



Can you believe it's already 'Laetare Sunday,' the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent? Many have expressed that time seems to be zooming by very swiftly. It certainly appears that way for me too. I arrived here at Saint Francis de Sales on February 18 and before I knew it, I had already gone through my 'first month anniversary!'

There's an old proverb that says, "The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is now." We can look back and see a lot of the good things we've done in the past and have a great appreciation for them now. They may have been hard decisions we had to make and didn't know at the time if we made the right call. As long as we made a good and honest responsible judgment at the time, we certainly cannot have too many regrets even if things didn't work out as we expected.

During Lent the Church encourages us to make right the wrong decisions we have made by making a good confession. In many parishes one day is set aside as a day for Penance Service when the faithful are invited to come together to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This Monday, March 23, at 7:30pm we have at least 8 priests who will be available to hear confessions for our parish community. Please consider God's invitation to receive the gift of spiritual healing and forgiveness. The grace of the sacrament is not limited to the forgiveness of sins. It also gives us the strength to live a more virtuous life. And who would want to pass up the great feeling of joy and satisfaction after making a good confession?

Do you remember the old days when you once feared going to the dental office? The dentist would offer you a lollipop or some other candy (perhaps to make sure you will always need a dentist!) as an incentive to make you go through your checkup or treatment. For those who have not gone to confession in a long time out of *fear*, please be assured that every priest on Monday night will be very happy to welcome you back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And if you still have any doubt about this, you can always resort to my *Blue Light Special*. The worst penance you'll get from me is this: *3 Our Fathers & 3 Hail Marys*.

One more note regarding the prayer intentions book you signed for my recent *Journeys of Saint Paul* pilgrimage. All 125 of us pilgrims prayed for your special intentions at the Masses we celebrated in sacred sites in *Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Antioch, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem*. I even took your petitions and prayed with the Jews at the old *Wailing Wall* now called the *Western Wall* where dozens of Bar Mitzvahs were taking place! So expect many graces to come into your life in the days to come.

Your shepherd in Christ,  
Father Escalante



### FRIDAYS IN LENT

Masses 6:30am and 12 noon  
Confessions 10:45am and 8pm  
Soup Supper 6-7:30 pm  
Stations of the Cross 7:30pm

### COMMUNAL Penance SERVICE

Monday, March 23 at 7:30pm

### INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, March 31  
Wednesday, April 1  
Thursday, April 2  
7:30-9pm

Everyone over 14 years of age is bound to observe the law of abstinence. **ABSTINENCE** from meat is to be observed on all Fridays within the season of Lent.

### VIRTUS TRAINING SEMINAR

*Wednesday, April 22* at 6m in the Parish Hall. All volunteers in the parish who have significant contact with children, i.e. adults going to Workcamp, VBS helpers, Religious Education, Nursery, etc. If you not yet attended this seminar, this is the perfect opportunity! To register go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org), click on 'registration', and follow the prompts. There are only 32 spots available, please sign up now.

### GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

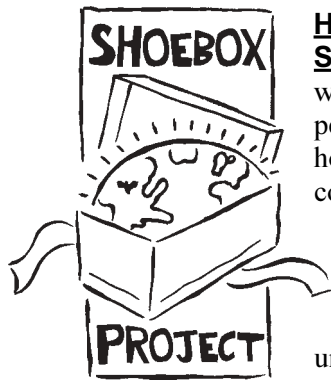
will be celebrated at Saint Francis on *Sunday, March 29 at the 12:30 Mass*. Please have your Girl Scout wear her uniform and if you can contribute refreshments, please contact Erin Bucci at [buccierin@comcast.net/540-338-5402](mailto:buccierin@comcast.net/540-338-5402).

**SOULSTITCH** Meets in the hall: 4th *Wednesday, March 25*, 9:30-11:30am & 1st *Sunday, April 5*, 1:30-3:30 pm. We are currently knitting washclothes for the Haiti shoebox project and mittens and blankets for Afghan children. Questions? Contact Monica Deaver at 540-338-6057 or [mojoknits@comcast.net](mailto:mojoknits@comcast.net).



