



What a great pleasure to finally meet my new parish community! Thank you for

your warmest welcome at my first weekend at Saint Francis de Sales parish. I can see why Father Kelly loved being here. It is wonderful to see great joy in the eyes of God's faithful in our parish. I witnessed your love for the Lord and his Church as I celebrated my first weekend of Sunday Masses with you. The kindness of being invited to many homes to share a meal is a good sign that I am going to have a grand time here in the 'country.' The Lord has really been good to me by sending me to Purcellville.

Now that Lent has begun the Church encourages us to observe the penitential season. By making small sacrifices to Our Blessed Lord we are doing a lot to imitate his life. There's an old proverb that says, "Little things are great to little people." Saint Francis de Sales and Saint Therese of Lisieux have a similar maxim: "Little things offered to God with great love are great in the eyes of God."

Last Sunday I promised to make this year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) an exciting one. I know how this can be quite a sacrifice for many to participate in due to the current economic crisis. But always remember, the Lord will never be outdone in generosity. As promised, I brought a little 'magic prop' to help you remember the importance of supporting the BLA. You will never be able to look at a Number 2 pencil again without thinking of supporting the BLA! The percentage of participation is our most important goal. No contribution is too small. Even if it is not possible for you to contribute at all financially, by filling out the form you will still be able to help us in our overall parishioners' participation. So please take part in this year's BLA.

From March 3-14 I will be away on a pilgrimage to Greece, Turkey, Israel and Egypt. Long before I knew I was going to Saint Francis de Sales I had arranged to go on a Journey of Saint Paul pilgrimage. There are 130 of us in our group and our tour guide is the famous Biblical scholar and Catholic convert, Steve Ray. Since I am the only priest on the trip I will be responsible for the celebration of all the Masses and the offering of the sacrament of Penance. I encourage you to sign your name on the pilgrimage petition book in the vestibule. This way I will get to pray for all your intentions at every holy site we're going to visit. Please pray for me and the other pilgrims that we may have a good safe journey.

Even though I haven't left yet for the trip I feel like I miss being in our parish already. I am very happy and excited to be with you and I feel awkward leaving shortly after I moved in. But I do look forward to sharing with you when I return all the Biblical insights I will have learned through this pilgrimage. Be assured of my prayers and see you in 2 weeks!

In Christ,  
Father Escalante

## The 2009 Bishop' Lenten Appeal

**"Be Rich in Good Works.....Ready to Share"**  
(1Tim 6:18)

This is an opportunity for us to unite with all Catholics in our Diocese to share our blessings and to show concern for one another. Please assist the works of vocations, Catholic Charities, family life and all the other programs carried out by our diocese. Please be as generous as God has been to you . Every gift is important. This weekend, all have been asked to complete a BLA pledge form at Mass. If you have already given in the mail or decline to give, there will be places to note that on the form. Please prayerfully consider Bishop Loverde's request for support and give generously to assist the work of our diocese.

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**WHY PRAY FOR A PRIEST?** Most of us have heard about the power of prayer. Many of us who pray regularly have experienced the powerful impact prayer can have on our lives. For those of you who pray for a priest, *THANK YOU!* You are performing a valuable task. Now come and join us, **every Friday** after the noon Mass for a Holy Hour offered for the priests. And please raise awareness, encourage more to do the same. Most of all, we want to focus the power of prayer, and pray for a priest, whomever he might be.

### **PRAY FOR PEACE AND SAFETY**

If you have a family member serving overseas, please let us know. We will publish their names in the bulletin to remind everyone to ask for God's blessings on them, that they may return safely to their families. Let us join our prayers for peace and safety with yours. Also, please let us know when they return safely home so that we may also rejoice with you.

### *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





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.

Our parish has purchased an AED (defibrillator) to be installed on Saturday, March 7. We have arranged for ushers, mass coordinators, staff, and representatives of other ministries to be certified in CPR and use of the AED by an instructor from Loudoun Rescue. A company representative will give an overview on the use of the defibrillator beginning at 9am. Immediately following this, those signed up for CPR instruction will proceed to the parish hall. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex for those who would be interested in a future CPR class.

Questions? Contact Nancy Grish at 540-338-8004 or nmg1298@aol.com.

### **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](http://www.ProjectNightNight.org) If there are any questions, feel free to contact Lynn Dunster 703-727-1066. Thank You! Girl Scout Juniors Troop #3309

### **SOULSTITCH MEETS:**

TODAY, 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](mailto:mojoknits@comcast.net).

### **INSURANCE MAILING ALERT**

In recent weeks parishioners may have received a solicitation mailing from an insurance company. PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT THIS MAILING WAS DONE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT OF THE DIOCESE or PARISHES. The diocese never releases the names of parishioners to outside organizations. The insurance company purchased a mailing list of Catholics from a direct marketing company.

### **Respect Life News**

**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](http://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.

**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.

**BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE** Many thanks to all those who have answered the request for dishes to be delivered and served at the various bereavement receptions that have been held at our church in the past several months. We are in great need of more names to call so we do not continually call on the same people. Would you consider being on our calling list? If so, please contact Sharon Austin at (540) 338-4741. Thank you!

