

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

September 16 - September 22

Monday, 9/16	90:0 a.m.	Peggy Layer
Tuesday, 9/17	9:00 a.m.	Peter J. Konieczny
Wednesday, 9/18	9:00 a.m.	Tom Krafchik
	7:30 p.m.	Donna Marchik
Thursday, 9/19	9:00 a.m.	Carina Antonio
Friday, 9/20	9:00 a.m.	Edward O'Sullivan
Saturday, 9/21	9:00 a.m.	Peggy Layer
	5:00 p.m.	William Farmer
Sunday, 9/22	8:00 a.m.	Donna Marchik
	9:30 a.m.	Lino Arce
	11:15 a.m.	Petrona De Joya
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Rosa Guzman, wife of Bernal Jimenez.

Please pray for the sick... Patrick Ledger, Joseph Arbaizo, Margaret Weiss, Joseph Michael Gardner, Tom Breece, Sandra Kimball, Dennis Parnell, Ed Dudenhoefter, Jackie Roebuck King, Jeni Stepanek. (Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.)

Readings for the Week of September 15, 2019

Sunday:	Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps 51 3-4, 12-13, 17, 19 [Lk 15:18]/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32
Monday:	1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9 [6]/Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday:	1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6 [2]/ Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday:	1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [2]/ Lk 7:31-35
Thursday:	1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10 [2]/Lk 7:36-50
Friday:	1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/ Lk 8:1-3
Saturday:	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13
Next Sunday:	Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 [cf. 1a, 7b]/ 1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

12:30 - 4:30 pm

RSVP in the Gathering Space
Blessing of the Animals at 3

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

As I write this column Hurricane Dorian has hit the Atlantic Maritime Provinces of Canada (notably Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland) on Sunday afternoon (September 8). By Sunday evening it should have blown out to sea. Several days ago Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement about Hurricane Dorian that left at least fifty people dead in its path. Here is part of Cardinal DiNardo's statement: "...we are extremely mindful of the dire need faced by the community in the Bahamas so devastated by this catastrophic storm. We pray for all affected and invite Catholics and all people of goodwill to donate to Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA."

Several people asked me after Mass if I planned to take up a second collection for the victims of Hurricane Dorian. I can only do that if so directed or encouraged by the Archdiocese of Washington. We have not received any direction so far about taking up a second collection. Guidance from the Archdiocese may well come later in the week (after the deadline for submitting the bulletin to the company that prints them for us.) In the meantime let me encourage you to follow the recommendation of Cardinal DiNardo to make a donation either to Catholic Relief Services or Catholic Charities USA. You should make a check payable to the charity you prefer and write on the memo line of the check the following: Relief for Victims of Hurricane Dorian. If you wish to give electronically to Catholic Relief Services, here is a link for that purpose for your convenience: <https://support.crs.org/donate/hurricane-dorian>. If you wish to mail a check to Catholic Relief Services, here is their address:

Catholic Relief Services
228 West Lexington Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-3443

On the other hand, if you prefer to give electronically to the relief fund for the victims of Hurricane Dorian, here is a link for that purpose: <https://app.mobilecause.com/form/RTKRvQ?vid=1snqm>. If you prefer to send a check to Catholic Charities USA, you can send it to them at this address:

Catholic Charities USA
2050 Ballenger Avenue, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314

Finally, we would do well to follow the advice that Pope Francis gave to journalists at a press conference he held on the flight from Rome to Mozambique on Wednesday, September 4, 2019. When speaking of the victims of Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas, the Holy Father urged everyone to pray for "those poor people who from one day to the next have lost their homes, everything, even their lives."

