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St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Weekly Franciscan

Thursday, March 27, 2025

The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 30, 2025

You are welcome to the

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

10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist Rite II with
the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant & 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 | [Joshua 5:9-12](#)

The Response | [Psalm 32:1-6, 11-12](#)

The Second Reading | [2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#)

The Gospel Reading | [Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#)

Parish Prayer List

We pray especially for James, Holly, Nan, Marlene, Betty, Dana, Luke, David, Barbara & Bill, Jeff Sr., Hugh Sr., Lawrence, David, Jon, Jessica, Paula, Clara Sue, Grace, Debra, Taylor, and Dut.

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.

Giving Thanks for the Via Crucis Concert at St. Francis on Saturday, March 22nd



St. Francis Choir and Sasha, with Director Larry Vote

The Saturday, March 22nd **Via Crucis Concert**, at St. Francis, featuring **Sasha Beresovsky** on piano, with our **St. Francis Choir** directed by **Larry Vote**, and soloists **Amie Flowers Shakespeare** and **Larry Vote** was phenomenal, emotional and quite impressive. Thank you to ALL who made this remarkable musical event possible.

[If you wish to view and hear a recording of this concert, click here.](#)



Sasha with his Family and Larry Vote

 **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>



DONATIONS FOR EASTER MUSIC & ALTAR FLOWERS

On Easter, St. Francis is beautifully decorated with hydrangeas, and we also have special music during Lent and Easter. Franciscans make special Easter donations to the Altar Guild and the Music program to support these efforts. 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 it

directly to the church office at 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. To have your memorials or thanksgivings listed in the Easter bulletins, your donation needs to be received by **Palm Sunday, April 13** OR if you prefer to contribute electronically,

1. From the website www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org, click on the DONATE button.
2. At the drop-down, choose to direct your gift to Music or Altar Guild. *(If you wish to split your contributions, please submit two transactions.)*
3. Email the parish administrator admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org to communicate your dedication for your gift. Thank you.

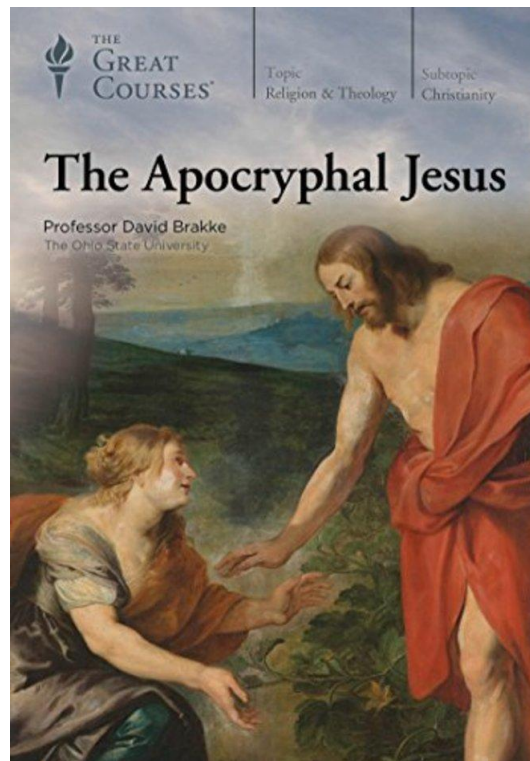


Come to the Next Step Breakfast!

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



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

**March 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 Sayings of Jesus from the Gospel of Thomas (March 30), and
- o The Gospel of Judas's Gnostic Vision (April 6)



Stephanie Flack



Sasha Beresovsky



Diana LeGrand

Sasha Beresovsky & the Paragon Philharmonia Dvorak Piano Quintet

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

at St. Francis Church

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 many 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

**LIVING WITH GRIEF: Next Meeting is Tuesday, April 8th at 10:30 a.m.
in the St. Francis Sanctuary.**

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





Photo by Lynda Davis

Second Sunday Contemplative Worship Series continues on Sunday, April 13th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Reflector: Lynda Davis, Senior Warden

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.



