

Welcome Father Ronald Escalante!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our new Administrator, Father Ronald Escalante.

Father Escalante was born in the Philippines but grew up in the Washington metropolitan area since the age of 11. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Arlington on May 20, 1995. He served as a Catholic Chaplain for the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, as Associate Pastor of Good Shepherd Catholic Church, and most recently, St. Luke's parish in McLean (where he is already very sadly missed.)

His hobbies include photography, playing the harp, playing Scrabble and doing magic tricks, which earned him the name, "Magic Padre". His joy and enthusiasm is contagious. His devotion to Saint Agnes, his classic taste in music, film and art are expressed in his selfless love of people, both young and old.

We welcome you to Purcellville, Father!

BLOOD DRIVE St Francis Council of the Knights of Columbus and St. Francis de Sales kicked off the 2009 Blood Drive Program in dramatic fashion. An appearance by the cast and crew from the Not Just Shakespeare theatre group, decked out in costumes and finery, provided an entertaining break in the drive. The very successful drive conducted by Inova Blood Donor Services had 60 donors, including the McBeth players, from 70 who registered. A great drive, we thank all who supported it. Special thanks go out to our callers and all who turned out to help.

Mark your calendars for the next drive on April 19.

PROJECT NIGHT-NIGHT

Girl Scout Troop #3309 will be collecting new baby blankets (no larger than 3'x3'), new stuffed animals (no longer than 18") and "like new" children's books for ages 0-10 throughout the month of February. Bins will be located in the Narthex and the foyer of Loudoun Valley High School. These donations will be put into totes and given to our local homeless shelters. Please help homeless children have sweeter dreams!

www.ProjectNightNight.org If there are any questions, feel free to contact Lynn Dunster 703-727-1066.

Thank You! Girl Scout Juniors Troop #3309



SENIOR LUNCHEON Join us for lunch and conversation at noon on **Tuesday, February 24** at 12 noon in the Parish Hall. Who is a senior? Whoever wants to be - no age minimum!

BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL

Be Rich in Good Works...Ready to Share

Many of you have received Bishop Loverde's letter requesting your financial support to the 2009 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA). Please consider making a generous pledge to this important annual campaign. The 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 support of seminarians, to the training of our catechists, to helping our youth grow in their faith, to teaching respect for the sanctity of life, the BLA funds those things that parishes can not do on their own.

Despite these challenging economic times, please reflect on your blessings and consider sharing a portion of your gifts to help your brothers and sisters in our diocese who are served by our ministries, programs and services. Please consider making a sacrificial pledge in gratitude for the gifts that God has given to you.

USHERS Please note that there will be a meeting for all ushers and any members of the parish who wish to join this ministry on Monday evening, **March 16, 2009** from 7:30- 8:30pm. We will discuss safety, security, Usher Guidelines and use of the parish's new AED.



This ministry is about helping to maintain the health and wellness in mind, body and spirit of our parish family and the community. Please join us for an informational meeting on Friday, February 27 in the Oratory Room at 1pm. You need not have a medical background, just a willing spirit. We are also seeking nurses to give us and with blood pressure screenings done after all the masses the 2nd Saturday/Sunday of the month. Questions? Contact Nancy Grish at 540-338-8004 or nmg1298@aol.com.

Our Thoughts and Prayers Are With ...

The Deployed: Christopher Palm, Kenneth Kyle McWilliams, Major Karl M. Wojtkun, John M. Cotter, Capt. Andrew Kellner, 2LT Brendan McCormick

The Sick: Karen Ries, Norma O'Grady, Hannah Brown, Rich Marks, Albert Cippel, Grover 'Corky' Corcoran

The Deceased: Fr. Michael C. Kelly, Raymond Morin, 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





Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Shrove Tuesday
February 24 at 6pm
St. Francis Hall

The teens and the Knights of Columbus are joining up on Shrove Tuesday, February 24, to raise money for a memorial statue of St. Michael the Archangel in memory of Fr. Michael Kelly. Bring the whole family for this great evening of remembering Fr. Kelly. Donations will be accepted. Goal - \$4,000

Lighthouse Catholic Media presents a practical and effective program to help Catholics better understand their Faith.

Would you like to learn more about your Catholic faith but don't have time to read a lot of books? If so, we have an exciting program starting here at St. Francis. Soon you will find a display in the back of church offering inspiring and educational Catholic CDs and brochures. These CDs include explanations of our Catholic Faith, accounts of God's incredible mercy in the personal lives of Catholics, and practical information for living your faith. Below are a few quotes from people who have listened to these CDs and whose lives have been deeply touched.

