

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

December 16 - December 22

Monday, 12/16	9:00 a.m.	Larry Church
Tuesday, 12/17	9:00 a.m.	Kathleen Schrempk Kane
Wednesday, 12/18	9:00 a.m.	Alexander O'Connor
	7:30 p.m.	Silbestra Ordonia
Thursday, 12/19	9:00 a.m.	Anna Matthew
Friday, 12/20	9:00 a.m.	Joan Raffa
Saturday, 12/21	9:00 a.m.	Judy Roa
	5:00 p.m.	Jane Lakebrink
Sunday, 12/22	8:00 a.m.	Rosa Guzman
	9:30 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Noah Christian Cardoso
	5:00 p.m.	Eva Breeden

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Josephine Brown, mother of Charles Brown, Alice Wooden Kelly, mother of Sean Wooden.

Please pray for the sick... Herbert Harwood, Vincent Price, Zada Stamper, Joan Lutz-Maltz, Mike Mikula, 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 Dudenhoeffer, 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 15, 2019

Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/ Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/ Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/ Mt 1:18-25
Thursday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Friday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Next Sunday:	Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/ Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I want to make some more remarks in my column today about hospitality since we will have many more people attending Mass during the next couples of weekends to celebrate Christmas with us. Here are ten ideas on making visitors feel welcome that I got from the website of the International Catholic Stewardship Council (<http://catholicstewardship.com/>). Let me share their ten ideas with you now. I have adapted them slightly for our situation.

- 1. Cultivate the virtue of hospitality at Mass.** Many people attending Mass tend to gather into little cliques and ignore people who are not part of their particular clique. They are not really inhospitable, just heedless of the need to be hospitable. Make hospitality a new habit when you go to Mass.
- 2. Come early, leave late.** Instead of rushing to Mass to be there on time, and then rushing out at its conclusion, make time to come a little early and linger just a bit later. Make room in your busy life to greet and spend time with others at Mass.
- 3. Go in peace to greet someone!** Seek out someone whom you have not met before. Shake their hand, introduce yourself, and take a few moments to welcome them to your parish home: God's house.
- 4. Welcome everyone.** Not only visitors need your warm welcome, regular Mass attendees need a friendly greeting. Develop a good handshake and be enthusiastic about your parish. You are greeting others in the name of Christ.
- 5. Help newcomers connect.** While you are getting to know visitors, introduce them to other parishioners as the opportunity presents itself. Feel free to invite visitors to sit next to you.
- 6. Say goodbye with genuine warmth.** After Mass, bid farewell to visitors, inviting them to return next week. Introduce them to me if the opportunity arises.
- 7. Avoid parish business.** Avoid conducting parish business with others just before or after Mass. Focus on visitors.
- 8. Give visitors information about the parish.** Ensure that a visitor has a bulletin or other literature available at the information desk about the parish before they leave. If there is a social gathering after Mass, invite them.

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

Third Sunday of Advent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Even as I welcome Jesus into my heart, can I be patient for his full flowering? Can I be patient for his flowering in my neighbor and in the world?

CHRISTMAS 2019 SCHEDULE



CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24th Vigil Masses

4:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.
11:00 p.m. with incense

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, Christmas Day, December 25th

8:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
11:15 a.m.

No 5:00 p.m. Mass

*January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation*

Tuesday December 31 Vigil Mass - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 1 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

ON JANUARY 5, MASS FOR ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN CELEBRATES PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Mass for All of God's Children, which especially recognizes children and adults with special needs and developmental differences in our communities, will be held at the 5:00 p.m. Youth Mass, on Sunday, January 5, 2019 at our church. St. Francis Special Events Ministry Coordinator Sylvia Jones and her volunteers will host a small reception after the Mass. If you or a person with special needs in your life is interested in serving as a lector, usher, altar server, or Joyful Greeter at the Mass for All of God's People, please contact Sylvia at (301) 762-6564 or by e-mail her at decaffqueen@gmail.com.

BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE BEFORE THEY ARE ALL GONE

The Christmas Tree Sale is winding down! Come get your fresh Frasier fir or fresh Christmas wreath from our Christmas Tree Sale, which is open until all the trees are sold. The Christmas Tree lot is open from 3-8 pm on weekdays and from 9 am-8 pm on weekends. We still have a good selection of trees of all sizes. For more information, please contact the Christmas Tree Sale Ministry Coordinator Brian Pettit at brianpettit@pettitcompanies.com.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES PARKING

Please remember that you can use Redland Middle School for "overflow parking." If you are coming to one of the earlier Masses please try to coordinate so that your family has only one car in the parking lot. We will have Crossing Guards at the earlier Masses, but will ask everyone's cooperation and patience going in and out of our parking lot. **Remember to be considerate of the Crossing Guard who is working on Christmas Eve to ensure your safety. Thank you!**

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

9. Be part of a greeting ministry team. We are always happy when people join our Joyful Greeters ministry. Parishioners of all ages set the tone for the worship experience by offering a warm welcome outside at the entrance doors to church and a warm dismissal at the end of Mass. The ministry has made many parishioners and visitors to the parish feel welcome. If you are interested being a Joyful Greeter, please contact the parish offices (301-840-1407). In turn, we will put you in contact with the coordinator for this ministry: Helen Hayes.

10. Greet those who already minister in the area of hospitality. It isn't necessary to neglect the people who are already ministers of hospitality in order to make visitors feel at home. A simple wave and a smile go a long way.

I wish everyone well with the last minute shopping, party preparations, travel arrangements. But please remember: Jesus is the reason for the season!

Until next week (when it will be just three days until Christmas!),

Fr. John Dillon, Pastor

December 15, 2019

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Lamb of God Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday, December 17 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 Prison Ministry Outreach. *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.

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.

LAST WEEKEND TO BUY ALTERNATIVE GIFT CARDS AND RIGHT TO LIFE CHRISTMAS CARDS

This weekend is the last one to purchase Alternative Christmas cards and Right to Life of Montgomery County Christmas cards in the Gathering Space. The Alternative Gift Card program allows parishioners to donate to a local charity in the name of a gift recipient, helping both a local nonprofit organization and offering a non-commercial gift of service to a friend or loved one. Both the Alternative Gift Cards and the Right to Life cards will be set up in the Gathering Space after all Masses this weekend; please consider supporting both of these worthy programs. Thank you!

PLEASE SAVE YOUR COATS FOR THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES COAT DRIVE

If you are expecting to replace or receive a new coat this Christmas, then please save your old one for the annual Catholic Charities Coat Drive on January 18 and 19, 2020. We will be collecting new and gently used coats, scarves, hats, mittens and gloves for the archdiocesan coat drive. Volunteers are also needed to help sort the coats and outerwear the week of January 19. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

SUPPORT THE AGING RELIGIOUS

Religious give thanks. "Thank you hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement for Religious Fund. *Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last's week's collection*

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.

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.

MARRIAGE IS YOUR VOCATION - START LIVING IT

You can have a deep spiritual life in communion with your spouse and Christ - come discover Teams of Our Lady, a Roman Catholic married lay movement that helps you structure and grow your conjugal spiritual life. We will hold an information session on Saturday, January 4, at 1:00 pm at St. John Neumann Church, in the Neumann House (across the street from the church). For more information or to RSVP please contact Mary Singleton, mpksingleton@yahoo.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS



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 today, 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.

RE CLASS SCHEDULE AND THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Religious Education classes will meet on a normal schedule this week, December 15, 16, and 17. There are NO Religious Education classes on the following days:

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, December 22, 23 & 24.
Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, December 29, 30 & 31.

Religious Education classes will resume on January 5, 6 and 7.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PREP DAY SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

Children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will attend a day of preparation on Saturday, January 4 from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm in the Parish Center (Snow date: January 11). Please pray for these children who will receive this Sacrament on Saturday, January 18.

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 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,

Happy Advent season! We will close out the calendar year with the following events:

- Sunday December 15: Fundraiser Selling Religious Items, CDs and Cookbooks. (After all Masses but the 5 pm Youth Mass)
- Sunday December 15: Christmas Caroling from 2-4:30 pm. (Meet at the Symphony House, 6020 Needwood Road in Rockville)
- 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!

