

Newsletter for December 5, 2024



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9220 Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, Virginia 22066
www.sfrancisgreatfalls.org

The Weekly Franciscan

Second Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 8th, 2024

You are welcome to the

8:00 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist Rite I with
the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant and Preacher
and

10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist Rite II with
the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant and Preacher,
with the St. Francis Choir

Children's Chapel is offered during the Sermon

Coffee Hour Follows Each Service in Millen Hall

[The 10:00 a.m. Service is also live-streamed on YouTube](#)

[View this Sunday's Worship Bulletin](#)

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading | [Malachi 3:1-4](#)

The Response | [Canticle 16](#)

The Second Reading | [Philippians 1:3-11](#)

The Gospel Reading | [Luke 3:1-6](#)

5:00 p.m. Advent Contemplative Worship with
the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant
Kathy Anderson, reflector
Dana Anderson, Lay Eucharistic Minister & Reader
Larry Vote, soloist, and
Jamie Kim, pianist

Parish Prayer List

We pray especially for Nora Lee & Richard, Cathy, Lawrence, Bishop Gayle, David, Jon, Jessica, Lynda, Melissa, Paula, Trevor, Clara Sue, Grace, Jeanne, Sofia & Larry, Debra, Taylor, Kelly & Alex, Nick & Hilary, and Dut.



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Help Make the Future of St. Francis Bright!

We all know what it takes to be a good steward and how one should make the most of what God has given us. It is like tending to a beautiful garden (our church) and sharing the fruits of our labor (our community).

1 Peter 4:10 *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*

A good steward understands money, not for the money but for the possibilities to make a difference.

We gratefully acknowledge the pledges from our Stewardship month – and continue to be grateful for the additional pledges that we will receive.

We have received 69 pledges totaling \$487,670 from the Franciscans and Friends listed below. Help us reach **our goal of \$600,000** so that we can continue to grow and flourish while we help others in communities near and far.

These Franciscans & Friends have pledged:

Anonymous (17)

Terri Adams

Nathan Ambler & Paul Herman

Jackie Amthor

Kathy & Dana Anderson

Clara Sue Ashley

Dut & Carolyn Brown

Nora Lee & Richard Brown

Nancy Burkley

Sharon Callaway

Anne Carson

Carmela & Charles Condro

Lynda Davis

Janet Durfee
Mimi & Brice Eldridge
Sarah & Rick Entsminger
Nilda Ferrari
Brenda & Chris Giragosian
Val & Bruce Goddard
Ginger & Edward Gotliffe
Barbara & Mike Hattwick
Lisa & Joe Hawke
Kathryn Hinton
Carrie & Ian Holman
Mary & Charlie Jackson
Elaine Jeffrey
Susan Kawmy
Elizabeth & Joshua Kim
Jan & Bill Lane
Rick Larson
Loriana & Weston Mathews
Jessica & Kevin Maxson
Beth & Walt Meyer
Jennifer & Ray Murphy
Wendy & Gary Pan
Linn Perkins
Larry & Reyna Pratt
Jane & Bill Rachal
Tamber & Mike Ray
Molly & Joe Reynolds
Ginger Roll
Jennifer & Mike Semko
Jack & Lori Shafran
Michael Shuler
Leslie Siegmund & Jack Mathias
Judy Stocks

Jeanne & Larry Vote
Sandy & John Walker
Pat & Paul Ward
Lois & Darren Willcox
Tom & Joy Wood
Kristi & Dave Yarnall
Nan & Allen Young

Search Committee for a Director of Family Ministries is Named and Begins Their Work on Sunday, December 8th

A St. Francis Search Committee for a Director of Family Ministries has been assembled and approved by the Vestry and Priest-in-Charge, Weston Mathews. The committee is charged with leading the search process for the calling of a new Director of Family Ministries who will serve youth and parents. We hope this new staff position will begin their ministry in May 2025, before the beginning of the program year in September.

