



The Canticle of St. Francis

In Christ there is Mercy and the Promise of New Life

Rice Bowls, RWANDA and Lent at St. Francis

Your Rice Bowls Do make a Real difference!

This Lent we, as a parish, participate in the **Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl** program. Many of us are familiar with the little boxes and the accompanying resources of videos, recipes, stories, and articles. Many of us take the Rice Bowl for granted; it is something we do during Lent. We put in our spare change or write a check out at the end, turn it in, and by the end of Easter Sunday Mass have few thoughts left about that little box. However, thanks to the generosity of St. Francis Parish and the **Called to Witness Program* through Catholic Relief Services, I found out exactly what the impact of these simple little boxes is.

In August I journeyed to Rwanda. The point in journeying to this small, east African nation was to see the work that Catholic Relief Services does. What I was overwhelmed by was the respect, admiration, and gratitude offered by all we met toward Catholic Relief Services. From government ministers to diocesan staff to mothers at nutrition sites, all were profuse in their appreciation for what CRS does and how they go about their work.

So what exactly does CRS do with that bit of spare change or check you drop into the Rice Bowl? Let me share with you what I witnessed.

A group of men and women met us at the top of a mountain singing (*photo*) surrounded by coffee plants. Through a cooperative that was initially supported by CRS but which has since become participant owned, these farmers have created a source of regular income that allows for sustenance of their families, expansion of their community schools, and a savings fund for any hard times ahead. The agricultural education and seed money provided by CRS set this community on their feet, equipping them to be self-sustaining.

A young man we encountered had sold vegetables on the side of the road. A box summed up the equipment he had at his disposal. Through the entrepreneurial programs CRS offered, he received funding to create a small shop. This store has everything from soccer balls to bicycles to batteries. He had hopes, given his immense success, to create a building supplies shop for his village.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY

We look forward to seeing you at Mass!

< Please note *CHANGES* to mass times >

Holy Thursday, April 2:

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7 pm

Good Friday, April 3:

Living Stations 12 noon

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 1:30 pm

Evening Prayer 6:30pm

Holy Saturday, April 4:

Easter Vigil at 8:45pm (*live streamed and available to view any time later*)

Easter Sunday, April 5:

6:30am, 8:00am, 9:45am, 11:30am, 1:30pm

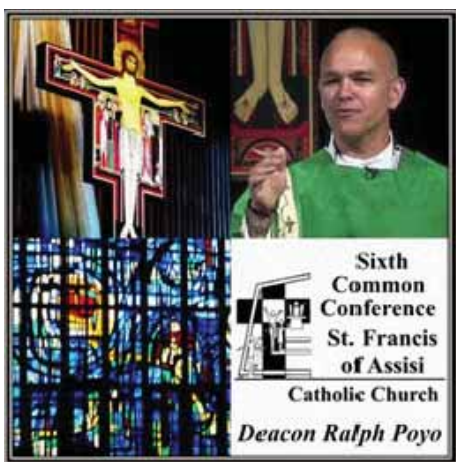
No 5PM masses on Easter

COVER—(Continued on page 11)

Helping Our Faith To Grow

"From Worship to Witness" Sixth Parish Common Conference

Over three hundred, spiritually hungry people took part in our sixth Parish Common Conference on January 17th where Deacon Ralph Poyo delivered an inspiring keynote address. He emphasized growing a relationship with Jesus, because how can we share the joy of the Gospel if we don't know Jesus. Deacon invited us to look beyond sacramentalizing our faith.



He talked about faith being a noun AND a verb. Yes, it is important to know the tenets of our faith---we profess the Creed each week at Mass. We also have to take that belief out the door when we leave. Jesus wants us to share our hearts. He wants us to share because *we are* worth it! Do YOU really want God?

Our conference workshops ranged from finding time for God, to Scriptures, to practical tips for evangelizing, to encountering Jesus in prayer. People spoke of the workshops they attended with excitement and enthusiasm to share what they learned. This is what parishioners had to say:

- ◆ "So many choices! This was great!"
- ◆ "Speakers were well versed in their topics"
- ◆ "Loved the emphasis on growing a personal relationship with Jesus"
- ◆ "I loved every minute of it!"



NEW BIBLE STUDY!!!

