

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

November 25 - December 1

Monday, 11/25	9:00 a.m.	Rodolfo & Raymunda Ramos Antalan
Tuesday, 11/26	9:00 a.m.	Sixto Ramos Antalan
Wednesday, 11/27	9:00 a.m.	Magdalene Ramos Antalan
	7:30 p.m.	Guy Beaven
Thursday, 11/28	10:00 a.m.	In Thanksgiving
Friday, 11/29	9:00 a.m.	Bill English
Saturday, 11/30	9:00 a.m.	Gloria Antalan Mendoza
	5:00 p.m.	Carmela Grace Rivera
Sunday, 12/1	8:00 a.m.	Jacqueline Gordon
	9:30 a.m.	Aurora & John Estrella (L)
	11:15 a.m.	Michael Waters
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Sylvia Vacca, mother of Sam Bibb, Helene Oliver.

Please pray for the sick...Bob Jones, Corazon Ramos Antalan, Francisca Ramos Antalan, Zach Randolph Antalan, Lourdes, Almeda, Joseph Polosky, Flordeliza Celebrado, William Komlo, 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 November 24, 2019

Sunday:	2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 [cf. 1]/ Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43
Monday:	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/ Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61 [59b]/ Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 [59b]/Lk 21:12-19
Thursday:	Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 [59b]/Lk 21:20-28
Friday:	Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/ Lk 21:29-33
Saturday:	Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10 or Jn 6:63]/ Mt 4:18-22
Next Sunday:	Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [1]/ Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I was reading over again recently an article by Carl Anderson, the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus that was published in *Crux* on November 7, 2016. Mr. Anderson states that the question we as Catholics should ask ourselves is in what way Catholics in America can be a source of unity and reconciliation in the future or will we be a cause of further division? He believes that it is time for more and not less Catholic involvement in the life of our nation. He bases this on a suggestion made by Pope Francis that we strive to live more fully by the criteria that the Lord commands rather than by the criteria of the world. To this end Mr. Anderson believes that we need to continue the renewal of our own faith community as Catholics if we are to have any hope of influencing more effectively our national life as Americans. He suggests that the renewal of our faith community develop in at least six ways:

1. *We need to continue the renewal of parish life as a true Eucharistic community with a fuller appreciation of how the "source and summit of Christian life" is also the source and summit of our unity and charity as Christians.*
2. *The evangelization of Catholic families as a domestic church which, like the universal church, is called to reach out in solidarity to other families, as a source of unity, charity, mercy and reconciliation.*
3. *A renewed devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary not only as the perfect model of the Christian life, but also as an unsurpassed model for understanding our responsibilities as citizens for the common good.*
4. *We need to have a deeper understanding of those moral principles and issues that have "absolute value" (as Pope Francis has said the Fifth Commandment does) for us as a faith community, and that are the basis for a more adequate engagement with the social doctrine of our church.*
5. *We need to have a heightened commitment to Catholic education that is not simply abstract, but one that seeks to form the entire person.*
6. *We need to have a greater appreciation of the office of bishop as a source of unity for the local Church—a unity that promotes a deeper communion among bishops, priests, religious, and laity.*

Mr. Anderson concludes his reflection by stating that if we begin to pursue these six goals, the resulting greater unity among Catholics may provide a roadmap for greater unity for our entire country. That would be indeed a very good thing to happen.

Finally, let me wish everyone a **Happy Thanksgiving**. I pray that those who are traveling over the weekend will arrive at their destinations safely and return safely as well!

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon

Feast of Christ the King

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

From whom do I need to seek forgiveness and whom do I need to forgive? Can I look at this as part of the road to salvation?

THIS WEEKEND IS COMMITMENT SUNDAY!

Thank you for celebrating Commitment Sunday with us this weekend! Your commitment to our parish through our "Responding to God's Call to Love and to Serve" program will continue to bring life to our community. If completing your Commitment Card was not possible at Mass, an invitation to respond will be mailed later this week to your home. Please return your Commitment Card to the Parish Office this week or in next week's collection. If you have not yet done so, join the many others and give your gift online through Faith Direct, our online giving program. Please sign up for Faith Direct by going to our web site, www.sfadw.org, and clicking on 'Give' and 'Online Giving.' If you already have a Faith Direct account, then you can make changes by accessing your account online or contacting the customer service team at (866) 507-8757. Please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407 with any questions.