The following members of St. Francis comprise this committee:

**David Black, Patrick Killoran, Jen Forero,
Jeffrey Sanders, Nathan Ambler, Carrie Holman**

This committee will be commissioned in prayer on Sunday, December 8th during the Announcements at the 10:00 a.m. service and hold their first meeting just after worship.

Please keep this committee and the vestry in your prayers as they begin their work.

Advent & Christmas at St. Francis

DEC 7 (SAT) Breakfast With Santa, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. All are welcome! Come take your family photo with St. Nick and join in the Christmas fun with food, crafts, and music. In support of [Second Story](#), we are accepting unwrapped children's gifts.



DEC 7 (SAT) "Wake, Awake!" Advent Hymns & Poems Concert, 3:00 p.m. Beautiful voices and instruments with hymn sing and poetry.

DEC 8, 15 (Sundays) Advent Contemplative Worship at 5:00 p.m. Prepare for the return of Love at Christmas in these candlelit services of prayer, silence, soft piano, song, and poetry.

DEC 14 (SAT) St. Francis Women's Casual Christmas Coffee, 9:30 a.m. At the home of Kathy Anderson (read more, below)

DEC 15 (SUN) Greening of the Church, 11:30 a.m. Join us in readying the church for Christmas, with evergreens, flowers, and light.

DEC 18 (WED) Creche Christmas Pageant, 1:00 p.m. Adorable! Followed by A Cookie Reception in Millen Hall.

DEC 18 (WED) Blue Christmas Service, 7:00 p.m. A service of remembrance and hope for those who are stressed, lonely, or grieving during the holidays.

DEC 24 (TUE) Christmas Eve services, 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. with beautiful liturgy and music to celebrate the Eve of the Nativity

DEC 25 (WED) Christmas Day service, 11:00 a.m. Come to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

DEC 29 (SUN) First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Rite I

10:00 a.m. A service of Christmas Lessons & Carols

Breakfast with *Santa!*

Avoid the Malls. **Come & Get Your Picture Taken With Santa!**

Supporting
Second Story



Sponsored by
St Francis Episcopal
Church

WHEN: Saturday, December 7th, 8:30-10:30am

WHERE: St Francis Episcopal Church
9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA

The event is **FREE** and open to all children in the community.

Hot Chocolate + Doughnuts + Bagels

Carols + Crafts + **HOLIDAY FUN!!**

**We encourage each family to
donate a new, unwrapped toy.**



Toys for boys and girls: Infant through 12 years. Toy suggestions: Puzzles, Games, Cars,
Dolls (African-American Dolls are preferred)

Questions about Breakfast With Santa?

Contact Sandy Walker swalker1303@gmail.com or

Carrie Holman carrie.anne.holman@gmail.com



Wake, Awake!

Advent Music & Poetry
Cantata 140 by J. S. Bach

St. Francis Episcopal Church Choir
Soloists: Amie Flowers Shakespeare
James Rogers

Chamber Orchestra
Larry Vote, Director

Saturday, December 7, 3:00 p.m.

Admission Free

St. Francis Episcopal Church
9220 Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, VA

Advent Contemplative Worship

**5:00 p.m. Sundays,
December 8th, and
15th at St. Francis**

This year St. Francis is offering a contemplative worship series on Sunday evenings during Advent, the season of stillness and preparation for the birth of the Christ child at Christmas.



Contemplative spiritual practices vary and emerge from diverse traditions. As disciplines of body and mind, they share a number of features:

- cultivation of self-awareness
- focused, non-evaluative attention
- development of mental and physical steadiness and balance
- fostering greater attunement, compassion, and creativity

Through candlelit prayer, contemplative silence, poetry, beautiful music, and Holy Communion from the Iona Celtic tradition, this service is different from what we offer on Sunday morning. A brief reflection on spiritual journey will be offered by a member of St. Francis and St. Francis' own Jamie Kim will offer soft piano music. Larry Vote will be the soloist and lead us in singing.

