



November 2017

# The Habit

*Committed to God's Mission*



Dear Habitual Friends

The last Sunday of November we celebrate Christ the King and make our Dedication of Money, Time and Talents to the service of God in 2018.

As you know, we have been greatly blessed financially at St Francis of Assisi. For the past years, you have contributed funds beyond what we need for the running of the Parish. Out of what we saved each month, we have increased our spending on the Pantry for the Poor, and tackled some major capital projects in our church: the maintenance and painting of the church and rectory roofing, the re-carpeting of the church and the installation of our solar system.

Our project for 2017/18 will be the development of our Prayer Garden, mainly with funds left to us by a past parishioner, Jane Bibby (R230 000) and donations from a number of our parishioners. Allied to this project, we are fitting the rectory servant's room with a shower so that our verger, Ace, can live on the property, and take care of our buildings and Garden.

We have indeed done very well, for which we thank our Lord, and we trust that your financial giving will be sustained in 2018 and beyond.

It is my duty, however, to address you as congregation members on our ongoing diminishing commitment to serve the Lord and each other in the congregation. Over the past two years especially I have detected an increasing reluctance by parishioners to serve God with their time and talents. Last year we were unable to elect a full Parish Council due to a lack of nominations. Our **worship** is less than it can be because we need more people to serve in the various church jobs listed below (Page 2), and we have had to 'close down' the Choir because too few members are prepared to practice regularly. Our junior church is struggling because

we don't have sufficient teachers and so the proper **education** of our children and youth for Baptism, Confirmation and receiving Holy Communion is lacking. While we have been teaching this year on **discipleship and mission**, we have too few people committed to planning and making sure that we reach out to our community with God's love. The guilds are struggling to maintain a decent **social outreach** programme because there are just too few volunteer hands and feet. I could go on.

## Commitment



Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality.

It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions. And the actions which speak louder than words.

It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time after time, year after year after year.

Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things.

It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism.

### **EVERY** parishioner

should be involved in some or other activity in the Parish in order to have a living and vibrant congregation. Yes, that means you as well! The saying goes: "Many hands make light work." It becomes really hard for the few faithful workers in the parish when most of the congregation don't get involved and lend a hand.

Here is a list of areas where God needs your input. Please pray about where God wants to use some of the time and talents he has blessed you with in the building

of his Kingdom:

**Communication:** Audio-visual operator, website co-ordinator, Parish Roll administrator.

**Education:** Junior Church co-ordinator, Junior worship crew member, Godly Play, Baptism preparation, Confirmation preparation, Marriage preparation.

**Evangelism:** Happening leader, Small group leader, Alpha co-ordinator *Growing the Church* co-ordinator, Discipleship co-ordinator.

**Pastoral:** Pastoral co-ordinator, Counsellor, Sick visiting co-ordinator, Sick visitor.

**Social Responsibility:** AWF, MU, Senior's Fellowship hostess, Men's Fellowship host, Ladies Fellowship hostess, Family Fellowship co-ordinator, Catering assistant, Tea guild, Soup Kitchen assistant.

**Stewardship:** Fundraising co-ordinator, Maintenance crew, Greening Project co-ordinator.

**Worship:** Lay minister, Preacher, Server, Reader, Sidesperson, Welcomer/Greeter, Sacristan, Flower guild, Choir member, Musician, Singer.

At the beginning of December, the Nomination Lists for Parish Council will be made available. I urge you to pray about your involvement in leading the Parish in this way. Please people – your Church needs you – God needs you!

God bless us as we all work hard at a deeper commitment to service this coming year. *Reggie*



## From the Diocese of the Highveld

- **Diocesan Council:** Please note that Diocesan Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> November will be held at **St Boniface, Vosloorus** and not the Cathedral.
- **Fellowship of Vocation:** Applications for the next Fellowship of Vocation should be submitted to the Bishop's office by the middle of November.
- **St Boniface Germiston:** 120 Year Celebration on 18<sup>th</sup> November at 15h00. See notice board.
- **St Manche Masemola Gala evening:** See invitation on notice board.
- **Nativity! Carols for Choirs and Congregations.** A number of Sunday evenings have been arranged to observe Advent and celebrate the Epiphany. Choirs and individual singers are invited to make up a choir for the various days, rehearsing for a couple of hours before the service. Congregations are invited to join in the worship. See the attached poster and do a little extra as you spiritually prepare for Christmas.
- CDs of the **Women's Day Celebration** are available at R50.00 for the speakers and R75.00 for the speakers and Eucharist service. Please order from Judy in the HABSR office. (Cell 083 657-4644)
- **2018 Counselling Courses:**  
The following courses will be offered in **2018:**  
**Basic Counselling:** 3, 10, 17, 24 Feb; 3, 10, 17, 24 March. 2018  
**Marriage:** 12 and 19 May 2018  
**Trauma:** August 2018 – Dates to be announced.



## Parish Notices

- Next **Infant Baptism** will be on **19 November**. Preparation for this baptism will take place on the following dates; 4, 11 and 18 November 2017, 14:00 – 16:00
- **The Gideons** are collecting **second-hand Bibles** to hand out to Prisoners who want a complete Bible rather than just the New Testament. Please donate your used Bibles.
- **Advent Sunday, 3 December**. Parish Vestry reports will be available and Nomination Lists for 2018 Parish Council will be up.
- **THE NATIVITY – Events for Singers and Carollers!** – See our notice board.
  - Advent Sunday - 3rd December  
**Advent Carols:** 7pm at St Michael's, Boksburg
  - Advent II - 10th December  
**Advent Compline:** 6pm at St Dunstan's Cathedral
  - Advent III - 11th December  
**Festival of Lessons & Carols:** 6pm at St Dunstan's Cathedral
  - Epiphany - 7th January  
**Epiphany Carol Service:** 6pm at St Michael's, Boksburg



## Dedicated Giving – July - October 2017

Month	Amount Dedicated	Amount Received	Surplus + Shortfall -	Accumulated Surplus +/ Shortfall – Year-to-date
<b>July</b>	R 95 000.00	R 111 020.00	+R 16 020.00	+ R 110 365.00
<b>August</b>	R 95 000.00	R 95 529.00	+R 529.00	+ R 110 894.00
<b>September</b>	R 95 000.00	R 91 650.00	- R 3 350.00	+ R 107 544.00
<b>October</b>	R 95 000.00	R 100 505.00	+R 5 505.00	+ R 113 049.00

## Parish Contact Details

**Office hours (weekdays): 08.30 - 16.30**

**Website**

**E-mail addresses:** [www.sfc.org.za](http://www.sfc.org.za)

☎ 011 867 5922

Secretary: [sec@sfc.org.za](mailto:sec@sfc.org.za)

☎ 086 238 0686

Administrator: [admin@sfc.org.za](mailto:admin@sfc.org.za)

✉ PO Box 11346 RANDHART 1457

Rector: [rector@sfc.org.za](mailto:rector@sfc.org.za)

### BANKING DETAILS: *Standard Bank - Alberton*

Account Name: The Parish of St Francis

Account No: 421855282

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<b>Rector:</b>	Rev Reggie Venter	Tel 011 867 5922	Cell 079 506 6660
<b>Prayer Chain:</b>	Kay Peace		Cell 082 401 0645
<b>Church Wardens:</b>	Sandy Engelbrecht	Tel 011 867 2109	Cell 082 480 5822
	Pheli Mbambo	Tel 011 021 6428	Cell 083 397 0024
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mpumi Mapholoba	Tel 011 867 5922	
<b>Administrator:</b>	Patricia Lendis-Hartnick	Tel 011 867 5922	

