



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Weekly Franciscan

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22nd, 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 | [Micah 5:2-5a](#)

The Response | [Canticle 15](#)

The Second Reading | [Hebrews 10:5-10](#)

The Gospel Reading | [Luke 1:39-45, \(46-55\)](#)

Parish Prayer List

We pray especially for Terri, Jeff Sr., Hugh Sr., 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.

Christmas at St. Francis

DEC 24 (TUE) Christmas Eve with Festal Brass

4:40 p.m. pre-service Carol singing & 5:00 p.m. service, and



7:40 p.m. pre-service Carol singing & 8:00 p.m. service

You are welcome to bring your family and friends for a delightful evening of beautiful liturgy & music to celebrate the Eve of the Nativity.

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

DEC 29 (SUN) First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Rite I, led by Senior Warden, Rick Larson

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

Special Notice Our Priest-in-Charge Weston Mathews will be away from St.

Francis visiting family from December 26th through January 1st. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please call the Emergency Pastoral Number 703.759.2082 x102 or call the parish office 703.759.2082 x101.



Seeking Volunteers to Help Prepare for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services at St. Francis

Please contact the parish administrator, Lynn Fallon, admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org if you are available and will to help prepare the Orders of Service ("bulletins") for our Christmas services, on **MON-23-**

DEC, and/or possibly on TUE-24-DEC. The primary need is for folding and "stuffing" the printed announcements. 'Not rocket science, but certainly a case for "many hands making light work." Thank you for your consideration.

**SAMARITAN
MINISTRY**
of Greater Washington



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In Support of the Christmas Drive for Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington:

Thank You for Your Generosity!

We received a very generous response from you to our Christmas Drive for [Samaritan Ministry](http://SamaritanMinistry.org). The Target gift cards purchased with your donations were given to homeless, recently homeless people, and returning citizens at an open

house hosted by St. Francis in DC on Thursday, December 19th.

The people who received the gift cards are committed to [Samaritan Ministry's Next Step Program](#), where participants, with the help of a dedicated case worker and Samaritan Ministry's staff and volunteers, identify and take the steps they need to make progress toward self-sufficiency. Beginning steps can be as fundamental as obtaining an ID card, having an address for mail, or getting food stamps. Crucial and difficult to achieve if you are homeless.



St. Francis
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**Let's reach for the stars to make the
Future of St. Francis Bright!**

For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds. ~ Psalm 108:4

We are now at \$512,270 with 78 pledges.
That's 85 percent of our goal.
Let's push up that thermometer even more!

**Reaching for the stars to hit the goal of \$600,000 by
Christmas!**

Send in your pledge or email the Treasurer
at treasurer@stfranciscgreatfalls.org.



Thank you to these Franciscans & Friends who have pledged:

Anonymous (19)	Jan & Bill Lane
Terri Adams	Rick Larson
Nathan Ambler & Paul Herman	Amelia & Will Logan
Jackie Amthor	Loriana & Weston Mathews
Kathy & Dana Anderson	Jessica & Kevin Maxson
Clara Sue Ashley	Beth & Walt Meyer
Mattie & Duncan Bowden	Jennifer & Ray Murphy
Dut & Carolyn Brown	Paul Mutino & Karen Levy
Nora Lee & Richard Brown	Wendy & Gary Pan
Nancy Burkley	Linn Perkins
Sharon Callaway	Larry & Reyna Pratt
Ellen Calvin	Jane & Bill Rachal
Anne Carson	Tamber & Mike Ray
Carmela & Charles Condro	Molly & Joe Reynolds
Lynda Davis	Cate & Steve Riihimaki
Janet Durfee	Ginger Roll
Mimi & Brice Eldridge	Chris & Ray Rollins
Sarah & Rick Entsminger	Jennifer & Mike Semko
Nilda Ferrari	Jack & Lori Shafran
Brenda & Chris Giragosian	Michael Shuler
Val & Bruce Goddard	Leslie Siegmund & Jack Mathias
Ginger & Edward Gotliffe	Judy Stocks
Barbara & Mike Hattwick	Pepin Tuma
Lisa & Joe Hawke	Jeanne & Larry Vote
Kathryn Hinton	Sandy & John Walker
Carrie & Ian Holman	Pat & Paul Ward
Mary & Charlie Jackson	Lois & Darren Willcox
Elaine Jeffrey	Tom & Joy Wood
Susan Kawmy	Kristi & Dave Yarnall
Elizabeth & Joshua Kim	Nan & Allen Young

Giving Envelopes

If you wish to receive Giving Envelopes for 2025, please send an email to me at treasurer@stfrancisgreatfalls.org. Even if you have received envelopes in the past, please let me know that you wish to have them again for 2025.

The envelopes will be available in the alcove inside the front door after January 1.



Thank You to All St. Francis Parishioners:

A special thank you from the Altar Guild with your help Greening St. Francis. The church looks beautiful and so welcoming! We can't wait to celebrate with you on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Also, a big thank you for your



donations to the Altar Guild and the Choir during this Holiday Season. With the beautiful flowers and songs, we will all enjoy the sights and sounds of this most special time of the year. Thank you.

~ The Altar Guild

PS Please mark your calendar for "De-Greening St. Francis" on January 12th, 2025 after the 10:00 am service.



Dark Horse Theatre presents "Art" by Yasmina Reza @ St. Francis in Millen Hall

SAT-4-JAN at 7:30 p.m.

SUN-5-JAN at 6:00 p.m.

SAT-1-FEB at 7:30 p.m.

Synopsis: Three Friends. €400,000. One White(?) Painting.

Cast: Tice Rust, Jack Reda, Scott D. Pafumi

Stage Manager: Katelyn Burton

Director: Natasha Parnian

Notes: 1998 Tony Winner for Best Play and 1996 Olivier Award for Best Comedy



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, January 19, 2025 for the

St. Francis Annual Congregational Meeting and Election

of New Vestry Members

This meeting will commence after the 10:00 a.m. service this day, in the Sanctuary. In the meantime, we are **seeking candidates to fill 4 Vestry member vacancies**: three of these are 3-year terms and one is a 1-year term. If interested in "throwing your hat into the ring" as a candidate to serve on your vestry, please contact the parish administrator admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org by no later than FRI-3-JAN 2025.

Also, we are calling for **Annual Reports** from "the usual suspects" to be delivered to the parish administrator admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org *by no later than SUN-5-JAN 2025.*

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding Vestry service, please contact either Senior Warden, Rick Larson or Junior Warden, Lynda Davis



Save the Date!

The St. Francis Vestry Invites You to a Special Concert on Sunday, January 26, 2025

Words&Music will return to **Millen Hall** and entertain us with their program **"Let's Dance" on Sunday, January 26 at 4:00 p.m.** 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. Presented by the St. Francis Vestry and free for everyone – bring your friends for this memorable event!

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.

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

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.

[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.

[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.

For further information contact Amelia Logan.

[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 if you would like to volunteer for this ministry or if you have any questions.

Learn more about our life at St. Francis

through our new website stfranciscgreatfalls.org:



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- 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

The 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

Elizabeth Kim

Larry Pratt

Mike Semko

Sandra Walker

Molly Reynolds, serving Treasurer

treasurer@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Brice Eldridge, Facilities Manager

facilities@stfrancisgreatfalls.org