Wounded Warriors The Nature of Discipleship

The first question that hits me right between the eyes is, do I move, do you move, do we move that quickly from worship to action; from centering on the Word and Sacrament in the context of "*koinonia*" to service and deed? Or when I (you) walk out that door after experiencing the "*word*," the "*koinonia*," and "*the breaking of the bread*" in communion, do I make a quick move to action, service and deed? Do I even think about it? Do you even think about it? Is it even on our minds? *Do we find ourselves energized for action?*

It is challenging to become a true disciple if one cannot speak comfortably about who we are as Catholics. To *know Jesus* is very different than knowing *about Jesus*. One way to grow closer to Him and to understand more of what He teaches is to study Sacred Scriptures.

This Lent, try something new! *Join our Bible Study. We have entitled it "Wounded Warriors" as we all need a little help and encouragement along the path of discipleship.*

So you can select a session most convenient for you, we will offer this particular study on both

- ◆ Tuesday mornings (February 24 start) AND
- ◆ Thursday evenings (February 19 start)

Our topic is universal---although each of us is broken in some way, wounded in various places, we can be what we are called to be: *warriors for the Risen Lord of Life.*



Adults, Take Your Faith to A New Level

Nonviolent Communication:

Upcoming Parish Workshops?

At our recent Parish Common Conference, interest in the workshop entitled, "Nonviolent Communication (NVC) : A Practical Way of Living the Gospel?" set the stage for potential NVC trainings and workshops at St. Francis Parish. Training is based on the communication process described in *Nonviolent Communication, A Language of Life*, by Marshall B. Rosenberg (www.cnvc.org.)

The Center for Nonviolent Communication pursues the vision of a world in which everyone values everyone's basic human needs, and lives from a consciousness that connects with the universal life energy and natural oneness of all life; where every individual embraces self compassion; where people joyfully and compassionately contribute to each other and resolve conflicts peacefully; and where the systems and structures we create in economics, education, justice, healthcare, peace-keeping and other areas across our global interdependent community, reflect that consciousness and evaluate their actions against their contribution to life and the human needs they ultimately serve.



If you are interested in NVC training at St. Francis Parish, please contact the Parish Office at 734-821-2121 or <justice@stfrancisa2.org> . Right now we are trying to ascertain general interest of parishioners. Details of

forthcoming NVC training at St. Francis will appear in future issues of our weekly Forum bulletin.

Deepen your Knowledge of the Gospels

Sundays 11:20 a.m.—12:10 p.m.

in the music room (located in the school)

All Adults are Welcome! Parents of Family Religious Education sessions (Sunday A & B) are especially invited!

Come join in the conversation on the Gospels presented by Billy Kangas, PhD candidate (CUA Wash, DC), Catholic writer (Patheos.com) and speaker.

Sunday, March 1 (repeated on March 8)
 Sunday, March 15 (repeated on March 22)
 Sunday, March 29
 Sunday, April 12 (repeated April 19)
 Sunday, May 3

For more information, contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2130 .



Basic Evangelization

Tuesday, March 10

7:00-9 p.m. in the Parish Activities Center (PAC)

We are excited to be able to host Adam Janke of St. Paul Street Evangelization to speak on practical ways to share the Faith!



Explore how to share your faith with family, friends, co-workers, and strangers. Whether you are highly extraverted or quietly introverted, Adam Janke of St. Paul Street Evangelization has proven experience and insights in **how to comfortably (or uncomfortably) share your faith with others**. Child care is available.

RSVP online at stfrancisa2.com or leave your name and number coming with Courtney Aymen in the Religious Education Office at stfreled@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2130.

For more information, contact Dcn. Rich Badics (at rbadics@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2100) or Ellen Ward (at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132).



Hearing God's Voice

Thursday, March 12

6:30 -8:30 p.m.

Enjoy the beauty of **Lenten Evening Prayer** with benediction (in church), followed by a simple, yet elegant **dinner** (in the PAC) accompanied by a **talk on "Hearing God's Voice"** as described by some of the great Saints.

We know that we should be led by the Holy Spirit or listen to God's voice. Ever wonder what that voice is or how to discern the Holy Spirit in your life? This workshop will explore the counsel of some of the great Saints and their stories of hearing God's voice. Their experience will prove beneficial to you as you seek to know God's will for your life.

Child care is available. RSVP online at stfrancisa2.com or leave your name and number coming with Courtney Aymen in the Religious Education Office at stfreled@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2130. Contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2130 for more information.

Seeds, Service and Gratitude for Mercy



Each year at St. Francis Parish we reflect upon how our ministers, committees and organized ministries generously deliver a multitude of meaningful events, services and projects.

