SOUNDS OF ST. FRANCIS

SUMMER 2023

I ST. FRANCIS POTOMAC This page intentionally left blank

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Please note this publication has been compressed to reduce the file for optimal online viewing. Some images may lose their original quality. If you would like a higher print quality please contact our main office.

ST. FRANCIS POTOMAC

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> **Organist & Choirmaster:** music@stfrancispotomac.org

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ON THE COVER: St. Francis Easter Sunday Photo credit Sean Smith, High Resolusean photography

CURRENT SCHEDULE

LIVE STREAM SERVICES ARE ON YOUTUBE

CURRENT SERVICE & ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

10:00am Holy Eucharist 11:00am Social with Lemonade and snacks (Summer schedule)

WEDNESDAYS 5pm Evening Prayer (not livestreamed)

FRIDAYS

5pm Evening Prayer (not livestreamed)

Mid-Week Morning Services are suspended until June 25, but Evening Services will continue on Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:00 PM Adult Forum, Bible Study and Youth Sunday School are on break for the summer.



Special Events

May 28: Service time change to 10:00

Nursery will continue to be provided and there will be Sunday School programming most weeks for young children overlapping with part of the worship service.

June 9: 6PM Sunset at the Steeple June 11: 6:30 PM MERCY Youth Picnic June 14: 6:30PM Talk of the Town Lafayette, The Hero of Two Worlds (5:30 dinner) June 14: 11AM Book Club "Portrait of a Lady" June 15: 12PM Savvy Seniors In-Person July 9: 6:30PM Youth Projects at Manna July 9: 12PM BBQ at Baker Park in Frederick to hear our own John Widmann play the Carillon July 15: 4:30PM Croquet Tournament and Outdoor Compline July 21: 6PM Sunset at the Steeple July 22: 8AM MERCY Youth DC Central Kitchen August 11-13: Our Intergenerational Retreat/ VBS at Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center

Savvy Seniors Every 1st Thursday Zoom, 3rd Thursday In-Person Luncheon



Pub Quiz and Dinner night was fun for the entire family!

A Vibrant Community of Faith!

Please enjoy this Summer edition of our Sounds newsletter. Our next release is scheduled for the end of August. If you have articles or photos to submit, please send as an attachment to communications@ stfrancispotomac.org Subject "Sounds".



Pancake Supper



Savvy Senior gathered to hear Jim Baer speaking about the First Amendment's religion clauses.







We are blessed with beautiful flowers and grateful for those that work so hard together to make them more beautiful.

Celebrating Recent Baptisms

We've had so many new Christians brought into the Church by Baptism over the last few months, and many of these families are new to Saint Francis. Please welcome them with kindness and embrace these young people with joy!



Welcome to Our Loving Family

Corbett and Henry Hearn, Parents Matthew Hearn and Ellie Hood (Top Left and Third Row Right)

Theodore Ritchie, Parents Spencer Ritchie and Tina Lundelius (Second Row Left) Holden Huth, Parents Nathan Huth and Marybeth Poston (Third Row Middle) Frederick "Freddie" Allen, Brandon Allen and Johanna Kirby Allen (Bottom Middle) Desmond and Ruby Oleson, Parents Tim and Sarah Oleson, Grandmother Fan Oleson (2nd Row Center and Right)

Louise and James Todd, Parents Dustin Todd and Andrea Riccio (Third Row Center)





















As summer winds down, join us for rest and relaxation in nature, walks on the Antietam battlefield, reflections on Civil War era hymnody, an optional paint-and-sip wine party, campfire tales, a pool party, service projects, a walk through the global village and more! We'll have events and programming available for adults, teens, and children.



DETAILS: The Saint Francis Parish Retreat will be held at the lovely Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center in Sharpsburg Maryland the weekend of August 11-13. As summer winds down, join us for rest and relaxation in nature, walks on the Antietam battlefield, reflections on Civil War era hymnody, an optional paint-and-sip wine party, campfire tales, a pool party, service projects, a walk through the global village and more! We'l have events and programming available for adults, teens, and children.

