

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

February 24 - March 1

Monday, 2/24	9:00 a.m.	Pat & Dick Hunt
Tuesday, 2/25	9:00 a.m.	Marge Madden
Wednesday, 2/26	9:00 a.m.	Jose Luis Gonzalez
Ash Wednesday	12:00 p.m.	Marge Locke
	6:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	7:30 p.m.	Mary Catherine Kohler
Thursday, 2/27	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Wil Pinder, Jr.
Friday, 2/28	9:00 a.m.	Carole Ann Pettit
Saturday, 2/29	9:00 a.m.	Sara & Dennis Parnell (L)
	5:00 p.m.	Fred Theurer
Sunday, 3/1	8:00 a.m.	Helene Sauriol
	9:30 a.m.	Alexander Jose Brode
	11:15 a.m.	Clement Handrow
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

Please pray for the sick... Ceil Noga, Allan Degen, Amalia, Torres, Teresa Maguire, Tony Chite, Gus Tseronis, 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 February 23, 2020

Sunday:	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48
Monday:	Jas 3:13-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [9a]/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday:	Jas 4:1-10/Ps 55:7-8, 9-10a, 10b-11a, 23 [23a]/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a]/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Ps 40:5a]/Lk 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday:	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 [cf. 3a]/Rom 5:12-19/Mt 4:1-11

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

In my column today I want to continue listing some pointers on parish etiquette. These reflections were first presented by Barbara Budde in a pamphlet (which is no longer in print) for the National Pastoral Life Center. Today I want to make some suggestions about what to do if Mass has already begun or if you need to leave early.

ARRIVING AND LEAVING

At theatre productions and concerts latecomers are asked to remain in the lobby, waiting until an intermission to be seated. Some parishes follow this model and do not open the doors to latecomers until there is a break in the liturgical action of the Mass. Others ask latecomers to remain in the vestibule or in the back of the church if they arrive during the readings, psalm, or homily. What's the point? To help those who are assembled to pray together without interruption or distraction...Every parish, of course, wants all who gather to participate from the moment they arrive to the closing sound of our common prayer and song. Good planning helps us to be on time most of the time. Here are some habits to develop for arriving and leaving:

- Greet others as you arrive.
- Pick up any worship aids or hymnals you will need to participate fully.
- Make space for others to sit in any empty pews or chairs near you, even if you prefer to remain near an aisle.
- Turn off any pagers, watch alarms, or cell phones (unless you must carry such for medical emergencies or other serious reasons).

If Mass Has Already Begun...

- Use the church entrance that will be least disturbing to others who have already gathered.
- Search out seats before walking down the aisle or ask an usher or hospitality minister for assistance in finding a seat.
- Choose an appropriate time to join the assembly, such as during a song, but not during the readings or prayers. It is best to wait for the right moment to enter.
- Know that it is better to be present even if late than it is to be absent from the assembly altogether.
- Be hospitable to those already gathered (smile and use body language if you have to ask someone in a pew to move down, for example) as you silently join the assembly.

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I allow the Spirit to guide me more fully? How will that affect how I treat both those who treat me well and those who mistreat me?



THE SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER IS ALMOST HERE

Usher in Lent this week by joining us for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5-8 pm Tuesday, February 25, in the Parish Center. Bring your whole family to enjoy hotcakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns and plenty of sweet treats to dress up your pancakes. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$5 for kids six to 12; free for children under five; and \$25 for families. Interested in helping? Please contact Special Events Ministry Coordinator Sylvia Jones at (301) 762-6564. Hope to see you there!

JOIN US IN OUR PARISH'S DAY TO TAKE A STAND FOR LIFE

On Saturday, March 21, all parishioners are invited to stand up for life at St. Francis of Assisi Parish's Day, part of the Bethesda 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign. Join your fellow parishioners from 10 am to 5 pm in praying, fasting and keeping vigil at LeRoy Carhart's late-term abortion clinic, 10401 Old Georgetown Road, in Bethesda. The campaign runs from February 26 through April 5, which tracks the 40 days of Lent from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. Attendees will meet on the public sidewalk along the white fence on Old Georgetown Road. For more information, please e-mail Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

If You Need to Leave Early...

