



Pope Benedict XVI addressed the youth in Africa with the following exhortation that we can all benefit from: *"You are the hope of your country's future, the promise of a better tomorrow.... Begin today to grow in your friendship with Jesus, who is the way, and the truth and the life: a friendship nurtured and deepened by humble and persevering prayer."* Since our nation is in need of great leaders, the present time is when we begin to train future great leaders. Our Holy Father reminds us that the best formula for this is to develop a true friendship with Our Blessed Lord.

We should befriend Jesus daily through our daily conversations with him in prayer. We also need to encourage others, especially the youth, to become spiritually closer to Jesus by teaching them how to pray. Many Catholics still do not know how to pray better but do not know who to ask for help. There are still some who believe that prayer is merely a recitation of prescribed words. While vocal prayers are good, the higher form of prayer is to speak to God in our own words. This is referred to as mental prayer. The church wants us to exercise both vocal and mental prayers in order to have a good prayer life balance.

On another note, I just want to thank everyone again who have participated in the Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA). As of this writing we are now at 114% of our financial goal at \$99,057 of pledged donations. Our 2009 BLA goal for this year is \$87,000. So far a total of \$34,683 of cash has been paid to the diocese already (35%). I have to say how impressed I am of our parishioners' remarkable generosity! God bless.

Your shepherd in Christ,  
Father Escalante

**SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL MEMORIAL STATUE** We have collected a little over \$2000. We will probably need at least \$2000 more with the installation and plaque with the Prayer of St. Michael engraving and dedication to Fr. Michael Kelly. Please send donations to church office.

### **VIRTUS TRAINING SEMINAR**

***Wednesday, April 22*** at 6m in the Parish Hall. All volunteers in the parish who have significant contact with children, i.e. Workcamp, Vacation Bible School, Religious Education, Nursery. If you not yet attended this seminar, now is the time! To register go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org), click on 'registration', and follow the prompts. There are only 27 remaining spots available, please sign up now.

### **BLOOD DRIVE** Sunday, April 19 in the Parish Hall.

The second drive of six scheduled for 2009 continues the great charitable tradition that our parish so generously maintains. Join us to provide needed blood products for our parish faith community and friends and neighbors in distress. Please sign up on the list posted in the narthex or call Rachel Brill at 540 338-6313.

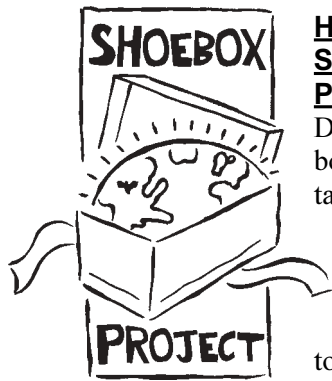
**SOULSTITCH** Meets in the hall: ***Sunday, April 5,*** 1:30-3:30 pm. We are currently knitting washclothes for the Haiti shoebox project and mittens and blankets for Afghan children. Questions? Contact Monica Deaver at 540-338-6057 or [mojoknits@comcast.net](mailto:mojoknits@comcast.net).

### **Gift Cards and Food Desperately Needed for Leesburg Catholic Charities office and local Families!**

- Please take a tag from the "Giving Tree" and leave your donation in the basket labeled "Giving Tree" and gift cards in the container labeled "Giving Tree." We need a few people to take the tags for sweatsuits for the Heritage Hall residents. These residents are ones who do not have families helping them with special needs. Thank you!!
- Catholic Charities is in dire need of the following food items: rice, beans, pasta, canned meats, canned fruits. For more information, please contact Marilyn Gugliotta at 540-338-2712, [6gugs@comcast.net](mailto:6gugs@comcast.net) or Erin Bucci at 540-338-5402, [buccierin@comcast.net](mailto:buccierin@comcast.net). Thank you and may God Bless you for your continued support of local families as they struggle through these challenging times.



**SENIOR LUNCHEON** Join us for lunch and conversation at noon on ***Tuesday, March 31*** at 12 noon in the Parish Hall. Who is a senior? Whoever wants to be - no age minimum!



**HAITI SHOEBOX PROJECT:  
STEP 2 ITEMS NEEDED FOR  
PEDIATRIC PATIENTS**

During Lent we are creating care boxes for pediatric patients in Haiti to take home with them. Step 1: The collection of shoe boxes is over at this time - thank you!

For Step 2, please bring the following new items for children to church during Lent:

- underwear • pencils • pens • socks •
- soap bars • toothbrushes • crayons • toothpaste •
- hairbrushes • combs • Boxes marked by age group (grade & age) will be in the narthex for the deposit of items. Washcloths are also being knit by Soulstitch. If you have any questions or would like to knit a washcloth, please contact Monica Deaver at 540-338-6057 or [mojoknits@comcast.net](mailto:mojoknits@comcast.net). The 8th grade confirmation class (Mr. & Mrs. Deaver's) is sponsoring this project through the Religious Education program.