Until next week,
Fr. John

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*How can I imitate the father in Jesus' parable?
Whom can I welcome back?*

OBSERVE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH AT THE BASILICA

St. Francis of Assisi parishioners are invited to a Vigil Mass to observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month at 5:15 pm Saturday, October 5, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Great Upper Church, 400 Michigan Ave. NE, in Washington DC. The Most Rev. John J. Ricard, S.S.J, Bishop Emeritus of Pensacola-Tallahassee in Florida, will celebrate the Mass. Reserved open seating will be available at the front of the Basilica. Please join the Knights of Columbus to pray the Rosary at 4:45 pm. As part of the day's events sponsored by The Catholic University of America's National Catholic School of Social Service and the Catholic Domestic Violence Awareness Month Committee, please attend the Msgr. Ralph J. Kuehner Memorial Lecture, "How to Help End Domestic Violence in Catholic Families" from 2-4 pm at the Conway School of Nursing, Gowan Hall, 620 Michigan Ave, N.E. To register for this free pre-Mass event, please e-mail catholicsforfamilypeace@gmail.com. Free parking is available on campus. For more information and/or for accommodations, please contact Sharon O'Brien at obriensa@cua.edu or call her at (301) 651-8190.

TEXT TO GIVE THROUGH FAITH DIRECT

Make giving easier and bless your church! Simply text "ENROLL" to (301) 804-2584 and follow the link to sign up for recurring giving to St. Francis of Assisi. No more dealing with envelopes or writing checks and a consistent money flow helping to further the ministry of our church. It's a win-win!"

Dear SFA Parishioners,

To describe these past two months of my first priestly assignment leaves me lost reflecting over the many experiences, stories, and people I've had the opportunity to encounter. I think of the Baptisms I've celebrated, the numerous Masses (even my 100th Mass!) I've celebrated, the homilies I've given, and the families whom I witnessed Christ's consoling love touch as we mourned the loss of loved ones. These initial days of my priesthood have been a joyful introduction as I began learning truly what it means to be a priest from Christ, His Church and certainly His people; Thank you! A special thank you to Fr. John for the many conversations we shared about priestly ministry.

I'm honored and humbled to have been part of this parish who have strengthened my faith and given me confidence and left me with the desire to live my vocation, as a priest, selflessly in the way Christ instituted it!

As I return to Rome for my studies please be assured of my prayers and I kindly ask that you pray for me as well.

*Many blessings,
Fr. Joe Cwik*

PASTORAL COUNCIL CANDIDATES NEEDED

If you would like to shape the future of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in a strategic way, then consider running for the Pastoral Council this fall. This all-volunteer body advises Fr. John Dillon on issues affecting the parish, including facilities, growth plans, and provision of services. Currently, there are six vacancies on the Pastoral Council for the term that starts January 1, 2020. If you are a registered parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi who is 16 years or older, can commit to attend eight to 10 monthly meetings and are committed to making decisions for the good of the parish, then you are qualified to be a candidate. The Pastoral Council is particularly interested in having young people in their 20s and 30s serve, so they can reflect the interests of our parish's young adults and young families. October 15, 2019, is the deadline to express interest in running for the Pastoral Council.

If you are interested in submitting your name as a candidate, please contact Alicia Church, Pastoral Council Co-Chair alicia.church@collaborationcouncil.org or at churcham@hotmail.com. Interested persons can also call Parish Secretary Donna Zezzo at (301) 840-1407. Elections will take place in November 2019 if we have enough interested candidates.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION ON INQUIRING ABOUT CATHOLICISM THROUGH RCIA

Are you interested in exploring our Catholic faith? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Team has just begun meeting with individuals seeking to learn more about Catholicism and celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation to become full members of the Church. Join them at 7:30 pm on Thursdays this fall in the Rector's Youth Room. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH SECURITY COMMITTEE ARE SOUGHT

The Parish Security Committee is seeking new members to plan parish protocols and procedures in emergency situations that could result in the loss of life. Parishioners with professional experience and expertise as first responders (Police, Fire/Emergency Medical Services), medical personnel, facilities engineers, strategic communicators, and parish ushers are especially encouraged to serve on the committee. Interested persons should contact Fr. John at (301) 840-1407.

September 15, 2019

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Lamb of God Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday, September 17 in the St. Clare Chapel. For details, please call Pat, (301) 963-9196.

