

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

January 27 - February 2

Monday, 1/27	9:00 a.m.	Brenda Kawahara
Tuesday, 1/28	9:00 a.m.	Fritz Mitchell
Wednesday, 1/29	9:00 a.m.	Alexander O'Connor
	7:30 p.m.	Guy Beaven
Thursday, 1/30	9:00 a.m.	Amelia Dudenhoefter
Friday, 1/31	9:00 a.m.	Dr. Rodney F. Holcomb
Saturday, 2/1	9:00 a.m.	Matthew Capetta
	5:00 p.m.	Leonard Guild
Sunday, 2/2	8:00 a.m.	John Coady Dillon, Jr.
	9:30 a.m.	Antoinette Cronise
	11:15 a.m.	Gioankin Phu Binh Tran
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

Please pray for the sick...Brenda Dunphy, Frank Knorr, Tyler Joseph Grondalski, Christine Grondalski, Diane Comly, Allan Degen, 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 26, 2020

Sunday:	Is 8:23—9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/ 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23
Monday:	2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26 [25a]/ Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday:	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [8]/ Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday:	2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89: 4-5, 27-28, 29-30 [29a]/ Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14 [Lk 1:32b]/Mk 4:21-25
Friday:	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11 [cf. 3a]/Mk 4:26
Saturday:	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12a]/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday:	Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [10b]/Heb 2:14-18/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Catholic Schools Weeks (CSW) is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Now entering its forty-sixth anniversary years, CSW has been traditionally held during the last week of January. This year it will be observed from January 26 to February 1, 2020. I have met families in our parish over the nearly seven years that I have been pastor at St. Francis of Assisi whose children attend a number of Catholic Schools: First of all, I want to mention some of the elementary schools used by parish families: St. Jude Regional School, St. Patrick's School, St. Peter's School, St. Raphael's School, Mary of Nazareth School, and Mother of God School. A number of our young people attend Catholic secondary schools including Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, St. John's College High School, Academy of the Holy Cross, Gonzaga College High School, Stoneridge School of the Sacred Heart, and the Heights School. I am adapting some of my remarks below from material that can be found on Catholic Schools on the website for the Archdiocese of Washington.

As we celebrate this Catholic Schools Week, I want to talk about Catholic schools, which are rooted in Gospel values and the teaching mission of the Catholic Church, are learning communities of faith and service that are dedicated to educational equity and excellence for all students. Each Catholic school offers an encounter with Jesus Christ. Each maintains a rigorous, engaging curriculum based on the highest academic standards. Three important reasons to consider Catholic schools are Faith, Family, and Lifelong Learning. Let me talk about each of these three aspects.

Faith is not just an aspect of religion class—it should be central to all learning. That is why our Catholic schools integrate Catholic identity into the curriculum. Indeed, students in Catholic schools won't just learn about math, science, history, literature and the arts—they will learn about these subjects in a well-rounded way with the teachings of Christ at the center. It is the difference between a secular education and one that encourages all students to share Christ's love through kindness and service to the community. Students in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Washington have the opportunity to attend Mass, are invited to participate in daily prayer, and celebrate Christmas, Lent, and Easter. God is in every classroom.

Family. When children enter one of our Catholic schools, it is like joining a family. Catholic school families and students will be surrounded by caring people who share similar values and experiences. Families, teachers, faculty, and clergy know each other well and join together to help every children succeed. I know this from personal experience. At the end of seventh grade I had to have two operations because I was having trouble walking. I remember my seventh grade teacher making special arrangements with my parents to take my end of the year exams because the doctor had put me on bed rest prior to the first operation. When I returned at the beginning of eight grade the principal had met with family and the faculty to devise a plan for me to come to school so that my education would not be impeded while my leg healed from the surgical intervention.

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What divisions among the people of my life can I help to heal? How can I build unity in my family, parish, or community?

THE LUNCH BUNCH IS BACK!



FEBRUARY 2020 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, February 5 at 12:00 Noon at Outta the Way Café, 17503 Redland Road, 301-963-6895. If you are planning to attend, please contact Mary Lou Habib and she will save a seat for you, (301) 417-0243.

