

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

 **Mass Intentions**

January 13 - January 19

Monday, 1/13	9:00 a.m.	Peggy Layer
Tuesday, 1/14	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
Wednesday, 1/15	9:00 a.m.	Msgr. Maurice O’Connell
	7:30 p.m.	Paul James
Thursday, 1/16	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Ronald J. Meyer
Friday, 1/17	9:00 a.m.	Bridie Browne
Saturday, 1/18	9:00 a.m.	Louis H. Milotte
	5:00 p.m.	In Thanksgiving Leitn Family (L)
	Sunday, 1/19	8:00 a.m.
	9:30 a.m.	Zenaida Nabor
	11:15 a.m.	Barbara Cox
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Marge Locke, mother of Louise Locke, Mary Catherine Kohler, wife of William Kohler, Fernando Moreno, Elaine Becker, mother of Keith Becker, Susan Culler, Margaret Madden, mother of Joe Madden, Stephen Gubenia, father of Kelly Cochran.

Please pray for the sick... Allan Degen, Alli Campagna, Maria M. Faria Meade, Bob Jones, 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 January 12, 2020

Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/ Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17
Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19 [17a]/ Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/ Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [8a and 9a]/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 [27b]/ Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 1\$0-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 [2]/ Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mk 2:13-17

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

From January 5-11, 2020 (last week) the Church in the United States celebrated National Migration Week. The theme for this year’s celebration was “Promoting a Church and a World for All.” This reflects the need for Catholics to be inclusive and welcoming to all our brothers and sisters. It is a call for unity to stand in solidarity with and care for those who are excluded and marginalized.

It is with this ideal in mind—that we call for a church that welcomes, protects, promotes, and integrates all, including immigrants and refugees. These four verbs have been used by Pope Francis to frame our obligations toward migrant populations. As he expressed in his 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees message:

Welcoming means, above all, “offering broader options for migrants and refugees to enter destination countries safely and legally.” We must nurture societies that aim as much as possible to include, rather than exclude. A culture of encounter that emphasizes humanity and inherent dignity best counters anti-immigration sentiment and welcoming is a vital step in that journey.

Protecting migrants “may be understood as a series of steps intended to defend the rights and dignity of migrants, independent of their legal status.” The Catholic Church has long emphasized the importance of protecting the human dignity of migrants, both through the implementation of humane policies and through their accompaniment.

Promoting essentially means a “determined effort to ensure that all migrants and refugees—as well as communities that would welcome them—are empowered to achieve their potential as human beings, in all the dimensions which constitute their humanity.” Of importance here is our obligation to institute practices and policies that will promote and preserve the integrity of the family, reaffirm family reunification, and make allowances for family members to work following their arrival to new destination countries.

Integrating emphasizes the “opportunities for intercultural enrichment brought about by the presence of migrants and refugees.” Although the initial act of welcoming migrants is an important step, it is imperative that we go further and take the necessary steps that will help them to become active, participating members of our communities.

We have taken to heart here all four of these principles of Pope Francis to frame our obligations toward migrant populations. In a recent Flocknote I highlighted the efforts of our parish to help four refugee families through our Pax Christi ministry. These families, whose homelands include Syria and the Central African Republic, have fled their homelands because of civil strife and unsafe environments.

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

The Baptism of the Lord

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Are we open to seeing the Holy Spirit acting through unexpected people or guiding us in unexpected ways?

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

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

Mary Battista
Mark & Justine Crimans

The following children were baptized during the month of December:

Lucy Camilla Bobb
Aymar Jairo Estrada
Dorothy Darling O'Brien
Avery Mary Sadaat Seyed-Ali
Charlotte Oona Sadaat Seyed-Ali

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Since 2017 through the Montgomery County Interfaith Resettlement Neighbor organization, members of St. Francis and St. Rose of Lima Parish, other churches and a synagogue have helped these young families adjust to their new lives by providing emotional, social, educational, medical, and financial support. Last year they paid dental costs for adult family members, supplemented rent payments, paid utility costs, helped purchase back-to-school supplies for 300 refugee and needy children in Hyattsville and covered the cost of missing work when one breadwinner had necessary surgery. They continue to need the help of new volunteers with providing transportation, tutoring in English and school work, identifying housing, assisting with medical needs, helping with budgeting, legal documentation support, and other emergency support.

I am very proud of this work of dedicated members of our parish. But even with that I hope that we could take some time during this month to reflect on how we can better welcome, protect, promote, and integrate migrants living in our midst. What policies can we promote that will affirm the dignity of migrants and better secure the common good? How do we work more fully to promote a Church for all?

Until next week,
Fr. John

SAVE THE DATE!