If you are looking for a new way to worship and a space to find your sacred center in the midst of a busy, distracted life- this may be the service for you.

Winter has arrived at Pine Ridge Reservation, SD

Thank you so very much to the hat knitters and all those who donated other items for the **Pine**

Ridge Episcopal Mission in South

Dakota. We will be shipping all items to South

Dakota on Monday Dec 9th. Please bring any additional items to church **by Sunday Dec 8, 2024.**





To All the Women of St. Francis:

Take a break from the holiday hustle and bustle . . .

Join the women of St. Francis for a Casual Christmas Coffee!

Saturday, December 14, 9:30 to 11:30 am

At the home of Kathy Anderson
1812 Cranberry Lane, Reston

Everyone is welcome! You don't need to bring a thing!

Hosts: Kathy Anderson and Leslie Siegmund

R.S.V.P. to kquinnanderson@gmail.com or
lesiegmund@aol.com



Donations for Christmas Music and Altar Flowers

Each year St. Francis is beautifully decorated for Christmas with poinsettias and greens. We also have special music during for Christmas services. It is the custom at St. Francis for parishioners to make Christmas donations to the Altar Guild and to the Music Program to support these groups' efforts at Christmas and during the year. Donations may be given in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for someone or something special.

If you would like to give to either or both of these funds, please fill out the envelope enclosed in your Sunday bulletin and put it in the plate or send a donation directly to the church office (9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066.) To have your memorials or thanksgivings listed in the Christmas service bulletins, we need to receive your donation **by the third Sunday in Advent, December 15, 2023.**

To contribute electronically, you may click on the "Donate" button on the website www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org or [Click here](#).

At the drop-down, you may choose to direct your gift to Music or the Altar Guild. (If you wish to split your contribution, you will need to complete one contribution transaction and click on the URL again to designate to the second ministry recipient.)

Email the parish administrator at admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org to let her know in whose memory or for what thanksgiving you have made your gift.



Christmas Drive for the Homeless

We are doing something different this Christmas Season for [Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington](#), which focuses on the homeless (unhoused) and returning citizens. These are people who are participating in Samaritan Ministry's Next Steps Program and are committed to making progress toward self-sufficiency. Please consider donating so that each participant can receive a \$25 Target gift card, which will be given to them at an open house in Anacostia hosted by St. Francis Church. You can participate by:

Sending or bringing a check or \$25 Target gift card(s) to the church. Please write "Christmas Drive" on your check.

Using [PayPal Donate Now](#) to donate. Select Outreach from the optional drop-down list and put "Christmas Drive" in the memo line.

The drive ends Sunday, December 15.

Questions? Contact Ginger Roll at rollginger@icloud.com



WORDS & MUSIC

Save the Date!

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Words&Music will entertain us with a program “**Let’s Dance**” on **Sunday, January 26 at 4:00 p.m. in Millen Hall**. Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of passion, melody, and movement. Revel in a delightful selection of love songs that will sweep you off your feet--blending classical, modern, and popular tunes for toe-tapping enjoyment.

More information to follow closer to January 26, 2025.

Save the Date!!

Yes, Our Beloved Event Returns!



BLACK TIE
Dinner & Auction

MARCH 1, 2025

St. Francis Episcopal Church

Seeking Volunteers

If you would like to help with **Dinner** (decorations, coordinating appetizers, coordinating teen servers, event setup, event cleanup and more), contact Jennifer

Murphy jenniferomurphy@gmail.com

If you would like to help with the **Auction** (soliciting donations, creating displays & setup, live auction spotter, checkout/closeout), contact Kathy Ditmore kathy.ditmore@gmail.com

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Morning Prayer offered MON-FRI, at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom.

All are invited to immerse themselves in this supportive offering from St. Francis Church where we regularly pray for one another and our mission in the world.

