



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Weekly Franciscan

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany Sunday, January 19th, 2025

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 | [Isaiah 62:1-5](#)

The Response | [Psalm 36:5-10](#)

The Second Reading | [1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#)

The Gospel Reading | [John 2:1-11](#)

Parish Prayer List

We pray especially for Janet, Leila, Barbara & Bill, Mila, Josie, Terri, Jeff Sr., Hugh Sr., Nora Lee, Cathy, Lawrence, Bishop Gayle, David, Jon, Jessica, Paula, Trevor, Clara Sue, Grace, Sofia & Larry, Debra, Taylor, Kelly & Alex, Nick & Hilary, and Dut.

Annual Meeting Notice: Voting Instructions &

Vestry Candidates for Election

at the January 19, 2025

Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Francis

Please note that your Vestry candidate vote must take place in person at St. Francis on Sunday, January 19th. This is according to the Episcopal Canons.

0 Voter Eligibility for an Adult (16+) is determined as follows:

1. If you have contributed financially at least once to St. Francis Church in 2024; and
2. If you have attended at least one service at St. Francis Church in 2024

0 Ballots will be distributed to persons at the 8:00 a.m. service who are not able to stay for the Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

o If you unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you may not vote remotely nor submit an absentee ballot for this election.

0 After the 10:00 a.m. service, at 11:15 a.m. ballots will be available in the Narthex for voting. Completed ballots will be placed into the ballot box before entering the Sanctuary in preparation for the 11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting.

Poll workers will be working as ballot counters after all votes have been cast.



Chris Giragosian

I moved to Reston from Richmond, Virginia in 1985, I was a member of All Saints Church there and after visiting a number of churches, we picked St. Francis as our home. Brenda and I have four children and four grandchildren. I retired from practicing law in March 2024 after 48 years when I realized I would never beat Paul Ward's record. I have been a member of the internal audit committee and the finance committee for two years. I am very excited about the steps we are taking to grow our membership and our presence in the community. I hope to make a positive contribution to those efforts.



Ginger Gotliffe

I became a member of St. Francis over 30 years ago when I married my husband, Ed, and moved to Reston. I am a long-time member of the Altar Guild. I currently serve on the Endowment Committee. I have previously served on the Finance and the Labyrinth Committees. I am thankful for the setting of the sanctuary and grounds, the warmth of the congregation, and the beautiful words and music of our traditional services. My hope for the future of St. Francis is to grow our wonderful congregation, expand our music, education and outreach activities, and to strengthen our financial resources. Increasing the membership, especially by increasing the number of younger families with children, is critical. I am a retired environmental engineer who worked at the Dept. of the Navy and EPA. I attend the 8 am service. I have 3 stepsons (4 grandchildren) and one daughter who attended St. Francis as a child.



Jessica Maxson

My husband Kevin and I came to St. Francis in 2008, looking for a preschool for our son Tommy, who was not quite two years old at the time. I like to say that we came to look at the Creche and then just never left. Tommy was baptized here later that year, and I followed suit a year later. I did not grow up in a religious family, so St. Francis has naturally been a driving force in my spiritual development. It's been a wonderful and accepting place to grow in my faith.

Since we have been at St. Francis, I've served as a Sunday School teacher and Lay Eucharistic Minister. I taught at the Creche for several years after Tommy started kindergarten, and I served on the Creche board for one three-year term. Kevin and I together have coordinated the Fourth of July picnic one year, the Shrine Mont family weekend (jointly with St. John's in McLean), and most recently organized the chili cook-off this past fall. Alongside Jan Lane and Rev. Tracey Kelly, I organized and facilitated a Hands-On Spirituality program, which was thriving until unfortunately cut short by the pandemic. I also facilitate an art experiential as part of the program for the annual Women's Retreat at Shrine Mont.

I'm an artist and board-certified art therapist, and I have a deep conviction in the power of the arts to foster authentic expression, healing, and the building of community and connection. As a member of the vestry, I would love to help bring a vibrant arts program to St. Francis, and I'm excited about the possibilities open to us as a parish. I'm also very interested in welcoming and supporting families of all kinds. I've received so much from this church in terms of spiritual growth, warm fellowship, and rich relationships, so I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve St. Francis in turn.



Steve Riihimaki

Raising our family in a household of spiritual faith and values was a priority for my wife, Cate, and I as we started our family in 2006. We both believe in giving back to the community and others who are not as fortunate as we are. For many years Cate and I volunteered at the Wendt Center's annual grief and loss camp, Camp Forget-Me-Not, as a counselor and camper buddy, respectively. I was a member of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity at the University of Virginia, where we volunteered with various local organizations.

