

FATHER'S CORNER



Rights

“We hold these truths to be *self-evident*, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their *Creator* with certain *inalienable Rights*, that among these are *Life, Liberty* and the *Pursuit of Happiness*.”

The Declaration of Independence
(italics supplied – the capital letters are in the Original)

Seems pretty clear, doesn't it? What we have, we have because God has given it to us. These gifts come, not from any human law, but from the fact that we are created in the image and likeness of God, with an intellect, a will, and a sharing in His divine life.

Yet, with *Roe v. Wade*, we are now dependent upon the State for our rights, for the State “allows” us to exist or not. If the State determines the meaning of “Life”, it *must* determine, sooner or later, what that “Life” is allowed to do, when it is allowed to do it, and when it is no longer “fit” to do something.

As our good friend, G.K. Chesterton, has said, “Abolish the God, and the government becomes the God.”

He also said, “When you break the big laws (he implied the Ten Commandments in particular), you do not get freedom, you do not even get anarchy. You get the small laws.”

Simply put, without an appeal to God, democracy becomes impossible to maintain. With God being shoved off to the side all we can do is, every election, try to keep those in authority so busy worrying about the *next* election that they are too afraid to use the power that the State now has to determine the meaning of our lives for us. That tactic is bound to fail, sooner or later, when those we elect are of the same basic philosophy – the “government knows best.” When this happens, labels of “liberal” or “conservative”, “Democrat” or “Republican” will be practically meaningless. The State will determine what is moral and what is not. And please don't quote the canard that “government cannot legislate morality” – for that is exactly what it does when it determines the “legality” of human behaviors!

And spare us the old Political Science professor's assertion that “religion and politics don't mix.” For without God, there will be no politics as we know them – only tyranny exercised by many tyrants.

2008 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL Many of you have received Bishop Loverde's letter requesting your financial support of the 2008 Bishop's Lenten Appeal. Please consider making a generous pledge to this important annual campaign.

BLA funds help to support diocesan offices and ministries that serve tens of thousands of people each year. All parishes benefit from services that are received from the Diocese of Arlington. From encouragement of vocations, to support of seminarians, to continuing education of priests, to training of catechists, the Appeal funds those things that parishes can not do on their own.

Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you consider your annual pledge to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. Make a sacrificial gift in gratitude for the gifts that God has given to you.

ADORATION/BENEDICTION

All are invited to join our parish every First Friday of the month as we pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus is truly present and waiting for each of us.

May our parish be firmly built upon faith, held humbly together by hope and ever lit by the light of God's love. Our love of God must stand above **all** in this world. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is love of God the Son, present in the Eucharist.

First Friday is **February 1st**, a sign up sheet is located in the narthex or just stop in for a moment.

First Friday Schedule

Confessions	10:45-11:45am
Rosary led by Children	11:30am
First Friday Mass	12noon
Adoration	12:30pm
Rosary	12:45pm
Divine Mercy	3pm
Children's Holy Hour	3pm
Rosary	3am
Benediction	8:45am
Mass	9am

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, JenniferZilke, Robert Orme, Peter Gabby, Violet Brown, Dorothy Burns, Ernest Pavlock, Walter Risceck, Harold Ditzler

NEW POP FUND GIFTS

The Preferential Option for the Poor (POP) Fund Committee met on December 13 to consider holiday gifts to charitable groups serving the poor. Four gifts were made.

- \$1000 was given to the Loudoun Cares Fuel Assistance Fund. This local initiative pays the fuel bills of needy families so that they will have heat this winter. This was the first POP Fund gift for Loudoun Cares.
- Mission of Mercy in Frederick, Maryland received \$2000 to purchase a speedclave autoclave for use in its dental program. Mission of Mercy provides medical and dental assistance to the poor, uninsured, and underinsured in the region. St. Francis de Sales has supported Mission of Mercy for a number of years.
- Sister Josepha Haskins and the Sisters of Mercy were given \$5000 to support continued operation of the Sunrise Center, a school for low income unwed mothers, and the Tri-County Health Clinic in southwestern Virginia. This is the third gift for the Sister of Mercy serving the working class in Richlands, Virginia.
- The Society of African Missions Lay Missionary Program in Takoma Park, Maryland received a \$2000 gift. S.M.A missionaries work as teachers, health care workers, farmers, and more in Ghana, Tanzania and Liberia. This was the second POP Fund gift for this missionary group.

