

# FATHER'S CORNER



## *A Strange "Thank you"*

"We know that all things work to the good for those who have been called according to His decree" (Rom 8:28). This passage, along with Isaiah 55: 8-9 (Come on! Look it up yourself!), is one of those we tend to forget when we most need to remember them. The sentence from Romans, in particular, is essential to our understanding of the necessity for constant conversion, as well as to understand the necessity for the *sufferings* that are inseparable from the successful completion of that conversion. Our patron, St. Francis de Sales, once said that if we could only see things as God sees them, we would desire everything to happen that happens.

"Uh, Father...are you saying that EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS, even the BAD, can be a blessing to us? Things like sickness, humiliation, lost opportunities, deaths of loved ones,...even our own deaths, can be things for which we can THANK God??? Are you out of your mind?????"

Well, the first question I can answer (the second would take a more professional evaluation).

And the answer is YES!!!!

Otherwise, there would be no sense in:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit", or "Blessed are those who mourn", or "Blessed are they who are persecuted", or "When someone strikes you on the cheek, turn the other one to him as well", or "If they call the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household!", or "And do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul", or "I have come, not to bring peace, but the sword", or "...the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force", or "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me", or "Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?", or "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled", or "Then they will hand you over to persecution and kill you", or "Everyone will be salted with fire", or "Whoever wishes to be first must be the slave of all", or "Strive to enter through the narrow gate", or "He said this signifying by what death he would glorify God".

Romans 5:3-5 will help us understand the "why" of it all. It is St. Paul's "thank you" to God, on our behalf, for suffering.

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*Fr. Kelly's column originally ran January 28, 2007*

## *Love God and Love Others* Women of St. Francis Luncheon

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

After 12:30 pm Mass, in the Parish Hall

All women of the parish are welcome to attend and join us in fellowship

*Please bring a potluck dish to share*

**A SCOUT IS REVERANT** Scout Sunday will be celebrated at here at St. Francis de Sales at the 12:30 Mass on February 8. Cub scouts, Boy scouts, and adult leaders please attend in uniform. You are welcome to display your Pack/Troop flag or banner in the narthex. If your son has earned a Catholic Scouting award and would like it presented at this Mass, and/or you can help with light refreshments please contact Marilyn Gugliotta at 338-2712 or email [6gugs@comcast.net](mailto:6gugs@comcast.net)



### PRAY FOR PEACE AND SAFETY

If you have a family member serving overseas, please let us know. We will publish their names in the bulletin to remind everyone to ask for God's blessings on them, that they may return safely to their families. Let us join our prayers for peace and safety with yours. Also, please let us know when they return safely home so that we may also rejoice with you.

### *Our Thoughts and Prayers Are With ...*

**The Deployed:** Christopher Palm, Kenneth Kyle McWilliams, Major Karl M. Wojtkun, John M. Cotter, Capt. Andrew Kellner

**The Sick:** Anne Schroth, Karen Ries, Norma O'Grady, Hannah Brown, Rich Marks, Joey Batchelder, Albert Cippel, Andrew Michael Wilson, Grover 'Corky' Corcoran

**The Deceased:** Fr. Michael C. Kelly, Ernest Pavlock, Walter Risceck, Harold Ditzler, Raymond Morin, Isabella Hayes Isaacs, Chase Harrison, Maria Keran, Patricia Evelyn Weaver, Charlotte Wells, Robert Saunders, Miriam Moore



## *Respect Life News*

**POSTCARD SIGNING DAY!** This Saturday and Sunday, our parish will join Catholics across the country in sending a message to Congress: Please oppose the "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA) and retain laws against government funding and promotion of abortion. You will have the opportunity to sign postcards to your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators. Please plan to participate in this important event. Let your voice be heard! Thank you for standing up for life at this important time.



### **FREE THROW CONTEST**

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2008 Knights of Columbus Free

Throw Championship. The local competition will be held TODAY, SUNDAY JANUARY 25 from 1-3pm at the gym of Harmony Intermediate School. There is no cost to enter, winners will advance to the District and State competitions, with recognition possible at the National level. Registration will be held on the day of the competition. Please call Louis "Lou" Cironi at 571-228-4460 with any questions.

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a **Special Olympics Free Throw Competition** and Fund Raiser on February 14th. Most of our special needs CCD class and other parishioners will be participating. For more information and to make a donation, please email: [ChuckforSpecialOlympics@rstarmail.com](mailto:ChuckforSpecialOlympics@rstarmail.com)



Sunday, February 8 in the Parish Hall. The first drive of six scheduled for 2009 will be conducted to provide needed blood products for our parish faith community and friends and neighbors in distress. Please sign up on the list posted in the narthex or call Rachel Brill at 540-338-6313.