We especially like to busy ourselves with assisting families with basic needs like food, clothing, housing, transportation, and furniture, as well as, supporting literacy programs, our school, visiting those in jail or prison, the sick and our elderly, we even depend upon prayer and listening ministries. *Mercy! Wow! What love! All for Love! Love never fails.* (1 Corinthians 13)

All these efforts might be thought of as seeds or vehicles in which Christ can be present. Although dormant in appearance the seed holds the promise of new life. Jesus Christ is most truly present in the Eucharist at Mass. He is present in the Word, the Sacraments, and in each member of our human race.

Similar to a sacrament, in some imperfect way, our many other events, services and projects can really *draw us into participation in the life of the Body of Christ*. Do we recognize Him? Or, are we blind? Do we recognize Jesus' presence in our neighbors? in the Eucharist?

Take some time to reflect and pray every day this Lent. Have mercy on us Lord! *Jesus said, "If you have faith the size*

of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20)

These, our efforts, might be thought of as our attempts to be faithful for moving the "mountain of isolation." **Recognizing isolation and loneliness as the greatest poverty** which many in our community suffer can really motivate us to unite our energies with the Lord to virtuously address the challenges in life. If not for Love it will be brought to nothing. (1 Cor 13) *"Unless the LORD build the house..."* (Psalm 127)

Jesus says the Kingdom of God is a surprising experience like when scattered seed springs up from the land, sprouting and growing to become a large plant which puts forth large branches. (Mark 4:26-34)

May our Catholic community, like a seed, peacefully reach out to invite the entire human race, to recognize God with us, to be baptized into Christ, and become a great fruitful plant for the glory of God! *"In Christ there is mercy and the promise of new Life."*

*~Scott Wright,
Director Service & Justice ministries*



Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

The key to understanding the meaning of Lent is simple: Baptism

During Lent, the focus is on our Elect (unbaptized) and Candidates (valid Baptism from another Christian tradition) as they undergo an intense period of *Purification and Enlightenment*. **The focus is also on all of us as we prepare to RENEW our baptismal promises.**

The **Scrutinies** take place on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. Communal prayers are celebrated to strengthen these men, women, and children to overcome the power of sin in their lives and to grow in virtue. This celebration is not for us to scrutinize these candidates, but for us to look to them as our model and example. We are **all** called to continuing conversion so we join with these people and scrutinize our own lives and pray to God for the grace to overcome the power of sin that still infects our own hearts. We cannot experience the promise of new Life unless we are able to recognize our own need for God's mercy.

In **Baptism**, we are plunged – as the Elect will literally be at Easter Vigil – into the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection and our own baptismal commitment includes a willingness to give our life for others as Jesus did. As we share in the joy of the Elect at their Baptism the night of Easter Vigil, we all renew our promises to live in the JOY of life in the Risen One. Lent comes to its fulfillment around the waters of the font.

During Lent, we also turn our attention to those who may have been away from the practice of our faith. We offer a time to come together and reconnect---with no pressure---to get answers, to learn a bit, and to find hope. Following Easter, this group may meet for five weeks to dig deeper.

If you or someone you know, is interested, please contact Marty Lucas in the parish office (734-821-2100) for more information.

For Young Adults: Theology on Tap

Faith, food, fellowship, and spirits... a perfect way to spend an evening!

Each month the young adult ministry sponsors a **Theology on Tap** night at Arbor Brewing Co. These are an opportunity for those in their 20s & 30s to gather in a comfortable setting and hear presentations and discussion that relate to the experience of young adults in the world today. Thus far in 2015, we have enjoyed presentations such as "Conversations on Life: ArborVitae and the Abortion Debate" along with "Race, Religion, and Riots: A Catholic Response."

In January, Iris Proctor (*photo*) challenged us with her words to see the people behind the issues of the pro-life proctor movement and issues. Often we get so caught up in the arguments and debates we forget the people involved. She asked us to truly listen to the voices on all sides, to truly hear the words of those women seeking help at **ArborVitae**, to use those stories and experiences we hear to guide our actions to positively change the world. She challenged us to reach out to others instead of building the fortresses of our arguments and political discourse. She reminded us of the call of Christ to love one another.



We invite all young adults to join us for the up-coming first Tuesday of the month evenings. Each month we offer a different topic. Full details on the presentation will be posted each month to the young adult website. Questions: contact Jen Delvaux jdelvaux@stfrancisa2.com or 734-821-2126.