The POP Fund Committee relies on parishioner recommendations. If you would like to nominate a group for a future gift, please send a letter to the church office with the name of the group, background information on its activities, and a suggested contribution amount.



SENIOR LUNCHEON Join us for lunch and conversation at noon on ***Tuesday, January 29*** 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 3***. 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.

ST. FRANCIS HALL KITCHEN TO BE RENOVATED The parish hall kitchen will be undergoing remodeling from now until March 17. The floor in the hall will also be replaced. Because of this much needed repair and remodeling work, the parish hall will not be accessible for use until after Easter.

Music News

Parish Choir Lent and Easter are just around the corner and the Parish Choir is beginning to prepare music for these wonderful seasons. The Parish Choir is open to those who have a love of music and want to praise God in song. The choir rehearses on **Tuesday evenings at 7pm**, and serves at the 10:30am Mass. All voice parts and levels of experience welcome!

Treble Choir The St. Francis Treble Choir will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, Feb 5th from 6-7pm. The choir is seeking additional members and is open to girls ages 8 and up who love to sing and have a desire to learn parts singing. The choir serves at the 12:30pm Sunday Mass. Must be able to commit to a weekly rehearsal.

Piano Lessons for Beginners Have you ever wanted to learn how to play the piano? Have you been thinking about getting your child involved in music this year? Starting in February I will be offering piano lessons for beginners. Lessons are 30 minutes in duration and are being offered at a very reasonable rate. Accepting ages 6 through adult (remember you're never too old to learn!). There are a limited number of slots available so call right away for more information.

Contact Cindy Cummins, Director of Music at (540) 338-6381 or email me at music.stfrancis@comcast.net

BLESSED PALMS Please bring your blessed palms from last year to be burned for the ashes used on Ash Wednesday, February 6. There will be a basket in the narthex to collect them. Please bring your palms no later than ***Sunday, February 3***.

VOLUNTEERS NEED Our own Dale Belrose, Ombudsman at Heritage Hall, is looking for a few good souls to accompany Heritage Hall residents to doctor appointments. Transportation is provided. Please call Kathleen McCuiston at 338-2471 or Dale Belrose at 338-7333 for more info.



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 on Sunday, Feb. 3 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.

Religious Education

Melissa Gobs, DRE
338-4497 or dre.stfrancis@comcast.net

We are still waiting to receive our date of **Confirmation** from the Bishop's office. We will let all of our 8th grade families know as soon as we get word. Thanks for your patience.

Advent Parish Challenge - Month 3 Already...

This week's readings: II Samuel 21-24, I Kings 1-4, I Kings 5-8, I Kings 9-11, I Kings 12-15, I Kings 16-19, I Kings 20-22

Adult Confirmations There will be an adult Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral on May 10 at 7:30pm and on Pentecost Sunday, May 11 at 2:30pm. All interested adults should contact Melissa Gobs for information on preparation and paperwork.

CDU offers new online seminar on Pope's encyclical Beginning January 28, CDU is also offering a three-week online seminar to help all Catholics appreciate and delve into the mysteries developed in the most recent encyclical of Pope Benedict. "*In Hope We Are Saved*" is an encyclical for our times. As catechetical leaders, it is critical that we are current in our reading and study of Church documents. This seminar is one way of dialoguing with a theologian and other catechists about the contents of this encyclical. To sign up please contact CDU at 540-338-2700.

Religious Ed Calendar

Sun., Jan. 27	<u>Grades K-8</u> Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS <u>Grades K-8</u> Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Jan. 28	<u>Grades 1, 2, 8, and Special Needs</u> - 4:15pm - at St. Francis
Tue., Jan. 29	<u>Grades K & 7</u> - 4:15pm, at St. Francis <u>RCIC</u> - 4pm, Visitation Room <u>RCIT</u> - 7:30pm, Visitation Room
Wed. Jan. 30	<u>Grades 3,4,5 & 6</u> - 4:15pm, at St. Francis
Sun., Feb. 3	<u>Grades K-8</u> Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS <u>Grades K-8</u> Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Feb. 4	<u>Grades 1, 2, 8, and Special Needs</u> - 4:15pm - at St. Francis
Tue., Feb. 5	<u>Grades K & 7</u> - 4:15pm, at St. Francis <u>RCIC</u> - 4pm, Visitation Room <u>RCIT</u> - 7:30pm, Visitation Room
Wed. Feb. 6	<u>Grades 3,4,5 & 6</u> - 4:15pm, at St. Francis

TEEN FAITH NEWS



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

Youth Night - Sunday, January 27th, 7:15-9pm. Friends welcome.

