



We are very grateful to the 'anonymous' donors for giving us the beautiful five-foot image of the *Divine Mercy* just in time for Divine Mercy Sunday. Its location near the confessionals seems to be the rightful place to hang it. Those who are praying and examining their conscience prior to going to confession may get a good feeling of consolation from Our Lord's image that expresses meekness and gentleness. A quick glance at the picture may inspire us to recall the words from the lips of Jesus, "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 find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the Divine Mercy Eucharistic Holy Hour last Sunday. We nearly had a full capacity church from 2:45-4pm to honor Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and for the recitation of the *Divine Mercy* chaplet and the Holy Rosary.

This weekend we are celebrating two Confirmation Masses (Saturday and Sunday). Let us pray for all the Confirmandi that their spiritual lives may be fully enriched as they receive the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Your shepherd in Christ,
Father Escalante

BLOOD DRIVE Great job by all who came out to support the blood drive on April 19, or volunteered their services to ensure its success. Inova drew 55 units of blood from 59 registrants, another outstanding success rate for our Blood Donor Program. Many thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers. The next drive is our 75th and we encourage you to come and support family, friends, and neighbors by ensuring the availability of this important gift of life. Mark your calendars for June 14.

ARE YOU A MEMBER? Are you a member of the Catholic Heritage Circle? If you have designated either our parish or the diocese in your bequest, trust or will, you qualify to be a member of the Catholic Heritage Circle. So that we may recognize you for your support and welcome you as a member of the Circle, please let Father Escalante know or call the diocesan Planned Giving Office at 703-841-2516. For more info, please visit www.arlingtondiocese.planyourlegacy.org.

Western Loudoun Relay for Life
LIFE IS A CELEBRATION
May 30th and 31st
Heritage High School, Leesburg

Please join the St. Francis team,
Walking in Faith. One day. One
night. One community. The Relay



for Life is about celebration, remembrance, and hope.

By participating, you honor cancer survivors, pay tribute to the lives we've lost to the disease, and raise money to help fight cancer all right here in your community.

There are several ways you can be a part of our team – you can become a team member and relay with us, you can donate money to the team via either the team website (easiest,) or cash or check to a team member, you can purchase raffle tickets for a Redskin quilt with over 50 signatures of past and current team members and coaches, or you can buy flowers from us after Mass on Mother's Day. For more information, please contact Sheila Cowling at 571-216-3024 or e-mail Sheila@flythrough.com. To access the team website, you will find a link on the St. Francis website, or Google: Western Loudoun Relay for Life, go to Teams and choose team Walking in Faith.

PARISH NURSE (Health Wellness Ministry)

Thursday, April 16th was Advance Medical Directives Awareness Day. This document provides information regarding your healthcare wishes to your family, physicians, hospital, and other healthcare providers. We have a limited number of Advance Directives folders provided by the Arlington Diocese with instructions on how to fill out the form. Please stop by the Parish Office to pick one up. Questions? Call Nancy Grish 540-338-8004.

For all who signed up for CPR/AED certification course, the dates are Saturday, May 30 and Saturday, June 20, 9am-1pm. Since class size is limited to twelve, I need to know which date you are available. The signup sheet is in the narthex, you can check off which date, email or phone me. I encourage all staff, ushers, mass coordinators, and catechists to take advantage of this lifesaving course. Contact Nancy Grish at nmg1298@aol.com or phone 540-338-8004.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

2009 Classes for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: May 16 – Our Lady of Good Counsel, Vienna; May 23 – Christ the Redeemer, Sterling; May 30 – St. Mary's, Fredericksburg. All training sessions are 10am to 12 noon. Please call Kathleen at 338-2471 for more information and to register.

2009 WORKCAMP FUNDRAISER GOLF TIME!

6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament Friday, May 8th at 9 am



Stoneleigh Golf Course
To sponsor a hole or to play in the
tournament, please contact Jane
Treado at janedhs78@aol.com.

UPCOMING RETREATS AT DOMINICAN RETREAT HOUSE IN McLEAN, VA

For People Facing Serious Illness - A retreat specially planned for men and women facing serious physical illness will be held the weekend of May 22-24. A Team of doctors, nurses, priests, sisters and helpers will be present around the clock. Scheduling allows plenty of time for rest and reflection. This retreat is free of charge. This is a non-smoking weekend. Registration closes May 12. Please call as soon as possible. Call 703-356-4243 or Doug Sebek, 703-860-4929.