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE SALE & WREATH DECORATING

This weekend marks the last weekend on which to sign up to volunteer at our annual Christmas Tree Sale, which will kick off Saturday, November 30 in front of the church and run through mid-December. Grab your handsaws, your hand warmers and come join us! Volunteers are needed to offload and stake trees; saw off tree trunks; and ensure the tree lot is clean. Teens are also welcome to earn Student Service Learning hours. For more information, please contact Ministry Coordinator Brian Pettit at brian-pettit@pettitcompanies.com.

To help support the Christmas Tree Sale, crafters are also invited to decorate Christmas wreaths to be sold at the Christmas Tree Sale for as long supplies last. Please join us from 6:30-9 pm Friday, November 29, and 9 am-12:30 pm on Saturday, November 30, in the Rectory's Youth Room. Participants are asked to bring wire cutters. All decorations and wiring for tying them on are provided, along with something yummy to sip and snack on plus Christmas music to keep us in a holiday mood. For more information, please contact Carolyn Brauer at carolyn_brauer@yahoo.com.

**PARISH OFFICES WILL CLOSE AT
2:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 27 AND WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 &
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29.**

Thanksgiving



THANKSGIVING DAY MASS WILL BE AT 10:00 A.M.

There will be no 9:00 a.m. Daily Mass on Thanksgiving Day.

*Happy Thanksgiving from Fr. John
and the Parish Staff!*



ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

Take part in our **Advent Celebration!**

We invite individuals, couples and families to sign up to light the Advent Wreath on one of the Sundays of Advent. Sign-up sheets are available in the Gathering Space. Advent begins the weekend of November 30 and December 1. Be a part of the Celebration...Sign up today!

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 24 RECOGNIZES OUR COMMONALITIES AS CHRISTIANS

On Sunday, November 24, St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be hosting the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service to be held at 7 pm in the church. This gathering brings together our neighboring faith communities – Redland Baptist Church, St. Luke Lutheran Church, and Mill Creek Parish United Methodist Church – to recognize our commonalities as Christians and give communal thanks for our blessings. Please come help represent St. Francis of Assisi Parish and welcome our fellow Christians in the Derwood community! The service will include an appeal for donations to benefit the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center and will be followed by a reception in the Gathering Space. For more information about the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

November 24, 2019

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Lamb of God Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Clare Chapel. For details, please call Pat, (301) 963-9196.

POOR BOX DONATION – The donations for next weekend will go to Gaithersburg Help. *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).

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.

YOUR OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTION

Just a reminder that we do not record loose checks from the weekly collection. In order for us to track your contribution and send you a statement at the end of the year, it is suggested that you sign up for envelopes or Faith Direct. To sign up for envelopes you can call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407. To sign up for electronic contributions visit www.faithdirect.net. The code for St. Francis is MD110 or text the word ENROLL to 301-804-2584. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office.

PLEASE HELP A CAMEROONIAN FAMILY OF EIGHT

The Pax Christi Group at St. Francis is reaching out to parishioners for support with a family of eight who recently fled violence in Cameroon. The family is living in the Briggs Chaney area of Silver Spring. We are seeking help in finding lower-cost housing in the Rockville or Gaithersburg areas closer to jobs and amenities. To support them with their immediate financial, clothing, transportation, and employment needs or for more information, please contact Mary Kate Ryner at rynoslp@msn.com or Chris King at caking.home@gmail.com. During the Advent season, you can purchase a card from the Alternative Christmas table to support this family with rent, food, and transportation costs. Thank you in advance for any support you are able to provide!

GAITHERSBURG MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED:

Gaithersburg Meals On Wheels has an urgent need for drivers to deliver hot and cold meals at lunchtime to the elderly and shut-ins in the Gaithersburg area. Meals are prepared at Asbury Methodist Village, 333 Russell Ave., and picked up by drivers between 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. Monday-Friday. Containers are provided for carrying the meals, and delivery takes about one hour, with eight to 12 clients on each route. Volunteers are asked to drive either once a week, or once every other week. Children are welcome to accompany parents. Training is provided. Please call 301-216-4200, or contact Lisa Koenig at either 301-869-0190 or lisamkoenig1@gmail.com.

KINDLY RETURN BOOKS CHECKED OUT TO THE PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

The movable parish Lending Library in our Gathering Space offers many books that can be checked out. So that all may share in this wonderful ministry, please return any books you check out by their due date. You may return books to the wire basket on the lower shelf of the Lending Library. If you would like to donate books, please leave them on the bottom shelf so that they can be properly prepared for lending. Thank you for supporting our SFA Parish Library Ministry! For more information, please contact Ministry Coordinator Linne Carrier at lkcarrrier196@gmail.com.