THANK YOU FROM THE SHADY GROVE PREGNANCY CENTER

On January 8, Maggie Downing, executive director of the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, thanked Fr. John Dillon for St. Francis of Assisi Parish's generous donation of nearly \$2,500 from the recent Baby Bottle Campaign. "When your Church raises \$2,419.51 through your Baby Bottle Campaign, you are intervening in the lives of babies and supporting young women who choose life for their babies by demonstrating the Love of Christ," Downing wrote. "St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church's Baby Bottle Campaign and involvement with the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center helps those in our community. Thank you for partnering with us. For more information about the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center," please visit its web site at <https://www.pregnancy-options.org/>.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Family (continued)

Sr. M. Damian, RSM, who was the Principal of St. Paul School in Butler, PA, when I was in seventh and eighth grade had taught my father when he was in the fifth grade. My school community really felt like a close-knit family.

Lifelong Learning. As our children grow up and take on the challenges of the world, we want them to be role models, tackling everyday obstacles and opportunities with curiosity and a thirst for knowledge. That is the reason why Catholic schools encourage life-long learning. They set the stage by creating a strong moral and spiritual foundation that equips our children for future growth—for a lifetime.

Until next week,

Fr. John

LAST WEEKEND TO RSVP FOR THE

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER DANCE

Have you signed up yet to attend the Adult Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Dance? The event, sponsored by the Parish Pastoral Council, will start at 6:30 pm Saturday, February 1, at the Parish Center. The theme? 1960's Disco Party! Come decked out with your bell bottoms and peace signs and help celebrate another terrific year of ministry service at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

If you have any 60s memorabilia that you can loan to the Special Events Ministry, then please consider doing so to make the Parish Center as festive as possible. The ministry is interested in any era-appropriate art, small appliances, peace signs, or album covers featuring 60s artists. Items may be brought to the Parish Center between January 27-31 and can be picked up any time after the event. For more information, please contact Special Events Ministry Coordinator Sylvia Jones at decaffqueen@gmail.com. The last day to RSVP for the dinner and dance is Monday, January 27. Please call the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407 if you have not yet RSVP'd through Flocknote or in the Gathering Space. Thank you!



IT'S TIME TO SIGN-UP FOR HOOPS FOR HAITI'S 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

With less than two months before the Hoops for Haiti basketball fundraiser on Saturday, March 14, it's now time to start forming your team for the 3-on-3 basketball tournament. For the third year, the St. Francis Youth Ministry and the Haiti Ministry will kick off the annual fundraiser at the Our Lady of the Good Counsel Gymnasium with a mini basketball tournament pitting teams of three players against each other on the half court. St. Francis parishioners are encouraged to form their own teams, especially among ministry members who have made a strong showing in recent years. Come out for this family-friendly event, which will feature award-winning Catholic singer Gretchen Harris performing after the 3-on-3 tournament and the Ol' Saints and Swole Saints kicking off the main event thereafter. To sign up for the 3-on-3 tournament, please contact Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.net or parishioner Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net.

January 26, 2020

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, January 28, 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 week-end will go to Gaithersburg Help. *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 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.

FEBRUARY DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

***TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER***

***WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
ASH WEDNESDAY
BEGINNING OF LENT***

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

With Lent beginning on February 26, it's now time to consider whether you'd like to join a Small Group meeting at our parish or join one with Catholics throughout the metropolitan area. Read on for Lenten Small Group opportunities open to all adults, including the young adult community:

Live Lent! Lenten Small Groups

Meet weekly on different days for approximately 90 minutes to two hours. These Small Groups will gather in members' homes or at church to reflect on the Sunday readings each week during Lent. Guided by the *Live Lent!* study guide, published by RE-NEW International, the Small Groups will engage in prayer, reflection, meditation and discussion to understand the deeper meanings of the Gospel readings. The study guides also contain daily meditations that participants can reflect on each day throughout the Lenten season. Sign up for a Small Group in the Gathering Space beginning this weekend or contact Director of Adult Faith Formation and Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

Lenten Devotional Small Group

Meet from 8:15-8:45 am Saturdays, February 29 through April 4, in the Gathering Space. This Small Group will be provided with the daily devotional, ***Practicing Courage with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind***, and will come together weekly for prayer, sharing and fellowship. Additional copies of the devotional can be downloaded as a free PDF file in English and Spanish at livingcompass.org/lent. For more information, contact Health Ministry Coordinator Betty Baklarz at lbbaklarz@yahoo.com.