This is a wonderful event to bring friends and family to join you. Doors open at 6:30 pm allowing extra time for those who wish to order dinner. The event starts at 7:00 pm. There is always plenty of time after to enjoy catching up with old friends or making new acquaintances. We hope you can join us next month, or at **our next evening:**

March 3 for: "Lord I believe, Help my Unbelief...a Lenten reflection on faith amidst fear and doubt".

High School Youth!!!

Teens learn about their faith

The high school youth group is headed on some great adventures and we hope all teens can join us.

Questions: contact Jen Delvaux jdelvaux@stfrancisa2.com or 734-821-2126.

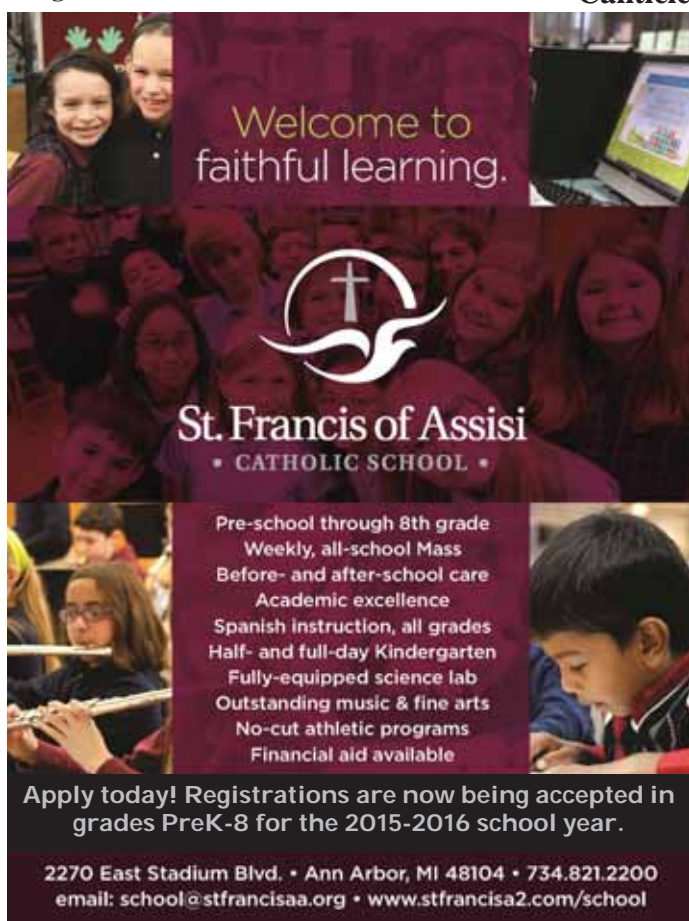
April Retreat

First, mark your calendars for the **April 17-19 Retreat**. Join us and several other Catholic youth groups for an exciting and faith-filled weekend retreat. The weekend will include special presentations, discussions, reconciliation opportunities, Mass, and more. There will also be free time to enjoy the gym, beautiful grounds, and several special surprise activities. Further details and forms are found on stfrancisa2.com. Whether a teen is a long time participant or just thinking of trying out youth ministry, this retreat is a great opportunity.



National Youth Conference

Second, this November we are heading to Indianapolis, Indiana, to join 23,000 other teens from across the United States for the **National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)**. There are keynotes, concerts, workshops, service opportunities, comedy shows, dances, and a giant hall full of interesting exhibitions. Sound interesting? Mark your calendar for **November 19-21** and check the website for the **registration form**. *It needs to be turned in immediately to the High School Youth Ministry Office.* All high school teens are invited to join us for this incredible experience!