Retreat for Women - Treat yourself to a weekend on the weekend of June 5-7, to experience God's peace and presence. Our theme this year is "Behold, I make all things new." - (Rev. 21:5). Retreat director is Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM, Conv., who preaches for many retreats, has taught in the EPS program (Education for Parish Service), and gives daily online Scripture reflections for Companions of St. Anthony. For reservations or information, contact Jean Fenwick at 540-338-2884 or jbfenwick@aol.com or Dominican Retreat at 703-356-4243 or see www.dominicanretreat.org.

SOUL STITCH MEETS Sunday, May 3rd from 1:30-3:30 pm in the hall. We will learn how to crochet, or you can work on current projects. Questions? Contact Monica Deaver at 540-338-6057 or mojoknits@comcast.net.

LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA CD'S

We all have friends or family members who have fallen away from the Church, loved ones who are searching for answers about their Faith, who want to increase their knowledge and understanding, but don't know where to begin. Now you can reach out to these people by offering them a wonderful learning tool, a Lighthouse Catholic Media CD. Whether in the car or at home, people can deepen their understanding of the Faith when they listen to inspiring talks given by some of the best Catholic speakers in the world. Some of you have already started listening to these CDs. In fact, this program has been so popular that we have been adding new titles to our display. The Lighthouse CDs are in a display case in the narthex. Take the CDs you find interesting and then pass them on to someone else. If you can afford to make a \$3 donation, we will use it to purchase more CDs. Thanks for your continued support of this ministry.

ATTENTION SCOUTS! If your son or daughter has earned a Catholic Scouting award please contact Marilyn Gugliotta at 338-2712 or 6gugs@comcast.net to arrange to have it presented at an upcoming Mass.

POP Fund Seeks Parishioner Ideas on New Groups to Gift

Did you know that since 2001 St. Francis de Sales Parish has donated more than \$172,000 to groups serving the poor in our local community as well as on every continent? This incredible generosity has happened because 5% of the weekly offertory collection is set aside in a Preferential Option for the Poor (POP) Fund, from which these gifts are made.

Parishioner nominations are now being accepted for Spring 2009 gifts. If you know of an organization striving to lessen the hardships of the poor that might benefit from a POP Fund gift, please submit your written nomination to the church office. Nominations should include a suggested donation amount; a description of the organization and the parishioner's personal connection to the group; and a brochure or web site information for the organization. Nominations are due in the church office by May 19.



To those who have family in the military: Please send us a small photo with their name, age, branch of service, and rank. We will be making a bulletin board of these men and women to display so that when we pray for them we know who they are and it will make it more personal.

Our Thoughts and Prayers Are With ...

The Deployed: Major Karl M. Wojtkun, Capt. Andrew Kellner, 2LT Brendan McCormick, LTC Michael F. Goodnow, Sr. Arm Yonatan Holz, Arm 1stC Brian Rickert, SSGT Sara Wiest

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, William Cooper

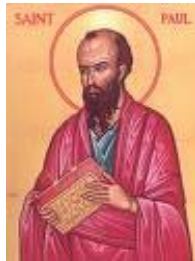


Religious Education

Melissa Gobs, DRE
338-4497 or m.gobs@saintfrancisparish.org

2008-2009 The Year of St. Paul

"Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish"
(Eph 5:25-27).



VBS Planning Meeting
Wednesday, April 29 at 10am or 7pm in the Conference Room. Come and learn more about this fun and faith filled summer week at the parish.

Confirmation

The Holy Spirit poured Himself out generously upon our confirmandi. Thank you to all who helped make the celebration of Confirmation very memorable. We would like to thank our parish ushers, musicians, and the 7th grade families who generously hosted the receptions. We are grateful for our catechists who gave of their time and talents and witnessed to the power of Christ and the Church in their own lives preparing these young men and women to love and live their faith with their whole heart. We would especially like to thank Stephanie Lovasz for her many years of dedicated service as a catechist, Stephanie will be retiring this year and she will be greatly missed!