### **SOULSTITCH MEETS:**

4th Wednesday, January 28th from 9:30-11:30 am  
1st Sunday, February 1 from 1:30-3:30 pm  
Both meetings are held in the downstairs hall  
For information please contact Monica Deaver at 540-338-6057 or [mojoknits@comcast.net](mailto:mojoknits@comcast.net).

### **RIDES TO FAIRFAX HOSPITAL NEEDED**

Parishioner needs rides to, and possibly, from the hospital where her husband will be confined for the next three weeks. If you make this trip, even one way, one time, call Kathleen at 338-2471.

**SENIOR LUNCHEON** Join us for lunch and conversation at noon on **Tuesday, January 27** at 12 noon in the Parish Hall. Who is a senior? Whoever wants to be - no age minimum!

The Knights of Columbus of our parish are sponsoring a **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** on **Sunday, February 1**. The cost is a freewill offering and all proceeds go to help local charities. The Breakfast includes Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Orange Juice and Coffee. Breakfast is served from 7:30am until 12 noon. All are invited.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS** One of many Catholic traditions is to have one's home blessed. If anyone would like their home blessed, please leave your name, address and phone number with the Parish Office. Deacon Larry will contact you to set up a time when he can come to bless your home and family.

## *The Fellowship of a Modest Proposal*

A Spiritual Ministry for Men  
Invites all men to a Men's Retreat

### **THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

"None shall be crowned who has not fought well"

**Saturday, January 31, 2009**  
**10am to 4:45pm**

in Saint Francis Hall

This retreat centers on a spiritual classic of ascetic theology, *The Spiritual Combat*, by Fr. Lorenzo Scupoli.

No matter where you are in your walk of faith this retreat will help in understanding the reality of spiritual warfare; the forces, both interior and exterior, against which we battle; and the array of essential weapons at our disposal by the grace of God.

*For more information on this ministry, visit*  
[www.stfrancisdesalescatholicchurch.org/Outreach.asp](http://www.stfrancisdesalescatholicchurch.org/Outreach.asp)  
*click on 'Spiritual Life'*

**lunch will be provided**

*Space is limited. Please register promptly via email*  
*with Dave Dittmeier at*  
[thechristianshoppe@comcast.net](mailto:thechristianshoppe@comcast.net)

## Religious Education

Melissa Gobs, DRE  
338-4497 or [dre.stfrancis@comcast.net](mailto:dre.stfrancis@comcast.net)

### 2008 The Year of St. Paul

God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *1 Cor 1:9*



#### Inclement Weather Policy

Class cancellation will be recorded on the Religious Education voice mail (540-338-4497) a cancellation announcement will also be on WTOP 103.5FM. In addition, we will try to send an email to all of the Religious Education Families whose email addresses we have.

**All parents of children in sacramental preparation in Grades 2 or 7 who did not attend the parent meetings should contact the Religious Education Office to get the information that was missed.**

#### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This study titled 1st Corinthians - The Church and the Christian Community explores the book of Corinthians and the development of the early Church. This Bible study meets from 10am to noon Tuesday mornings. More details and sign-ups coming soon! For more information, please contact Lisa Doseff (540) 822-3026 or Jean Fenwick (540) 338-2884.

**Babysitting will be available at this new session. Please call Lisa or Jean at the above numbers if you are in need of a babysitter.**

## RE Calendar

Sun., Jan. 25	Gr. K-8 - Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS Gr. K-8, RCIC - Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Jan. 26	Gr. 1, 7, RCIC, and Special Needs - 4:15pm at the church
Tue., Jan. 27	Gr. K, 2, 4, 8 - 4:15pm, at the church
Wed. Jan. 28	Grades 3,5,6 - 4:15pm, at the church
Thur., Jan. 29	RCIT - 7pm, Oratory Room
Sun., Feb. 1	Gr. K-8 - Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS Gr. K-8, RCIC - Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Feb. 2	Gr. 1, 7, RCIC, and Special Needs - 4:15pm at the church
Tue., Feb. 3	Gr. K, 2, 4, 8 - 4:15pm, at the church
Wed. Feb. 4	Grades 3,5,6 - 4:15pm, at the church
Thur., Feb. 5	RCIT - 7pm, Oratory Room



## TEEN FAITH NEWS

**TEEN MASS** - at 6pm every Sunday, All welcome-please bring friends. Teens are welcome to sit in the front left 3 rows of church.

**Youth Night** - Sunday, January 25, In The Beginning... A look at Genesis and Creation.

**Mandatory Workcamp Meeting** - Sunday, February 8h. All teens going to Workcamp should be at this meeting. A Non refundable Deposits of \$150 is due at this meeting. You should be working on your appeal letters by now.

