 16 at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. A
parent from each family must be in attendance. Completed
First Penance Booklets should be brought to this meeting.

Advent Parish Challenge - Still Going...

This week we will already be half way through our three-
month reading plan and on book 5 of 14. For all of you who
persevered in your reading through the busy-ness of the
holiday preparations and celebrations you have earned our
respect! For those of us who fell behind, no problem, let's
make it our New Year's Resolution to pick back up where
we left off, 3 chapters at a time. In fact, anyone interested
in starting the reading plan in the new year can easily do
so, and begin a structured daily reading of the bible in the
convenience and comfort of your own home and on your
own schedule. Pick up your handouts in the Narthex and
sign up! Don't miss this opportunity to join your fellow
parishioners on this journey through the Scriptures!

This week's readings:

Judges 18-21, 1 Samuel 1-4, 1 Sam. 5-8, 1 Sam. 9-12, 1
Sam. 13-16, 1 Sam. 17-20, 1 Sam. 21-24

Religious Ed Calendar

Sun., Jan. 13	<u>Grades K-8</u> Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS <u>Grades K-8</u> Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS <u>1st Reconciliation Parent Mtg</u> - during class time at LVHS
Mon., Jan. 14	<u>Grades 1, 2, 8, and Special Needs</u> - 4:15pm - at St. Francis
Tue., Jan. 15	<u>Grades K & 7</u> - 4:15pm, at St. Francis <u>RCIC</u> - 4pm, Visitation Room <u>RCIT</u> - 7:30pm, Visitation Room
Wed. Jan. 16	<u>Grades 3,4,5 & 6</u> - 4:15pm, at St. Francis <u>1st Reconciliation Parent Mtg</u> - 7:30pm Parish Hall
Sun., Jan. 20	<u>Grades K-8</u> Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS <u>Grades K-8</u> Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Jan. 21	<u>No Classes</u>
Tue., Jan. 22	<u>No Classes</u>
Wed. Jan. 23	<u>No Classes</u>



TEEN FAITH NEWS

Teen Mass - at 6pm every Sunday.
Teens welcome to join us in the front

No Youth Night - Sunday, January 13th due to
Workcamp meeting.

Workcamp Informational Meeting (new date) -
January 13th, 4:30 pm before the Teen Mass, for all first
time Workcampers, their parents, and ANYONE
considering going to Workcamp or anyone else who
wants information about Workcamp.

Mandatory Workcamp Meeting (new date)- January
13th 7:15 after Teen Mass, for ALL teens going to
Workcamp.

Mount 2000 - Seek the Face of God. Sign-up Today!!! for
Mount 2000. Experience the awesome power of our Lord
present in word, the sacraments of Eucharist and
Reconciliation, and the nearly 2000 teens gathered to
learn, pray, and have a great time. We will leave St.
Francis 5pm **Feb. 8** and return 2pm **Feb. 10**. The cost is
\$55 now and will be \$65 after Jan. 15.

Youth Group Ski Trip - February 22nd-24th. We will be
returning to Wisp, MD. Join us for a weekend of skiing
and fun. Sign up now so we know how many condo's to
reserve.

Steubenville - Our Steubenville trip this year is June
27th-29th. Sign up now. Limited space.

**Casino Night, Auction & Dinner Dance Workcamp
Fundraiser** - We are starting to plan our big fundraiser
for Workcamp. We need all the help we can get. Please
call Jane to volunteer or if you have anything you would
like to donate for the auction.

Jane Treado Youth Director
540-338-6381 or Janedhs78@aol.com

VBS PLANNING MEETING

We will hold our first meeting in preparation for this
summer's VBS on **Tuesday, January 29** in the Parish
Office at 7:30pm. Anyone interested in learning more
about VBS, helping this year, or sharing ideas should
attend.

The Vacation Bible School Program is a week of
creative educational and fun activities based on a Biblical
theme. The program is designed for children ages kinder-
garten through grade six.

Discover how much fun it can be to help with VBS!
Adults and teens are all invited to volunteer.

MASSSES for the WEEK

† deceased

<u>Saturday, January 12</u>	Vigil: Baptism of the Lord
5:00 pm	† Mr. Arthur and † Mrs. Alma Campanaro
<u>Sunday, January 13</u>	Baptism of the Lord
7:00 am	Heather Hawley Garrett
8:30 am	People of the Parish
10:30 am	† Carrie Louise Eberhard
12:30 pm	† Fred Meyers
6:00 pm	† Fred Meyers
<u>Monday, January 14</u>	Weekday
6:30 am	John Krebs
9:00 am	Sharion Liddicoatt
<u>Tuesday, January 15</u>	Weekday
6:30 am	† Angelo Bonino
11:00 am	† Ludwig Geis
<u>Wed, January 16</u>	Weekday
6:30 am	Christine Krebs
9:00 am	† Ann Fowler
<u>Thursday, January 17</u>	St. Anthony
6:30 am	Mary K. Murpny
9:00 am	† Alberto and Carmen Cheyne
<u>Friday, January 18</u>	Weekday
6:30 am	Frank Fleming
12:00 noon	Maureen Colville
<u>Saturday, January 19</u>	Weekday
9:00 am	† John Rubino
<u>Saturday, January 19</u>	Vigil: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 pm	† Sean Patrick McCarthy
<u>Sunday, January 20</u>	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00 am	Lois D'Elia
8:30 am	† Ruth Sheldrick
10:30 am	People of the Parish
12:30 pm	Nancy Grish
6:00 pm	Jane Treado

PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS: 1/6/07

Offertory - this week	\$ 15,113
YEAR TO DATE	\$ 15,113

IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE If you would like acknowledgement of donation for your tax returns, please contact Diane in the office at 540-338-6381.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2008

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
- Matthew 3:17

GOD'S BELOVED

Only one week has passed since we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany. No longer are we focused on the images of the child Jesus surrounded by his parents and the magi at the manger in Bethlehem. Today, it's as if the Church has pushed the "fast forward" button in the life of Jesus. Today we celebrate his baptism in the Jordan. When the Lord Jesus rises from the waters of baptism, the heavens open and a voice announces, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). This event sets the stage for the unfolding of Jesus Christ's life and work, which will become our focus for the rest of the year as we tune our ears to Saint Matthew's Gospel. As we prepare ourselves for this work, let us be reminded that we, too, were counted among God's beloved at the moment of our own baptism.

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This Week

Mon., Jan. 14	RCIA - 7pm, Visitation Room
Tue., Jan. 15	Bible Study - 10am, Parish Hall
	Bible Study - 7pm, Parish Hall
Thur., Jan. 17	"Living Life in the Spirit" - 6:30pm
	Charismatic Prayer Group - 7:30pm
	Visitation Room

Readings for the Week

Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34