Each Friday of Lent  
6-7:30pm in the Parish Hall

March 27 hosted by:  
The Fellowship of a Modest Proposal



### **HAITI SHOEBOX PROJECT:**

**STEP 2** During Lent we are working on creating care boxes for pediatric patients in Haiti to take home with them. Step 1: The collection of shoe boxes is over at this time - thank you! For Step 2, Session 1 Religious Ed students are bringing in the following new items for children during Lent: underwear, socks, crayons, pencils, pens, soap bars, toothbrush &

toothpaste, hairbrushes or combs. They are also bringing in gently used books from their grade level. If you would also like to contribute, boxes marked by age group (grade & age) will be in the narthex and high school during classes for the deposit of items. These boxes will be available during Lent. Washcloths are also being knit by Soulstitch. If you have any questions or would like to knit a washcloth, please contact Monica Deaver at 540-338-6057 or [mojoknits@comcast.net](mailto:mojoknits@comcast.net). The 8th grade confirmation class (Mr. & Mrs. Deaver's) is sponsoring this project.

**UPDATE ON THE HERRERA FAMILY** Thank you to all the St Francis parishioners who so generously contributed to the Herrera family in their time of desperate need, after their trailer home burned down. Your kindness was a blessing to this family and the mom was visibly relieved from the stress that she has been suffering due to your thoughtfulness! The Herrera family has been living in an apartment in Leesburg. It is much smaller than their trailer home, and much more expensive for them, and the mom is trying to be very careful in their spending. She has been working two cleaning jobs, but has had her hours reduced at one of them. The family will continue to struggle financially and hope to move back to the trailer park when their apartment lease is up, as the trailer park is more affordable. If you still wish to donate to the Herrera's, please leave cash or a check written to St Francis at the church office. The family is so appreciative of all that has been done for them, including all the lovely gifts and gift cards at Christmas! They do not have room in their tiny apartment for any additional household or clothing items, but thank all of you who have offered. I complimented the mom on her sweater at religious ed classes recently and she told me she bought it with one of the gift cards!! If you have any questions about this family, please contact me and God Bless you all for your thoughtfulness!! Erin Bucci, [buccierin@comcast.net/540-338-5402](mailto:buccierin@comcast.net/540-338-5402).



### **SOFTBALL SEASON APPROACHING!** St.

Francis de Sales parish plays in a multi-denominational co-ed league. The season runs from May thru June, games are mainly on Tuesday evenings. Practices begin on Sundays in April. All parishioners are invited to register to play. Please call Bill Buxton at (703) 431-2590 for more info.

### **Gift Cards and Food Desperately Needed for Leesburg Catholic Charities office and local Families!**

- Please take a tag from the "Giving Tree" and leave your donation in the basket labeled "Giving Tree" and gift cards in the container labeled "Giving Tree." We need a few people to take the tags for sweatsuits for the Heritage Hall residents. These residents are ones who do not have families helping them with special needs. Thank you!!
  - Catholic Charities is in dire need of the following food items: rice, beans, pasta, canned meats, canned fruits
- For more information, please contact Marilyn Gugliotta at 540-338-2712, [6gugs@comcast.net](mailto:6gugs@comcast.net) or Erin Bucci at 540-338-5402, [buccierin@comcast.net](mailto:buccierin@comcast.net). Thank you and may God Bless you for your continued support of local families as they struggle through these challenging times.

**CLOTHING EXCHANGE** Purcellville Baptist Church will be hosting a clothing exchange at their church. They ask that you bring any clean clothes or linens to their church Monday thru Thursday, March 23 thru March 26. They will sort through the clothes and on Saturday, March 28, the community is welcome to come and help themselves to the clothes at no cost. The church is on 601 Yaxley Dr in Purcellville. If you have any questions, please call (540) 338-6400



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

**The Deployed:** Kenneth Kyle McWilliams, Major Karl M. Wojtkun, Capt. Andrew Kellner, 2LT Brendan McCormick, LTC Michael F. Goodnow, Yonatan Holz, Arm 1stC Brian Rickert  
**The Sick:** Norma O'Grady, Hannah Brown, Albert Cippel, Grover 'Corky' Corcoran  
**The Deceased:** Fr. Michael C. Kelly, Isabella Hayes Isaacs, Chase Harrison, Maria Keran, Patricia Evelyn Weaver, Charlotte Wells, Robert Saunders, Miriam Moore, Stephanie Jackson, William Leonard, Andrew Michael Wilson, Janet Law, Jose Vera Tudela, James Emmet Lanaghan, Samuel Phillips

