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St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Weekly Franciscan

Thursday, March 13, 2025

The Second Sunday in Lent, March 16, 2025

You are welcome to the

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

10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist Rite II with
the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant & Mr. Riley K. Temple, 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 | [Genesis 15:1-12,17-18](#)

The Response | [Psalm 27:1-6, 17-18](#)

The Second Reading | [Philippians 3:17-4:1](#)

The Gospel Reading | [Luke 13:31-35](#)

Parish Prayer List

We pray especially for Holly, Nan, Marlene, Betty, Dana, Luke, David, Barbara & Bill, Jeff Sr., Hugh Sr., Lawrence, David, Jon, Jessica, Paula, Clara Sue, Grace, Debra, Taylor, Nick & Hilary, and Dut. We give thanks for the birth of Oliver Benjamin Piciacchio, grandson of Kathy & Dana Anderson.

We pray for Mel Diaz & Lillian Moring as they prepare for Holy Matrimony.

We pray also for Franciscans who are currently preparing for Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Reception into The Episcopal Church, and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.



Special Lenten Guest Preacher

Riley K. Temple

Sunday, March 16 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. services

Riley K. Temple is a teacher and preacher on Art and Theology. He is the author of Aunt Ester's Children Redeemed: Journeys to Freedom in August Wilson's Ten Plays of Twentieth-Century Black America (Cascade, Eugene) 2017. He is currently exploring theologian Howard Thurman's Christian mysticism in contrast to the African mysticism that courses through August Wilson's cultural and theatrical landscape.

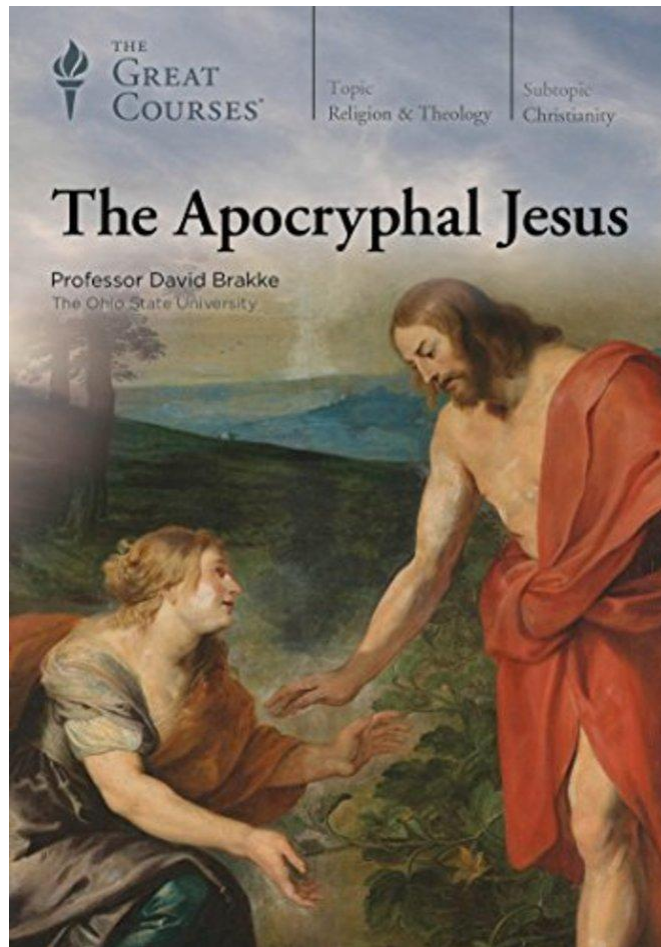
He practiced telecommunications law in Washington, DC for over 40 years, representing large telecommunications conglomerates and media companies, including the former Bell companies and their descendants. His public service included terms as communications counsel to the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

He has served on several Boards, including a term as Senior Warden of the vestry at St. John's Lafayette Square. Currently he is a trustee of WETA, the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, and the Campaign Legal Center. Prior Board service includes the National Archives Foundation, the Trust for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation.