The cost is \$235 per person for double-occupancy lodge rooms with a private or semi-private bathroom, \$205 per person for triple-occupancy lodge rooms, and \$170 for the more rustic cabin accommodation in one of the 12 person cabins. Five meals are included with the cost. Children 5 and under are free and children 6-10. are 30% off. https://www.shepherdsspring.org/site-tour. Come for Saturday and pay \$75.



MERCY Youth Group met at Christ Church, Rockville to celebrate Earth Day by completing an Earth Day service project led by Pastor Allison and Ms. Rachele. Pots were prepared with decoration and flower plantings to deliver to those who are ill or are unable to get out and about.









Our campus in full bloom with all of God's glory.



Celebrating Faith in the Garden

Honoring the intersection of agrarian and liturgical life at home.

Corpus Christi, June 8 - the day we honor the bread and the wine, the body and the blood. A good day for bread baking and wine making.

Feast of the Assumption of Mary, August 15 - A wonderful day to hold a Blessing of the Herbs (a tradition harking back to medieval times.)

For more celebrations in the garden please visit www.episcopalchurch.org/good-news-gardens.pdf

Welcome New Members!





Gaines and Ken Hurdle hosted a new members get-together on April 29th. The children played games, visited the chickens, and saw the gardens.

Are You New to Our Church Family?

We're very glad you are here! We look forward to getting to know you better, and we hope you will join us at upcoming services and other parish activities. Please <u>click here</u> to share your contact info so we can give you a proper welcome. <u>Click here</u> or visit our website to join our email list so you receive the weekly and monthly communications. You can also fill out the communication card in the pew or call the office at 301-365-2055 to provide your contact information. Father Mark Michael, our newcomers committee, and our entire church family welcome you with open arms.



















Photo Credit High Resolusean







Easter Egg Hunt!



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Photo Credit High Resolusean



Photo Credit High Resolusean

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Photo Credit High Resolusear







Annual Lenten Appeal Thank You!

The Annual Lenten Appeal, which is the primary source of funding for the parish's Outreach grants and activities, began with Ash Wednesday and ran through Easter Sunday, April 9. Thank you for making this form of almsgiving part of your Lenten discipline. Here are some of the wonderful organizations that are supported by our community:

Community Ministries of Rockville-Seeks to improve the quality of life for the most vulnerable Montgomery County residents by providing them with basic health and human services and advocating on their behalf, with the goal of helping them achieve and maintain selfsufficiency.

https://www.cmrocks.org/

Fishing School- An after school tutoring program for at risk youths in Washington D.C. https://www.fishingschool.org/

Five Talents International- Partners with local churches in some of the world's poorest countries to provide training in adult literacy, savings-led microfinance, business development and trauma healing. https://fivetalents.org/

Interfaith Works- Provides emergency shelter, supportive housing, essential needs, and employment programs to over 35,000 residents of Montgomery County, MD, every year. https://www.iworksmc.org/

Manna Food Center: Regional food distribution center which seeks to eliminate hunger through food distribution, education, and advocacy. https://www.mannafood.org/

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless-

Ending homelessness may seem like an insurmountable goal, but we believe that Montgomery County can make homelessness a rare, brief, and nonrecurring experience. https://mcch.net/

Samaritan Ministry- We are a faith-based organization, which is bringing together our neighbors who face poverty, homelessness or other debilitating challenges with partner leaders, donors, volunteers and staff in a shared ministry that improves the lives of all throughout the Washington area

https://samaritanministry.org/

Shepherd's Table- At Shepherd's Table, we aim to improve quality of life, create a pathway towards selfsufficiency, and inspire hope for the most vulnerable in Montgomery County. We welcome every individual who walks through our door—a population experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, and poverty. https://www.shepherdstable.org/

Society for Promotion of Christian Knowledge:

Rooted firmly in the Angican tradition, our goal is to enable Christians in their local churches to grow in faith and knowledge. We support projects for the creation, preparation, translation, and distribution of Christian knowledge by utilizing print and other media; as a missionary society, we work for the proclamation and understanding of the gospel in and by all nations. https://spckusa.org/#about-us