Pat and Paul Ward, Cate's aunt and uncle, recommended St. Francis as a wonderful church community, and after attending services we knew it was a great fit for us. As our family grew to include Dylan (18), Grace (16), Lauren (13) and Quinn (11), we have balanced our children's lives in the church with all of our other activities they are involved in. We enrolled several of our children in the Creche School, brought them to Sunday School classes, participated in the children choir, enjoyed many of the social and service-related activities, such as the Fall Country Fair and the annual Gala, and attended services as often as possible. We met Rita Arteaga, who cared for our kids when they were younger and has become a close family friend, through the church. As we have grown in the church, Cate and I have served several roles, including usher, LEM, children's chapel leader, Melchior (one of the three wise men) in the Christmas pageant, and greeter.

In addition to our lives in the church, I have been swim team representative for our neighborhood swim team (among other roles), rec coach for Great Falls basketball, baseball and lacrosse, and a board member for our neighborhood HOA.

I believe St Francis is the perfect place for me to serve. The congregation and staff are extremely welcoming, and keeping faith in God foremost in our lives has been healing for our family. I am excited to work with Weston, Lynn and the Vestry to continue to expand the reach of St Francis and reinforce it as a safe place for all to learn about Jesus' teachings.



Pepin Tuma

I would be honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve you on our church's vestry. My family and I moved to Great Falls and started attending St. Francis in the summer of 1984. I grew up here, made friends here, acolyte, ushered, and was confirmed here, spun cotton candy at our church fairs, eulogized my grandmother here, accepted the obligations of a godparent to my niece here, laughed and cried here, and felt my prayers for myself and my family sent by the congregation here. Even as I more frequently attended parish churches closest to where I lived and worked, I remained committed to and regularly attended St.

Francis, which has always been my church home—both in the letter and spirit of canon law. I moved back to Great Falls a couple of years ago for family and to use my powers and training as a lawyer for good at a non-profit think tank (www.gfi.org) advancing public policies that solve some of tomorrow's most pressing problems today. We're at an incredible inflection point here at St. Francis, by showing who we are and by witnessing the renaissance we're experiencing to the greater community, we can grow and thrive while being true to our roots and our shared faith commitment. I hope to contribute my experience, skills, and passion to this effort and respectfully ask for your support.



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Let's Make the Future of St. Francis Bright!

Make your fortune come true!



In a generous effort to achieve our pledge and budget goal of \$600,000 for 2025, Senior Warden Rick Larson has offered us a challenge. He is promising to match dollar for dollar any new pledge or increase in the amount of an existing pledge for 2025 made by any member or friend of St. Francis Episcopal Church before the end of January 2025. He will match any gift up to an aggregate total of \$20,000.

Make a new pledge or increase your 2025 pledge to push the pledge total to \$600,000 before the Annual Meeting on January 19th. Then come to the meeting after the 10:00 service to learn how far the pledge total has moved!

Thank you to these Franciscans & Friends who have pledged:

Anonymous (21)
Terri Adams
Nathan Ambler & Paul Herman
Jackie Amthor
Kathy & Dana Anderson
Clara Sue Ashley
David & Olyia Black
Mattie & Duncan Bowden
Dut & Carolyn Brown
Nora Lee & Richard Brown
Nancy Burkley
Sharon Callaway
Ellen Calvin
Anne Carson
Carmela & Charles Condro
Lynda Davis
Janet Durfee
Mimi & Brice Eldridge
Sarah & Rick Entsminger
Nilda Ferrari
Mary & Tom Gillespie
Brenda & Chris Giragosian
Val & Bruce Goddard
Ginger & Edward Gotliffe
Nick & Hillary Haight
Barbara & Mike Hattwick
Lisa & Joe Hawke
Kathryn Hinton
Carrie & Ian Holman
Laura Howard
Mary & Charlie Jackson
Elaine Jeffrey
Susan Kawmy
Jane Keihn
Jon Lynn Kerchner
Patrick & Leslie Killoran