**PARISH NURSE (Health Wellness Ministry)**

Thank you to all who participated in the CPR/AED certification course on March 9. I have your cards and will mail them to you. For all who signed up for a future class, the dates are Saturday, May 30 and Saturday, June 20, 9am-1pm. Since class size is limited to twelve, I need to know which date you are available. The signup sheet will be in the narthex, you can check off which date, email or phone me. I encourage all staff, ushers, mass coordinators, and catechists to take advantage of this lifesaving course. Contact Nancy Grish at [nmg1298@aol.com](mailto:nmg1298@aol.com) or phone 540-338-8004.

**PROGRAMS AT THE CARVER CENTER  
Offered by Blue Ridge Hospice**

April 2, 10:15-11am  
*Exploring Different Ways of Grieving*

April 10, 11am-12noon  
*Music Therapist - How music addresses the social, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of caregivers and their loved ones.*

April 23, 10-11am  
*Betsy Murphy, hospice educator, author and speaker will focus on caregiving in the final months of life from the perspective of the caregiver.*



**SOFTBALL SEASON  
APPROACHING!** St.

Francis de Sales parish plays in a multi-denominational co-ed league. The season runs from May thru June, games are mainly on Tuesday evenings. Practices begin on Sundays in April. All parishioners are invited to register to play. Please call Bill Buxton at (703) 431-2590 for more info.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE** This

Sunday marks the kickoff of the annual Membership Drive during which all Catholic men are invited to join the St. Francis Council of the Knights of Columbus. Membership in the Knights provides members an ideal opportunity to put their faith into action by contributing their life experience, skills and knowledge so as to continue and expand the charitable works of the fraternity. Those interested are asked to stop by the table in the Narthex after each mass where brother Knights are on hand to discuss the opportunities and benefits of membership. Ask them for a Form 100 in time for initiation into the Order as a Knight on Monday, April 20.



St. Francis welcomes back  
**Mark Forrest**

*International Irish Tenor*

for an evening of

Meditation • Music • Prayer • Healing

**Monday, April 6th at 7:30pm**

A wonderful way to begin Holy Week

*All are invited!*



*Our Thoughts  
and Prayers Are With ...*

**The Deployed:** Kenneth Kyle McWilliams, Major Karl M. Wojtkun, Capt. Andrew Kellner, 2LT Brendan McCormick, LTC Michael F. Goodnow, Sr. Airman Yonatan Holz, Arm 1stC Brian Rickert  
**The Sick:** Norma O'Grady, Hannah Brown, Albert Cippel, Grover 'Corky' Corcoran  
**The Deceased:** Fr. Michael C. Kelly, 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, James Emmet Lanaghan, Samuel Phillips

# Religious Education

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

## 2008-2009 The Year of St. Paul

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you. *Romans 8:11*



Adult Confirmation Meeting - Sunday April 5 7-8pm  
RCIA - Rehearsal - Saturday April 4 at 10:30  
RCIT - Rehearsal - Saturday April 4 at 10:30

### Easter Vigil Reception

There will be a reception immediately following the Easter Vigil to celebrate the newly initiated and the Resurrection of our Lord. Anyone able to assist with set up, serving, or clean up, please contact Melissa Gobs.

### Parents of First Communicants

Please contact the Religious Education Office if you did not attend one of the meetings held last week in preparation for First Communion in May. Important details surrounding the celebration of the sacrament were covered.



**J.A.M. is Back!!!** - Let's get together for J.A.M. this month, April 17th, 7pm-9pm, for all middle schoolers.

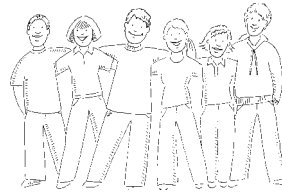
**J.A.M. Field trip** - On Saturday May 16th 3pm-11pm, we have a special J.A.M. trip planned. We will be going down to JPll in Dumfries for a Middle

School Bash with *special guest, Chris Stefanick*. All Middle Schoolers are invited and need to sign up before May 9th. Parents, we will need drivers for this event.

## RE Calendar

Sun., Mar. 29	<u>Gr. K-8</u> - Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS
Mon., Mar. 30	<u>Gr. K-8, RCIC</u> - Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Tue., Mar. 31	<u>Gr. 1, 7, RCIC, and Special Needs</u> - 4:15pm at the church
Wed. Apr. 1	<u>Gr. K, 2, 4, 8</u> - 4:15pm, at the church
Thur., Apr. 2	<u>Grades 3,5,6</u> - 4:15pm, at the church <u>RCIT</u> - 7pm, Oratory Room
Sun., Apr. 5	<u>No Class</u>
Mon., Apr. 6	<u>No Class</u>
Tue., Apr. 7	<u>No Class</u>
Wed. Apr. 8	<u>No Class</u>
Thur., Apr. 9	<u>No RCIT</u>

## 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 - 9pm. For all high school students, grades 9-12. March 29th, join us for a great night of Fish Bowl.