"These CDs helped make the Mass come alive and left me with a hunger to learn more." Russ-Dayton, OH

"I found these CDs very enlightening for myself and my wife's conversion." Mathew - Nashua, NH

"With these CDs, I hope to bring my husband back to the faith and be able to guide our 2 sons." Kathleen - Edwardsville, IL

These CDs are especially effective for those who would like to learn more about Christ and their faith, but have little time to study. Use your car as a university on wheels - Listen as your drive, or even as you exercise.

A few examples include:

- **Psychologist and Deacon, Dr. Bob McDonald explains how to effectively deal with anger and forgiveness.**
- **Former Presbyterian Minister Dr. Scott Hahn gives an incredible talk on why he became Catholic.**
- **Nationally known Catholic speaker from Australia Matthew Kelly explains the importance of becoming the "best version of yourself".**
- **Fr. Larry Richards explains the Mass in a way few adults have ever heard before.**

If you are able to support the program, the \$3 recommended donations are gratefully appreciated and needed to make new titles available in the future. Look for the display in the back of church.

Respect Life News

St. John the Apostle and Our Lady of Hope parishes invite you to a special Pro-Life event. Hosted by Our Lady of Hope on **Friday, February 27** all are welcome for the Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm and the event will begin at 8pm. Fr. Wilde has traveled to over 600 venues in 46 states delivering the Gospel of Life and supporting the local pro-life efforts of clergy and laity.

Representatives from national pro-life organizations Silent No More and 40 Days for Life will also be on hand to discuss the devastation abortion continues to have on our society and what we all can do about it.

Critical Respect Life Alert: Virginia's legislature is debating three bills to boost state biotechnology investment. While saying they are not interested in using the legislation to pursue life-destructive research, biotech organizations have repeatedly resisted including bioethical safeguards. It is critical that provisions be included in all three bills to make sure they do not become vehicles for state sponsorship of embryo-destructive research or research on aborted babies.

The Virginia Catholic Conference, which is the legislative advocacy office of Arlington Bishop Paul Loverde and Richmond Bishop Francis DiLorenzo, has prepared an alert to provide parishioners throughout the Commonwealth a very easy way to play a role in this critical debate. To let your state Delegate and Senator know of your strong support for bioethical protections to uphold the sanctity of life, please visit the Conference's website, www.vacatholic.org. At the top of the site is a link to an alert that includes a pre-written message that could be sent "as is" or edited to suit your own style. Upon clicking "Send Message," your message would be automatically routed to your own Delegate and Senator in the Virginia General Assembly (through a system that uses your residential address to determine your House and Senate districts).

Taking action takes just a minute or two and provides very important input to those who represent you. Please act on the alert between now and February 28 and encourage many others to do so as well.

SOULSTITCH MEETS:

Wednesday, February 25 from 9:30-11:30 am, and
Sunday, March 1 from 1:30-3:30 pm

Both meetings are held in the downstairs hall

For information please contact Monica Deaver at 540-338-6057 or mojoknits@comcast.net.

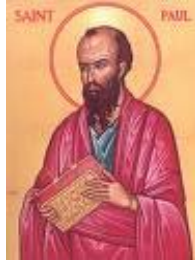
Religious Education

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

2008-2009 The Year of St. Paul

For however many are the promises of God, their Yes is in him; therefore, the Amen from us also goes through him to God for glory.

- 2 Cor 18:20



VBS 2009

K4J Summertime Blast - July 13-17

Come to our next planning meeting on **Tuesday, March 10** at 7pm in the Conference Room.

8th Grade Parent Meeting - DATE CHANGE!

The last 8th grade parent meeting originally scheduled for March 1 or March 4 will be pushed back one week. The new date for the meeting is

*Sunday, March 8 during class time at LVHS
or Wednesday, March 11 at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall.*

Adult Confirmation - There will be an adult Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral on May 30, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. and on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. Any high school students or adults who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation should contact Melissa Gobs in the Religious Education Office immediately to begin preparation.

Please pray for our Confirmandi on their retreat!

110 of our parish youth who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in April will participate in their Confirmation Retreat on Saturday, February 28. Please pray for them during this encounter with our Lord that they may grow in holiness and more firmly commit their lives to Christ.

RE Calendar

Sun., Feb. 22	Gr. K-8 - Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS <u>Gr. K-8, RCIC</u> - Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Feb. 23	<u>Gr. 1, 7, RCIC, and Special Needs</u> - 4:15pm at the church
Tue., Feb. 24	Gr. K, 2, 4, 8 - 4:15pm, at the church
Wed. Feb. 25	<u>Grades 3,5,6</u> - 4:15pm, at the church
Thur., Feb. 26	<u>RCIT</u> - 7pm, Oratory Room
Sun., Mar. 1	Gr. K-8 - Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS <u>Gr. K-8, RCIC</u> - Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Mar. 2	<u>Gr. 1, 7, RCIC, and Special Needs</u> - 4:15pm at the church
Tue., Mar. 3	Gr. K, 2, 4, 8 - 4:15pm, at the church
Wed. Mar. 4	<u>Grades 3,5,6</u> - 4:15pm, at the church
Thur., Mar. 5	<u>RCIT</u> - 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 Night - Sunday, February 22nd. Join us for a great night while we discuss What Makes Us Catholic?

