

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

January 20 - January 26

Monday, 1/20	9:00 a.m.	Joseph Thomas Stehle, Sr.
Tuesday, 1/21	9:00 a.m.	Adolfo Arias
Wednesday, 1/22	9:00 a.m.	Catherine Dillon Bullen
	7:30 p.m.	Bernard Kohan, Sr. (L)
Thursday, 1/23	9:00 a.m.	Dulce Lejarde
Friday, 1/24	9:00 a.m.	Kathleen Miller
Saturday, 1/25	9:00 a.m.	Richard William Dunphy I
	5:00 p.m.	Lucia Mc Anallen
Sunday, 1/26	8:00 a.m.	Cho Chui
	9:30 a.m.	Antoinette Cronise
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	5:00 p.m.	Karl Ruuh (L)

Please pray for the sick... Tyler Joseph Grondalski, Christine Grondalski, Diane Comly, Allan Degen, Alli Campagna, Maria M. Faria Meade, Bob Jones, 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 January 19, 2020

Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/ 1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
Monday:	1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28 [21a]/ Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 [1]/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13 [5b]/Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11 [2a]/ Mk 3:13-19
Saturday:	Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Mk 16:15-18
Next Sunday:	Is 8:23—9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/ 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I have been reading a series of emails from the Office for Justice, Peace, and Human Development of the United States Conference on Catholic Bishops (USCCB) concerning Poverty Awareness month, which we are currently observing. I was particularly moved by several of their reflections on several events that will occur this week. I thought that I would share these reflections with you in this week's column.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Today, reflect on the role of our civil leaders and their obligation to implement policies that are just and promote the common good. The moral criterion that should guide these policies is how well those who are poor and vulnerable are treated. The Two Feet of Love in Action remind us that we are called to meet immediate needs and also work for fair and just policies that can address poverty and injustice at their roots. To learn more about the Two Feet of Love in Action please view this link: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/two-feet-of-love-in-action.cfm.

Challenge: Learn about the domestic and international policies that affect poverty and the Church's teaching on poverty and the common good. Visit the USCCB's Action Center to join in advocacy to address the causes of poverty. To visit the USCCB's Action Center, please view the following link: <https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/home>. Say a prayer to confront global poverty and reflect on how God is calling you to share his love in your own community.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Dr. Martin Luther King fought tirelessly to eliminate injustice and segregation from the minds and hearts of the American people. He understood that eliminating poverty is not a hand-out; it is restoring the respect that all persons deserve. Read more from Dr. King's 1967 speech "Where Do We Go From Here?" To read his speech, please view the following link: <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/where-do-we-go-here-address-delivered-eleventh-annual-sclc-convention>.

Challenge: Learn about—and join—Catholics in the work to address the sin of racism and end racial injustice in our communities. *Everyone Belongs*, a new book from USCCB and Loyola Press tells the story of children who were inspired by their faith to respond to racism in a powerful way.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton was the first African American to be ordained a priest in the United States. A former slave who was baptized and raised Catholic, Tolton studied formally in Rome and led development and construction of St. Monica's Catholic Church as a black "National Parish Church" in the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1893. "Good Father Gus," as he was called by many, dedicated himself to ministering to his parishioners, many of whom were living in poverty, and empowered them with the Gospel message of peace and justice through adult religious education classes and catechism classes. Fr. Tolton's simple message of perseverance and faith in a time of adversity and difficulty is an incredible example for us and the lives we are called to live now.

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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Am I willing to serve those who are not of my own tribe, as did Jesus, as did Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist?

HOOPS FOR HAITI COMING UP MARCH 14

Your favorite basketball event is almost here! Join us on Saturday, March 14, for the ninth annual Hoops for Haiti basketball fundraiser at the Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Gymnasium, an event co-sponsored by the High School Youth Group and the Haiti Ministry. The event will kick off with the 3-on-3 tournament, in which teams of three people battle it out during a mini tournament for bragging rights, culminating in the main event between the Ol' Saints (adults) and the Swole Saints (teens/young adults). This year, Catholic singer/songwriter Gretchen Harris will share her vocal talents with the Hoops for Haiti audience between the 3-on-3 tournament and the main event. Don't miss this special performance by United Catholic Music and Video Association's Female Vocalist of the Year! For more information, please contact parishioner Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net or Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21 (continued)

Challenge: Learn more about Fr. Tolton and other inspiring holy men and women who worked courageously to address racism in their communities. Please visit this link in order to say a prayer to address the sin of racism: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/prayer-to-address-the-sin-of-racism.cfm>.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

Today is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn. Please visit this link: https://www.wearesaltandlight.org/success-stories-act#life_justice, to read about the connection between abortion and poverty and how our call to create a culture of life is tied to our call to empower those living in poverty. We must work together to protect the life and dignity of all persons, at every state, promoting rights for all.