POOR BOX DONATION – The donations for next week-end will go to the Prison Ministry Outreach Program. *Thank you for your generosity.*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER CHAIN If you have a prayer request, please contact Marianne Bullen, (301) 963-3420 or mariannebu@comcast.net with your requests.

ROSARY FOR PRIESTS

Every Wednesday evening at 6:45 p.m. we pray the rosary for our priests before the 7:30 p.m. Mass.

HOLY HOUR FOR THE DYING

On Thursday evenings in the St. Clare's Chapel in the Rectory, a prayer group meets at 7:00 p.m. to pray for the dying. This is a Holy Hour Devotion for the Dying. As a central work of our Catholic faith, we are called to pray for the dying, especially for those who may die suddenly, unprepared to face God. For additional information, please call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

ROSARY CENACLE OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE
Cenacle of Our Lady, Queen of Peace to pray for priests and vocations, 2:00 p.m. in the St. Clare's Chapel (Rectory) every Sunday. Please join us.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - COUNCIL 2323

The Knights of Columbus are looking for new, transferring or readmitted members to share in their Charity, Fraternity, Unity and Patriotism activities. Council 2323 supports many St. Francis activities and has many social events. The KofC offers life and long term care insurance opportunities as well as annuities. A new opportunity: join as an Online Member for \$30 per year; go to www.kofc.org and click on "Join Us". If you wish you can join the Council later. If interested in learning more, contact Gary Palmer (301-948-6494 or email gtdbpalmer@verizon.net).

KOC CAR RAFFLE

Representatives from Montgomery Council 2323 of the Knights of Columbus will be selling tickets for the Maryland State Council's 50th Annual Car Raffle after all Masses this weekend. The Grand Prize is a 2020 Ford Mustang or \$18,000 cash option. The tickets are \$1.00 each. Montgomery Council 2323 receives \$.60 for each ticket sold, and the entire proceeds will benefit the Pope John Paul II Seminarians. Please support this worthy cause.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTGOMERY COUNCIL 2323 SENIOR GALA

All Seniors are invited to the 50th Senior Dinner Dance Gala on Saturday, September 21, 2019, 5:00-9:00 pm, Fr. Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road, Rockville. Please stop by the parish office to pick up your no-charge ticket.

AMAZONSMILE ENABLES ST. FRANCIS TO INCREASE FUNDRAISING THROUGH ONLINE SHOPPING

St. Francis parishioners can support our church whenever they're shopping online at Amazon.com. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church recently became a recipient of AmazonSmile, which enables the church to receive 0.5 percent of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases you make. Go to our Home Page to start shopping!

SEWER NEEDED

Do you like to sew? We are in need of someone to sew a one-time project for the Bazaar. We have all the material, etc., we just need someone who can sew. This project can be taken home and brought back before the Bazaar, November 9th. If you are interested in helping, please call Anne Culver, 301-774-6426 or email gaculverfam@msn.com.

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR & FLEA MARKET

Saturday, November 9

VENDORS NEEDED

We are looking for vendors to sell their goods at the Bazaar. If you are interested in having a booth at the bazaar, please contact the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

JEWELRY DONATIONS

Please drop the jewelry off at the parish office or leave your treasured items in the mailbox on the Rectory porch if the office is closed.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We are looking for silent auction items such as Time Shares, Sports Tickets, Theater Passes, etc. for our Fall Bazaar (November 9). For more information or to make arrangements to donate, please call the Parish Office, Donna, (301) 840-1407.

BAZAAR CRAFTERS

We have started making crafts for the 2019 Holiday Bazaar on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. If you enjoy being creative and socializing with fellow parishioners, please plan on attending. Also, projects can be taken home to work on.

FLEA MARKET

Please start saving your "stuff" and watch the bulletin for drop off days and the items we will be accepting.

FALL MINISTRY RETREAT

Saturday, September 28

9:45 am - 12:45 pm

Location: Church

"Living as Missionary Disciples"

Dr. Susan Timoney, Associate Professor, Catholic University
For more information, please contact Tony Bosnick, Director of Social Concerns & Adult Faith Formation, abosnick@sfadw.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN THIS WEEK!