- Move at a time when the assembly is also in motion. Walk toward an exit during the Communion procession, for example.
- On leaving, remain in place until the Mass is over and the procession has left the church. The time after Communion and the concluding rites (with announcements) are both important to the communal aspect of the liturgy as a whole.
- Replace worship materials and hymnals at the end of the service.
- Clean up your personal belongings before you leave and leave the worship space tidy for the next congregation.

*Until next week,
Fr. John*

LENTEN EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

This Lent, there are many ways you can walk with Jesus through prayer, penance and almsgiving. See some of our Lenten offerings for the entire parish:

- **Ash Wednesday Masses** - Wednesday, February 26: Masses at 9 am, 12 Noon, 6 pm and 7:30 pm.
- **Lenten Small Groups on *Live Lent, Cycle A readings***: Starting the week of March 1
- **Evening Prayer**: 6:45 pm Fridays starting February 28 in the church
- **Stations of the Cross**: 7 pm Fridays starting February 28 in the church
- **Confession through *The Light Is On***: 5:30-7 pm on Wednesdays during Lent, starting March 4
- **Catholic Relief Services Activities**: CRS Rice Bowl occurring throughout Lent
- **40 Days for Life**: 10 am-5 pm on March 21 at the Carhart Clinic in Bethesda
- **Catholic Charities Food Drive**: Bags passed out on March 21/22; Food collected on March 28/29
- **Parish Penance Service**: 7 pm Monday, March 23, in the church

To see a comprehensive list of Lenten liturgies, events and activities, please go to <http://www.sfadw.org>.

LAST WEEKEND TO SIGN UP FOR A LENTEN SMALL GROUP!

If you've waited to join a Lenten Small Group, then this weekend is your last chance to sign up in the Gathering Space. Join a small group of parishioners this Lent in studying the Gospel readings and discussing their meaning and impact in your lives today. Many of the Small Groups are facilitated by parishioners with prior experience guiding small group discussions – but let Scripture and the Holy Spirit inspire your discussion, which is also structured by the *Live Lent!* study guide, published by RENEW International. For more information, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

February 23, 2020

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, February 25, 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 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).

JOIN THE SPANISH MINISTRY IN PRAYING THE ROSARY *en español*

The Spanish Ministry prays the Rosary every Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the church. If you'd like to practice your Spanish or learn this universal prayer of our church en español, then please join us! For more information about the Spanish Ministry, please contact Ministry Coordinators Deacon Will Garcia at wagarcia@comcast.net or Lourdes Garcia at legarcia@comcast.net.

HAND PAINTED EASTER EGGS

Hand painted cherry wood Easter eggs from the Sisters Congregation of Divine Mercy in Poland will be available Sunday, March 8 after the 8:00, 9:30 and 11:15 Masses for purchase in the Gathering Space. Divine Mercy religious items will also be available. All proceeds benefit the Sisters in Poland.

OLD PALMS – We will be collecting old palms through **Sunday, February 23**. Please place your palms in the Palm Collection Box in the Gathering Space.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Mon thru Sat 9:00 a.m.
Wed 7:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena follows
Wednesday Evening Mass

Lenten Evening Prayer Stations of the Cross **Friday Evenings 6:45 p.m.**
Friday Evenings 7:00 p.m.

Confession: In addition to Saturday afternoon, Confessions will be heard each Wednesday evening during Lent before Mass 5:30 –7:00 p.m. **(The Light is ON for you.)**

Confession is also heard 30 minutes before Daily Mass and Sunday Masses during Lent.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Abstinence: Catholics age 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent

Fasting: Ages 18-59 fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, limiting themselves to one full meal.

