

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

December 2 - December 8

Monday, 12/2	9:00 a.m.	Enrique Quemuel
Tuesday, 12/3	9:00 a.m.	Wendel Hall
Wednesday, 12/4	9:00 a.m.	Kenneth T. Yeast, Sr.
	7:30 p.m.	Joan Carpenter
Thursday, 12/5	9:00 a.m.	Aley Zacharias
Friday, 12/6	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m.	Guy Beaven
Saturday, 12/7	9:00 a.m.	John Ryan
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 12/8	8:00 a.m.	Ann Vaughn
	9:30 a.m.	Deceased Members of the Scrofani Family
	11:15 a.m.	Robert F. Ruiz
	5:00 p.m.	Connie Fernandini

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Adolfo Arias, father of Cesar Arias.

Please pray for the sick... Shirley Niggle, Adele Rita Powers, Carmen Rochester, Bob Jones, Corazon Ramos Antalan, Francisca Ramos Antalan, Zach Randolph Antalan, Lourdes, Almeda, 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*

Readings for the Week of December 1, 2019

Sunday:	Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 1]/ Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
Monday:	Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/ Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/ Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/ Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Today at the 11:15 a.m. Mass, St. Nicholas is scheduled to make a visit here sometime during that Mass. Hopefully he will come as expected and maybe he will leave some candy of those children who will leave their shoes in the Gathering Space. In anticipation of Christmas, I want to talk about what is probably the most reprinted editorial in any newspaper in the English language. In 1897, the New York Sun received a letter to the Editor from Virginia O'Hanlon, who was eight years old and a resident of New York City. Her letter was only four sentences long:

Dear Editor:

I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says: "If you see it in THE SUN it's so. Please tell me the truth: is there a Santa Claus? Virginia O'Hanlon. 115 West Ninety-Fifth Street.

Francis Pharcellus Church was the editor of THE SUN who was assigned to answer little Virginia's letter. Church had served as a war correspondent during the American Civil War, a time that saw a great deal of suffering and lack of hope and faith in much of society. He saw in Virginia's letter (for which she may have had some help in composition from her father, Dr. Philip O'Hanlon) an opportunity to address this. Let's enjoy reading this wonderful piece today as December begins.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exists, and you know that they abound and give joy to your live its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would the world be if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and delight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to watch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's not proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

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

First Sunday of Advent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What am I doing that I would not want seen in the light of day, or at the hour I do not expect? What do I need to do to change this?

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

All are welcome! Join the Ministry of Eucharistic Adoration and assist with adoration in the following manner:

- *Become a regular attendee at adoration in the Parish.*
- *Pray that Eucharistic Adoration will increase.*
- *Foster Eucharistic Adoration in our parish by evangelizing His Eucharistic Presence.*
- *Deepen your personal relationship with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.*

First Friday Adoration (December 6) will begin in the Church following the 7:30 p.m. Mass until 9:00 p.m.

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE TAKES PLACE AT THE 11:15 AM MASS ON DECEMBER 8

At the 11:15 am Mass on Sunday, December 8, nine adults participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program will make a commitment to continue on their RCIA journey with the hope of entering into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil this spring. During this Rite of Acceptance, the inquirers stand before the parish community and state that he or she wants to become a baptized member of the Catholic Church. The parish assembly affirms this desire and the inquirer becomes a Catechumen. Please pray for our nine inquirers, as they continue their journey in the Period of the Catechumenate. Provided they continue their exploration of faith, the inquirers will stand next spring for the Rite of Election, during which the Catechumens publicly express their desire for baptism to the diocesan bishop. If you are interested in supporting and guiding the journeys of these nine inquirers into full membership with the church, consider stepping forward as an RCIA sponsor. For more information, please contact RCIA Coordinator Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank GOD! He lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon
Pastor

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION IN 2019

This year, the Second Sunday of Advent falls on December 8, 2019. Because the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Solemnity is transferred to Monday, December 9. Because of this, the Solemnity is NOT a holy day of obligation this year.

RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL TO LOVE & TO SERVE BY RETURNING YOUR COMMITMENT CARD

Thank you to all those parishioners who have completed and submitted their Commitment Card to the church, as part of our Offertory Stewardship Appeal, "Responding to God's Call to Love and to Serve." For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, a letter will be mailed to you with a personalized Commitment Card. It is important that all parishioners complete a Commitment Card as we will be mailing out a Summary Report of the program and need all commitments accounted for in this report. We also encourage all parishioners to consider setting up their offertory gifts electronically through Faith Direct, our electronic giving program. To do so, go to our parish web site, www.sfadw.org, and click on 'Give' and 'Online Giving.' If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our offertory collection!

PLEASE JOIN US IN BIDDING DEACON DAN & GEORGANA FINN FAREWELL ON DECEMBER 8

After 36 years at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Deacon Dan and Georgana Finn will be moving toward their next adventure, as they relocate this month to West Lafayette, IN. Please join us in honoring the Finns and thanking them for their many years of faithful service to the parish on the Parish Pastoral Council, Music Ministry, Religious Education, Upcountry Community Resources, Special Needs Ministry, Love One Another and Build Up Our Church initiative. The parish will honor them at a reception following the 11:15 am Mass on Sunday, December 8, in the Gathering Space. Please join us in bidding the Finns farewell and wishing them all the best in God's grace!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER JOHN!

December 2

*Thank you for all you do for us.
We hope you enjoy your day!
Your Staff*

December 1, 2019

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Lamb of God Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday, December 3 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 the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. *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.



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 this weekend. Be a part of the Celebration... Sign up today!

REMINDER - SPIRIT TREE GIFTS

Spirit Tree Gifts are due back in the Gathering Space by 6 pm Sunday, December 8. Thank you for your generosity in helping make Christmas brighter for parishioners and the surrounding community at Assumption Parish in Washington DC!

2019 HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The annual tradition of the Holiday Bazaar continued on November 9th of this year. I would like to thank all of the amazing volunteers who stepped up and helped plan for the Bazaar all year long. Marie Purdy who solicits, and sets up the vendors, always does a great job getting the hall filled with new and exciting sellers. Millie's Bake Shop was a hit with all of the kids, and kids at heart, as they all had their quarters ready to go. Shabby Chic, as always, had wonderful gifts and treasures for everyone thanks to the Beall Family who throughout the year hunt for treasures. They always do a great job. Karen Mason always has so many interesting religious items for everyone to choose from. She had many volunteers this year to help her set up and sell. The Silent Auction, headed up by Deby Dicello, had many wonderful baskets and items to bid on. It is never easy to put everything together but year after year it is a great success.

This year we did face painting thanks to Jane Tom. She helped decorate the many faces in the Christmas Spirit. The Jewelry Boutique was a big hit thanks to Linda Call who always does a great job, had many helpers there ready to go. The raffle, spearheaded by Linda Foster, was very successful. She also headed up the Turkey Raffle. The Flea Market ran incredibly smoothly thanks to Pat Badolato and her many helpers. They, as always, did a great job converting the lower level of the rectory into a buyer's haven.

Nadine Edwards headed up the Café Assisi with its many appetizing treats. Coffee and donuts were a great treat thanks to Sylvia Jones. It kept everybody warm and awake on a cold day. There were many beautiful handmade crafts and ornaments made by several of the parishioners. The crafters who gave their time and talents were Jane Tom, Geri Prelewicz, Sara Becker, Doris Chung, Mary O'Sullivan and Laura. I would also like to thank Donna Zizzo who has always helped behind the scenes, and helps keep the Bazaar running smoothly.

There were many other people who stepped up and volunteered to help out. They were there to help set up, volunteer during and help clean up afterwards. I know I can't thank everyone personally who helped out, but I truly want to thank anyone who gave of their time and talents. It takes many people to run the Bazaar, without volunteers none of this would be possible.

*God Bless & Thank You!
Anne Culver*

ON DECEMBER 8 & 15, SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS IN THE ALTERNATIVE GIFT CATALOG!

Are you looking for a way to make your Christmas shopping easier? Consider honoring your friends and loved ones by purchasing an alternative gift from our St. Francis of Assisi Alternative Gift Catalog. The Alternative Gift Program helps de-emphasize the commercial aspects of Christmas by allowing people to buy services or goods at area nonprofit organizations that benefit beneficiaries of those charities. Minsters will be selling the Alternative Christmas Gift Cards in the Gathering Space after all Masses on December 8 and 15. Please bring your checkbook and support your favorite charities. For more information, contact Ministry Coordinator Pat O'Connor at leafs20879@gmail.com.