- Pre-K/K Classes begin on Sunday.,
September 15, 11:10-12:15 pm
- Grade 1-5 Classes:
Sunday Session begins on Sunday,
September 15, 9:20-10:35 am
Monday Session begins on Monday,
September 16, 4:45-6:00 pm
- Grade 6-7-8 Classes:
Monday Session RE classes begin on Monday,
September 16, 6:45-8:00 pm
Tuesday Session RE classes begin on Tuesday,
September 17, 6:45-8:00 pm

Children must be registered before they can begin classes. Space is still available in most classes and children are welcome to start classes once registration is received and processed. Registration forms can be found in the Gathering Space, the Parish Offices, and also on the parish website. Please call the Religious Education Office if need more information: 301-258-9193.

Catechesis for Children and Youth with Special Needs

Our parish offers catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our first class meets Sunday, September 22 from 3:30-4:30 pm in the Church Gathering Space. If you would like to learn more about these sessions, or if you are interested in serving as a catechist or aide for children with special needs, please call Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

Registering for Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental preparation for 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist, Confirmation, and Christian Initiation for Children/Teens (CIC/CIT) is not grade specific and involves preparation in addition to grade level Religious Education classes. At minimum, children are expected to have participated in religious education in the year prior to preparing for a sacrament. *Please note: students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will attend their grade-level Religious Education classes as well as monthly Confirmation sessions.*

Families requesting sacramental preparation for their child are asked to mark their registration form accordingly so that additional information can be provided. Please note that there is a separate materials fee for sacramental preparation programs. More details will be provided at the parent meetings next year.

If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193.

Continued in the column to the right.....

ROSARY PRAYED IN SPANISH IN THE CHURCH

The Spanish Ministry prays the Rosary in Spanish at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays in the church. Please join us. For more information about the Spanish Ministry, please contact Will Garcia at wagarcia@comcast.net or Lourdes Garcia at legarcia@comcast.net

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Dear Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi,

My name is Sarah Seyed-Ali and I am blessed to be the new youth minister. To learn more about the youth group please visit our website at <https://www.sfadw.org/youth-grades-9-12>. Every Sunday, there will be a youth mass beginning at 5pm with youth group meeting as per the calendar dates. Please look for further announcements in the bulletin and on the youth group board in the gathering space. I am very excited to serve Jesus in His Church by serving the youth and I look forward to what God has in place for this year.

God bless you,
Sarah Seyed-Ali

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

The best Catholic content. All in one place. It's EASY and FREE to Register!

- 1) Go to sfadw.formed.org
- 2) Click "Register" and enter your name, email address, and desired password
- 3) You're all ready to access the inspiring and Engaging content on FORMED!
- 4) Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

FORMED is available 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. St. Francis has purchased this gift for parish use.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (continued)

Ways to Serve

The entire parish community shares responsibility for faith formation and the support of many volunteers makes our programs successful. There are a variety of ways to serve, including weekly, monthly, and "as needed" commitments:

- Catechist
- Classroom Aide
- Art Team Catechist
- Substitute
- Support for Service Projects
- Help with Sacramental Celebrations & Special Events

Please consider supporting our Religious Education program as a volunteer! To learn more about this important ministry, please call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193.

Catechetical Sunday Blessing of Catechists at all Masses

This weekend, we celebrate *Catechetical Sunday* with the Commissioning of Catechists at all Masses. Please pray for our catechists, our students and all families as together we teach and share the faith this year!

HOPE & HEALING FOR BEREAVED PARENTS

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Supporting families after a child dies

Finding your way through grief can be a lonely and confusing journey but one that is particularly painful for parents grieving the loss of a son or daughter. Parents who are living this heart-break need not travel alone in their struggle to find help, hope and healing.

Help for grieving parents is available through The Compassionate Friends, an international organization offering support to bereaved parents. The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope and support to families experiencing the death of a son, daughter, sibling or grandchild. For more information about our local Potomac Compassionate Friends chapter contact: SFA parishioner George Beall: (301) 642-7295 or learn more at www.tcfpotomacmd.com. The chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month.