**Youth Night** - Sunday, February 15th, What Makes Us Catholic?

**Mount 2009** - Registration is full.

**Steubenville** - Registration is full.

**High School Ski Trip** - Feb. 20-22 to Wisp, MD. Sign up now. Space limited.

Jane Treado Youth Director  
540-338-6381 or [Janedhs78@aol.com](mailto:Janedhs78@aol.com)

### TO PARENTS OF 2nd AND 8th GRADERS

Letters have been sent out this week regarding 1st Reconciliation and the time the children are assigned to on Saturday, January 31. Letters have also been mailed out to parents of our 8th grade Confirmation candidates. These letters detail the final preparations for Confirmation, due dates, plans for the mandatory retreat, and rehearsal and mass times. Please contact the RE office if you have not received your letter in the mail.

### SHOE BOX PROJECT FOR HAITI

Please send in your shoe boxes! One of the 8th grade confirmation classes (8:45-10:10 am, Eric & Monica Deaver) would like to send care boxes to a free pediatric hospital run by Friends of the Orphans in Haiti. The hospital likes to send each patient home with a box filled with school supplies, an English language book, and perhaps some socks or underwear. Our first step is to collect shoe boxes. Please leave them in the narthex on Sundays or bring them to the high school during religious education. We'll keep you posted for Step #2 - Thanks. For more information please contact, Eric & Monica Deaver at 540-338-6057 or [edeaver@comcast.net](mailto:edeaver@comcast.net).

# MASSSES for the WEEK

† deceased

Sat., January 24

5:00 pm

*Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time*

† Patricia Bannach

Sun., January 25

7:00 am

*3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time*

† Mary Threse Heidkamp

8:30 am

† Thomas and † Gertrude Cromin

10:30 am

The Fisher Family

12:30 pm

People of the Parish

6:00 pm

The Crawford Family

Mon., January 26

6:30 am

*Sts. Timothy and Titus*

James McElroy

9:00 am

† Clinton Humphries

Tue., January 27

6:30 am

*Weekday*

Kevin Krebs

9:00 am

† Edward Kelly

Wed., January 28

6:30 am

*St. Thomas Aquinas*

James McElroy

9:00 am

† Ann Fowler

Thurs., January 29

6:30 am

*Weekday*

† Rev. Stanley Slivonik

9:00 am

† Jess McKendrick

Fri., January 30

6:30 am

*Weekday*

† Michael Montague

12:00 noon

In Thanksgiving for the Eucharist

Sat., January 31

9:00 am

*St. John Bosco*

Margaret and Tom Bradley

Sat., January 31

5:00 pm

*Vigil: 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time*

† Gary Rutzel

Sun., February 1

7:00 am

*4th Sunday of Ordinary Time*

† Miriam Dwyer

8:30 am

† Rosemary Pham

10:30 am

† Barbara and † David Donzel

12:30 pm

People of the Parish

6:00 pm

The Gargiulo Family

## This Week

Mon., Jan. 26

RCIA - 7:30pm, in the church

Tues., Jan. 27

Bible Study - 10am-noon, parish hall

Senior Luncheon - 12 noon

Wed., Jan. 28

"Living Life in the Spirit" - 6:30pm

Charismatic Prayer Group - 7:30pm

Oratory Room

**IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE** If you would like acknowledgement of donation for your tax returns, please email your request to Alicia Holz in the parish office at [alicia@stfrde.org](mailto:alicia@stfrde.org).

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009**

**3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**

The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel. - *Mark 1:15*

### PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

From Mark's Gospel today we hear the final words Jesus spoke to his disciples shortly before he ascended into heaven. Those were words of commissioning, no less real for us today than they were to the disciples then, or to Saint Paul a few years later. Certainly he took to heart the words that we hear today: "[P]roclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). For the vast majority of us, this means that we proclaim the gospel by the witness of our everyday lives. Treating others with dignity and respect, providing for those less fortunate than ourselves, being good stewards of the many gifts showered on us, coming together as God's family in worship and praise—these are all signs that the gospel has taken root in our lives. And who could we choose as a better model for living this way than Saint Paul himself?

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**WHY PRAY FOR A PRIEST?** Most of us have heard about the power of prayer. Many of us who pray regularly have experienced the powerful impact prayer can have on our lives. For those of you who pray for a priest, *THANK YOU!* You are performing a valuable task. Now come and join us, **every Friday** after the noon Mass for a Holy Hour offered for the Priest. And please raise awareness, encourage more to do the same. Most of all, we want to focus the power of prayer, and pray for a priest, whomever he might be.

### PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS: 1/18/09

Offertory - this week	\$ 15,849
YEAR TO DATE	\$ 54,033

### Readings for the Week

Monday:	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday:	Heb 10:1-10; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday:	Heb 10:11-18; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	Heb 10:19-25; Mk 4:21-25
Friday:	Heb 10:32-39; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday:	Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28