**Needed!!!** Teens for the **Living Stations of the Cross** - To be held on Good Friday, April 10th at 3pm. No acting experience needed. Also needed a couple narrators, stage hands, and make up people. There will be only one practice. If interested, contact Kevin Bills at [kevin@kbills.com](mailto:kevin@kbills.com).

**Also Needed Teen Lectors!!!** Please contact me if you are interested in lecturing at the Teen Mass.

**Wine Tasting and Sales** - We have the Corcoran Vineyards and the Bluemont Vineyards hosting a Wine Tasting and Wine Sales in the church hall on Saturday, April 18th after the 5pm mass. Please join us for this fun fundraiser evening where Corcoran Vineyards and Bluemont Vineyards are donating all proceeds to Workcamp. Tickets for the tasting are \$5 and can be purchased in the office or at the event on April 18th.

**Next Mandatory Workcamp Meeting** - April 19th. All teens going to Workcamp should be at this meeting! We already handed out the registrations for workcamp and you should bring the filled out registration to this meeting. By now, your deposit should be paid, your appeal letters should be written, and bring your item for the auction to this meeting. If you weren't assigned an item or can't remember what you are to bring, e-mail me at [Janedhs78@aol.com](mailto:Janedhs78@aol.com). If you don't have your registration papers, you can pick them up in the office.

**Golf Tournament** - Friday, May 8th. Contact me if you are interested in sponsoring a hole or playing.

**Auction Items Needed And Talent Needed!!!** For Talent Show and Auction. The workcampers are hosting a Talent Show and Auction on June 6th and will need talent for the show and items for the auction. Please contact Jane if you wish to donate auction items or sign up for the talent portion of the show.

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

# MASSSES for the WEEK

† deceased

<u>Sat., March 28</u>	9:00 am	<b>Lenten Weekday</b> Virginia Ware
<u>Sat., March 28</u>	5:00 pm	<b>Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent</b> The Vogt Family
<u>Sun., March 29</u>	7:00 am	<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b> † Deceased members of the D'Elia, Curran, Butts and Sommer families
	8:30 am	John Krebs
	10:30 am	People of the Parish
	12:30 pm	Cantrall Family
	6:00 pm	† Frank Bartlett
<u>Mon., March 30</u>	6:30 am	<b>Lenten Weekday</b> † Floripes Tactaguin and † Joseph O'Neill
	9:00 am	† Bruno Zukowski
<u>Tue., March 31</u>	6:30 am	<b>Lenten Weekday</b> † Wallace and † Helen Slivonik
	9:00 am	† Christine Bertolino
<u>Wed., April 1</u>	6:30 am	<b>Lenten Weekday</b> † Fr. Michael Kelly
	9:00 am	Wesley, Caleb and James McIntyre
<u>Thurs., April 2</u>	6:30 am	<b>Lenten Weekday</b> † Rev. Stanley Slivonik
	9:00 am	† Judy Kelley
<u>Fri., April 3</u>	6:30 am	<b>Lenten Weekday - First Friday</b> Fr. Michael Kelly
	12:00 noon	In Thanksgiving for the Eucharist
<u>Sat., April 4</u>	9:00 am	<b>Lenten Weekday - First Saturday</b> † Emily Olszewski
<u>Sat., April 4</u>	5:00 pm	<b>Vigil: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</b> † Clinton Humphries
<u>Sun., April 5</u>	7:00 am	<b>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</b> Cahan Family
	8:30 am	People of the Parish
	10:30 am	† Sylvia Brennan
	12:30 pm	Hoffman Family
	6:00 pm	Palmieri Family

## This Week

Mon., Mar. 30	<u>RCIA</u> - 7:30pm
Tues., Mar. 31	<u>Bible Study</u> - 10am-noon, parish hall
	<u>Senior Luncheon</u> - 12 noon
	<u>Bible Study</u> - 7:30pm, parish hall
Wed., April 1	<u>"Living Life in the Spirit"</u> - 6:30pm
	<u>Charismatic Prayer Group</u> - 7:30pm
	Oratory Room

### PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS: 3/22/09

OFFERTORY - this week	\$ 14,858
YEAR TO DATE	\$ 188,803
2nd Collection	\$ 2,493

## SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009

### 5TH Sunday of Lent

I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.  
- Jeremiah 31:33



### FRIDAYS IN LENT

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

### INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, March 31, 7:30-9pm  
Wednesday, April 1, 7:30-9pm  
Thursday, April 2, 7:30-9pm



Each Friday of Lent  
6-7:30pm in the Parish Hall

April 3 hosted by:  
7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Candidates

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The annual training for this beautiful ministry is coming up in April and May. If you are interested in finding out more or in attending the training, please call 540-338-2471 or 540-454-0995.

## Readings for the Week

Monday:	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday:	Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday:	Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday:	Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday:	Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday:	Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1-39]