[Click here to connect to Morning Prayer via Zoom.](#)

Zoom ID: 968 1679 4908; Passcode: church

Contemplative Prayer: Mondays at 7:30-8:30 p.m.

We hope you can join us via Zoom videoconference.

For more information and any questions, please contact the coordinator for the program: Kathy Anderson, 703-476-9065 or kquinnanderson@gmail.com. Our group has been traveling and very busy, so we decided that we would NOT hold prayer meetings in December and encourage everyone to help and attend the Advent Contemplative services on Sunday, DEC 1, 8 and 15 at 5:00 p.m.

[Click here to connect to Contemplative Prayer via Zoom.](#)

Zoom ID: 998 1159 6134; Passcode: church

Men's Group: Wednesdays 8:35 a.m.

Discussing: a six-week course on the book of Genesis entitled: *The Genesis Story: Reading Biblical*

Narratives. Join us every Wednesday morning via Zoom. Questions? Contact Stu Edwards at elchivogoat@cs.com

[Click here to connect to the Men's Group via Zoom.](#)

Zoom ID: 922 8116 0056; Passcode: church

St. Francis Social Hour meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for casual conversation. Grab your favorite beverage and let's reconnect!

[Click here to connect to the St. Francis Social Hour.](#)

Zoom ID: 935 2210 0835; Passcode: church

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study at 5:00 p.m.

Meetings take place Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join and participate in interesting discussions. The Kerygma Study selected for Advent: "The Light Will Shine."

This study consists of five lessons and we would like to finish by December 12 before the Holidays. On the 12th, we will conclude with an in person meeting at Katie's Coffeehouse in Great Falls at 9:00 a.m.

For further information contact Amelia Logan at ameliavinteriors@gmail.com

[Click here to connect to the Thursday Afternoon Bible Study.](#)

Zoom ID: 836 1505 5434; Passcode: TABS24

Women's Group Coffee on Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to NOON at Starbucks in Great Falls

The St. Francis Women's Group has an open invitation to meet at the Starbucks in Great Falls every Friday morning. Please join us.

Second Story Dinners: Sundays at 5:15 p.m.

Needed: Volunteers to prepare and deliver Sunday dinners to the Second Story Teen Crisis Center on Gallows Road. Volunteers work solo or in pairs, according to their wishes.

Dinners are made on the first, third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of the month. The count for a meal typically ranges from five to eight persons. It has been as many as twelve. Volunteers receive reminders when their Sundays are coming up.

Please contact Jennifer Murphy at jenniferomurphy@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer for this ministry or if you have any questions.

**Learn more
about our life at
St. Francis**



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

through our new

website stfrancisgreatfalls.org:

- worship services including daily Morning Prayer
- community concerts
- pastoral care
- Creche preschool ministries
- local and international outreach events
- fellowship opportunities
- Bible studies and small group opportunities including Contemplative Prayer

Emergency Pastoral Number: 703.759.2082 x 102

Do you have a news item you would like to share through the Weekly Franciscan? Or do you have a photo from life at St. Francis you would like to submit? We welcome and rely on your participation.

admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Clergy and Staff

Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Priest-in-Charge

Mr. Larry Vote, Music Director
Mr. Sasha Beresovsky, Organist
Ms. Cristi Leslie, Creche Preschool Director
Mr. Dominic Pelegrin, Sexton
Ms. Rita Arteaga, Nursery Attendant
Ms. Lynn Fallon, Parish Administrator

2024 Vestry Members

Rick Larson, Senior Warden
Lynda Davis, Junior Warden
Cathryn Lee, Register
Kathy Anderson Olivia Grady
Elizabeth Kim Larry Pratt
Mike Semko Sandra Walker

Molly Reynolds, serving Treasurer
treasurer@stfrancisgreatfalls.org
Brice Eldridge, Facilities Manager
facilities@stfrancisgreatfalls.org