Next meeting: 7 pm October 1, 2019
Potomac Presbyterian Church,
10301 River Rd, Potomac, MD 20854.

You do not have to attend a meeting to receive support from the Compassionate Friends. George and Barbara Beall, who lost their daughter 15 years ago, are available to listen to you and help you find your way through a bewildering experience for which no one can truly be prepared. Here are some guidelines that speak to parents navigating the unimaginable landscape of the heartbreak of a child's death:

FIND HELP; WAIT FOR HEALING. Because, as parents you felt and expressed love for your child in different ways, and because your roles are different, *you will also grieve differently.* Neither of you can completely understand or soothe the grief of the other. Grieving parents are like two skiers on a mountain each with a broken leg. No matter how much they care about one another, they can do little to help each other. Each is disabled and consumed with pain. They must *simply wait for help or healing, whichever comes first.*

TEND TO THE NEEDS OF SIBLINGS. Children need to be told the truth about what happened in ways appropriate for their age and understanding. They need to be reassured about their own security because they may not be able to verbalize fears about their dying or that they may lose a parent too.

REMEMBER GRANDPARENTS GRIEVE TOO. Often overlooked in all the turmoil, grandparents are doubly burdened with the grief of losing a grandchild while stricken to see their own child in so much pain. Although grandparents may have a special kind of wisdom and comfort to offer, their gift is left unwrapped if shut out of the grief process.

LET RELATIVES AND FRIENDS HELP. Often these persons fear their presence may be an intrusion, though they may be the ones best equipped to help. Assisting with childcare, household chores and errands are practical ways to maintain normalcy. As a stabilizing presence, they can be sensitive to the emotional needs of the family and advocate on their behalf when the parents are too devastated to do so.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

<http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd>

PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING ALL THE MILITARY (ACTIVE/RETIRED AND LIVING/DEAD)

St. Jude Regional Catholic School

Mass of Celebration

in honor of Fr. Emil Kapaun

Outdoor mass in school parking lot

September 20, 2019 ~ 10:00 am

Rev. Paul D. Lee, STD

Information about Fr. Kapaun:

<https://catholicdioceseofwichita.org/father-kapaun/>

CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL

Saturday, October 19th from 11:00am-1:00pm in the Thaddeus Room. All children ages 2 - 7 are welcome to join us with their parents for free games, activities, prizes and food.

GIRLS ON THE RUN (GRADES 3-5) AND HEART & SOLE (GRADES 6-8) We inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. Season begins: September 24, 2019

St. Jude Regional Catholic School

Meeting days and times: Tuesday & Thursday (3:30pm - 4:45pm)

Registration is opened on the Girls on the Run website at

<http://girlsontherunofmoco.org>

Registration Fee \$160 – Scholarships Available

For more information contact:

Victoria.meredith@stjuderockville.org (Girls on the Run)

barish@mindspring.com (Heart & Sole)

THE WAY RETREATS FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

As the Church continues to minister to all survivors of abuse, the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring a retreat for survivors. The Archdiocese will offer a men's retreat October 11-13, 2019 and a women's retreat November 15-17 and April 3-5, 2020. This retreat is an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information go to <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat>. To register email mcdonald@adw.org or call Deborah McDonald, 301-853-4466.

EVER AFTER RETREAT

Ever After is a day retreat for Catholic couples hosted by St Mary's Catholic Church in Rockville on October 19th, 10-2:30pm. This event is part of an ongoing series committed to the support of dating, engaged, and married couples through spiritual enrichment and community. *Ever After* offers a venue of dynamic speakers, prayer, and the opportunity to connect with Catholic married couples. If you would like to preview the schedule or would like to register please visit CatholicEverAfter.eventbrite.com.

FATHER RALPH'S TREE

Thank you to everyone who donated to Father Ralph's tree. The tree people have suggested that we plant it in the Fall - not during the hot summer days. We will plant the tree before his second anniversary, October 12.