

11/24/16

Dear Friends & Family of St. Francis ECC,

Here is some of the news and information which is being talked about all around the church for this week:

- A most Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving to all of our St. Francis Friends and Family. Our Thanksgiving Food Drive was a huge success. A big thank you to all who donated. The food was taken over to the Interfaith Food Pantry on Monday. We were also able to help a few families within our own community as well. Thank you all for your generosity.
- We still have the Book of Remembrance available in the lobby through this coming Sunday November 27th. If you have the name of a departed loved one, friend or someone whom you would like to add, please do so. The book will be placed on the altar during Mass.
- We are going to be placing an order for St. Francis Polo shirts and T-Shirts next week. Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> will be the deadline to place your order. All the shirts will be embroidered with our St. Francis ECC logo. The shirt colors are Gold or Brown. The Polos are \$20 and T-shirts are \$10. Please see the sign-up sheet in the social hall and give your money to Larry Roush or any council member. Thank you.
- Thank you to David Baughman (and his Elves) for creating St. Francis' entry into the Festival of Trees in Clearwater. The tree looked beautiful. About a dozen of us went over to see the trees on Saturday evening and several others went on Thursday, Friday and Sunday. We heard that our tree was purchased by the mother of one of the board members. All the funds raised are benefiting the Pinellas County "ARC" program for those people affected with developmental disabilities.
- We had the 2017 council election last Sunday and the winners will be announced this Sunday in church. A big thank you to all who participated to make this a true election.
- Are you looking for the perfect Christmas gift for someone special??? We are continuing to have our Brick Program in effect. If you would like to purchase a Brick we have them on sale for \$100. They make great Christmas presents. Forms are available in the lobby at church or on our website. You can also purchase a brick on our website and pay through PayPal. We have a new vendor which we are going to use for our brick program and it will be a lot less work for us in the long run. Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> the price of the bricks will increase to \$120 per brick. Graphics are a little more but they have many more to choose from. If you reserve your brick by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016, you will be "Grandfathered in" at the old price. We do not want ANYONE to be left out of this program. If you want to reserve your brick now but pay later, we will offer you free 0% financing. You can pay what you want, when you want, as long as it is paid for, before we complete the program. You can not do financing on-line, you can only do it "in-house". Please see Bill Schwartz or any council member for more information. This will be an on-going program; our first goal is to sell 100 bricks. The funds raised with this program will be "restricted funds" and will only be used down the road for the purchase and or renovation of our own permanent church space. Please see any council member if you should have questions. Completed forms with payment can be given to Larry Roush or Bill Schwartz.
- We will be having Carols, Cookies and Karaoke on Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7-9PM. All are welcome to bring some cookies and eat some cookies too. Our very own in-house DJ, Mike Velez will be spinning the tunes for us that evening. Come prepared to have Fun, Frolicking, Friendship and Fellowship.
- The Tampa Bay Aids Walk is coming up on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We have 3 members who are representing "Team St. Francis", Cheryl & Mike Valez and Frank Matzell. So far the team has raised \$60 towards their Team Goal of \$250. The link to the walk is <https://www.aidswalktampabay.org/2015/personal-fundraising-page?tab=0&frsid=1065> You can also find the link on the church calendar on our website. The team is looking for additional people to walk with them and carry our banner. It is only a 3 mile walk. You do NOT have to be registered to do so. If you can't walk, can you help out Team St. Francis, by

donating or by passing out fliers for our church on the day of the race? It would be greatly appreciated. Please see Cheryl Velez for more information.

- We will be having our parish Christmas Party on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendar. We will have more information to follow. Save the date.
- We will not have First Friday Masses or Healing Masses in November and December. They will resume again in January.

That is all for this week's Council letter folks. Please let us know if you should have any questions, concerns or comments. You are always free to e-mail us or contact any member of the church council. Thank you, and as always, we look forward to seeing you in church!!!

In God's Peace, Your Church Council,

Larry, Jon, Jim, Barbara & Leo