

FATHER'S CORNER



Practicing Atheists

We've all heard the term "practicing Catholic" at least a few times in our lives. Many of us know that the term describes someone who can be a Godparent for Baptism or a Sponsor for Confirmation. Most of us could guess that someone who does not attend Mass on Sundays or Holydays, or who is in an invalid marriage, or who is a public state of sin ("shacking up" or openly pro-abortion) would not be nominees for the title. And there are a few of us who remember the "precepts of the Church" – those actions that, at least outwardly, proclaim one to be a "practicing" member of the Universal ("catholic") Christian Church (our official title, by the way).

But what of those parts of our lives that few, if anyone, can see? Do our thoughts proclaim us to have "the mind of Christ"? Is "compassion" a word that evokes a spirit of service to others? Do our words carry the weight of our convictions? Do we try to love those who are unlovable by worldly standards?

That last question is derived from a saying by (yes, you guessed it!) G.K. Chesterton. The saying is simple, yet extremely challenging (just like Our Lord's sayings, come to think of it!). It goes like this:

"Love means loving the unlovable, or it is no virtue at all".

This is the true test of our "practicing" our faith. Can we "pray for those who persecute us"? Do we see in those who hurt us opportunities to give the grace of forgiveness that God has given to us? Do we have faith in the power of prayer and sacrifice to win to the Gospel even the most hardened of sinners?

If we are serious about our calling to be like Christ, the inside and the outside of us MUST be united in living, thinking and breathing the Gospel. To fail to do this – to think that outward actions can make up for a lack of faith, hope and love – is to be a "practicing atheist". That is a person whose goal in life is personal fulfillment, and has no love of God that shows in a love of neighbor – particularly the neighbors who are also our enemies.

Below are the names of people along with the date of their burial from our parish since the time St. Francis de Sales became a parish in 1967. Scripture tells us to pray for the living and the dead.

Anastasia Barry, January 10, 2007
William P. Bragg, January 15, 2005
Grace L. Guiggio, January 18, 2004
Richard J. Gessner, January 12, 2002
Donna B. Haddock, January 13, 2002
Grace M. Bullick, January 27, 2002
Roger F. Cressey, January 10, 2001
Deborah B. DeAngelo, January 20, 2001
Robert F. Busher, January 18, 2001
Catherine M. Maher, January 28, 2000
Thelma L. Chettle, January 17, 1999
William E. Caggiano, January 18, 1998
Mary Louis Brown, January 30, 1997
Michaela Anne Thurman, January 2, 1996
Anna Marie Gerken, January 3, 1991
Scott L. Kidwell, January 1, 1990
John P. Holland, January 1, 1988
Cecelia E. Williams, January 17, 1988
Elizabeth J. Carruthers, January 18, 1985
George Frederick, January 16, 1984
Emily R. Austin, January 8, 1982
Norris W. Welsh, January 21, 1980
David C. Schwable, January 17, 1971
Vivian McKay Shrumpp, January 20, 1970
Christine Goodman, January 5, 1969

"God chose us before the world began to be holy." God has chosen each person in Christ for a particular vocation. If He may be calling you to be holy through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, call Father Brian Bashista at (703) 841-2514, or write b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org.

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



“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 and 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.

The Knights of Columbus of our parish are sponsoring a **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** on ***Sunday, January 6.*** 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.



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.

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.

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.



NEXT PADRE PIO CENACLE Please join us for the next Padre Pio Cenacle on ***Wednesday, January 9.*** We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the chapel. For more information please contact the Parish Office.



The focus of the Respect Life Committee is to educate and deepen the respect of human life from birth to death. We promote this here at St. Francis as well as the community in general by participating in the annual March for Life, promoting awareness of outreach programs for pregnancy support agencies, e.g., Project Gabriel, Lifeline, Birthright; abortion healing; and care for the elderly and dying. The committee promotes advocacy on the national, state and local levels to adopt laws that defend and protect human life. And finally, encourage prayer among our parishioners to promote a “Culture of Life” and respect for human dignity. For more information, please call Michele Cohoon at 540-554-2049.

Religious Education

Melissa Gobs, DRE
338-4497

or dre.stfrancis@comcast.net

Upcoming Parent Meetings

The 7th Grade Confirmation Parent Meeting originally scheduled for Wed. Dec. 5 has been moved to Wed. Jan. 9 at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall.