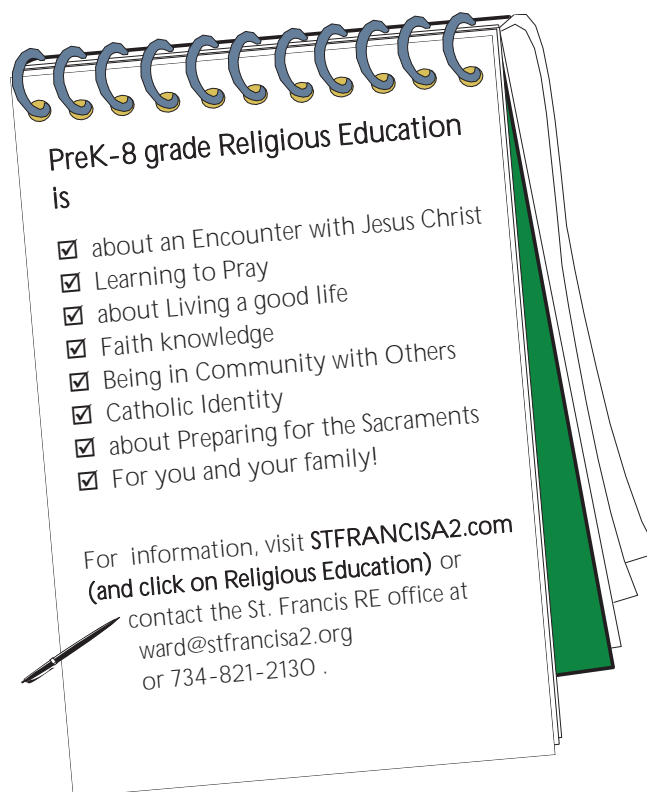
Welcome to faithful learning.

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Academic excellence
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Apply today! Registrations are now being accepted in grades PreK-8 for the 2015-2016 school year.

2270 East Stadium Blvd. • Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • 734.821.2200
email: school@stfrancisaa.org • www.stfrancis2.com/school



PreK-8 grade Religious Education is

- ☒ about an Encounter with Jesus Christ
- ☒ Learning to Pray
- ☒ about Living a good life
- ☒ Faith knowledge
- ☒ Being in Community with Others
- ☒ Catholic Identity
- ☒ about Preparing for the Sacraments
- ☒ For you and your family!

For information, visit STFRANCISA2.com
(and click on Religious Education) or
contact the St. Francis RE office at
ward@stfrancis2.org
or 734-821-2130.

**Think that CATHOLIC EDUCATION is too expensive
or beyond your reach? *Think that no more!!!***

Our Hopes and Dreams Fund is here to help!

*We have multiple scholarships available through the generous donation
of parishioners. It's our way to fulfill your 'Hopes and Dreams'!*

Apply NOW! *The process is simple and easy. Contact St. Francis of Assisi
Catholic School Principal, Julie Pritzel at 734-821-2200 or visit StFrancisA2.com/school*

HOPES AND DREAMS Fund: Makes Catholic Education Affordable

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School received an eight year, \$40,000 per year challenge pledge in 2014 from an anonymous donor on behalf of tuition assistance for first-time families. Our parish community exceeded the challenge in year one (2014) of eight, raising more than \$40,000, and our anonymous donor contributed \$40,000 to the *Hopes & Dreams Fund*. Thank you to all who gave so generously - we are blessed! Now, the challenge is back! Parishioners are helping us raise \$40,000 again this year.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**We are now accepting registrations in grades PreK-8
for the 2015-2016 school year!**

www.StFrancisA2.com/school-community ♦ 734-821-2200 (school office)

A School of Faith, Knowledge, and Service

FAITH:

Students attend mass every Friday with their homeroom classes. They gather in prayer together daily in their classrooms and pray intercessions in an intimate level with their classes. Each day, every subject, reflects our commitment to Jesus and His beloved Father. We work to encompass our faith in our interactions with the children on a daily basis. Our classrooms and school culture center on the virtues we are called to live each day: generosity, gratitude, kindness, obedience, prayfulness, respect, sincerity, and responsibility. What makes St. Francis School unique is that we can always come back to our faith as our foundation for our strength and fortitude.

KNOWLEDGE:

Students at St. Francis work collaboratively. Building a team that learns from one another and grows together is one of our main goals as a Catholic school. High academic expectations are another sign of the amazing work God is doing through our own students' dedication and focus on their academics. Our students at St. Francis score above the area schools that also take this assessment, as well as above the national average for the NWEA. Last year, St. Francis students in 8th grade graduated in the top 7% in the nation in mathematics on the NWEA Assessment.



SERVICE:

Throughout the school year students work with their grade levels to serve our community. One act of service was that the first grade students collected cans, cashed them in at Meijer and then purchased items from the Advent Giving Tree in the church. Additionally, we worked to raise money for Mary's Meals during Catholic Schools Week. During Lent we will be raising funds with the parish CRS Rice Bowls project. We are always looking for opportunities to help our local and world community. Most importantly, St. Francis School students become activists for a better world even outside of the school hours. We are so blessed to have a community where our faithfulness and social justice resonate even when the students are in our world.