ALL ARE INVITED TO COMMEMORATE FILIPINO SAINT PEDRO SALUNGSOD ON MARCH 28

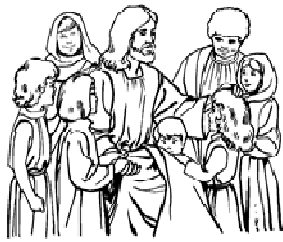
The Archdiocese of Washington, together with its Filipino communities, will commemorate the Feast Day of San Pedro Calungsod, the first Filipino saint from the Visayan region, with a series of events on Saturday, March 28, at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Kensington, MD. Beginning at 12:15 pm, the events will lead off with an opening prayer and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a service project, culminating with a Mass in Tagalog at 3 pm to be celebrated by Fr. Ryan Pineda. The event will close with a potluck reception beginning at 4 pm. All are welcome to honor San Pedro Calungsod, who worked with Spanish Jesuit missionaries at the age of 14 to help catechize natives of Guam. He was martyred in 1672 while defending his faith and was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012. San Pedro Calungsod's feast day is celebrated on Thursday, April 2. For more information, please contact parishioner Medy DeAussen, at medy-deausen@comcast.net.

CAR NEEDED

The parish Pax Christi group needs your help in obtaining a used car in good condition for one of the families we assist on refugee/asylee status. If you have a car you would like to donate or sell cheaply, please contact Mary Kate Ryner at rynoslp@msn.com or Chris King at caking.home@gmail.com. If you donate your car to Pax Christi, you may be eligible for a tax deduction.

A REMINDER FROM FR. JOHN ... If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, it would be wise to consult with a priest to see whether that situation might be rectified. It could be as simple as repeating your marriage vows quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS



NOTES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES THIS WEEK

Elementary and Middle School Religious Education classes will meet as scheduled on February 23, 24, and 25. However, in order that all can be present as we welcome Archbishop Gregory at the 11:15 am Mass on Sunday, February 23, the Sunday PreK and Kindergarten Classes which usually meet from 11:10-12:15 will be canceled, as will the Special Needs Catechesis class originally scheduled to meet from 3:30-4:30 pm. Please join us at the 11:15 am Mass! Also, Monday and Tuesday Middle School Religious Education classes will meet from 6:45-8:00 pm on February 24 and 25 for a special program in preparation for the start of Lent. Students may be dropped off and picked up from the Gathering Space as usual.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Confirmation Candidates are reminded that our Confirmation Retreat will be on Saturday, February 29, beginning in the Parish Center at 10:00 am and concluding with 5:00 pm Mass. Parents are asked to attend the 5:00 pm Mass with the Confirmation Candidates.

FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING

A reminder to families of children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist this year: the next First Eucharist Parent Meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 4 or Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center. Parents are asked to attend one of these meetings. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP!

St. Francis of Assisi Church invites children from age 4 to those who will complete the 5th Grade in June 2020 to join us at Vacation Bible Camp, June 22-26 from 9:00 am to 12:15 pm. Look for camper registration information, as well as information about volunteer opportunities for adults and teens, in the Spring!

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.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Teens,

Thank you for your prayers for our teens who attended our Spring Retreat, MOUNT 2000. There were over 1,000 participants at this seminarian-led retreat!

As we move into Lent, we are canceling our Youth Group programs on Monday and focusing on Youth Group meetings on Sunday. Each Sunday, unless otherwise noted, high school teens are invited to learn about God's plan for dating from 6:15-8 pm. We meet in the Gathering Space and head over to the Youth Room (located in the basement of the Rectory). Dinner is included.

In addition to Sunday night Youth Group, we also have special events to help teens encounter Jesus and love Him as Mary loved Him. To sign up for these events, please e-mail Sarah Seyed-Ali at sfayouth@sfadw.org

- Bowling with Vocations on Monday, Feb. 17 (Meet at St. John Neumann Parish for 9 am Mass)
- Catholic Relief Services 24 Hour Food Fast from Friday, March 6- Saturday, March 7 (Meet at the Neumann House at St. John Neumann Parish)
- Hoops for Haiti Saturday, March 14 (Meet at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School)

*God bless you,
Sarah Seyed-Ali
St. Francis of Assisi
Youth Minister*

TEENS, THE CRS 24-HOUR FOOD FAST IS MARCH 6-7

It's that time for the annual 24-Hour Food Fast! Parents, please invite your teen to go hungry with thousands of young Catholics across the country for one weekend. By doing so, they will learn how to take a stand against global poverty and how to respond to hunger in a world of plenty. In just three weeks, the St. Francis of Assisi High School Youth Group will journey with the poor and hungry as a way of living out our Catholic faith. All youth and their friends are invited to be a part of something big! Join us for this free event from Friday, March 6 to Saturday, March 7, at St. John Neumann Parish. To sign up, 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. Francis has purchased this gift for parish use.