His honors and awards have included: The Mildred Claypoole Community Service Award; the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington's Individual Arts Patron Award; inclusion in the Library of Congress' HistoryMakers African American Oral History Archive; from Lafayette College, the Joseph S. Bell Award for Distinguished Service, the Doctor of Laws degree Honoris Causa (2009), and the naming of the Riley K. Temple Art Gallery (2011). He is a proud co-founder with Tony Award winner Kenny Leon of the Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company.

Temple holds the AB degree from Lafayette College (1971), the JD degree from Georgetown University (1974), and the Master of Theological Studies degree, cum laude from the Virginia Theological Seminary (2014).

Most recently, he is the curator of the African American Episcopal Historical Collection (AAEHC), a partnership of the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church and the Bishop Payne Library at the Virginia Theological Seminary. The AAEHC chronicles the history of Black Episcopalians.



**Sunday Evening Lenten Series on
"The Apocryphal Jesus"**

**March 16, 23, 30, & April 6*, Fellowship and Potluck Supper begins at 6:00 p.m.;
30-minute Great Courses film begins at 6:30 p.m.**

***April 6 will meet at 11:30 a.m. after the 10:00 a.m. service.**

Gain a new perspective on early Christian life and history through non-canonical Christian literature, led by Dr. David Brakke of The Ohio State University. Sessions will include these topics:

- o Jesus and Mary in the Proto-Gospel of James,

- o Young Jesus and the Infancy Gospel of Thomas,
- o Sayings of Jesus from the Gospel of Thomas, and
- o The Gospel of Judas's Gnostic Vision



2025 Black Tie Dinner & Auction

A Success in Every Way

A night filled with fellowship, good food, excellent service, and friendly bidding took place on March 1st at St. Francis. The evening brought just over \$29,000 net income with sponsorships, ticket sales, and auction proceeds, including \$4,700+ from the paddle raise challenge.

A big thank you to Jennifer Murphy and Kathy Ditmore for superb organization and creativity in making the event a success. The money raised will be shared by Outreach programs for Ezo and North Carolina along with the St. Francis general fund.

What a wonderful way to return to a St. Francis tradition!

Thank You, Franciscans!!

Wow!! \$29,000

What an incredible feat - with efforts from almost every corner of our parish - from those who spent hours helping us, to those who donated fabulous auction items, to those who couldn't join us but contributed anyway in myriad ways, to those who came and spent ever so generously, to our marvelous youth servers, to Lynn Fallon who spent several late nights helping to get all the auction paperwork together, and especially to Father Weston whose unquestioning support backed our every move!

The adage says, "It takes a village." We would say, "It takes a village of Franciscans."

Thank you from the depths of our hearts for giving us the opportunity to make our parish shine!

Love and Peace to All,

Jennifer and Kathy

And a Special Thanks

To The Chef's Table



- Fabulous Food
- Dedicated Service
- Great Training & Leadership for our Youth Servers

Jennifer would be happy to provide contact information should anyone wish to use this wonderful company for a personal event.

Lenten Evening Prayer Offering

During Lent 2025, Franciscans will be offered an opportunity to attend **Evening Prayer** via Zoom from **Monday through Friday** as they now have in Zoom Morning Prayer. **Beginning Monday, March 17**, Scott Perkins will lead these sessions **beginning at 5 p.m.** As was the case when these sessions were offered during the pandemic from 2020 through 2024, participants will have an opportunity to lead a service; and the Lenten sessions will be reviewed at Easter to determine possible extension of Evening Prayer sessions thereafter. The sessions follow the Book of Common Prayer and are expected to take twenty minutes. You are invited to tune in even if you are not ready to commit to each Evening Prayer session.

Zoom Meeting ID Number 955 4706 9137 and use “church” as the Meeting Passcode

or simply click on this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95547069137?pwd=MmhUMXNVR3lvcmhYTWFDOWR4Z3JTUT09>



St. Francis Women's Group - Friday morning coffee at the Great Falls Starbucks continues!

The meeting time is 10:30 a.m. to Noon, but we've been known stay much longer. Stop by for a quick hello or a longer chat.