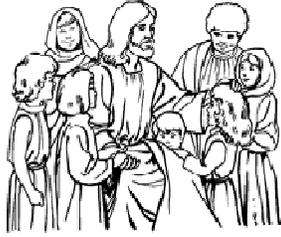
Theology of the Body for Young Adults

Young adults, are you interested in taking part in a mind-opening weekly discussion centered on St. Pope John Paul II's teachings on human love? If so, then join members of 270Catholic, as they gather for a weekly Small Group on *Theology of the Body*, based on author Christopher West's "Gift Series." The Small Group discussion will kick off at 7 pm Tuesday, February 4, at St. John the Evangelist Historic Church and Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, 9700 Rosensteel Ave., Silver Spring, MD. Follow 270Catholic on Facebook and Instagram or find more information at [@270Catholic](https://www.facebook.com/270Catholic).

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

January 31-February 2, 2020 St. John Paul II Seminary and the Washington Retreat House. Fr. Mark Ivany invites men in their 20's – 40's, who are interested in learning more about the priesthood, to attend a discernment retreat led by priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington. The weekend will be an opportunity to pray and reflect on God's call, meet priests and seminarians, hear their stories, and learn more about the seminary and priesthood. Registration is now open at www.DCPriest.org. For more information contact Fr. Mark Ivany at 202-636-9020, vocations@adw.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 26 from 3:30-4:30 pm in the Parish Center. 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.

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.

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Dear Parents, Guardians and Teens,

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:

- 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
Youth Minister*

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTER TEMPORARILY TAKES ON SAME ROLE AT ST. JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

If you've noticed the St. Francis of Assisi Youth Group engaging more with the St. John Neumann Youth Ministry, then your observations are spot-on. Since January 2020, St. Francis of Assisi Youth Minister Sarah Seyed-Ali has also taken on the Youth Minister duties at our neighboring parish in Gaithersburg for the duration of this academic school year. Sarah's dual role has allowed more engagement between the youth at the two parishes and permitted Sarah to use rooms at St. John Neumann for Youth Group activities at both parishes. For more information, please contact Sarah at sfayouth@sfadw.org.

MEN'S RETREAT - "Life in Christ: The Gift of the Sacraments" The Office for Family Life is hosting a Men's Retreat. Join men from around the Archdiocese of Washington for a weekend retreat directed by Fr. Dave Wells and Msgr. Robert Panke. Are you living the graces of a fully sacramental Life? What does it mean to live out our baptism, to live a Eucharistic life and to access the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our daily lives and relationships? This retreat will help you to reflect on the importance of our sacraments and to reconnect with the most important relationship in your life - your relationship with Christ. The retreat will be held at Priestfield Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV. To register go to the following link: <https://2020adwmensretreat.eventbrite.com> or for more information call the Office for Family Life at 301-853-4499

YOUR OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTION

Just a reminder that we do not record loose checks from the weekly collection. In order for us to track your contribution and send you a statement at the end of the year, it is suggested that you sign up for envelopes or Faith Direct. To sign up for envelopes you can call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407. To sign up for electronic contributions visit www.faithdirect.net. The code for St. Francis is MD110. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office.

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 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.

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.

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!

SHADY GROVE PREGNANCY CENTER EMPLOYMENT

Do you have a heart for women and babies? Do you have experience in fundraising and outreach? Would you like to use your talents to forward the pro-life mission? The Shady Grove Pregnancy Center is seeking a part-time Community Outreach Coordinator. This paid position will focus on developing and implementing the Center's overall fundraising and outreach to churches, organizations, foundations and other donors. Interested candidates, please send your resume to execdirector@pregnancyoptions.org.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONVOCATION ON ENGAGEMENT ACROSS GENERATIONS

Please join us for an intergenerational convocation at the Montgomery County Executive Office Building Auditorium, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville on March 21st, 2020 from 8:15 am - 1:00 pm. All parishioners are invited as the Justice and Advocacy Commission and Catholic Charities welcome you to a discussion of how we can better address the needs of all members of the county, particularly through our parishes, schools, and senior living facilities to inform parishes about the benefits of engagement across generations. For more information or to RSVP, contact leah@empoweringtheages.org or call (301) 476-0186.

BINGO & DINNER - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 Seminarian Support Knights of Columbus #11024

Germantown's Mother Seton Parish Center doors open 5:00 pm for Dinner, Bingo starts at 7:00 pm. Over \$1000 in cash prizes! Admission is \$25/player with free Bingo dauber if paid by February 14; \$30/player after February 14 (if not sold out). Admission includes door prize raffle, regular bingo games, snacks, dinner, dessert, water/soft drinks *and fun*. Must be 18 or older to attend and no alcohol is allowed. For more info and to register, including seating requests for up to 8, please e-mail wpfreetoroam@gmail.com. **Proceeds will support Mount St. Mary's Seminarians.**

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.