Next Workcamp Meeting - February 17th.

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.

Adults Chaperones Needed for Teen Ski Trip - Contact Jane if interested in joining us for our weekend ski trip.

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

VBS PLANNING MEETING

We will hold our first meeting in preparation for this summer's VBS on **Tuesday, January 29** in the Parish Office at 7:30pm. Anyone interested in learning more about VBS, helping this year, or sharing ideas should attend.

The Vacation Bible School Program is a week of creative educational and fun activities based on a Biblical theme. The program is designed for children ages kindergarten through grade six.

Discover how much fun it can be to help with VBS! Adults and teens are all invited to volunteer.

Children's Holy Hour

All children and their parents are invited to visit Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday of the month. A leader and materials will be provided to guide the children and assist them in focusing on the Blessed Sacrament. Meet us in the visitation room on Friday, February 1st at 3:30pm. Come and give your children the greatest gift of all, Jesus present in the Eucharist. "*Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these*" (Mathew 19:14)

MASSSES for the WEEK

† deceased

<u>Saturday, January 26</u>	<i>Vigil: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
5:00 pm	† Clinton Humphries
<u>Sunday, January 27</u>	<i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
7:00 am	† Deceased members of the D'Elia, Curran, Sommer & Butts Families
8:30 am	† Sean Patrick McCarthy
10:30 am	Jack Heller
12:30 pm	People of the Parish
6:00 pm	† Deceased members of the Milam and Stafford families
<u>Monday, January 28</u>	<i>St. Thomas Aquinas</i>
6:30 am	John Krebs
9:00 am	† Mary and Peter Skarzenski
<u>Tuesday, January 29</u>	<i>Weekday</i>
6:30 am	† Sylvia Brennan
9:00 am	† Joe Held
<u>Wed, January 30</u>	<i>Weekday</i>
6:30 am	Christine Krebs
9:00 am	Betty Gingras
<u>Thursday, January 31</u>	<i>St. John Bosco</i>
6:30 am	† Michael Montague
9:00 am	Pete & Nancy Domenici 50th Wedding Anniversary
<u>Friday, February 1</u>	<i>First Friday</i>
6:30 am	† Joseph Murphy
12:00 noon	Melissa Gobs
<u>Saturday, February 1</u>	<i>First Saturday</i>
9:00 am	Michael Liskiewicz
<u>Saturday, February 2</u>	<i>Vigil: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
5:00 pm	† Peter Skarzenski
<u>Sunday, February 3</u>	<i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
7:00 am	David and Frances Stafford
8:30 am	† Arlene Voss
10:30 am	† Sean Patrick McCarthy
12:30 pm	† Joseph Fiocca
6:00 pm	People of the Parish

PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS: 1/20/07

Offertory - this week \$
 YEAR TO DATE \$ 30,722

IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE If you would like acknowledgement of donation for your tax returns, please contact Diane in the office at 540-338-6381.

ASH WEDNESDAY
 February 6
 Mass times are 6:30am, 9am, and 7:30pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2008 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord. - *Psalm 27:14*

LIBERATION AND REFORM

While you may have to reach for an atlas to determine that Isaiah is speaking about Galilee, today's first reading (part of which was read at Christmas) is prophetic of Jesus' future ministry in that province. The light that brings salvation and rejoicing is, ultimately, Christ. Liberation is the theme: liberation from both ignorance ("darkness") and sin (the "yoke").

As Isaiah identifies a place, so Paul describes an attitude: the attitude that develops, even among good people, of equating their own will with the common good. This always brings dissension, and so it has done in Corinth. Paul will not allow this; we are all members of "Christ's party." The gospel is not to divide us.

Matthew quotes from Isaiah in today's Gospel, presenting Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies. The theme is "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). To spread this message, Jesus begins to select disciples, four of whom we meet today: Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

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This Week

Mon., Jan. 28 RCIA - 7:30pm, Visitation Room
 Tue., Jan. 29 Bible Study - 10am, Parish Hall
 Senior Luncheon - 12 noon
 Bible Study - 7pm, Parish Hall
 Thur., Jan. 30 "Living Life in the Spirit" - 6:30pm
 Charismatic Prayer Group - 7:30pm
 Visitation Room

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30
 Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35
 Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk 4:21-25
 Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34
 Saturday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]
 Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a