Later this week, Catholic leaders from across the country will gather in Washington, DC for the 2020 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering where we will explore how we as a Church are called to witness to unity as we work together to promote a consistent ethic of life. Please visit this link to learn more: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/477914>. There is still time to join us on January 25-28 as we pray, learn, and advocate for life and justice for all.

Pray: You can participate in this day through prayer or through special events offered by your diocese to observe the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Please visit this link to find liturgical resources for the Day of Prayer, including intercessions, homily notes, and more: www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources/january-22-day-of-prayer-leader-resources.cfm.

Until next week,

Fr. John

SIGN UP NEXT WEEK

FOR LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

Are you interested in joining a Lenten Small Group? Participants will be focusing on the weekly Sunday Mass readings during Lent, with opportunities to play, reflect and meditate on the readings as a group, allowing members to share their insights about the readings and discuss how it applies to their life. The weekly discussions will happen in small groups meeting either in church or at homes. Sign-ups for the Lenten Small Groups will begin the weekend of January 25/26 and continue over the next three weeks in the Gathering Space. For more information, please e-mail Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

COME TO THE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER DANCE

St. Francis ministers, are you ready to dust off your dancing shoes? This weekend, sign up in the Gathering Space for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Dance to be held Saturday, February 1 in the Parish Center. With a theme of "1960's Disco Party," pull out your bell bottoms and your peace signs to celebrate a great year of ministry service at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

The Parish Pastoral Council is requesting that any parishioners with 60s décor or home goods loan it to the parish for this one evening to help decorate the Parish Center. If you have any items you can loan, please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407. For more information, please contact Special Events Ministry Coordinator Sylvia Jones at decaffqueen@gmail.com.

RSVPs can also be given by responding to the Flocknote sent last week or by calling the Parish Office. Please only respond by one means so we can keep an accurate head and meal count. For more information about the dinner and dance, please contact Parish Council member Alicia Church at alicia.church@collaborationcouncil.org.

ST. FRANCIS PAX CHRISTI MEETING CHANGE

The meeting time for Pax Christi at St. Francis has changed to the 2nd Tuesday of every month, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Location is still in the basement of the rectory in the Youth Room. **All are welcome!**

January 19, 2020

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, January 21, 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 Prison Ministry Outreach Program. *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.

SPIRIT TREE REPORT

Thank you to Spirit Tree Ministry Coordinator Bobbie McLaughlin, her volunteers and the more than 100 parishioners who generously supported the 2019 Spirit Tree Ministry over Advent. St. Francis of Assisi Church donated more than 140 gifts to the Pope Francis Outreach Center at Assumption Catholic Church in Washington DC. If anyone would like to get more involved with helping coordinate this seasonal ministry, then please contact Director of Adult Faith Formation and Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

To mark the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, students are invited to wear their school uniform next weekend Saturday/Sunday, January 25/26, to the Mass they will be attending. St. Francis will hold an Opening Mass to begin Catholic Schools Week next Sunday at the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

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.

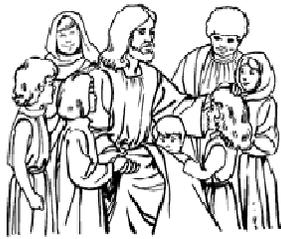
MINISTRY NEWS

JOYFUL GREETERS: As we begin 2020, are you looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of others? Consider becoming a Joyful Greeter at St. Francis! The Joyful Greeter Ministry is comprised of a wonderful group of parishioners who are dedicated to making everyone's experience at Mass positive. Joyful Greeters arrive 20 minutes before Mass and welcome parishioners as they enter the church. In addition, they open the doors at the end of Mass and wish everyone a great week. A warm smile, a simple greeting and wishes for a great week help us build and strengthen our parish community. If you are interested in becoming a Joyful Greeter, please contact Ministry Coordinator Helen Hayes at helenhayes@aol.com. This ministry doesn't require a lot of time, but makes our parishioners and guests feel welcome and valued. Come be a part of a ministry that brings JOY to all!

