



### **Pope Benedict XVI's Middle East Trip**

Our Holy Father visited the Middle East this past week and was welcomed by Christians, Jews and Muslims. The pope sought to accomplish quite a number of things in presenting a message of peace in the region by acting as an 'ambassador of Christ'. As of this writing, Pope Benedict has been welcomed by religious and political leaders from the differing faiths in Jordan and Isarel.

Do you know what Christians, Jews and Muslims have in common? Strange as it may sound, we all believe in the same one true God! But what exactly does this mean? Our faiths seem to be so radically different. The one thing that Christians, Jews and Muslims agree on is that the God of Abraham is the One True God. Then we have some similarities that somewhat overlap. For example, the Christians accept the Old Testament of the Bible, which is the Jewish scripture. On the other hand, the Muslims sacred text known as the Quran, teaches the acceptance of both the Old and the New Testaments of the Bible. But the Muslims believe that the Old/New Testaments texts have been corrupted over the years and therefore no longer reliable faith resources. In their faith the prophet Muhammad received the complete revelations from God through the angel, Jibril, and were later written down in what is now known as the Quran (literally means the 'recitaton'). Because we believe in the same God that Abraham worshipped, the Christians, Jews and Muslims are sometimes referred to as the *Abrahamic Faiths*.

Let us join our Holy Father in praying that a better respect of life and faith of everyone may lead to a true lasting peace in the land we call, *The Holy Land*'.

Your shepherd in Christ,  
Father Escalante

### **Respect Life News**

**Baby Bottle Campaign** - Once again we will be participating in the Baby Bottle Campaign to help support Life Line, a pro-life/crisis pregnancy ministry located in Loudoun. Please be sure to pick up a baby bottle after mass and fill it with you loose change. Please return your filled bottles to the crib located in the narthex by June 14.

**Choose Life License Plates** - Thank you all for your support by signing petitions and submitting pre-paid applications for the Choose Life license plates. Governor Kaine signed the license plate bill, so it will soon be issued. A portion of the revenue raised by the purchase of these soon-to-be-available plates will be sent to pregnancy resource centers in Virginia. None of the proceeds will be distributed to agencies involved or associated with abortion. Please read the press release at right on how you will be able to get the plate!

### **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 suggest-ed 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.

**THANK YOU FOR HAITI ITEMS** The newly confirmed 8th grade class that collected items for Haiti pediatric patients was able to give them to parishioner Vern Conoway for delivery to Haiti in the spring and summer. The boxes included books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hairbrushes, underwear, socks, crayons, pens, pencils, soap and 50 handmade washclothes. Mr. Conoway will be taking a group of parish teens with him to Haiti this summer to work on special projects. Thank you for your generosity and please pray for our group of parishioners who will travel there as well as the Haitians they will be helping.

### **Choose Life Virginia License Plates to be issued on July 1, 2009**

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles will begin issuing Choose Life license plates on July 1, 2009, using the 481 pre-paid applications submitted by State Senator Ken Cuccinelli.

Anticipating fabulous demand for the Choose Life plate, DMV and plate sponsor Richmond Coalition for Life encourage Virginia citizens who have not applied to apply directly on the DMV website starting July 2. The Richmond Coalition for Life (P.O. Box 17902 Richmond, VA 23226-7902) will however receive pre-paid applications, review them for completeness, and submit complete applications to DMV after the first week of July.

The Choose Life Team expresses grateful appreciation for the tremendous support and encouragement of so many Virginians and advocacy groups who worked tirelessly to promote the plate, obtain the required pre-paid applications, lobby members of General Assembly to vote for the bill and encourage Governor Kaine to sign the bill. All of the dedication and hard work now make it possible for Virginians to proudly display their Choose Life license plate starting in July 2009.

# Church Picnic



Sunday, June 7th  
after 12noon Mass

**WE WILL PROVIDE**  
hamburgers, hotdogs, bbq chicken, italian sausages  
iced tea, lemonade, beer & wine

**YOU CAN BRING**  
side dish or dessert  
or bring a cake for the Cake Contest

*Fun for the Whole Family!!!*

50-50 raffle, music, talent show,  
games for adults and children,  
moonbounce, dunk tank & more!