Stepping Stones Shelter: Stepping Stones Shelter Inc. provides a continuum of services (emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, and post-shelter support) to homeless families with children in order to move them from crisis to a stable home environment. https://steppingstonesshelter.org/

The Dwelling Place: Our mission is to help homeless families with their pursuit of self-sufficiency by providing transitional housing, education, financial and life skills, and career enhancement opportunities. Over the past thirty years, we have helped close to 300 families in securing stable housing.

https://tdp-inc.org/

Bishops Almasi and Gaula: Bishop James Almasi of Masiasi, Tanzania, and Bishop Given Gaula of Kondoa, Tanzania have long-standing relationships with Saint Francis, and vibrant ministries in their diocese. We support projects and needs in their dioceses.

Loaves and Fishes: A ministry of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church, which serves meals to anyone in need on Saturdays, Sundays and Federal Holidays (when many other meal services do not operate). https://www.saintstephensdc.org/ministries-and-smallgroups

Afghan Refugee Families Support - St. Francis partners with neighboring congregations at Har Shalom and the Islamic Community Center of Potomac to offer financial and material support to three relocated families as they build new lives in this country.

Reaching Out Our Faith at Work in Our Community





Hunger Banquet. Bringing awareness about world hunger.



We regularly visit the Potomac Chamber of Commerce, providing flowers and information about joining our community for distributing



MERCY Youth Volunteering at Manna, Fighting Hunger and Feeding Hope





A Charity Baby Shower was held at the church to benefit local infants in need.

Touching Lives and Spreading Awareness

Rise Against Hunger









Here are some places where the meals we packed have been sent. Thank you for pitching in and contributing to this project and to all the organizations that will benefit from the 2023 Lenten appeal!

In March, we shipped 17 containers packaged with millions of meals – and hope for a bright future – to our global partners to distribute in their local communities in support of people facing food insecurity. We're grateful to our Hunger Champions for making this impact possible!

- $\hfill\square$ 12 containers sent to Convoy of Hope Philippines
- $\hfill\square$ 1 container sent to Convoy of Hope in Honduras
- 1 container sent to Salesian Missions in Haiti
- □ 1 container sent to Hands for Haiti
- □ 1 container sent to Hopestart International in Haiti
- □ 1 container sent to Salesian Missions in Timor-Leste

#ItStartsWithAMeal #HungerChampion



BEEKEEPERS



alk of the Town

Talk of the Town On April 12, we enjoyed a presentation by the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association with a dinner served prior.

Cultural Events



Trinity Chamber Orchestra concert





The Coronation of King Charles III A Service of Choral Evensong in thanksgiving for the Coronation of King Charles III was held on Sunday, May 7 at 4:00. Music by Handel, Stanford, and Parry, with traditional coronation hymns. Traditional High Tea refereshments were prepared by parish members.



Talk of the Town: Civil War The Talk of the Town May 10th, Patrick Lacefield presented "Songs and Stories from the Blue and the Gray".









Parish Members visited and toured Pleasant Farms where they also enjoyed a lovely lunch outside.



The girls of our Youth Group enjoyed a get together at the Melting Pot. The boys will have their turn in the Fall, so stayed tuned.

Youth Day & Parish Spring Picnic















ST. FRANCIS Vestry



Vestry Highlights

The proceeding summary is intended to highlight certain discussions by the Vestry as of April 2023.

HVAC

The HVAC's air handler and chiller have arrived and are being installed. This project should be completed by the end of May.

To answer questions from the vestry, the HVAC system provides both heating and cooling. It is to be noted that there have been no cost overruns and the project is coming in under budget. This project is being paid for with already designated funds.

Organ Renovation

The new organ will be shipped from Italy. A payment was due and made when the contract was signed, a second payment will be due when it arrives in the U.S. (perhaps July), and the final payment when the work is complete. Hopefully by September. The funding of this new instrument will come from gifts and memorials, reserve funds, tax credits, and a major gifts campaign.

Indians for Christ

Indians for Christ, a Tamil-speaking congregation associated with the Church of South India has been approved by the Vestry to rent space for services at St Francis. They have used our church for special services a few times a year for several years. A trial 6-month lease will be in effect beginning in October 2023.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will be a collaborative and consultative committee to advise the Rector and parishioners in making sound financial decisions.