Please mark your calendars for three upcoming events happening at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in coming weeks:

- **Sunday, January 26:** Pope Francis declared January 25 and 26 as Sunday of the Word of God. After the 11:15 am Mass on January 26, the Adult Faith Formation Ministry will sponsor a "Stay for 30" gathering in the church, during which parishioners will hear a presentation on the Gospel of Matthew and take part in a discussion. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.
- **Saturday, February 1:** Join us for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Dance to be held Saturday, Feb. 1, in the Parish Center. The event is sponsored by the Parish Pastoral Council and more details will follow. For more information, please contact Parish Pastoral Council member Alicia Church at churcham@hotmail.com.
- **Saturday, March 14:** Hoops for Haiti to be held at the Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Gymnasium in Olney. Get ready for the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, the main basketball event and a very special musical guest. For more information, contact Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com or parishioner Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net.

SWING TO THE OLNEY BIG BAND AND SUPPORT THE HAITI MEDICAL MISSION

Are you looking for a swinging good time and an opportunity to support the Haiti Medical Mission? If so, then join us at 7:30 pm Saturday, January 18, in the church for the Haiti Benefit Concert, featuring the Olney Big Band. This traditional jazz big band specializes in classic swing, jazz and dance music from the Big Band Era of the 30s and 40s and arrangements from the 50s to present day. The concert is free and open to the public, with donations benefitting the Haiti Medical Mission in St. Francis of Assisi's sister parish in Léon, Haiti. Please stay for a post-concert reception, featuring light hors d'oeuvres and desserts, in the Gathering Space. For more information, please contact Director of Music Ministry Janet Pate at sfadwmusic@gmail.com.

January 12, 2020

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m., St. Clare's Chapel in the Rectory. 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, (240) 751-7259 or mariannebu@comcast.net with your requests.

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

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.

TRIENNIAL NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA

On behalf of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, USA, thanks to those who contributed to this collection last week. Your generosity will assist Archbishop Broglio in the mission, "Serving Those Who Serve," and will help make it possible for Catholic men and women, and their families, currently serving in the U.S. Military, to receive the sacraments and pastoral care no matter their location around the globe. Your support will also provide the sacraments and pastoral care to those who are wounded, or as veterans being cared for in one of the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. Thank you for supporting the men and women, and their families, from our own parish and diocese who serve and protect this great nation, and who defend the freedoms we hold dear.

JOIN KOC MONTGOMERY COUNCIL 2323 FOR DINNER

Spaghetti and meatballs! No better way to enjoy food and fellowship than with family and friends. On Sunday, January 26th, the Knights of Columbus' chefs will be serving a fresh garden salad, Spaghetti & Meatballs, garlic bread, wine, beer and soft drinks. Dinner will be served from 3:00 to 7:00 pm at the Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road in Derwood. Tickets are available after all Masses today at \$10.00 for adults (ages 14 & above); \$7.00 for children (ages 7 to 13); free for children 6 & under; or, \$35.00 for a family; or by contacting Mike Thomas in advance at (301) 330-5970 or cinnabarmike@verizon.net. Proceeds will support St. Francis' Medical Mission to Haiti.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS RESULTS

Thank you so much for your generous support. We collected \$10,310 in donations to help our brothers and sisters locally, in Haiti, and throughout the world.

CALLED TO LOVE: THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Continuing Education Course,
Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
January 22 - April 15, 2020
Pontifical John Paul II Institute
For Studies on Marriage & Family
620 Michigan Avenue NE
Washington DC 20064

For more information, email information@johnpaulii.edu or call 202-526-3799. The class fee is \$150. This course can be taken toward renewal requirements for VCEA licensure. Numerous high schools in the Archdiocese of Washington accept the course for CEU credits.

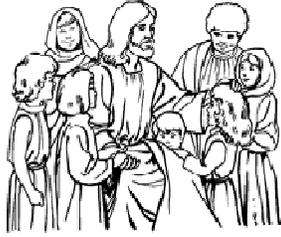
CATHOLIC CHARITIES COAT DRIVE TAKES PLACE NEXT WEEKEND

If you're cleaning out your winter clothing, then please set aside any gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for the Catholic Charities Coat Drive on January 18/19 in the Gathering Space. This archdiocesan coat drive also accepts new donations of winter outerwear. 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

SMALL GROUPS CONTINUE STUDYING THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Please pray for the participants of the Gospel of Matthew Small Groups that are studying the second half of the Gospel over the next four weeks. If you are interested in joining a Small Group, sign-ups for the Lenten Small Groups will begin in just a few weeks. We will be studying the Cycle A Gospel readings, guided by the *Live Lent!* study guide. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

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 class meets today, Sunday, January 12 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.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Children of St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this Saturday, January 18 at 10:00 am. Please pray for these children as they prepare for and receive the gift of God's forgiveness in this beautiful Sacrament.

RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Please note that Religious Education classes will not meet next week, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, January 19, 20 and 21, in honor of the Martin Luther King Day holiday.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Confirmation candidates will meet on Tuesday, January 21, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

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.

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Dear Parents, Guardians and Teens,

Happy New Year! Last week we began offering a few additional programs for youth in grades nine through 12. Teens are welcome to sit in on any of these monthly or weekly events! All of these events meet in the Gathering Space unless otherwise noted.

- Weekly Youth Group Meeting- Sundays at 6:15 pm.
- Weekly Faith in Action (Helping with a Religious Education class)- Mondays at 4:30 pm.
- Weekly Personal Finance Group- Mondays at 6:45 pm.