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



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Francis to Welcome an [Episcopal Deacon](#)

Stay tuned for a Special Announcement on Friday, March 28th

The **ministry of a deacon** is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 856)

Deacons, as a full, separate, and equal order, are called to minister to the world outside of the Church. In their ministry in the world, they, in turn, help the Church to understand the needs, hopes, and concerns of the world around it, and how the Church can be in relationship with those in need. Deacons also model servant ministry in the context of liturgy as they set the table and assist with serving communion.

Additionally, deacons proclaim the Gospel, call us to confession when we have fallen short of the call of the Gospel, and dismiss God's people into the world to live out the Gospel once more.



Meet our 2025-2026 Seminarian,

Sandra Loucks

Sandra comes to us from Virginia Theological Seminary as a Postulant for Holy Orders, sponsored by the Diocese of East Carolina (N.C.). Originally from Texas, Sandra has lived in Maryland, Virginia, Germany, and North Carolina since graduating from college at Texas A&M. Her work and ministries have included commercial interior design and Computer Assisted Design operation for architectural firms, raising three beautiful children, project management for a furniture contractor, home care and Eucharistic visitations for seniors, and more.

Sandra will be joined by her husband, Lt. Col. Rick Loucks (United States Marine Corp., retired) and son, Liam. Her daughters, Hannah and Claire, will love to celebrate the holidays with St Francis as they are able. Sandra is very open to sharing her journey of faith within both the Roman Catholic tradition and the Episcopal Church. Please feel free to ask her about her call story which includes the Cursillo ministry, family crisis, a surrender, necessary communities, and - no doubt - the Holy Spirit at work.

Sandra will begin her formation with us in September. If you would like to reach out and welcome Sandra, please do so at her email at sloucks@vts.edu.

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.



Creche Happenings

The Creche hosted our Annual Mother's Tea and welcomed all of the mothers and grandmothers to come and enjoy fellowship with each other and their

children! There was lots of laughter and fun conversation, as well as delicious treats that everyone enjoyed!

In chapel this week, “Mr.Weston” ended the service with a blessing of song, telling the children to “Go in Peace” while sharing “high fives” and “fist bumps.”



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.

Amadeus  Concerts



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Peabody Premieres



Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066

Professor Michael Kannen highlights up-and-coming musicians from the storied Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. This Amadeus Emerging Artists program brings new talent and fresh perspectives to your ears. Beethoven's Sonata No. 4 for cello and piano and his Piano Trio No. 1 headline the repertoire.

Tickets \$50; Young Adults between 19 and 29 can purchase tickets for \$25;
Students 18 and younger and active-duty military admitted free of charge.

[Buy tickets online](#) or at the door



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS



Amadeus Concerts programming is supported, in part, by ArtsFairfax, and by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Amadeus Concerts thanks our 2024-2025 Season Corporate Sponsors: Dominion Law Group, McLean Racquet & Health Club, and The Virginian.

Amadeus Concerts • PO Box 543 • Great Falls, VA 22066

703.759.5334 • www.amadeusconcerts.com

A. Scott Wood, Artistic & Executive Director



Give the Gift of Life This Lent:

Lilly Joy Kishore Memorial Blood Drive

This Lent, let us embody Christ's selfless love by participating in a special memorial blood drive in honor of Lilly Joy Kishore who passed away in June 2021. Lilly was a lifelong resident of Great Falls who sought ways to help those in need and give back to the community. Lent is a time of sacrifice and reflection, a time to draw closer to God by giving of ourselves. What greater gift can we offer than the gift of life? By donating blood, we can help save lives in our community and honor Lilly's memory in a truly meaningful way.

Details:

*** Date: Sunday, April 13**

*** Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

*** Location: Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, 9916 Georgetown Pike**

*** To Sign Up: <https://bit.ly/GFVFD0413> -or- call 1.866.256.6372, use code 7376**

*** Walk-ins welcome!**

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST. FRANCIS

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



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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, Christian Formation

Cathryn Lee, Register, Christian Fellowship

Molly Reynolds, Treasurer

Kathy Anderson, Worship & Spiritual Care

Chris Giragosian, Mission & Mission Partnerships

Elizabeth Kim, Evangelism & Communications

Jessica Maxson, St. Francis Music & Arts

Larry Pratt, Stewardship & Fundraising

Steve Riihimaki, Family Ministries & Creche Board

Brice Eldridge, Facilities Manager & Creche Board Chair

facilities@stfrancisgreatfalls.org