Questions: contact Annette Bellino annette.bellino@verizon.net

Ladies Spring Equinox Hike, Great Falls Park, Thursday March 20 at 10 a.m.

Join us for fellowship and for the pure joy of a walk in the woods as spring begins to bud in all of God's glory.

Plan to walk to the falls and then meander into the woods on a well worn path. Slightly hilly with alternative options available. All paces welcome. We will plan to walk for about 50-60 minutes with shorter options available. Snacks will be provided after our hike.

Where to meet: Enter the gate at GFP, and take a sharp right into the first parking lot. We will meet at the trailhead.

There is an entrance fee if you do not have an annual pass.

Glad to meet at church parking lot prior if anyone would like a ride to the park.

Please RSVP or contact Janet for more info: Janet Durfee jmdurfee@comcast.net.



SAVE THE DATE

**Women's Annual Retreat
at Shrine Mont**

June 6 - 8, 2025

“Prayer as the Foundation for Life,
partnering with God in your daily life.”

Questions? Please contact Janet Durfee jmdurfee@comcast.net or Kathy Anderson kquinnanderson@gmail.com



Via Crucis Concert at St. Francis

Saturday, March 22nd, at 7:00 p.m.

Plan now to attend a very special Lenten concert that will feature our organist/pianist **Sasha Beresovsky**, and the St. Francis Choir and soloists under the direction of Larry Vote. The concert, a performance of the rarely heard **Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross)** by Franz Liszt,

will take place on **Saturday, March 22nd, 7 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Virginia. The concert is free and open to the public.**

Sasha Beresovsky, pianist and organist at St. Francis Episcopal Church, has appeared regularly at The Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria as part of the Summer Chamber Music Series of WMPA, presenting Beethoven's Diabelli Variations in 2015. Other performances have included solo recitals at the Victor Kosenko and Mikhail Bulgakov museums in Kyiv, the Rhodes Scholar House in Oxford, UK, the Arts Barn in Surry, ME, and Beethoven's Fourth Concerto with the Belmont Festival Orchestra.

Via Crucis is a set of musical meditations on the Stations of the Cross which prominently features the piano supported by choral and solo vocal movements with texts appropriate to the subject. The performance will be further enhanced by the showing of slides of paintings by Renaissance painters who visually interpreted each of the 14 Stations of the Cross. This presentation is an excellent opportunity to immerse oneself in an example of music that dramatizes the Passion of Jesus Christ.

Living with Grief



Living with Grief is a professionally-led bereavement group open to adults suffering the loss of a loved one(s).

2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month
10:30am - 12pm
starting March 25, 2025

St. Francis Episcopal Church
9220 Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, VA 22066
(Group will meet in the sanctuary)

ALL community members are welcome.
Free of charge.

For More Information
or to Register:

Contact Cate Riihimaki, LPC at
cate@graymattersva.com



RISE AGAINST HUNGER[®]



Rise Against Hunger Family Event at St. Francis

Friday evening March 28, 2025

Please join your neighbors and their families to support a fun and meaningful Great Falls community event on **Friday, March 28**, 6:30-8:30 pm, to assemble **20,088** meals supporting [*Rise Against Hunger's Pathways to End Hunger*](#). These meals provide critical food to remote, last-mile communities within hunger pockets designated "serious" or higher by the Global Hunger Index.

St Francis Episcopal Church is hosting this community-wide event in conjunction with **Rise Against Hunger**. School children can accumulate community service hours. We need **100 volunteers** to assemble these critical meals. Please join your neighbors and

REGISTER at the link below now.

<https://tinyurl.com/rahgf2025>

FURTHER INFORMATION

At Rise Against Hunger, It Starts With a Meal™, and it leads to resilience, self-sufficiency, education, empowerment, and bright futures in communities worldwide. Rise Against Hunger meals are served every day around the globe in medical clinics, vocational training programs, elder care facilities, and schools. Each meal is a moment to celebrate. <https://www.RiseAgainstHunger.org>



Come to the Next Step Breakfast!