# Religious Education

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

## 2008-2009 The Year of St. Paul

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness,  
but now you are light in the Lord.  
Live as children of light,  
for light produces every kind of goodness  
and righteousness and truth.  
Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.  
Take no part in the fruitless works of  
darkness;  
rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention  
the things done by them in secret;  
but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,  
for everything that becomes visible is light. *Eph 5:8-12*



### First Holy Communion Parent Meeting

If you missed the Sunday meetings, please come to this **MANDATORY** Parent Meeting on **Wednesday, March 25** at 7:30pm in the parish hall. A parent from each family must be in attendance.

### First Holy Communion Retreat - Saturday, March 28

For all 2nd graders and RCIC students preparing for First Holy Communion! Please arrive promptly at 10am! Parents can pick their children up from the Church at 1pm. We are still in need of parent helpers please contact Melissa or Janice if you would like to help!

### Please join us.... Christian Moms Network Moms Praying For....

#### Our Children and Our Public Elementary Schools

At the home of Dana Friedl  
2nd & 4th Fridays 9-10:30am  
Dana Friedl at 540-338-2127 or [jachtsfriedl@aol.com](mailto:jachtsfriedl@aol.com)  
*Lord, I pray our children flourish, learn to love, and practice courage.*  
*Lord, I ask our children prosper, know your peace and feel Your laughter.* - John Frederick Zurn

## RE Calendar

Sun., Mar. 22	Gr. K-8 - Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS Gr. K-8, RCIC - Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Mar. 23	Gr. 1, 7, RCIC, and Special Needs - 4:15pm at the church
Tue., Mar. 24	Gr. K, 2, 4, 8 - 4:15pm, at the church
Wed. Mar. 25	Grades 3, 5, 6 - 4:15pm, at the church
Thur., Mar. 26	RCIT - 7pm, Oratory Room
Sun., Mar. 29	Gr. K-8 - Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS Gr. K-8, RCIC - Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Mar. 30	Gr. 1, 7, RCIC, and Special Needs - 4:15pm at the church
Tue., Mar. 31	Gr. K, 2, 4, 8 - 4:15pm, at the church
Wed. Apr. 1	Grades 3, 5, 6 - 4:15pm, at the church
Thur., Apr. 2	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 Nights** - Sunday nights in church hall from 7:15 - 9pm. For all high school students, grades 9-12. March 22nd, join us for a great night called, "You Found Me, The Upper Room" with special guest, Cindy Buxton.

**Needed!!!** Teens for the **Living Stations of the Cross** - To be held on Good Friday, April 10th at 3pm. No acting experience needed. Also needed a couple narrators, stage hands, and make up people. There will be only one practice. If interested, contact Kevin Bills at [kevin@kbills.com](mailto:kevin@kbills.com).

**Wine Tasting and Sales** - We have Corcoran Vineyards and perhaps one other vineyard, hosting a Wine Tasting and Wine Sales in the church hall on April 18th after the 5pm mass and April 19th after the 6pm teen mass. Please join us for this fun fundraiser evening where the Corcorans are donating all proceeds to Workcamp. Tickets are \$5.

**Auction Items Needed** - For Talent Show and Auction. The workcampers are hosting a Talent Show and Auction and will need talent for the show and items for the auction. Please contact Jane if you wish to donate or sign up for the talent portion of the show.

**Workcamp Fundraising Committee** - We are starting up a fundraising committee to help organize the fundraiser's. I need your help. I cannot do this on my own! No experience necessary!! Please join this fun group and e-mail me and let me know if you can help.

**Adult Workcamp Meeting** - For all adults thinking about or planning on going to Workcamp, Tuesday, March 24th, 7:30-9pm. We will go over expectations and fill out registration papers.