Ms Marybeth Krajcik, the new financial secretary, has completed integration of the accounting system. This process is proving to be more efficient and timesaving.

Feel free to contact me or any Vestry member with any questions or comments.

Sue Tendall





Life is Blooming at St. Francis

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dear Saint Francis Servants of God,

When I worked as a hospital chaplain, I always had to be careful about going into rooms of Roman Catholic patients. Most of them were not bothered by praying with a Lutheran woman in a clerical collar, despite our tumultuous histories of conflict.

There were more than a few though, who were pretty sure that if someone with a collar walked in the room, it meant they were dying. I remember one patient, who was recovering well from a knee replacement, who nearly hyperventilated when I walked in because he was expecting me to break the news that he had some terminal disease. Hospital Chaplains don't typically do that, and it always struck me as a sad fruit of the clergy shortage. Priests have time to show up for Anointing when someone is near death, but they are so overwhelmed by the size of their flocks, that they just can't come to every knee replacement. And so, in the minds of so many, the appearance of a minister in their doorway can't just be a friendly hello and offer of prayer, but it has to mean the end is at hand.

I don't think that any of you think Fr. Mark or I are the angel of death, fortunately. But we are a congregation of stoic people who tend not to reach out for help or prayer unless things are serious. In your attempts to be kind and respectful of our time, you don't want to "bother" us, or maybe you think you and your doctors can handle the smaller stuff, and you'll wait until things get dire before you tell anyone or even really pray about it yourself. I'm so grateful that you care about the two of us, and some days serious emergencies make it hard to tend to the non-emergency needs, but I would love for us to grow together to see prayers about the "small stuff" as normal parts of talking to God and to one another. Prayer can be so much more than the crisis option of last resort when the doctors and our careful planning are inadequate. Our lives are always fragile, and we rely on God's mercy more than we often think to provide for our basic daily needs—food, health, shelter. We need God's sustenance day in and day out. But God also desires of us an ongoing relationship with him—lived out in community.

One of the reasons many of you come to Saint Francis is (in part) because of the friendships and community you have there—you connect with others—and that's a real gift when God gives you the chance to enjoy rich, multigenerational networks of friends. The textures of our relationships also deepen when we know some of the same people and enjoy the same pastimes. Prayer with each other is a bit like that. Our relationship with God and each other deepens when we pray together. We share a common Teacher, Friend, and King in Christ, and we get to go to the same parties, and the same funerals. We can talk to Him together, too. Take time to pray with some of your Saint Francis friends and acquaint-ances, not just for them from a distance. It might feel a little awkward at first. Sometimes we do feel a little awkward when we're figuring out how to incorporate other people into our friends groups, feeling out shifting dynamics, but that's normal, and it doesn't stay awkward forever.

Prayer is not just for crises, and it's not just something to do on our own—God wants to be a part of everything that goes on in our lives, the big deals, and the little things, and part of our friendships and other relationships, too. And it's ok to let your priest pray for your hurt feelings or your broken finger (or to offer to pray for your priests' daily needs), too.

Grace and Peace in Christ's Love!

Pastor Allison

Kate Schneider graduates from Saint Andrews this Spring, and she heads to Clemson in the Fall. Below is the talk she shared with us on Youth Sunday. Godspeed, Kate!

Faith has been a significant part of my life since I was very little. Some of you may even remember when my parents brought me here in one of those baby carriers. I have been through many years of Sunday School, Youth Group events, Choir, Christmas pageants and car washes, and attended numerous religion classes and chapels at school. But my faith has gone beyond just being at those events. I turn to God every day, whether that is to ask questions about things that I do not understand, pray for certain things, or just to thank Him for all of the blessings of this life, because I truly am so blessed to have a wonderful family and a community like this one that shares my faith with me and supports me. Even when my life feels upside down, I can come to church and hear the same prayers and see the same familiar faces that care about me. Faith has given me hope, I have seen it give second chances, and I have seen miracles because, as Matthew 17:20 reads: "For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move and nothing will be impossible for you." So as I graduate from St. Andrew's Episcopal School and leave home for Clemson University, I will miss this church and everyone in it, but I know that my faith will not falter because I am grounded by the Lord, and without him I am lost. I would like to thank all of you for being another family to me, praying with and for me, and teaching me about faith and life itself. I will miss it all, but I am incredibly excited to join my sister in South Carolina this fall where I will begin the next chapter of my life. "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Thank you, and God bless you all! Kate Schneider