Join fellow Franciscans at the National Press Club for **Samaritan Ministry's annual Next Step Breakfast on Saturday, March 29, from 9:00 to 10:30 AM**. Hear powerful stories from volunteers, staff, and Samaritan Next Step program participants who are transforming their lives. **The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Diocese of Washington**, will be the keynote speaker.

To register click on [this link](#) After you register, list Ginger Roll as your table captain to sit at a St. Francis table. The event is free and includes a light breakfast. We will carpool from the St. Francis parking lot at 8:00 AM. For more information, please contact Ginger Roll at rollginger@icloud.com



Stephanie Flack



Sasha Beresovsky



Diana LeGrand

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, April 5th, 7:00 p.m.

at St. Francis Church

Sasha Beresovsky & the Paragon Philharmonia Dvorak Piano Quintet

Paragon Philharmonia Piano Quintet

Diana LeGrand and Stephanie Flack, violins

Matthew Maffett, viola

Rachel Sexton, cello

Sasha Beresovsky, piano

Pedro Giraudo - A Octavio Brunetti

Dvorak - Piano Quintet in A Major

Latin GRAMMY Award winner bassist and composer Pedro Giraudo is among the most compelling tango artists today. *A Octavio Brunetti*, originally written for violin, bandoneón, piano & bass, is a song of friendship dedicated to pianist Octavio Brunetti (1975 – 2014). Both Brunetti and Giraudo were beer enthusiasts, and during one of their manu tours of Japan, they came up with a ditty with the Japanese lyrics :Biru No-mou-ze,” which means “let’s have a beer!” They would play or whistle the motive after a long day of rehearsals. When Giraudo embarked upon writing a piece for his dear friend Brunetti, he remembered the motive, and constructed a full tango borne of levity but bedazzled with bleaker harmonies. The whole piece is based on that theme and idea.

Antonin Dvorak’s second piano quintet is considered one of the most iconic works in the repertoire, with soaring lyricism and scintillating virtuosity. In his own musical language, Dvorak incorporates aspects of Czech folk music, including the dance forms of the Dumka and Furiant interpreted in a romantic style.

[PURCHASE TICKETS HERE](#)

Tickets may also be purchased with check. Please include title of concert in the memo line.

Mail to:

Paragon Philharmonia
c/o Stephanie Black
3437 Austin Ct.
Alexandria, VA 22310



St. Francis

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Francis is hiring!

We are excited to announce that the search has begun for a new, full-time **Director of Family Ministries**. As St. Francis and the St. Francis Creche Preschool continue to grow, this lay professional or priest will support the faith formation of current and future St. Francis youth and young families, the spiritual formation of children and parents in the Creche Preschool chapel program, serve as a chaplain to the St. Francis Scouts, and build connections with new family ministry partners like the Young Men's Service League of Great Falls.

As a vibrant church with intergenerational activity on our grounds seven days a week, the right candidate for St. Francis and the Creche will be a visionary bridge-builder, a strong advocate for youth and young families, and a highly skilled community organizer. We want to ensure that the needs of every young person and parent who comes to St. Francis - for any activity - is met with love, kindness, and radical hospitality.

[Read the job description for this position HERE.](#)

Do you know of someone interested in this position?: Please share this link with them AND ask them to contact Priest-in-Charge, Weston Mathews at rector@stfrancisgreatfalls.org. Screening interviews are already underway.

In order to assess our needs and prepare for welcoming this new staff person to St. Francis and the Creche, would you please fill out the brief survey below? While the survey is open to every member and friend of St. Francis, we especially hope to understand the needs of current St. Francis parents of children, youth, and young adults, current St. Francis elementary, middle school and high school-aged youth, St. Francis college students, current Creche families, current and former Sunday School / Children's Chapel teachers and nursery volunteers, and St. Francis Scouts.

Thank you for participating in this survey as we plant seeds for growth and build up the Body of Christ at St. Francis.

Take the survey: <https://forms.gle/rg39fiURrerK6HXs5>



Meet Our Summer Intern, Josh House

Josh House is a postulant for the priesthood in the Diocese of Virginia and attends Virginia Theological Seminary. Before seminary, Josh spent a decade as a civil-rights lawyer at two national nonprofits, litigating constitutional cases nationwide. Originally from California's East Bay, Josh has degrees from the University of California, San Diego (History of the Near East) and The George Washington University (Law), where he is an adjunct professor. When he's not studying or working, you can find Josh rock climbing, running, or spending time with his wife, Lauren, and their two daughters.