*God bless you,
Sarah Seyed-Ali*

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

SJRCS RE-ENROLLMENT

The re-enrollment period is upon us! Register now 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!](#)

DIAMONDS AND DENIM GALA

PLEASE JOIN US MARCH 21, 2020 AT 6:00 PM

All proceeds will be used for an **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY LAB**

*Silent Auction * Raffles * Live Auction
Buffet Dinner * Online and Mobile Bidding * Dancing
Featuring Live Band: [DOCTORS ORDERS](#)*

Casual Dress (Come wearing your favorite denim and diamonds!). **Buy Your Jeep Renegade Raffle Ticket online TODAY! \$50 per ticket and only 500 tickets will be sold**
<https://sosj.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/DenimandDiamonds/tabid/1098759/Default.aspx>

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WITHOUT A CHRISTMAS BOUNTY AS YOU GROCERY SHOP

As you shop for your Christmas meals in the next few weeks, please pick up a few extra non-perishable food items for the St. Martin Food Pantry bin in the Gathering Space. Help area families enjoy some special holiday foods, as we celebrate our Christmas bounty and blessings, too. For more information, please contact the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Food Ministry Co-ordinators Carolyn Brauer at carolyn_brauer@yahoo.com or Christine Young at youngbodywork@hotmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Over the next few days and months, please consider some of the following volunteer opportunities at Catholic Charities of Washington DC. *Contribute to the needs of saints; establish hospitality to strangers.* Romans 12:13.

- *Christmas Caroling at Shelters*
Join Troubadour Deacon Jim and his fiddling friend to sing carols to the residents at two shelters on the evenings of December 18, 19 and 23. Provide your own transportation; we will provide the song sheets! Get details and sign up at www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteercalendar.
- *Tax Return Preparation Volunteer*
Catholic Charities runs an IRS-sponsored Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site at the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University. The site provides tax assistance to low- and moderate-income families on Saturdays from February 1 through April 15. Volunteers typically perform one of three functions: intake interviews, tax return preparation or senior review of tax returns. Volunteers in each of these three roles interface with the taxpayer (and occasionally their families). For more information visit: www.CatholiccharitiesDC.org/volunteer and click 'Deeper Dive.'
- *Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Trainer*
Catholic Charities is seeking an experienced domestic violence advocate to join its Domestic Violence Awareness Speakers Bureau. Volunteers will conduct parish workshops and presentations to raise awareness about domestic violence and help prevent it. Volunteers in the field should have experience assisting domestic violence survivors and should enjoy public speaking. Volunteers will have attended or be willing to attend the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) advocate training, which is a free, 40-hour course. For more information and to apply, visit the Catholic Charities volunteer portal at <http://bttr.im/j9zrq>.

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.

APPLY NOW FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Parents of children who are attending a Maryland Catholic school, please take note: The Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Knights of Columbus Insurance Advisors are sponsoring several high school scholarships to benefit its members and Catholic students in general.

- The Frederick M. Gossman Memorial High School Scholarship is designed to help brother Knights who are members of councils in Maryland to pay tuition for their sons and daughters at accredited Catholic schools. Three grants of \$1,500 per year, for up to four years, will be awarded on the basis of academic excellence, personal qualifications and financial need. The children of deceased members are also eligible, if the member was in good standing at the time of death.
- The William J. O'Brien Jr. Memorial Catholic High School Scholarship is open to any Catholic student who is a Maryland resident, including any child or grandchild or a Knights of Columbus member in Maryland. Three grants of \$1,500 per year for up to four years will be awarded based on academic excellence, personal qualifications and financial need. Applicants must have been officially accepted at or be students at accredited Catholic high schools.

The application period continues through February 1, 2020, the date by which all applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee. To learn more about or to apply for a scholarship, please go to the www.kofc-md.org, select 'Programs' and 'High School Scholarship Programs.'

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!

PARENTAL & SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The St. Elizabeth Bereavement Ministry will offer an eight-week bereavement support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse or significant other. The Spring series will begin on Wednesday, January 15th and continue for eight consecutive Wednesdays through March 4th. This will be a morning series running from 10:00-11:30 am. There is no fee, but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. To register, contact Deacon Kevin Byrne at kevin_byrne@verizon.net or Claudia McAuliffe at 301-881-1457. 917 Montrose Road, Rockville MD 20852