July 15, 4:30-7:00pm Bring a drink, snack or side dish to share

RSVP amichael@stfrancispotomac.org or kherrmann@stfrancispotomac.org

John Widmann Joins Us in May as Our Organist and Choir Director

Internationally Known Carillonneur



John Widmann is the City Carillonneur for the City of Frederick, Maryland, where he plays recitals every Sunday at 12:30, year round, on the Joseph Dill Baker Carillon in Baker Park. He has now held that position for thirty years. Mr. Widmann graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and completed his Master of Music degree from Towson University in 2011. In 2021-2022, Mr. Widmann studied for his diploma at the Royal Carillon School "Jef Denyn" in Mechelen, Belgium. In addition to his Sunday recitals, he retired in 2021 from Frederick County Public Schools where he was a General/Vocal Music teacher. He is also the Organist and Choir Master for St. Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac, Maryland. Mr. Widmann became a Carillonneur member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America in 1996, and is a past member of the National Board of that organization. He maintains an active concert schedule, and has played frequently in the US, along with recitals in Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain,

Portugal, the Netherlands, England, Canada, and the Netherlands Antilles. He lives in Frederick with his wife and sometimes their two grown children.

In addition John,

- was the Immediate Past Dean of the Potomac Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

- studied organ at Indiana University of Pennsylvania under Dr. Carol Teti

- played organ internationally. This Summer, amongst several carillon recitals, and will be giving an organ recital in Dokkum in the Netherlands on an historic instrument there.

We Welcome All New Singers!

September 17th: We will be returning to sing on Sunday, September 17, 2023, although our first formal Thursday rehearsal in the Fall occurs on Thursday, September 21

When: 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Generally this occurs during the school year. More specifically this year, that means our last Sunday with the full choir this season will be Trinity Sunday, June 4, 2023.

Sunday Warm-Ups: Sundays, the choir has a warm-up at 8:30 a.m. prior to our 9:15 services.



Our last Book club for the "school year" on June 14

June 14 - Led by Terri Vande Sande

Portrait of A Lady - Henry James

The story of a free-spirited young American woman, Isabel Archer, who inherits a large amount of money and eventually becomes the victim of the scheming by two dissolute American expatriates. In James's own words, it is the story of a woman affronting her destiny. As she grows wealthier, she finds herself paradoxically become less free, bristling against being ground in the very mill of the conventional.

Things to Bring for Upcoming Meeting

We are coming up to our last Book club for the "school year" on June 14. I want to remind you of 2 things to bring:

1 - names of any books you'd like for us to consider when we start up in September. You may have read them, or you may think they'd be fun to read--either way, make suggestions. and

2 - Any books you think we'd like to read over the summer. They may or may not be good for discussion, but you found them interesting or fun or informative and think some of us would like them, too.

Time to Update Our Parish Directory!



Over the next three or four months, we will be assembling a new directory.

If you already have a family photo you would like to use, feel free to send it as a high-resolution email attachment to Pastor Allison. If you do not have a recent family photo, our AV technician and talented photographer Sean Smith will offer **15 minute photo shoots for \$25 per** *family* (if you want something more involved, you can do a 30 minute shoot for \$40). You'll get the digital images to use as you wish, and you can choose your favorite for the directory.

> Contact **Pastor Allison** for more information or sign up for photos at: http://bit.ly/3IWW4N7

MERCYouth Summer Events

Cheese and Chocolate

21

May

June

O

July

22

Aug

July

MERCY young women are invited for conversation, cheese and chocolate at the Melting Pot, Gaithersburg - Yum! (5pm), bring \$15 and rsvp amichael@stfrancispotomac.org. Our young men will have something fun in September.