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

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!** <https://sosj.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/DenimandDiamonds/tabid/1098759/Default.aspx>

GIRLS ON THE RUN AND HEART & SOLE ARE BACK FOR THE SPRING SESSION!

These programs inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. Join the Fun! Girls in 3rd through 5th grade are invited for GOTR and girls in 6th through 8th grade for Heart & Sole. You don't even have to love running. Explore who you are and build your confidence. Hang out with friends! Dance! Practices will on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm beginning March 9th. The fee for the program is \$175, financial based scholarships are available. Please visit <https://www.girlsontherunofmoco.org/Register-Now> to register.

SJRCS March Madness

It's time again for the annual 8th grade vs. Faculty and Parents basketball game. Game is set for Thursday, March 13th at St. Patrick's Catholic School. Doors open at 6:00 pm. All are invited!

READ TO SURVIVE BOOK FAIR & FAMILY READING NIGHT ARE COMING TO SJRCS

The Scholastic Book Fair will bring to St. Jude's the books kids want to read! We will have a great selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please join us! All proceeds go to purchase books for our school library.

Book Fair dates: March 17-19

Shopping hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Family Reading Night – March 17 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm

**The 7th Annual ESPA
JOB FAIR**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020
9:00AM – 12:00PM**

Our Lady of Good Counsel

17301 Old Vic Boulevard, Olney, MD 20832

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE!

Teachers, teaching assistants, counselors, office staff, and nurses bring resumes and meet with representatives from elementary schools throughout the Archdiocese of Washington.

**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!

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Support Group for families who have experienced the loss of a baby through

Miscarriage, Infant Death or Stillbirth

When a family experiences the loss of a child, the grief journey can be a lonely one. This six-week parent-to-parent support group provides a safe place to share feelings and receive comfort from others who have experienced a similar loss.

Dates: Tuesdays, March 3-April 7

Time: 7-8:30 pm

Place: Shady Grove Adventist Hospital

9901 Medical Center Drive, Rockville, Maryland, 20850
River Room (2nd Floor near ER entrance).

For information and to register: Contact Jeanine L. McGrath, RN, CD (DONA) at jeaninemcgrath@gmail.com or (240) 481-3903. You can also call the Adventist HealthCare Parent Education Office (301) 315-3130.

Montgomery Hospice offers *CONNECTIONS*,

A bereavement support group for families

Connections provides two six-week support groups, one for parents and guardians and one for children and teens who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling. Both groups will meet:

Dates: Wednesdays, March 18 through April 22 (no groups meet April 8)

Time: 6-7:30pm

Place: Montgomery Hospice Office, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

For information and to preregister: Montgomery Hospice (301) 921-4400 or see www.montgomeryhospice.org

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING COURSE

Monday, March 23

8 am-4 pm. Lunch is provided.

First Floor, Edu 2

Holy Cross Hospital Conference Center

1500 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD

Every year, one in five American adults is affected by a mental health problem. This means that most likely, you or someone around you will encounter someone with a mental illness. *And you can help with Mental Health First Aid training.* Mental Health First Aid is a free skills-based training course for the general public that teaches participants how to recognize and respond to persons with mental health and substance-use issues. You will learn:

- How to recognize the warning signs and behaviors of one experiencing a mental health crisis.
- How to respond using the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan.
- How to assist someone in an effective and safe way to get appropriate help and support.

Register by March 2 at (301) 754-7066 or visit FCNprogram@holycrosshealth.org. See more information at <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>.