Josh & his family will be here with us from June 23 to August 22, before Josh begins his senior year at VTS.



Bishop Isaac and Mama Nora to Visit in 2026

On Ezo Sunday, March 2, we kicked off a fundraising campaign to raise \$10,000 for the travel of Bishop Isaac and his wife, Mama Nora, to visit St. Francis in March 2026. This visit will help us to live out the covenant that St. Francis has had with the Diocese of Ezo in South Sudan for 26 years! We hope to build on that relationship and learn more about the people of Ezo and their struggles and great faith. If you are able to donate toward this effort, please write your check to "St. Francis" and put "Ezo trip" in the memo line. The good news is that our Treasurer has determined, upon further research, that **donations are tax deductible**. Also, if

you would like to be on planning committee for this trip, please email Scott Perkins, committee chair, at ohio4csp@hotmail.com.



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Creche Happenings

The Creche preschool invites all Moms to attend one of three Mother's Teas next week, on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday (March 17, 18 or 20) at 1:00 p.m. in Millen Hall. Please join the Creche Moms in celebrating our shared motherhood.

The Creche students continue to enjoy all of the Enrichment classes that we are providing this spring, from Acrobatics and Spanish Fitness to cooking and STEM classes, they always have a great time!



THE COMMUNITY & ST. FRANCIS

Would you be interested in working with a team of Franciscans and local gallery owner, Sylvanna VanderPark to plan a special community arts weekend at St. Francis in 2026? If intrigued and interested, please contact your St. Francis Arts & Music Vestry liaison, Jessica Maxson jessica.c.maxson@gmail.com or Sylvanna VanderPark syl@wolfgangandluke.com. Besides being the Wolfgang & Luke Art Studio owner, Sylvanna is also a co-chair of the Great Falls Art Studio Tour.



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Adult volunteers needed to act as table leaders during the day-long Ethics Day program for Langley HS seniors on March 20th.

Ethics Day encourages seniors to determine their own ethical framework and equips them with decision-making tools they can use in life after high school when confronting ethical dilemmas. Speakers present situations in three different sessions, and table leaders encourage open dialog among the students in small-group table discussions.

Use the [SignUpGenius](#) to volunteer, and please share the link with others. Ethics Day will take place at 1800 Reston Row Plaza. Questions: contact **Danica Alink** at danica.alink@hotmail.com.

Amadeus  Concerts



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Amadeus Concerts, Inc. presents:

"Peabody Premieres"; rising talent from the Peabody Conservatory

Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

St. Francis Church in Great Falls

9220 Georgetown Pike



ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST. FRANCIS

Morning Prayer offered MON-FRI, at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom and beginning on Monday, March 17th, Evening Prayer is offered MON-FRI, at 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Zoom ID: 955 4706 9137; 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.

[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 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 via Zoom on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join and participate in interesting discussions. Current study: "Blessed are you: The beatitudes of Jesus in scripture and in life"

<https://kerygma.com/collections/kerygma-resources/products/blessed-are-you>

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

through our
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@stfranciscgreatfalls.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

Ms. Shannon Kegley, Bookkeeper

Mr. Dominic Pelegrin, Sexton

Ms. Rita Arteaga, Nursery Attendant

Ms. Lynn Fallon, Parish Administrator

2025 Vestry Members

Lynda Davis, Senior Warden

Pepin Tuma, Junior Warden

Cathryn Lee, Register

Molly Reynolds, Treasurer

Kathy Anderson, Worship & Spiritual Care

Chris Giragosian, Mission & Mission Partnerships

Elizabeth Kim, Communications

Jessica Maxson, St. Francis Arts & Music

Larry Pratt, Stewardship & Fundraising

Steve Riihimaki, Family Ministries & Creche Board

Brice Eldridge, Facilities Manager

facilities@stfrancisgreatfalls.org