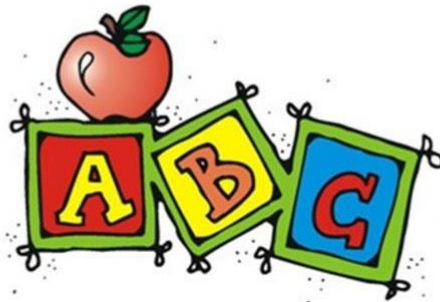
Elizabeth & Joshua Kim
Jan & Bill Lane
Dick & Celia Larkin
Rick Larson
Amelia & Will Logan
Chris & Bob MacKichan
Loriana & Weston Mathews
Jessica & Kevin Maxson
Beth & Walt Meyer
Jennifer & Ray Murphy
Paul Mutino & Karen Levy
Laila & Ridley Nelson
Wendy & Gary Pan
Linn Perkins
Larry & Reyna Pratt
Jane & Bill Rachal
Tamber & Mike Ray
Molly & Joe Reynolds
Cate & Steve Riihimaki
Ginger Roll
Chris & Ray Rollins
Jennifer & Mike Semko
Jack & Lori Shafran
Michael Shuler
Leslie Siegmund & Jack Mathias
Judy Stocks
Jeanne & Bill Swiacki
Pepin Tuma
Jeanne & Larry Vote
Sandy & John Walker
Pat & Paul Ward
Lois & Darren Willcox
Tom & Joy Wood
Kristi & Dave Yarnall
Nan & Allen Young

Giving Envelopes

Envelopes are ready for everyone who used them in 2024. You can pick them up in the vestibule at the church entrance. If you would like envelopes for 2025 but have not requested them, please let me know and they will be out the following week. Molly Reynolds -- treasurer@stfranciscgreatfalls.org

The Creche Preschool

**Enrolling Now
for Fall 2025!**



- For children ages 2 to 5 years old
- 2,3,4 and 5-day classes
- Extended Care
- Outdoor Classroom
- After School Enrichment Program
- Summer Camps

Contact us:

Phone: (703) 759-2522

Email: creche@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Website: www.stfranciscreche.org



**Newcomers' Brunch:
Sunday, January 26th**

The Invite, Welcome, Connect (IWC) Committee is hosting a brunch in the parish hall for newcomers on **January 26, after the 10 am service**. The brunch is open to all members of the church, but the program will be oriented toward our newer individuals and families. The IWC Committee would love to see a mix of newcomers and longstanding parishioners! If you plan to attend, please also let us know, so that we can plan accordingly.

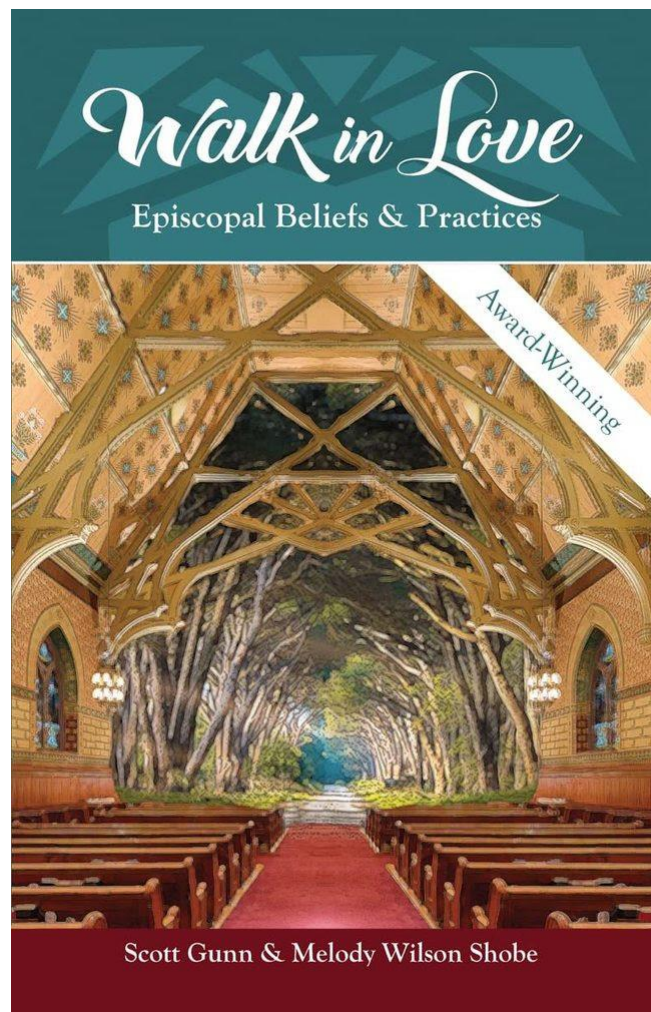


Also, the IWC Committee could use some help with food, so let us know if you are able to bring something. You can respond with your attendance (and food contributions) to Leslie Siegmund. Thank you!