~Julie Fantone Pritzel
Principal, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School



Join the Parish Youth Choir

WHAT? We are looking for children to be a part of the Youth choir and sing once a month at the Sunday 12:30 p.m. Mass. *(If you sing at your public school, then come sing for the glory of God at your parish too!!!)*



WHO? For children in grades K-3 & 4-5! We especially need Middle School & High School youth to sing and help out with the younger children!

WHEN? Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (except for the 1st Thursday of the month)

WHERE? Meet in the Choir room to practice. The choir room is located downstairs in church.

HOW? Sign up by showing up for practice! Contact us if you are unable to make practice because we hope to sing many Sundays for Mass!

WHY? To Give Glory to God!

Questions? Please contact Kelly Hernandez at khernandez731@gmail.com or 734-904-3946. Kelly Hernandez has a degree in music education, specializing in vocal development, and experience working with choirs and children in grades K-12.

Come learn, develop, and share the gift of song that the Lord has given you!

Interested in Preschool Enrichment for Your 3 or 4 year old Child?

We are now accepting **Fall 2015 Preschool Enrichment applications** for three year old and four year old children.

The Preschool Enrichment I program for **three year olds** meets Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and runs from Monday, Sept. 14, 2015 through Wednesday, May 25. Children eligible for Preschool I should be three years of age by Dec. 1, 2015. The total yearly tuition for the Preschool I program is \$625.

The Preschool Enrichment II program for **four year olds** meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and runs from Tuesday, Sept. 15 through Thursday, May 26. Children eligible for Preschool II should be four years of age by Dec. 1, 2015. The total yearly tuition for Preschool II is \$720.



The Preschool Enrichment programs are designed to give your child a first experience of learning within a faith-filled and loving context. With the guidance of teacher-lead activities, the classes build on the ideas of social play and exploration. The journey into literacy begins through storytelling and learning the alphabet. Science and math concepts are explored through hands-on activities. Music, art, and physical activity help to develop an early love of learning. Woven throughout the curriculum is an introduction to the wonder of God's creation and the love that God has for each individual child.

Registration forms are available in the Parish or RE offices or see our website at STFRANCISA2.com (Click on Religious Education). Please feel free to call us at 734-821-2130 (Courtney Aymen, RE secretary) or contact the head teacher, Denise Cadavieco at denise@rc.net or 734-645-2348.

For a **full day Preschool for 4 year olds**, call St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School office (734-821-2200).



For the latest in
Lenten & Easter
Events,
Activities, and
Prayers

see our website:
STFRANCISA2.COM

PreK-8 Religious Education

FAMILY PENANCE SERVICE

Monday, March 16

5 p.m. in the Church



The annual Lenten Communal Family Penance (Reconciliation) Service is designed for families with children (grade 2 and older having already prepared or celebrated the sacrament).

Regular confession strengthens the growing child in the virtues and greatly aids in the formation of wisdom, favor, and grace. The service includes scripture, prayers

and an examination of conscience for children and adults. Prayers and readings are prayed together as a group, with confessions heard individually.

Several priests are available to hear confessions. The service lasts about one hour.

Everyone is welcome!

Questions: Contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 20-24, 2015

For children preK-5 with
middle school and high school helpers,
and adult volunteers!

SIGN UP AVAILABLE IN MAY



PRAY all Ways

Ready to learn a new way to pray? Keep your prayer discipline going and growing during Lent. Here are some suggestions.

Little Black Books are available* free to all adult parishioners; we also have them in Spanish and Vietnamese. Children's daily prayer books are **purple**. These little books give you an opportunity to enhance your current prayer discipline by spending an additional 5-10 minutes with a page dedicated to each day. If you are newer to prayer, then this is the book for you! Each page has a short passage of Scripture with a brief reflection, and a short prayer. How easy is this?! Spend 5-10 minutes with God each day during Lent.

* (while supplies last)

Step outside your comfort zone. The First Sunday of Lent, we give you an opportunity to pull one or more personal prayer intentions from those written by fellow parishioners on the **Share Each Other's Burdens** prayer sheets. These are written anonymously and have been both the most challenging and the most rewarding to pray throughout the Lenten season.

Each week, **E-reflections on the Sunday readings** are sent to all parishioners with email addresses on file in the parish. OR for a **Daily Reflection** on the Mass readings visit <http://lenten-reflections.blogspot.com/> If you are a fan of social media, you can follow the Twitter account @SFA_Lent to receive reminders about these postings.