Volunteers or questions -  
call Alicia 338-6381 or Ray Latka 703-777-7365

**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX TO HELP  
WITH FOOD PLANNING. THANK YOU!**

**REMEMBERING FATHER KELLY** We are beginning to organize material for Father Kelly's book. If you have notes or stories you would like to share, you may send them by email to wyndoax@rstarmail.com. We can't guarantee all will be included, but all are welcome. Thanks. Questions? call Kathleen McCuiston at 338-2471.

## *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 Sarah Wiest



**The Sick:** Norma O'Grady, Hannah Brown, Albert Cippel, Grover 'Corky' Corcoran

**The Deceased:** Fr. Michael C. Kelly, 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, Frank Udy

**DO YOU HAVE AN OLD AND BATTERED FLAG?**  
The Knights of Columbus will be collecting American Flags that need to be retired on May 16 and May 17 after all the Masses. The Knights will also be selling new American Flags that weekend. The old flags will be retired in a ceremony with the Boy Scouts at Our Lady of Hope Church in Potomac Falls on Memorial Day. You may leave old flags in the Narthex.

## **UPCOMING RETREATS AT DOMINICAN RETREAT HOUSE IN McLEAN, VA**

**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](mailto:jbfenwick@aol.com) or Dominican Retreat at 703-356-4243 or see [www.dominicanretreat.org](http://www.dominicanretreat.org).

## *Parish Nurse Health Wellness Ministry*

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has declared May, Lyme Disease Awareness Month. Loudoun County ranks third in the nation behind Connecticut and Rhode Island in the number of reported cases of this disease. Dr. Goodfriend, Director of the Dept. of Health, states that although the prevalence of reported cases is in the western part of the county, his department is getting reports from every ZIP code. With people spending more time outdoors in the warmer weather, Dr. Goodfriend is encouraging everyone to regularly check their bodies for ticks and to report any bulls-eye shaped rashes to a doctor. For more information on the disease and its prevention, you will find brochures from the Dept. of Health on a table in the narthex, or you may visit [www.loudoun.gov/lyme](http://www.loudoun.gov/lyme).

**IHM CONFERENCE** The 8th Annual Immaculate Heart of Mary National Home School and Parent Conference will be held at the Dulles Expo & Conference Center on Friday, June 12 (9am-9pm), and on Saturday, June 13 (9am-4:30pm). Admission is free. Many Catholic vendors and curriculum providers will be participating. For more info: [www.ihmconference.org](http://www.ihmconference.org) or 540-636-1946.

**SOULSTITCH** meets 4th WED, May 27th, 9:30-11:30 am and will not meet the 1st SUN, June 7th due to the church picnic at that time. We meet downstairs in the hall. Please contact Monica Deaver 540-338-6057 or [mojoknits@comcast.net](mailto:mojoknits@comcast.net) with questions.

## Religious Education

Melissa Gobs, DRE

338-4497 or [m.gobs@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:m.gobs@saintfrancisparish.org)

### The Year of St. Paul

"If then you have ben raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (*Colossians 3:1-3*).



### Confirmation Summer Workbooks

All rising eighth graders are to be completing a summer workbook based on their seventh grade text as part of their knowledge requirement. Workbooks are available to download online from the parish website <http://www.stfrancisdesalecatholicchurch.org/reEdConfirmation.asp> or can be picked up from the Religious Education Info Center in the hallway outside of the office.

### Certificates

Certificates of promotion were handed out at the end of classes, and First Holy Communion Certificates were also handed out after the First Communion Masses over the weekend. Anyone who did not pick up their certificate can stop by and pick it up from the Religious Education Info Center. All certificates that are not picked up will be put in the beginning of the year parent packets.

**SACRAMENT RECEPTIONS** We'd like to thank to the families of the 1st Graders who generously donated food for the 1st Holy Communion receptions, and to the 7th Graders who donated the food for the 8th Grade Confirmation receptions. All receptions were well attended and the food was plentiful and wonderful. We'd also like to express our appreciation to those who volunteered on the reception days to serve our families and their guests. We have a great assortment of plates, platters and bowls that can be picked up in the kitchen at anytime. Thank you all again!!

