

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

December 9 - December 15

Monday, 12/9	9:00 a.m.	John Loh
Tuesday, 12/10	9:00 a.m.	Reverend A. Seamus Kuebler
Wednesday, 12/11	9:00 a.m.	Stella Polosky
	7:30 p.m.	Msgr. James Lockman
Thursday, 12/12	9:00 a.m.	Ramon Meneses
Friday, 12/13	9:00 a.m.	Robert D. Ruiz
Saturday, 12/14	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
	5:00 p.m.	Joan Raffa
Sunday, 12/15	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Andrew Erecitano
	11:15 a.m.	Yolanda Perez De Arce
	5:00 p.m.	Angel Andrada

Please pray for the sick... Herbert Harwood, Joan Lutz-Maltz, Mike Mikula, Zada Stamper, Shirley Niggle, Adele Rita Powers, Carmen Rochester, Bob Jones, Corazon Ramos Antalan, Francisca Ramos Antalan, Zach Randolph Antalan, 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 December 8, 2019

Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/ Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/ Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/ Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18- 19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/ Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-1

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Today in my column I am presenting the last in the series of biographies of Saints canonized by Pope Francis on October 13, 2019. These were in the English edition of *L'Osservatore Romano* on October 18, 2019. This week we are looking at Saint John Henry Newman.

John Henry Newman was born in London on February 21, 1801. His family were members of the Church of England but without a strong religious commitment. From an early age, John Henry loved the Bible and enjoyed reading it. In 1808 he was enrolled at Ealing College and it was there at age 15 that he underwent a profound religious conversion to what can fairly be described as evangelical Christianity with a strong anti-Catholic bias.

In 1817 at the age of 16 he entered Trinity College, Oxford, as an undergraduate. Five years later he was elected to a Fellowship at Oriel College. Thereafter, he was ordained to the Anglican clergy and worked first as curate (associate pastor) in the Oxford parish of Saint Clement's and later became Vicar (pastor) of the Oxford university church of Saint Mary the Virgin. There he had substantial spiritual influence on parishioners and members of the university, especially through his preaching.

When studying the history of the early Church Fathers, Newman was dismayed to discover that the doctrinal position of the Anglican Church in his own day bore a close resemblance to some of the heretical currents that had emerged in the theological controversies of the early centuries. He was even further troubled several years later when a number of Anglican bishops and scholars denounced some of his own writings. He began to question his membership in the Church of England and his leadership in the Oxford Movement.

He withdrew from Oxford in order to think and pray. Together with a few companions, he moved to modest lodging in the village of Littlemore just outside of Oxford. He lived there for three years, praying for guidance. By 1845 his mind was clear, and on October 9, 1845 he was received into the Roman Catholic Church by Father (now Blessed) Dominic Barberi.

Newman went to Rome to study for the Catholic priesthood and to discern his future. He was attracted to the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri, a Congregation of priests and brothers that the 16th-century Saint had founded in Rome. Father Newman became an Oratorian and in 1848 he established the first English Oratory at Maryvale near Birmingham, moving thereafter to Alcester Street near the town center, where he converted a defunct gin distillery into a chapel. Three years later the new Oratorian community moved to its present home in Edgbaston.

When Newman returned to England his life was not easy. He faced many misunderstandings, at times was the object of resentment, and was even accused of doctrinal unorthodoxy. In his old age he continued to live quietly in the Birmingham Oratory which he had founded, devoting his time to preaching, writing, and spiritual direction. In 1879, when Newman was 78, Pope Leo XIII created him a Cardinal in the Holy Roman Church. He had endured many personal sleights and had been the object of rash judgments during the years following his conversion.

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

Second Sunday of Advent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What can I do to bring harmony to my family, my neighborhood, the world?

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMMITMENT CARD FOR THE OFFERTORY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM, “RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL TO LOVE & SERVE”

Thank you to the 126 individuals, couples and families who have submitted a Commitment Card for the Offertory Stewardship Program, “Responding to God’s Call to Love and to Serve.” Your generosity and response are very much appreciated! If you have not yet sent back your Commitment Card, please do so to be captured in the Summary Report that will reflect all the offertory commitment activity pledged by members of our parish. Let’s aim for a 100 percent response, even if you are unable to change your offertory commitment for the coming year.