RE Calendar

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



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, April 26th.

Steubenville Retreat - July 10-12. You should have already paid for your whole Steubenville Retreat by now. If not, please contact me, you are in danger of being dropped of the list.

Wine Tasting and Sales - THANK YOU to **Corcoran Vineyards** and **Bluemont Vineyards** for hosting a Wine Tasting and sales benefiting Workcamp. We are very grateful and fortunate for your generosity and support.

Service Group - Tuesday, April 28th, We will be baby-sitting at the Homeless Shelter. Call or e-mail for details if you would like to help.

RETREAT!!! - Sign up now for our Spring Retreat, May 1-3. The theme of our retreat this year is The Journey. We have planned a wonderful retreat in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

Golf Tournament - Friday, May 8th. Contact me if you are interested in sponsoring a hole or playing in the tournament.

CHANGE OF DATE FOR TALENT SHOW! The Talent Show will now be held at the Parish Picnic on Sunday, June 7. Mark you calendars for amazingly fun day!

CASINO NIGHT AND AUCTION UNDER THE BIG TENT! This year the Casino Night and Auction will be held here at St. Francis de Sales outside under the big tent and the pavilion on Saturday, June 6. Watch this space for more details.



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 JP11 in Dumfries 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

MASSSES for the WEEK

† deceased

Sat., April 25

9:00 am

Sat., April 25

5:00 pm

Sun., April 26

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:30 pm

6:00 pm

Mon., April 27

6:30 am

9:00 am

Tue., April 28

6:30 am

9:00 am

Wed., April 29

6:30 am

9:00 am

Thurs., April 30

6:30 am

9:00 am

Fri., May 1

6:30 am

12 noon

Sat., May 2

9:00 am

Sat., May 2

5:00 pm

Sun., May 3

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:30 pm

6:00 pm

Saint Mark

Special Intention

Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Easter;

† Fr. Michael Kelly

3rd Sunday of Easter

† Deceased members of the D'Elia,

Curran, Butts and Sommer families

Dave and Jamie Dittmeier

The Fisher Family

People of the Parish

Frank Bartlett

Easter Weekday

Kathy Krebs

† Gary Rutzel

Easter Weekday

Michael Osowski

† Rowland Biser

St. Catherine of Siena

Michael Osowski

† Rose Surak

Easter Weekday

† Floripes Tactaquin & † Joe O'Neill

† Helen Chusano

First Friday

† Fr. Michael C. Kelly

InThanksgiving for the Eucharist

First Saturday

† Fr. Michael C. Kelly

Vigil: 4th Sunday of Easter

† Jack Heelan

4th Sunday of Easter

† Deceased members of the D'Elia,

Curran, Butts and Sommer families

Broderick Family

McCustion Family

People of the Parish

Sister Mary Lavey

This Week

Mon., Apr. 27

RCIA - 7:30pm

Tue., April 28

Senior Luncheon - 12noon, parish hall

Wed., Apr. 29

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

Charismatic Prayer Group - 7:30pm

Oratory Room

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2009

3rd Sunday of Easter

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. - 1 John 3:1

BELIEVING IN JESUS CHRIST

Throughout the Easter season, all three of the Sunday readings are taken from the New Testament—the Christian scriptures. Together they explore what it means to believe in Jesus as the Christ, the One who fulfilled the prophecies of the Jewish scriptures.

Today's selections refer to our human weakness, yet they emphasize the forgiveness and peace that are available to those who put their faith in "Jesus Christ the righteous one" (1 John 2:2). In the Acts of the Apostles Peter invites everyone to "repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away" (Acts 3:19). The First Letter of John calls Jesus Christ "expiation for our sins" (1 John 2:2). Finally, in the Gospel Jesus greets the disciples with "Peace" and urges them to preach "repentance, for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 24:47).

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SENIOR LUNCHEON Join us for lunch and conversation at noon on **Tuesday, April 28** at 12 noon in the Parish Hall. Who is a senior? Whoever wants to be - no age minimum!

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29
 Tuesday: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Jn 6:30-35
 Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40
 Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51
 Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59 or, for the memorial, Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Mt 13:54-58
 Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69
 Sunday: Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18