Join your prayer with those attending **9:15AM Daily Mass** in the Church (during Lent), on Thursdays stay after mass for **Holy Hour**, or drop in for **Eucharistic Adoration** anytime Thursday until 6:30PM.

Try a session of **"Meditation" on Mondays** at 7PM in the Chapel, or learn about **Lectio Divina prayer** on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7PM in the Chapel.

As a special opportunity during Lent, join us for **Stations of the Cross** on Fridays in the church at 7PM. Attend one of the beautiful candle-light **Taizé prayer sessions** that consist of music, scripture, prayer and periods of silence at 8PM in Church on March 9, 16 & 23.

Pope Francis recently asked the faithful to **read** the Gospel scriptures, saying, "... read it every day: it is Jesus Himself who is speaking to you ... The important thing is to read the Word of God, ... It is Jesus who speaks to us there. And welcome it with an open heart. Then the good seed will bear fruit!"



Parish Lenten Project

What you Give up for Lent Changes Lives!

"Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty." – Pope Francis



Join our St. Francis parish community—and more than 13,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Embrace this faith-in-action program that helps families experience Lenten spirituality by living in solidarity with people in need around the world.



Visit crsricebowl.org to find videos and family activities, or take Lent outside of the bowl and download the **CRS Rice Bowl app** on your iOS or Android device.

WHAT IS CRS RICE BOWL? Celebrating its 40th year, CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities. The program invites Catholics to live in solidarity with our poorest and most vulnerable brothers and sisters through the three Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Participants journey through the 40 days of Lent with the daily reflections included in the Lenten Calendar and on the CRS Rice Bowl mobile app. You'll receive ideas for small, sacrificial gifts to fill your Rice Bowls as you read and watch Stories of Hope from individuals and communities whose lives have been changed by CRS Rice Bowl.

Let CRS RICE BOWL Be Your Guide Along This Forty-Day Journey.

As we journey through this Lenten season with CRS we'll get to know the real stories of six individuals, their families and communities around the world:

1. **Gertruda**, a soybean farmer in *Tanzania*;
2. **Melvin**, a coffee farmer in *Nicaragua*;
3. **Habibou**, a farmer in *Niger*;
4. **Tanious**, a 5-year-old and his parents in *Lebanon*;
5. **Hamuli**, a banana farmer in *Democratic Republic of Congo*;
6. **Lois, Maria and the First grade students** from St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School in *Delmar, New York, United States* - where the *Garden of Feedin'*, a community garden brings hope.



Parish Rummage Sale: June 10, 11 & 12

Donations Drop Off:

Saturday June 6—Monday June 8

Volunteer Opportunities: June 6—12

~ Job Description ~

1. Loves to Volunteer
2. Faith-filled
3. Committed to community service
4. Smiles, laughs and has a good great time
5. Makes a mean cup of coffee

Earlier this year, our fearless leader, Florence Kruzas (*photo*) moved to California to be near her family and enjoy well deserved retirement after many years of devoted service to the Rummage Sale and to St. Francis Parish. We know that it will take many people to fill her shoes. We also know that those volunteers are out there hoping and waiting to join in the fun.



The **Rummage Sale** offers service opportunities for teenagers through 90 years young; those able to lift and carry as well as those able to sit and sell; and for anyone who's interested in learning how to use their skills and talents to benefit the community.

We look forward to hearing from you in May when our Sign-Up Form appears on the Parish Web Site, or earlier by email to susanczill@gmail.com

This Rummage Sale service project footholds a vast history within the Parish and community. Each year we feel a tremendous sense of a job well done, while creating, nurturing and recalling friendships all made through the grace of God.

Mark Your Calendar : Lent/Spring 2015

Service Events & Opportunities

Saturdays thru April 11: **Tax Assistance Program**- 10:30AM - 12 noon / Parish Office/ Appts 769-2550.

March 8: **Blood Drive** / 8:00am - 2:00pm / St. Francis GYM / Danaica Watson 821-2115

March 9: **Monthly Prayer Shawl Ministry**/ 7:00PM / Church Library / Kathleen 734-717-0685

March 13 (April 17, May 15): **Serve A Meal for the Hungry** / 3rd Friday -3PM or 5PM / Delonis Center Shelter / to volunteer, call Bridget 665-9549

March 28/29: **Return** Lenten CRS Rice Bowl contributions at Palm Sunday Mass / Scott 821-2121. Learn more at: stfrancisa2.org/lent
Saturdays, April 11, 18... all day / **Habitat for Humanity Catholic House Renovation Project** / Scott Wright 734-821-2121.