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 8, 9 & 10. Letters with more information about this project have been given to students in RE classes.

RE CLASS SCHEDULE AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

There are no Religious Education classes today, Sunday, December 1. Classes resume on a normal schedule this week, December 2 and 3.

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 9:20 Session:

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 & 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.

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.

UPCOMING YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Dear Parents and Teens,

I hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving Day weekend! Thank you for participating in our Youth Group. We will have the following events for the month of December:

- Saturday, Dec. 7-Sunday, Dec. 8: 2019 Fundraiser
- 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)

May God bless you as we begin the new liturgical year,

Sarah Seyed-Ali

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School *We are...St. Jude* www.StJudeRockville.org

St. Jude Regional Catholic School

Cordially Invites You to

Our Annual Christmas Program

Monday, December 9, 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Thaddeus Room

Performances by the SJRCS Band, Class Performances
(Pre-K 4 through 4th Grade), & 5th Grade Musical

Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night! -Christmastime is often extremely crazy and busy with so many things to do. It is easy to lose focus on the Prince of Peace who was born in Bethlehem that holy night. Today, our Christmas is not usually quiet, calm or silent. As the story unfolds, we can see that first Christmas was crazy and busy too! Thankfully, Jesus came to bring peace and hope to the chaos in our world.

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 the school website. ADW Tuition Assistance: <https://adwcatholicschools.org/tuition-assistance/>

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA – Join us in the Thaddeus Room on Saturday, December 14 from 9-11am for Breakfast with Santa. The Holiday Shoppe will be open for kids to buy presents for family and friends. Games, crafts, and gift wrapping will also be available.



COME BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE ST. FRANCIS CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

The St. Francis of Assisi Christmas Tree Sale is open for business! Come join us this weekend to browse our fresh fir trees of all sizes, as well as beautiful Christmas wreaths decorated by St. Francis of Assisi parishioners. Tell your friends, family and neighbors! Proceeds from the Christmas Tree Sale benefit our parish. For more information about the Christmas Tree Sale or to volunteer for one of the many slots, please contact Ministry Coordinator Brian Pettit at brianpettit@pettitcompanies.com.

HELP OUR MARRIAGE

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 24th - January 26th, 2020, please visit: www.HelpOurMarriage.org, call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org.

EVENINGS WITH THE MERCIFUL JESUS

On the 22nd of every month from 7-10 pm, the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC (3900 Harewood Rd., NE) hosts a gathering for young adults and the young at heart, featuring a talk, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with praise and worship music, Confession, refreshments, and a time for fellowship. Please contact events@jp2shrine.org or visit jp2shrine.org for more information.

THE ART OF PRAYER

Taking place on Sunday evenings from 6-7 pm at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC (3900 Harewood Rd., NE), *The Art of Prayer* includes a presentation on interior prayer, time for silent meditation, and a sung Sunday Vespers service. For more information, visit jp2shrine.org or email pastoral.programs@jp2shrine.org.

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

To receive credit in 2019, your contributions must be dated December 31, 2019. If you are mailing a contribution, it must be received in the parish Office on or before Thursday, January 2, 2020. As a reminder, the parish statement of contributions will not include your FAITHDIRECT contributions. You will receive a statement directly from FAITHDIRECT.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection will be held on the weekend of December 7/8 in the Archdiocese of Washington. This parish-based appeal, coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), benefits nearly 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests whose communities lack retirement savings. Participation in this collection provides an opportunity to be a witness of Our Lord's love and mercy for the religious men and women who have contributed so much to sharing his love with others and to building up the Church. *Thank you for your generosity.*

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!

NATIONAL TELEPHONE ROSARY

A National Telephone Rosary in recognition of Fatima is held on the 13th of each month at 8pm by the National Council of Catholic Women. Call 515-739-1261 and insert code 703993#. Questions? Please contact Province Director Cindy Perry at cindy.perry@hotmail.com.

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.

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.