## HEY CATECHISTS!

Let's celebrate the end of another successful year of Religious Education!



**Wednesday, June 17 at 7pm @ the pavilion ~ Bring the whole family!**

## 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.

**Mandatory Workcamp Meeting** - Sunday, May 17th, 7:15 - 9pm. Bring you paperwork and auction item.

**Casino Night & Silent Auction** - Saturday, June 6th, 7 - 11pm. See insert for details.

**Youth Labor Auction** - Silent Auction to be held during the Church Picnic on June 7th.

**Spring Retreat** - Thank you Matt Bowe, Kevin Bills, and Chris Treado for all the hours of preparation and for joining us on the retreat. The youth of the parish are truly blessed by your presence.

**Golf Tournament** - Thanks to all those who sponsored or played in the Charity Golf Tournament. All the Workcampers really appreciate your generosity.

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

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

You can help make this the best VBS ever  
SUMMERTIME BLAST

won't be a success without you!

We are recruiting new volunteers now; please sign up to help and enjoy a fun, faith-filled week with the children of our parish. Pick up a volunteer form in the Narthex and return it to the RE office.

All rising 7th and 8th graders can earn service hours by helping with VBS

**VBS is JULY 13-17 - 9am - 12noon**

Questions? Contact

Melissa [m.gobs@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:m.gobs@saintfrancisparish.org) or  
Janice [j.rees@saintfrancisparish.org](mailto:j.rees@saintfrancisparish.org)

A VBS NURSERY IS PROVIDED FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS WITH BABIES THRU 4YEAR OLDS

**We hope to see a lot of new volunteers!**

# MASSSES for the WEEK

† deceased

Sat., May 16

9:00 am

**Easter Weekday**

† Fr. Michael C. Kelly

Sat., May 16

5:00 pm

**Vigil: 6th Sunday of Easter**

† Gary Rutzel

Sun., May 17

7:00 am

**6th Sunday of Easter**

In Thanksgiving

8:30 am

† Mary Bergeron

10:30 am

Richard McCaffrey

12:30 pm

People of the Parish

6:00 pm

† Barbara Balut

Mon., May 18

6:30 am

**Easter Weekday**

† Marilyn Chusano

9:00 am

† Laura Splain

Tue., May 19

6:30 am

**Easter Weekday**

† Marge Robison

9:00 am

† Otremba Fumgard

Wed., May 20

6:30 am

**Easter Weekday**

† James Lanaghan

9:00 am

† Mary

Thurs., May 21

6:30 am

**Easter Weekday**

Agustin Espericueta

9:00 am

The Kevin Jones Family

Fri., May 22

6:30 am

**Easter Weekday**

† Capt. Robert J. Ney

12:00 noon

In Thanksgiving for the Eucharist

Sat., May 23

9:00 am

**Easter Weekday**

† Fr. Michael C. Kelly

Sat., May 23

5:00 pm

**Vigil: The Ascension of the Lord**

† Fr. Michael C. Kelly

Sun., May 24

7:00 am

**The Ascension of the Lord**

† Raquel Canales

8:30 am

† Carolyn Miller

10:30 am

The Fisher Family

12:30 pm

Jesse Curtis

6:00 pm

† Richard Hughes

## PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS: 5/10/09

Offertory - this week	\$ 14,706
YEAR TO DATE	\$ 313,209
2nd Collection - Special Parish Needs	\$ 1,870

## This Week

Wed., May 20 "Living Life in the Spirit" - 6:30pm  
Charismatic Prayer Group - 7:30pm  
 Oratory Room

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009

6th Sunday of Easter

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit. - *John 15:16*

**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. 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](mailto: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'.



## May Envelope Project

During the month of May, the parish office will be doing some Spring Cleaning in an attempt to update our parish database and go green! The office is requesting that everyone who is currently receiving offertory envelopes to please put them in the collection basket whether or not they contain an offering.

We are trying to reduce the number of mailings to people who no longer participate in the parish. For those who take advantage of the electronic giving program, we already have your information so you will not need to do anything.

## Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 18:1-8; Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28
Sunday:	Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47; Eph 1:17- 23 or Eph 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]; Mk 16:15-20