MEN OF EMMAUS: Men of our parish, if you are interested in increasing fellowship with fellow Christian men and strengthening your prayer life, then check out the Men of Emmaus. A small group of Catholic men of all ages and life stages, the members meet for doughnuts on Saturday morning and delve into a discussion about Scripture or other spiritual texts. Over the next few weeks, we will be studying the Book of Sirach, which the United States Congregation of Catholic Bishops states "contains numerous well-crafted maxims....[on] friendship, education, poverty and wealth, laws, religious worship, and many other matters." For more information, please contact Ministry Coordinator Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net.

MARY/MARTHA: Are you interested in studying Scripture and other spiritual books alongside Catholic women wanting to deepen their faith? If so, join the Mary/Martha Women's Group, which meets at 7:30 pm every other Wednesday in the Rectory's Youth Room. We are currently reading the book, *Mary Magdalene, Prophetess of Eucharistic Love*, and have extra copies to lend. Our gatherings begin with light refreshments and social time and continue at 8 pm with prayer, a reading of the text and discussion. We read and process the readings as a group, so no need to do advance preparation on your own. Our next meetings will be on January 22; February 4; February 19; March 4 and March 18. For more information, please e-mail Ministry Coordinator Carolyn Brauer at carolyn_brauer@yahoo.com and enter 'Mary/Martha' in the subject line.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS



RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Please note that Religious Education classes will not meet this 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.

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 meets next Sunday, January 26 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.

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.

9 DAYS FOR LIFE PRAY TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE! January 21-29, 2020

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join today at www.9daysforlife.com. You can also visit www.respectlife.org and click 9 days for life at the top of the page for daily prayers.

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Dear Parents, Guardians and Teens,

Happy New Year! This month, 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 Neumann Parish Neumann House, 9001 Warfield Rd, Gaithersburg.
- 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 Neumann 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.

MOTHER OF GOD CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Mother of God Catholic School near Laytonsville is having their annual Open House on Sunday, January 26 from 11:00 am- 2:00 pm. Offering the largest Catholic PreK in the area, a rigorous K-8 curriculum and strong Catholic identity on a beautiful 18 acre campus just 15 minutes from Derwood. Mother of God School: 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20879. For more information, or to schedule a tour, contact Melanie Brown at 301.990.2089 ext. 11 or mbrown@mogschool.com. Come and see what a Catholic School Education can do for your child

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude
www.StJudeRockville.org

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (CSW): LEARN. SERVE. LEAD. SUCCEED.

CSW is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. SJRCS will observe CSW week with Masses, open house and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, we focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to Church, local communities and the nation.

Catholic Schools Week Schedule*

- January 25 5:00pm - Opening Mass at Shrine of St. Jude
- January 26 9:30am - Opening Mass at St. Francis of Assisi
- January 27 8:30am - Volunteer coffee
- January 28 Service day
- January 29 Open house 9-11:30am /6-8pm
- January 30 Family lunch
- January 31 9:00am closing Mass/International Day/12:00 dismissal-teacher appreciation day

**More events tbd*

OPEN HOUSE - We would love to share the story of our school with you. Attend our Open House to see our wonderful teachers in action and experience our welcoming community first-hand. SJRCS will be hosting an Open House on: Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 9:00-11:30am and 6:00-8:00pm. Applications for enrollment for the 2020 school year are being accepted. Do not delay as we already have waiting lists in several classes. Visit www.stjuderockville.org. Go to Admission, then Apply Online, then Enrollment: TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment.

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 \$50 per ticket and only 500 tickets will be sold. Get your tickets today!**

CONCERNED ABOUT THE CRISIS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Catholic author Kevin Wells will give a pre-Lenten talk on his bestselling book The Priests We Need to Save the Church on Monday, February 10 at 7:30 pm at St John Neumann Catholic Church, 9000 Warfield Rd, Gaithersburg. The talk will be preceded by the Rosary at 7 pm. There will be an opportunity to meet the author and purchase his book after the talk. Come, pray, and listen to Kevin Wells share his unique insight and answers to the crisis in the Catholic Church today. For additional information visit saintjohnneumann.org.

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

EVER AFTER COUPLES RETREAT

All married and engaged couples are invited to attend a one day retreat at St. Mary's Church 520 Veirs Mill Rd, Rockville, MD. **Saturday, February 1, 10 am to 3:30 pm.** The theme is *The Destiny of Our Love*. Keynote speakers are Dr. Nicholas and Maruska Healy. Please register in advance at everafterretreat.eventbrite.com. Lunch will be provided.

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.'