ARCHBISHOP GREGORY TO CELEBRATE MASS AT ST. FRANCIS ON FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Have you gotten a chance to meet Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory? On Sunday, February 23, Washington's new Archbishop will celebrate the 11:15 am Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Please mark your calendar for this special event and plan to join us to celebrate Mass with Archbishop Gregory. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS



CHRISTMAS STOCKING HELP LINE

Religious Education families are invited to participate in the *Christmas Stocking Help Line*, an Advent project to benefit children and families served by Catholic Charities here in Montgomery County. Items needed will be listed on “stockings” hung in the Parish Center during RE class times. Families may choose to take one or more stockings, purchase the items listed, and return them to RE classes by December 10. Letters with more information about this project have been given to students in RE classes.

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 class meets today, Sunday, November 24 from 3:30-4:30 pm in the St. Clare Room. 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.

RE CLASS SCHEDULE AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

There are no Religious Education classes on Monday, November 25, Tuesday, November 26, and Sunday, December 1 (Please note that classes will meet today, Sunday, November 24, and Monday and Tuesday, December 2 and 3.)

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Confirmation candidates will meet this Monday, November 25, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR RE STUDENTS

The students in grades 3-8 will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their Religious Education classes in Advent. Catechists will review the Sacrament of Penance in advance, and we encourage parents to talk with their children about the Sacrament as well. Please note the date for your child's session and grade as shown below:

Sunday 9:30 Session:

Grade 5 - Sunday, Nov. 24
Grade 3 - Sunday, Dec. 8
Grade 4 - Sunday, Dec. 15

Monday 6:45 Session:

Grades 6, 7 & 8 - Mon., Dec 9
(participating in the Parish
Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.)

Monday 4:30 Session:

Grades 3, 4 and 5, Mon - Dec. 2

Tuesday 6:45 Session

Grades 6, 7, 8 - Tues. Dec 10

CATECHISTS AND AIDES NEEDED

Additional volunteers are needed for our Monday afternoon Elementary program and for our Sunday Special Needs Catechesis class. Please consider whether you can serve as a catechist or classroom aide for our children and young people. To learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

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

UPCOMING YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Dear Parents and Teens,

The Youth Group is away on our Fall Retreat! Please keep us in your prayers! When we return, we will close out 2019 with the following events:

- Sunday Dec. 8: Youth Group Meeting: Immaculate Conception Christmas Party (Meet at 6:15 pm in the Parish Center)
- Wednesday, Dec. 11: Theology of the Body Parent Meeting (Meet at 6 pm in the Youth Room for dinner and Mass at 7:30 pm)
- Sunday Dec. 15: Christmas Caroling from 2-4 pm
- Sunday Dec. 15: Youth Group Meeting: Advent Discussion (Meet at 6:15 pm in the Gathering Space)

Also, any teen attending the 5 pm Youth Mass is invited to participate in the liturgy as an usher. Training and further information would be provided for those who are interested. Please reach out to me!

Have a blessed and holy Thanksgiving!

*God bless you,
Sarah Seyed-Ali*

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

THANK YOU! In this season of thanksgiving we at SJRCS want to thank you, our St. Francis families, for your support of the school. A heart-felt thank you for all you have done for SJRCS this year!

SJRCS RE-ENROLLMENT The re-enrollment period is upon us! As of November 1st, you have the opportunity to register for the 2020-2021 school year. School families can enroll now through December 31. On January 1st the admissions window will open for everyone. Enrollment: [TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment](#) Tuition Incentive Program: [Receive \\$750 off your tuition bill for every family you refer \(and enrolls\) at SJRCS!](#)

2020-2021 ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS NOW OPEN. ADW has opened the Tuition Assistance Program for the 2020-2021 school year. When you apply for tuition assistance through the ADW you automatically enroll in our tuition aid program. The window will close on December 6th. Please take a moment and apply as soon as possible. You can access the link through www.stjuderockville.org or at ADW Tuition Assistance: <https://adwcatholicsschools.org/tuition-assistance/>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (continued) SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, and if schools are dismissed early, Religious Education classes, including FRED, are also cancelled. This applies to Sunday classes as well if Montgomery County Public Schools announces cancellation of weekend school activities. Cancellation announcements will be recorded on the Religious Education Office phone (301-258-9193) and posted on the St. Francis Parish website and Facebook page (“St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church”). Whenever in doubt, please use your own judgment about local weather and driving conditions, and err on the side of safety when making decisions about bringing your child to class.

MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Do you know someone who can't get to Mass? Please tell them about the Sunday TV Mass, which is produced by the Archdiocese of Washington and taped in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It is a wonderful ministry for those members of our Catholic family who are unable to be physically present with a local worshipping community for the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy.

The Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on WDCW-50:

- No cable; Dish or Direct TV subscribers: Ch. 50.
- Comcast: Ch. 23 in Washington, DC & Montgomery County; Ch. 3 in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland
- RCN: Ch. 15
- Verizon: Ch. 3

HELP THE HUNGRY AND HOMELESS AT SOME'S 18TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DAY TROT FOR HUNGER

SOME (So Others Might Eat) invites you to join us Thursday, November 28 for our 18th Annual Thanksgiving Day Trot for Hunger. As the only Turkey Trot in the District, this is a tradition for thousands of area residents and a meaningful way to remember people in need on Thanksgiving Day. Proceeds from the 5K benefit thousands of homeless families and single adults experiencing poverty, hunger and homelessness. The One Mile Little Turkey Fun Run begins at 8:30am; the *timed* 5K Run begins at 9:00am; and the 5K *untimed* Run/Walk begins at 9:15am at Freedom Plaza (corner of 13th Street, NW and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW). Please visit www.some.org to register and learn more, or contact our Trot for Hunger office at trotforhunger@some.org 202-753-4960 for additional information. Thank you for your support of our community's most vulnerable men, women and children.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & BREAKFAST WITH SAINT NICK

Saint Peter's Parish 2900 Olney Sandy Spring Rd Olney is hosting a Christmas Bazaar and Breakfast with Saint Nick on Friday December 6 and Saturday December 7. Come Friday night to the bazaar from 6-9pm. We have dinner, cash bar, free Bingo and a Christmas sing a long! Enjoy a delicious dinner that includes - Latin American dishes, pizza and egg rolls. Enjoy your dinner with a glass of wine or a beer. Pick up a passport and then stop by all of our amazing rooms which include - homemade crafts, bake shop, raffles, new to you, poinsettias and wreaths. Get your passport stamped. Enter it to win a \$50 gift card to Harris Teeter. Saturday's fun includes the amazing rooms plus a pancake breakfast, photo with St. Nick, kids game room, secret Santa shop, and a cafe. Breakfast seatings are 8 am and 10:30 am. Come for the morning and stay for the day. Visit with friends and enjoy some Christmas shopping. It's the best of both worlds - shopping for Christmas and spending time with your family- that's what our annual Christmas Bazaar and Breakfast with St. Nick is about. Breakfast tickets are being sold at the door and online at: <https://www.stpetersolney.org/breakfast-with-saint-nick-8> (8 am seating) <https://www.stpetersolney.org/breakfast-with-saint-nick-1030> (10:30 am seating) For more information contact ygolla@meridianttechnologies.net

ADVENT DAY RETREAT

All are invited to a Day Retreat on Saturday December 7 at the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg, the Eve of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Join a spiritual Advent event, beginning with Morning Prayer at 9 am and Mass at 9.30. The day will be led by Carmelite Friar Father Salvatore Sciorba, OCD who will give two talks, on Conversion and Carmelite Models of Prayer. Concerning conversion: Baptism is "the principal place for the first and fundamental conversion." The Church teaches a Second Conversion, one of penance and renewal." Carmelite models of prayer: for St. Teresa of Avila: "Contemplative prayer is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us;" for St. Therese the Little Flower: "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." Come and hear Father Sal talk about Conversion and Prayer. There will be fellowship, time for personal reflection, and a special Christmas presentation. Bring your family, bring your friends, hot and cold beverages provided throughout the day, but lunch is not, bring your own. This spiritual day in Advent is organized by the Secular Carmelite Community in Frederick. Cost is \$5, pay at the door, day ends at 2.15 giving time to visit the beautiful Basilica and the pilgrim sites.

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!

YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE ABUSED

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It can consist of repeated severe beatings or subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace.

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- 3) You're all ready to access the inspiring and Engaging content on FORMED!
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FORMED is available 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. St. Francis has purchased this gift for parish use.