Groups of Interest

March 2: **Divorced & Separated Group** / All Mondays 7:00- 8:30PM / school library / Jeff 734-678-0995.

March 14: **Mother/Child Network** / 2nd & 4th Fridays 10AM - 12 noon/ Nursery / Tanya 734-395-6651

March 16 - **High school Youth Group** / Sundays 7-9:00PM/ youth room/ jen@stfrancisa2.org

March 21: **M.O.M.S. Group** / 1st & 3rd Fridays 10AM - 12PM with childcare / Chapel / Megan 734-646-9034

April 7: **Young Adults / Theology On Tap** / 7-9PM Arbor Brewing Co/ jen@stfrancisa2.org

Parish Events

March 10: **Seniors'** Lenten Reflection & lunch / 10:00am / PAC / Scott Wright / 821-2121.

March 11 - 18: **PRO-LIFE** art & poster reflections /Church & PAC / Scott Wright 821-2121.

March 15: **Womens' Health Expo** / 8 am - 2 pm / St. Francis Gym / Danaica Watson ...

March 25: **Lenten pilgrimage to the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation**/ Bus trip/ RSVP at parish office or website / 821-2121.

April 2: **Holy Thursday Collection for The Society of St. Yves in the Holy Land**, a human rights organization in Jerusalem that works on behalf of the poor by representing them in the courts system / Scott Wright / 821-2121. <http://saintyves.org/>

April 14: **Historic Church Tour in Grand Rapids with Fr. James Conlon** / Bus trip/ RSVP at parish office or website / 821-2121

May: **Registration begins-Vacation Bible School 2014 July 20 - 24** at www.stfrancisa2.org click *Religious Education* / call Ellen Ward 821-2130

May 25-31: **Shelter Hosting Homeless Families** / shift times / IHN - Alpha House / Scott Wright / 821-2121

May 29: **Ice Cream Social** /5:00PM, **Car Raffle Drawing** at 8PM/ Colleen Pierce / 821-2208.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Communal Penance Service for Families
with children (*Gr.2-12, details on p.9*)
Mon, March 16 @ 5p.m.

Lenten Communal Penance Service
Thursday, March 26 @ 7p.m.

Individual confessions every Saturday @ 3:30 pm
(except Holy Saturday, please note that there will be no confession on Holy Saturday, April 4)

Sat, March 28 @ 11 a.m. to 12noon and 3:30 pm

Tue, March 31 @ 7p.m.to 8 p.m.

COVER—(Continued from page 1)

Yes, those little boxes you leave on your table for these forty days of Lent may seem so small, but their effect is far beyond what you can imagine. They are a way of drawing us together in a true universal Church.

Jen Delvaux, Parish Director of High School Youth, and Young Adult Programs

***Called to Witness** program of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) takes a few youth ministry professionals to a country in which CRS operates to learn, experience and be challenged spiritually. Upon return, they are asked to share their stories and experiences, and create youth ministry events and resources.



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Lent/Spring 2015

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Parish Pilgrimages

Lenten pilgrimage: Wed, March 25

to the

Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation
in observance of the year of consecrated life.



Motorcoach bus transportation

Our Lady of Consolation is a minor basilica of the Roman Catholic Church and a shrine to the Virgin Mary, operated by the Conventual Franciscan Friars. It is located in Carey, Ohio. It was made a national shrine by the

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Reservations are for St. Francis parishioners, seats are limited.

Save the Date: April 14

Historic Church Tour in Grand Rapids
with Fr. James Conlon

Parishioners can make their reservations at

stfrancisa2.com/sign-up-forms or contact
Scott Wright (734-821-2121) [swright@stfrancisa2.org]

Calling All Young Adults!

Journey to Poland with a group of 18-35 year olds for a 10-day pilgrimage through such places as Krakow, Czestochowa, Auschwitz, and Wadowice, **from July 23 to August 1, 2016.**



Fr. James will be our intrepid leader. This trip will include the opportunity to participate in the incredible international World Youth Day celebration which brings over 1 million young adult

Catholics and the Pope together. For full details see the website or contact Jen Delvaux at jen@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2126.