This meeting is mandatory and for parents of 7th graders only. If you attended the 7th grade parent meeting on Sunday, Dec. 2, you do not have to attend this meeting.

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:

Joshua 17-20, Josh. 21-24, Judges 1-4, Judg. 5-8, Judg. 9-11, Judg. 12-14, Judg. 15-17

Religious Ed Calendar

Sun., Jan. 6 Grades K-8 Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS
Grades K-8 Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Jan. 7 Grades 1, 2, 8, and Special Needs -
4:15pm - at St. Francis
Tue., Jan. 8 Grades K & 7 - 4:15pm, at St. Francis
RCIC - 4pm, Visitation Room
RCIT - 7:30pm, Visitation Room
Wed. Jan. 9 Grades 3,4,5 & 6 - 4:15pm, at
St. Francis
7th Grade Confirmation Parent Mtg. -
7:30pm, Parish Hall



TEEN FAITH NEWS

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

Youth Night - Sunday, January 6th. Happy New Year.
Hope to see you at 7:15pm after the Teen Mass.

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 will begin Jan. 7th.

**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

Sun., Jan. 13 Grades K-8 Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS
Grades K-8 Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
1st Reconciliation Parent Mtg - during
class time at LVHS
Mon., Jan. 14 Grades 1, 2, 8, and Special Needs -
4:15pm - at St. Francis
Tue., Jan. 15 Grades K & 7 - 4:15pm, at St. Francis
RCIC - 4pm, Visitation Room
RCIT - 7:30pm, Visitation Room
Wed. Jan. 16 Grades 3,4,5 & 6 - 4:15pm, at
St. Francis
1st Reconciliation Parent Mtg - 7:30pm
Parish Hall


MASSES for the WEEK

† deceased

<u>Saturday, January 5</u>	Vigil: Epiphany
5:00 pm	† Walter Risceck
<u>Sunday, January 6</u>	Epiphany
7:00 am	† Frances Joyce, † Lillian Petrovsky and † Helen Rutzel
8:30 am	† Frank Rizzolo
10:30 am	† Finbar Murray
12:30 pm	People of the Parish
6:00 pm	Joe Held
<u>Monday, January 7</u>	Christmas Weekday
6:30 am	John Krebs
9:00 am	Nelly and Joseph Kinnan
<u>Tuesday, January 8</u>	Christmas Weekday
6:30 am	† Sabina Montague
11:00 am	Donna Sanchez
<u>Wed, January 9</u>	Christmas Weekday
6:30 am	Christine Krebs
9:00 am	Joseph Wysolmerski
<u>Thursday, January 10</u>	Christmas Weekday
6:30 am	Lori Anderson
9:00 am	† Richard Schaper
<u>Friday, January 11</u>	Christmas Weekday
6:30 am	Robert Stakes, Sr.
12:00 noon	† Margaret Gingras
<u>Saturday, January 12</u>	Christmas Weekday
9:00 am	Victor M. Fernandez
<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

PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS: 12/30/07

Offertory - Dec. 23	\$ 17,499
Offertory - Dec. 25	\$ 26,346
Offertory - Dec. 30	\$ 26,025
YEAR TO DATE	\$ 812,061



Sunday, January 6, 2008
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Epiphany

They opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- *Matthew 2:11b*

The Star of Bethlehem

The unfolding of the story of the Incarnation continues today as the Church celebrates the Epiphany. The tale of the magi from the East is one of the most fascinating in all of scripture. It has much to teach us about what we can come to expect, even in circumstances and places that may seem insignificant or small. Bethlehem was a tiny town, what we might refer to today as a town without even one stop light. Yet it is over this seemingly insignificant place that the guiding star stops in its own search for the place where the Savior would be born. Too often we fail to recognize the fact that the star of Bethlehem comes to rest in our everyday lives, where we can experience God's presence, manifested in ever new ways. Epiphany calls us to shake off our stupor and recognize the One who comes to save us.

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This Week

Wed., Jan. 9 Padre Pio Cenacle - after 9am Mass
 Thur., Jan. 10 "Living Life in the Spirit" - 6:30pm
Charismatic Prayer Group - 7:30pm
 Visitation Room

Readings for the Week

Monday:	1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17