Thank you again for praying over and considering an increased offertory commitment! If you’d like to give your offertory contributions online through Faith Direct, then please sign up by going to www.sfadw.org and click on the ‘Give’ and ‘Online Giving’ links. If you already give offertory contributions through Faith Direct, don’t forget that you need to update your account to reflect your new offertory commitment. You can make changes anytime by accessing your account online or contacting the Faith Direct customer service team at (866) 507-8757.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Thus, the news that he was to become a Cardinal came as a definitive vindication of his orthodoxy and loyalty to the Catholic Church, and he declared that ‘the cloud is lifted forever.’ He died of pneumonia in the Birmingham Oratory on August 11, 1890.

On January 22, 1991, John Henry Newman was proclaimed “Venerable” in a decree by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints under Pope John Paul II. On September 19, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI beatified him at Cofton Park in Birmingham.

In the same issue of *L’Osservatore Romano*, His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, authored an appreciation of our newly canonized saint, “John Henry Newman: The Harmony of Difference.” Prince Charles ends his remarks with these two paragraphs that sum up this great man of the cloth:

“As we mark the life of this great Briton, this great churchman and, as we can now say, this great saint, who bridges the divisions between traditions, it is surely right that we give thanks for the friendship which, despite the parting, has not merely endured, but has strengthened.

“In the image of divine harmony which Newman expressed so eloquently, we can see how, ultimately, as we follow with sincerity and courage the different paths to which conscience calls us, all our divisions can lead to a greater understanding and all our ways can find a common home.”

Until next week,
Fr. John

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

The following individuals and their families recently joined our St. Francis faith community during the month of November:

Paul Alexander
Kara Barauskas
Lorna Bituin
Christopher Esders
Gregory Lowden
Arthur Manfredi
Michael Puskar

The following children were baptized during the month of November:

Elliana Quinn Ipanag Custodio
Aryya Rylee James
Gabriel Angelo Kinol
Brandon Anthony Torres

UPCOMING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LITURGIES, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Spirit Tree Gifts:** *Due back at 6 pm December 8 in the Gathering Space.* Thanks for returning your gifts on time!
- **Alternative Gift Card Sale - December 8 and 15 in the Gathering Space.** Put giving at the center of your Christmas gift traditions.
- **Montgomery County Right to Life Christmas Card Sale- December 8 and 15 in the Gathering Space.** Help this life-affirming group raise awareness of the culture of life!
- **Parish Penance Service - 7 pm December 9 in the church.**
- **Christmas Tree Sale - 3 to 8 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 8 pm on weekends through December 15 or 22.**
- **Christmas Eve Masses: 4 pm, 6 pm, 8 pm and 11 pm on December 24 in the church.** Choral prelude to begin at 10 pm.
- **Christmas Day Masses: 8 am, 9:30 am and 11:15 am on December 25 in the church.** No 5 pm Mass on Christmas Day.

For more information, see our web site at www.sfadw.org.

December 8, 2019

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Lamb of God Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday, December 10 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 week-end will go to UMAN (Upper Montgomery Assistance Network). *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.

EXODUS 90

Are you looking for a more ascetic life? Do you want to make Jesus your first priority and the ruler of your life? Do you have many distractions and attachments that take precious time away from God and Family? Visit exodus90.com and see if you would like to be part of St. Francis' challenging Exodus 90 group starting this January 13. If interested, contact Alvaro Calabia at alvaroc@takomaparkmd.gov (Exodus 90 as the subject); 301-785-8843; or talk with Fr. John after Mass or you can e-mail him at jdillon@sfadw.org.

PARISH COUNCIL RECEIVES UPDATES ON TWO PRIESTS HELPING TO CELEBRATE MASS

During the Parish Pastoral Council meeting on November 21, Fr. John Dillon reported that the recently ordained Fr. Virginus Osuagwu, a Salvatorian priest, will be helping him celebrate two Masses per weekend. The native of Nigeria was ordained on June 23, 2019, and hopes to develop a new social justice ministry, according to www.salvatorians.com. Fr. Gode Iwele, OMI, will also occasionally help celebrate Masses on week days and on the weekend.