Please save the date for the following special events:

- Sunday, January 19: 2020 National Evangelization Team Retreat from 1-9 pm - Meet at the St. John Neuman Parish Neuman House (9001 Warfield Rd, Gaithersburg, MD).
- Friday, January 24: 2020 March for Life Rally and Mass-Meet at the Shady Grove Metro Station at 5:30 am.
- Saturday, February 1-2: Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser after all Masses.
- Friday, February 7-Sunday, February 9: 2020 MOUNT 2000- Meet in the St. John Neuman parking lot at 5 pm.

God bless you,
Sarah Seyed-Ali

TEENS, JOIN US AT THE RALLY FOR LIFE ON JANUARY 24

High school youth, do you want to make a stand for life in the new year? Join the St. Francis High School Youth Group at the Rally of Life on January 24 in Washington DC, as we walk in solidarity with thousands who support a culture of life from birth to death. The gathering occurs on the 47th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on Roe vs. Wade, which legalized abortion in all 50 states. For more information, please contact Youth Minister Sarah Seyed-Ali at sfayouth@sfadw.org.

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.

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

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Join us January 31, 2020 as we celebrate the rich culture and worldwide traditions that make St. Jude such a special place. We need you to help make this event a success! We are asking volunteers to set up booths that represent the country you come from with food and items from that country. Contact Ms. Balog at Katharine.Balog@StJudeRockville.org to help.

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

All proceeds support our goal 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](https://sosj.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/DenimandDiamonds/tabid/1098759/Default.aspx)

CHESS CLUB Winter 2020

Register Now! Grades K and up

Club meets Mondays, 1/13 to 3/16, 3:15 to 4:15 PM

Club does not meet on 1/20 and 2/17.

Learn chess from a Silver Knights Chess coach! Class time is split between lesson and play. Lessons range from learning the rules to advanced tournament strategies, depending on the children. Play time is structured to pair each student against an opponent of similar skill. All grades and skill levels are welcome. Silver Knights will supply all the equipment during chess club. Students will have the opportunity to play in tournaments. \$116 (financial aid available) Register at <https://skenrichment.com/clubs/montgomery/product/st-jude-regional-catholic-school-chess-club-winter-2020.html> or <https://www.stjuderockville.org/>

ROBOTICS CLUB Winter 2020

Register Now! Grades 1 and up

<https://www.stjuderockville.org/> or at [https://skenrichment.com/
clubs/montgomery/product/st-jude-regional-catholic-school-
robotics-club-winter-2020.html](https://skenrichment.com/clubs/montgomery/product/st-jude-regional-catholic-school-robotics-club-winter-2020.html)

\$176 (financial aid available)

Club meets Tuesdays, 1/14 to 3/3, 3:15 to 4:15 PM

Make LEGO® WeDo 2.0 SpaceBots in this session of Robotics Club! Each week, students build and code a different space-themed robot using LEGO® gears, pulleys, axles, motors and sensors. This is the droid you're looking for!

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.

**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!

GROW IN INTIMACY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Mother of God Community is offering a free series of teaching and activation in spiritual gifts. Grow in intimacy with the Holy Spirit, Giver of the Gifts, and learn how to be activated to exercise those gifts. We will be using Damian Stayne's book *Lord, Renew Your Wonders: Spiritual Gifts for Today*. Our first meeting is Sunday, January 26 at 6 pm. Register online growin-charisms.eventbrite.com

**MOTHER TERESA VOCATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL DAY OF RECOLLECTION**

- Saturday, January 18, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Annunciation Catholic Church (3810 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.).
- Rev. Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations for the Archdiocese of Washington, will lead a Day of Reflection and Susan Conroy will be the keynote speaker. The day will include Mass, Adoration, Confessions, a reflection by Fr. Ivany, and presentation by Susan Conroy. Lunch will be served and donations are welcome. It is not required to be an MTVS member to attend this event!
- For more information, please visit www.dcpriest.org, or contact Maris Moriarty at moriarty@adw.org or 202-636-9020.

MARRIAGE HELP

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the September program beginning with a weekend on 24-26 January 2020 call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.org

PUT YOUR PRO-LIFE BELIEFS INTO ACTION

The Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery County assists needy women and women in crisis pregnancies in Montgomery County. Women volunteers (especially bilingual Spanish speaking women) are needed to stay in touch with client mothers. This includes keeping in touch with them via phone or email during their pregnancy, bringing them needed items such as diapers, baby clothes, etc. that are provided by the Gabriel Project, and praying for them. The average time commitment would be approximately 1 - 4 hours per month (or less). Men are also needed to pick up donations once or twice per month. Event Assistants are also needed for approximately 1 - 2 hours per month. Daily prayer supporters are also needed. Donations of diapers and formula are also appreciated. Please check out our website at www.gpmoco.org. For more information, please call Diane Reinke at 301-946-4815, or e-mail Carmen Rojas at gccthompson@juno.com.