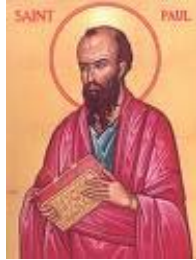


# Religious Education

Melissa Gobs, DRE  
338-4497 or [dre.stfrancis@comcast.net](mailto:dre.stfrancis@comcast.net)

## 2008-2009 The Year of St. Paul

"In [Christ] who is the source of my strength I have strength for everything"  
(Phil 4:13).



## 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 visit the Religious Education page of the parish website to stay up-to-date with the RE Schedule, Curriculum, Sacramental Preparation Requirements and more! A direct link to our site is

[www.stfrancisdesalescatholicchurch.org/ReligiousEd.asp](http://www.stfrancisdesalescatholicchurch.org/ReligiousEd.asp)

## RE Calendar

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	<u>Gr. K, 2, 4, 8</u> - 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
Sun., Mar. 8	Gr. K-8 - Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS <u>Gr. K-8, RCIC</u> - Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Mar. 9	<u>Gr. 1, 7, RCIC, and Special Needs</u> - 4:15pm at the church
Tue., Mar. 10	<u>Gr. K, 2, 4, 8</u> - 4:15pm, at the church
Wed. Mar. 11	<u>Grades 3,5,6</u> - 4:15pm, at the church
Thur., Mar. 12	<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 Nights** - Sunday nights in church hall from 7:15 - 9m. For all high school students, grades 9-12. Sun., Mar. 1, join us for a great night as we grow in faith and love.

**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. Paying your deposit puts you on the list to go. 93 teens are already on the list to go. We will take 135 teens. Spots are filling up fast. If you are having trouble coming up with the deposit, please see me. 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.

**Workcamp Fundraising Committee** - We are starting up a fundraising committee to help organize the fundraiser's. I need your help. I can not do this on my own! Please join us Sun., March 15th 4:30 - 5:30 pm in the hall. No experience necessary!! Last year we raised \$100,000. This year we only need to raise \$80,000.

**St. Francis Teen Faith Community Outreach** meeting to begin planning and organization of efforts to assist the Loudoun Emergency Homeless Shelter and the Loudoun Transitional Housing Shelter. If you want to participate please attend this meeting, Sunday, March 8th at 4:30pm in the Hall. If you have any questions contact Matt Bowe @ 540-454-7037 or [matthewbowe@yahoo.com](mailto:matthewbowe@yahoo.com)

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Jane Treado Youth Director

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

## Rite of Election and of the Call to Continuing Conversion

On Saturday evening, our catechumens and candidates participated in the Rite of Election with Bishop Loverde. During the rite of election the church formally announces the names of those who will soon celebrate the sacraments of initiation. These individuals enter the cathedral as "catechumens" and leave as "elect." The ceremony may also be called "enrollment of names." Those who are already baptized and seek to be admitted to the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation are also included in the liturgy on this day as a sign that God is calling them to full Communion with the Catholic Church.

Please continue to pray for our elect during their final period of preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation.

# MASSSES for the WEEK

† deceased

Sat., February 28

5:00 pm

Sun., March 1

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:30 pm

6:00 pm

Mon., March 2

6:30 am

9:00 am

Tue., March 3

6:30 am

9:00 am

Wed., March 4

6:30 am

9:00 am

Thurs., March 5

6:30 am

9:00 am

Fri., March 6

6:30 am

12:00 noon

Sat., March 7

9:00 am

Sat., March 7

5:00 pm

Sun., March 8

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:30 pm

6:00 pm

**Vigil: 1st Sunday of Lent**

† Wallace and † Helen Rutzel

**1st Sunday of Lent**

† Mary Therese Heidkamp

The Magoffin Family

† Dave Bringenburg

The Hauck Family

People of the Parish

**Lenten Weekday**

† John Mingo, Sr.

† Mary Fitzsimmons

**Lenten Weekday**

† Evie Williams

† Ellen and † Pierce Bragg

**Lenten Weekday**

† Michael Liskiewicz

Mike and Joan Smith

**Lenten Weekday**

† Leon and † Felixa Slivonik

Andrea Todd

**First Friday**

† Fr. Michael C. Kelly

In Thanksgiving for the Eucharist

**First Saturday**

† Fr. Michael C. Kelly

**Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Lent**

† Wallace and † Helen Slivonik

**2nd Sunday of Lent**

† Rev. Stanley Slivonik

The Martin Family

People of the Parish

The McLaughlin Family

The Moortgat Family

## This Week

Mon., Mar. 2

RCIA 7:30pm

Tues., Mar. 3

Bible Study - 10am-noon, parish hall

Bible Study - 7:30pm, parish hall

Wed., Mar. 4

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

Charismatic Prayer Group - 7:30pm

Oratory Room

### PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS: 2/22/09

Offertory - this week

\$ 14,412

YEAR TO DATE

\$ 127,813

2nd Collection

\$ 2,243

### **IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE**

If you would like acknowledgment of donation for your tax returns, please email your request to Alicia Holz in the parish office at [alicia@stfrde.org](mailto:alicia@stfrde.org).

**SUNDAY, March 1, 2009**

**1st Sunday of Lent**

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths.

- Psalm 25:4



### 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.

March 6 hosted by:

Christian Family Movement (CFM)

### Readings for the Week

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116;

Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10