Under other business, the council also:

- Heard an update on the ongoing replacement of the church roofing system.
- Heard ministry reports from the St. Jude Regional School representative and the Communications Ministry, which reported on the offertory stewardship appeal program and Commitment Weekend on November 23/24.
- Learned the Volunteer Appreciation Diner and Dance will be held February 1, 2020.
- Learned that all five parishioners who Fr. John appointed to new council terms beginning January 1, 2020, have accepted. The new council members are Marianne DeAusen, Linda Foster, Ronald Hays, Louise Locke and Leah Vincent.

St. Francis parishioners can read past minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council at <https://www.sfadw.org/pastoral-council-meeting-minutes>. For more information about the council or for any questions, please e-mail the council at asktheppc@gmail.com.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY HAS ROLLING NEED FOR ITEMS

The St. Martin's Food Pantry needs certain food items that it's running short on during these winter months. With 190 families being served by the food pantry, please pick up some of the following food items when you are at the grocery store in coming weeks:

- Canned fruit
- Canned meat and fish
- Dry unsweetened cereal
- Canned meals, such as stew, chili and pasta
- Canned soup/dry soup/Ramen noodles
- Canned beans
- Dry rice and beans
- Macaroni and cheese
- Crackers and cookies
- Canned vegetables
- Baby cereal and Similac Blue

Please deposit any donations in the Food Pantry receptacle in the Gathering Space. Many thanks for your generosity! For more information on the St. Martin Food Pantry, please contact Ministry Co-Coordinators Carolyn Brauer, carolyn_brauer@yahoo.com or Christine Youngt youngbodywork@hotmail.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.

CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers monthly catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our next session is next Sunday, December 15 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.

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.)

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,

Join us for our Advent and Christmas celebrations! 8th Grade Students are invited to join us for Christmas Caroling on December 15th! Forms are available in the Gathering Space on the Youth Group Table.

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

May God bless you with a Fruitful Advent and a Merry Christmas!,

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!](#)

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.

SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES DURING THE WALK WITH MARY ON DECEMBER 14

Join fellow Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington for the annual Walk with Mary procession and Mass that will take place on Saturday, December 14, in Washington DC. Participants will begin assembling at 11 am for the procession at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The walk will be followed with a Rosary at 1 pm and Mass at 2:30 pm. The Walk with Mary brings together Catholics of all cultures and ethnicities and provides an opportunity to witness in unity and solidarity with the region's immigrant communities. For more information, please see <http://www.adw.org/walkwithmary>.

HEAR CHORAL MUSIC AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE AT 7:30 P.M. ON DECEMBER 15

On Sunday, December 15, St. Francis of Assisi parishioners are invited at 7:30 pm to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington DC, which continues its tradition of splendid choral music, Gregorian chants, hymns, and carols interwoven with proclamations of the Scriptures that anticipate the birth of Christ, the promised one of the ages. St. Matthew's Schola Cantorum and Festival Singers join seven of the Cathedral's finest lectors telling the story of the joyful anticipation of those awaiting the Messiah. The evening is free and open to the public. *The Cathedral is located at 1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, between Connecticut Ave. and 17th St., near the Farragut North Red Line, Farragut West Orange Line, and Dupont Circle Red Line Metro stops. Learn more at www.stmatthewscathedral.org or call the cathedral at (202) 347-3215.*

FAITH DIRECT - ONLINE GIVING

During Advent we prepare our minds and hearts for the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. As we reflect on the upcoming Christmas season, it is likely that we will be busy with parties and family gatherings. Perhaps even a trip out of town to visit friends. With all of those joyous celebrations, we might miss Mass. That's where eGiving with Faith Direct can help simplify your life. By supporting St. Francis of Assisi, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season. Signing up is easy! Visit faith.direct/MD110, or text the word ENROLL to 301-804-2584. Already using Faith Direct? Log in to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account, or text a dollar amount to 301-804-2584 to make a one-time gift today! Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God Bless You,

Fr. John

GIVE THE GIFT OF SERVICE

Catholic Charities DC encourages you to give back by taking advantage of a variety of volunteer opportunities available in Washington, DC and southern Maryland. For more information on volunteering with Catholic Charities, or to register to volunteer, visit catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteer.

SUPPORT THE AGING RELIGIOUS

Our second collection is for the Retirement fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. *Please be generous today.*

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.

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.