**Next Mandatory Workcamp Meeting** - April 19th. All teens going to Workcamp should be at this meeting! We already handed out the registrations for workcamp and you should bring the filled out registration to this meeting. By now, your deposit should be paid, your appeal letters should be written, and bring your item for the auction to this meeting. If you weren't assigned an item or can't remember what you are to bring, e-mail me at [Janedhs78@aol.com](mailto:Janedhs78@aol.com). If you don't have your registration papers, you can pick them up in the office.

**J.A.M. is Back!!!** - Let's get together for J.A.M. this month, April 17th, 7pm-9pm, for all middle schoolers.

**J.A.M. Field trip** - On Saturday May 16th 3pm-11pm, we have a special J.A.M. trip planned. We will be going down to JPll in Dumphries for a Middle School Bash with special guest, Chris Stefanick. All Middle Schoolers are invited and need to sign up before May 9th. Parents, we will need drivers for this event.

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

# MASSSES for the WEEK

† deceased

Sat., March 21

5:00 pm

**Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent**

Matthew Smith

Sun., March 22

7:00 am

**4th Sunday of Lent**

People of the Parish

8:30 am

The Regnery Family

10:30 am

The Fisher Family

12:30 pm

The Stipancic Family

6:00 pm

The Thackaberry Family

Mon., March 23

6:30 am

**Lenten Weekday**

† George and † Helen Rutzel

9:00 am

† Fr. Michael Kelly

Tue., March 24

6:30 am

**Lenten Weekday**

† Ellwood Thomas, Sr.

9:00 am

† John Adams

Wed., March 25

6:30 am

**Annunciation of the Lord**

† Lucille McAuley

9:00 am

Maureen Colville

Thurs., March 26

6:30 am

**Lenten Weekday**

† Fr. Michael Kelly

9:00 am

† Leon and † Felixa Slivonik

Fri., March 27

6:30 am

**Lenten Weekday**

Joseph A. Murphy

12:00 noon

In Thanksgiving for the Eucharist

Sat., March 28

9:00 am

**Lenten Weekday**

Virginia Ware

Sat., March 28

5:00 pm

**Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent**

The Vogt Family

Sun., March 29

7:00 am

**5th Sunday of Lent**

† Deceased members of the D'Elia,

Curran, Butts and Sommer families

8:30 am

John Krebs

10:30 am

People of the Parish

12:30 pm

The Cantrall Family

6:00 pm

† Frank Bartlett

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

### COMMUNION

The annual training for this beautiful ministry is coming up in April and May. If you are interested in finding out more or in attending the training, please call 540-338-2471 or 540-454-0995.

## PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS: 3/15/09

OFFERTORY - this week \$ 15,610  
YEAR TO DATE \$ 173,945

**IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE** If would like acknowledgment of donation for your tax returns, please email your request to Alicia Holz in the parish office at alicia@stfrde.org.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2009

### 4TH Sunday of Lent

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

- John 3:17

## COMMUNAL RESPONSIBILITY

The people of God forgot the covenant and flouted God's laws. They did not listen to the prophets among them, who spoke for God in warning them. Prophets are sent from God to remind us why we are here, but they are often, even in our own time, mocked, disregarded, and mistreated, rather than thanked and listened to.

The book of Chronicles tells the results of these sins: the destruction of the Temple and all of Jerusalem, murder, mayhem, and finally exile to a foreign land. Why are these stories in the Bible? Just to inform us of what happened to our ancient forebears? What good would that be unless there were a message and a warning for us as well? Are we people who follow the teachings of God, who obey the words of Christ in the second covenant in his blood? Or do we continue to wreak works of darkness and violence? We are reminded by these readings that we will be judged as a people, not just as individuals.

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## This Week

- Mon., Mar. 23 No RCIA  
Communal Penance Service - 7:30pm
- Tues., Mar. 24 Bible Study - 10am-noon, parish hall  
Bible Study - 7:30pm, parish hall
- Wed., Mar. 25 "Living Life in the Spirit" - 6:30pm  
Charismatic Prayer Group - 7:30pm  
Oratory Room

## Readings for the Week

- Monday: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54  
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16  
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40; Heb 10:4-10;  
Lk 1:26-38  
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47  
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53  
Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33