WORDS & MUSIC

St. Francis Episcopal Church will host **Words&Music** on **Sunday, January 26 at 4:00 p.m.** as they entertain with **"Let's Dance!"** This program for vocal quartet and piano four hands features works by Brahms, Greer, Lehrer and more! Dust off your dancing shoes and join us! This performance is being generously sponsored by Molly and Joe Reynolds in partnership with the Vestry of St. Francis Episcopal

Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA. Bring your friends to this free event for a memorable afternoon of entertainment! [Get your free tickets here.](#)



The Inquirer's Class:

All who seek are welcome

Come to the Inquirer's Class with your questions about the Episcopal Church, the Anglican tradition, and what it means to follow the Way of Jesus.

Spring 2025 Class: Wednesday evenings, February 5 - March 12,

6:30 - 8:00 p.m., taught by the Rev. Weston Mathews.

This class is designed for anyone interested in learning about the Episcopal Church and its Anglican heritage, as well as for anyone who wants to delve more deeply into the Christian way of life generally. Although we will cover several topics and conclude the series with an Instructed Eucharist, this class is also grounded in seeking; therefore, significant time will be spent during each session on your questions.

Any adult or teenager who might wish to be confirmed or formally received into the Episcopal Church should attend these classes, but many long-time Franciscans and newcomers may wish to participate as a kind of refresher, or as a way to sort through some of the questions of faith that are common to many of us.

In this class our text will be *Walk In Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices* by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. [You may purchase the book through Amazon, here.](#) A limited number of books will be available in the office to borrow if you are unable to purchase one.

Sign up in any of the following ways:

- o Email Priest-in-Charge Weston Mathews rector@stfrancisgreatfalls.org
- o Use the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table at the entrance of the church
- o Call or visit the parish office 703.759.2082 x101



SAVE THE DATES:

Second Sunday Contemplative Worship Series begins

Sunday, February 9th at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

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 also be offered by a member of St. Francis.

This worship series will be held on the second Sunday night of each month (except for August.) If you are looking for a new or different 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.



*You are cordially invited to join your fellow Franciscans
at a Black Tie Dinner and Auction*

**Saturday March first
Two Thousand Twenty-Five
At six o'clock in the evening**

St. Francis Millen Hall Ballroom

Tickets: \$95 per person

[Please click here to purchase dinner tickets](#)

(Select *Black Tie Dinner* in the drop-down menu)

OR

Mail payment for dinner tickets to

St. Francis Episcopal Church

9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066

Tickets must be purchased by Friday, February 21, 2025.



Black Tie Dinner & Auction Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed! For those interested, a volunteer meeting will be held at **Millen Hall Annex on January 24th from 10:30am until Noon**. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided. Contact Jennifer Murphy with any questions.

St. Francis Women's Group

The Women's Group Friday morning coffee at Starbucks on January 24th has been cancelled in order to allow members to attend the Black Tie Dinner & Auction volunteer meeting at Millen Hall Annex starting at 10:30a.m. Questions? Email Jennifer Murphy

Otherwise, the Women's Group continues to meet at Starbucks on Friday mornings from 10:30 a.m. until Noon, but we are flexible. Show up when you can and stay for as long or as little as you'd like. If you arrive at 10:30 and no one is there, please wait to allow others the time to arrive. Questions? Contact Annette Bellino or Ginger Roll.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS for 2025

The Flower Sponsor sign up chart for 2025 is now in the Narthex. Sponsoring flowers is a lovely way to give thanks for something or to remember someone or some event. Each Sunday has two slots (for two arrangements.) We ask for a donation of \$75 per arrangement. To pay, you can use a donation envelope available in the Narthex racks or you can [click here](#) to pay on-line. (Please select "Altar Fund" in the drop-down menu.) If you pay online, please send Lynn Fallon an email (admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org) with the sentiment you wish to have printed in the Sunday Bulletin.



... And if you are unable to get to church, you may choose a Sunday by emailing Jennifer Murphy. She will enter your name on the chart.



Nursery Attendant Assistant Needed

St. Francis currently has a wonderful nursery staffed by Rita Arteaga, a paid attendant with loads of childcare experience, and one volunteer. But we're running short of volunteers, and we'd like to find a second paid attendant to be in the Sunday nursery every week from about 9:45 to 11:30. If you know of someone, especially a nanny or someone else with childcare experience, who would be willing to work on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org. Anyone who is hired will need to complete 2 hours of online training (required by the Diocese) and will be paid for the training time.



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

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

For ages 16+: Contains adult language, existential crises, and dark humor.

To purchase tickets, please visit the Dark Horse Theatre box office: www.darkhorseva.com

More information to come, tomorrow.

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.

Reading and Discussing CS Lewis's "Mere Christianity", beginning this WED and the first assignment is the Preface, Ch 1 and Ch 2. Join us every WED morning: All are welcome.

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.