MERCY Youth Picnic

Bring your appetite for fun and your (friendly) dog for games and a fun, laid back evening together. 6:30–8:00pm @ Staint James Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd!

Manna Food Bank Sorting

Turn on the music, and help our area food bank get things in order to give food to those who are hungry in our community! A great active event! RSVP required. amichael@stfrancispotomac.org

DC Central Kitchen Project

Meet at 8 am at St. Francis, Potomac (10033 River Rd., Potomac, MD) for donuts before carpooling down to the DC Central Kitchen to help with food prep for area shelters and soup kitchens.

11-13 Intergenerational Retreat

Friday-Saturday-- Join us for at Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center in Sharpsburg, MD for service projects, games, prayer, a campfire, a movie, a battlefield tour, a painting party, reflections on faith. All ages welcome! Contact amichael@stfrancispotomac.org for more information or to register.

MERCY youth group is a joint ministry of Christ Episcopal Church, Rockville, Saint James Episcopal, North Potomac, and Saint Francis Episcopal, Potomac. We strive to offer middle and high school students a place to thrive spiritually and emotionally, to learn about their faith, and to give back in service to their community. For more information or to be added to our MERCY email list, contact Pastor Allison Michael at amichael@stfrancispotomac.org

Children at Sunday School loved making pretzels!







Lemonade Hour Hosts Needed

Do you love to chat with fellow parishioners? Then we'd love to have your smiling face greeting our church family and visitors after Sunday services. It's an easy and fun way to get involved here at church, and requires a very small time commitment. Simply set out the lemonade and donuts and then do a quick clean up after folks have helped themselves. Please <u>sign up here</u> or contact Kathy Herrmann with questions. Thanks in advance!



Spread the word about St. Francisl

How has it helped you? How has it impacted your family? What is special about our church family? Your testimony may inspire someone to walk through our doors Review us on Google, Yelp or Facebook



Don't Miss A Thing!

Each Friday, we send out an email with announcements and information about upcoming services and events. We also send this newsletter and periodic important announcements such as inclement weather updates, upcoming event information, and other notices. These announcements are sent through MailChimp. If you would like to receive these digital announcements, please <u>Click</u> <u>Here</u> or contact the parish office. We will make sure you are added to the distribution list. You can also go to our website and click the join our mailing list button at the bottom of the homepage.

Having Trouble Hearing the Service?

We have a new system to help! How does it work? It captures the sound from our microphones and uses a local access point to project it to your phone or tablet. You can use your preferred listening device connected to your phone (headset, hearing aids, etc).

How do I set it up?

- 1. Simply download the AudioFetch app to your phone or tablet,
- 2. Join the AudioFetchExpress wifi network (make sure local networks are enabled in the app settings).
- 3. The app will automatically search for the church's device
- 4. Connect your headset,
- 5. Open the app & use the horizontal bar to adjust the volume. You can also adjust the volume on your headset or hearing aids.

Wired headsets work best (bluetooth can cause a delay). Contact Devar Burbage with questions or to get help setting up your device.

Our services are live streamed.

By entering the premises, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for live streaming, promotional purposes, advertising, inclusion on web sites, social media sites, and/or any other purpose by St. Francis Episcopal Church.

Don't want to be visible in the live stream? No problem! If you sit in the very back left corner of the church, you will not be visible on any of the cameras - if you can't see the camera on the left side of the altar, it can't see you! The rear camera does not show the back pews.

More information is available on our <u>website</u>.





We are here for you!

Please stop by or reach out by phone or email. We're happy to help!

10033 RIVER RD POTOMAC, MD 20854



Weekly Services

Holy Eucharist: Sunday at: 10:00am (Summer Schedule until Labor Day)

Evening Prayer: Wed, Fri at 5pm



301-365-2055

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm

Email Us! Rector: Mark Michael mmichael@stfrancispotomac.org

Pastor for Adult Formation & Youth Ministry: Dr. Allison Michael amichael@stfrancispotomac.org

Organist & Choir Master: John Widmann Musicdirector@stfrancispotomac.org

Sunday School Director: Kathy Herrmann kherrmann@stfrancispotomac.org

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