Mount 2000 - Thanks to all the adults who helped drive and chaperone this amazing weekend at Mount St. Mary's University. Your living witness to the youth helped make this weekend inspirational.

Next Mandatory Workcamp Meeting - March 15th. All teens going to Workcamp should be at this meeting! We will hand out registrations. You should have already paid your Deposits of \$150. You should be working on your appeal letters by now. You can bring a copy of the letter to the meeting if you haven't already sent it to us.

I need Your Help! Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser - The teens and the Knights of Columbus are joining up on Shrove Tuesday, Feb 24, to raise money for a memorial statue of St. Michael the Archangel in memory of Fr. Michael Kelly. Please sign up to help set up, serve dinner, or clean up. You can e-mail me to sign up.

Jane Treado Youth Director
540-338-6381 or Janedhs78@aol.com

Lent

Not sure how to enter into Lent this year? Here is a reminder of the key penitential practices of Lent.
Prayer - the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we might thirst for him. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2560)

Fasting - refraining from food and drink as an expression of interior penance, in imitation of the fast of Jesus for forty days in the desert. It is the opening of the heart, stripping oneself of everything that is an obstacle to the gift of our Lord's coming.

Almsgiving - Money given to the poor as an act of penance or fraternal charity. It represents a heart that is humble, repentant, merciful, compassionate, which seeks to share with others the experience of mercy it has received from God.

"Prayer knocks at the door, fasting obtains, mercy receives. Prayer, mercy and fasting: these three are one, and they give life to each other." St. Peter Chrysologus, Early Church Father

MASSSES for the WEEK

† deceased

<u>Sat., February 21</u>	Vigil: 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time
5:00 pm	† Gary Rutzel
<u>Sun., February 22</u>	7th Sunday of Ordinary Time
7:00 am	People of the Parish
8:30 am	Cheryl Ride
10:30 am	The Fisher family
12:30 pm	Dana Friedl
6:00 pm	The Collingwood Family
<u>Mon., February 23</u>	St. Polycarp
6:30 am	† Fr. Michael Kelly
9:00 am	† Lily and Alex Petrovsky
<u>Tue., February 24</u>	Weekday
6:30 am	† Fr. Michael Kelly
9:00 am	† Fr. Michael Kelly
<u>Wed., February 25</u>	Ash Wednesday
6:30 am	† Stephen Willard
9:00 am	† Marilyn Chusano
7:30 pm	† Andrew Michael Wilson
<u>Thurs., February 26</u>	Lenten Weekday
6:30 am	† Billie Bangs
9:00 am	Patricia Griffin
<u>Fri., February 27</u>	Lenten Weekday
6:30 am	Tasaki Family
12:00 noon	In Thanksgiving for the Eucharist
<u>Sat., February 28</u>	Lenten Weekday
9:00 am	† Fr. Michael Kelly
<u>Sat., February 28</u>	Vigil: 1st Sunday of Lent
5:00 pm	† Wallace and † Helen Rutzel
<u>Sun., March 1</u>	1st Sunday of Lent
7:00 am	† Rev. Stanley Slivonik
8:30 am	The Martin Family
10:30 am	People of the Parish
12:30 pm	The McLaughlin Family
6:00 pm	The Moortgat Family

This Week

Mon., Feb. 23	<u>RCIA</u> 7:30pm
Tues., Feb. 24	<u>Bible Study</u> - 10am-noon, parish hall
	<u>VBS Meeting</u> - 7pm, conference room
Wed., Feb. 25	<u>"Living Life in the Spirit"</u> - 6:30pm
	<u>Charismatic Prayer Group</u> - 7:30pm
	Oratory Room

PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS: 2/15/09

Offertory - this week	\$ 16,616
YEAR TO DATE	\$ 113,401
2nd Collection	\$ 2,860

REMEMBERING FATHER KELLY Would anyone like to help work on compiling a book of Fr. Kelly's writings and words of wit and wisdom? If so, call Kathleen at 540 338-2471

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time

It is I, I, who wipe out, for my own sake, your offenses; your sins I remember no more. - *Isaiah 43:25*



February 25
Mass Times
6:30am, 9am,
& 7:30pm

Lent Begins

FRIDAYS IN LENT

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

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 and Passiontide and on Ash Wednesday.

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, everyone over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60th year is also bound to observe the law of FAST. On these two days, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs; but together they should not equal another full meal.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, therefore, are the only days of both fast and abstinence.



Each Friday of Lent
6pm in the Parish Hall.
February 27 hosted by:
Tuesday Bible Study Groups

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday:	Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32
Sunday:	Gen 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15