

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

March 2 - March 8

Monday, 3/2	9:00 a.m.	Thelma Sheldon
Tuesday, 3/3	9:00 a.m.	Robert McNally (L)
Wednesday, 3/4	9:00 a.m.	Norma Gomez
	7:30 p.m.	Chad Finn
Thursday, 3/5	9:00 a.m.	Baby Voukidis
Friday, 3/6	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m.	Tom Krafchik
Saturday, 3/7	9:00 a.m.	Stella Battista
	5:00 p.m.	Fred Theurer
Sunday, 3/8	8:00 a.m.	Fernando Moreno
	9:30 a.m.	Joe Romanchik
	11:15 a.m.	Leonard Guild
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Tom Mason, husband of Karen Mason, Rita Modrick, mother of Jim Modrick.

Please pray for the sick... Geraldine Offenbacher, Frank Knorr, Ceil Noga, Allan Degen, Amalia, Torrez, Teresa Maguire, 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 March 1, 2020

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
Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [Jn 6:63b]/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday:	Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [22]/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

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 our children at Mass.

OUR CHILDREN AT MASS

Children are welcome at Mass! Most children are likely to be baptized members of the parish. We are committed to their ongoing faith development. Children need to be part of worship to learn how to worship. And we adults need them there to help us remember that we are all children before God. It is only normal to expect young children to be distracting to parents and to others in the assembly sometimes. Etiquette concerns how to keep distractions to a minimum and what to do when they occur. If you find yourself especially sensitive to noise or distractions, consider attending the Mass with the fewest number of children. But don't deprive yourself too often. Children are a special gift to each worshipping community.

Infants and Very Young Children

- Talk about prayer, the parts of the Mass, and what children will see and hear when they attend the liturgy before you leave home. Explain that a church is a place where people speak quietly and move slowly and calmly.
- Communicate clearly to your children your hopes and expectations of their behavior.
- Remind your children of what is good and proper behavior just before entering the church.
- Bring a few small, quiet toys or coloring books with crayons for children to use during Mass.
- Attend special liturgies for children and families, when offered.
- Select a place in the assembly that will best facilitate everyone's participation. That may be at the front where the children's interest can be stimulated. There they can see the priest, the servers, the lector, the action. Sitting up front and to the side is often a good solution for families with small children. Your child and the layout of the church may help you decide which is the best place to sit.
- Set a good example by remaining as calm and prayerful as possible yourself.
- Quietly interpret for your child what is happening during the service.
- Encourage your child to learn and participate in the actions of the Mass: making the sign of the Cross, sitting, standing, kneeling, listening, responding, and singing.
- Take your child out of the assembly if he or she becomes too loud or distracting to others.
- Compliment your child's good behavior at the end of Mass.

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

First Sunday in Lent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When was the last time I gave into temptation? What wisdom have I gained since then?

COME CELEBRATE LENT WITH US!

Here is a comprehensive list of Lenten events and activities happening at St. Francis of Assisi Parish throughout the season. Walk with Jesus this Lent through **prayer, penance and almsgiving**.

For Anyone:

- **Lenten Small Groups on Live Lent! Cycle A – Throughout Lent.** Join a Small Group of parishioners in reading and discussing Sunday Gospel readings.
- **Daily Reflection Books** from the Diocese of Saginaw (MI) – *Throughout Lent.* Prayerfully reflect each day during the 40 days of Lent. Limited quantity available in the Gathering Space.
- **Evening Prayers and Stations of the Cross -- 6:45 pm on Fridays throughout Lent.** Come pray and reflect on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice and crucifixion.
- **The Light Is On: 5:30-7 pm on Wednesdays during Lent.** Receive God's grace through the Sacrament of Penance.
- **Knights of Columbus 2323 Lenten Fish Dinners -- 6-8 pm Friday, March 6; Friday, March 20; and Friday, April 3, at the Father Cuddy Hall in Derwood.** Help the Knights support charities through the Lenten fish dinners. Adult and children's menus are available. Admission is \$8-\$10 for individuals 11 and over; \$5 for kids ages 10 and under.
- **St. Francis Day for 40 Days for Life Campaign -- 10 am-5 pm Saturday, March 21, on Old Georgetown Road near the Carhart Clinic in Bethesda, MD.** Join other parishioners in prayer, fasting and in vigil for mothers considering an abortion and their babies waiting to be born. For more information, go to <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/bethesda/>.

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THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Infants and Very Young Children at Mass (continued)

- Help your child to get to know parish staff members, ministers, and other parishioners so that they themselves are known as participants in the prayer of the community.
- Leave electronic games at home or in the car.
- Clean up after your child and yourself when Mass is ended.
- Remember that children learn by observing you and others, whether you are intending to teach or not.

Until next week,

Fr. John

COME CELEBRATE LENT WITH US! (continued)

- **Catholic Charities Lenten Food Collection – Distribution of bags at Masses on March 21/22; bags to be collected after Masses on March 28/29.** Help support the St. Martin's Food Pantry with donations of non-perishable food items to benefit families in need.
- **Parish Penance Service – 7 pm Monday, March 23.** Receive God's forgiveness during our community penance service.
- **Outdoor Stations of the Cross – 3:30 pm Sunday, April 5, at the Outdoor Stations of the Cross.** Join parishioners in praying an ecological Stations of the Cross based on St. Pope John Paul II's message on environmental responsibility.
- **Share the Cross display – Throughout Lent.** Support initiatives undertaken by the parish's Haiti Ministry by choosing a cross in the Gathering Space and returning it with a donation to our Haiti Ministry.

For Families with School-Aged Children:

- **Hoops for Haiti – 3:15-9 pm Saturday, March 14, at the Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Gymnasium in Olney.** Come play in a 3-on-3 tournament against other St. Francis ministries, enjoy a concert by award-winning Catholic singer Gretchen Harris and cheer on the Ol' Saints (adults) and the Swole Saints (young adults and youth).
- **Family Stations of the Cross – 1 pm Friday, April 10, in the church.** Families can experience Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us during His journey to Golgotha.
- **Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl Program – Throughout Lent.** Participate in this faith-in-action program that invites us to reflect on global hunger among our brothers and sisters around the world. Pick up a Rice Bowl in the Gathering Space and return it to the Parish Office during Holy Week.



MARCH 2020 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, March 4 at 12:00 Noon at I-HOP, 775 Rockville Pike, Rockville, 301-738-1894. If you are planning to attend, please contact Mary Lou Habib and she will save a seat for you, (301) 417-0243.

March 1, 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 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 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.



SUNDAY MARCH 8
SET YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR AHEAD

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.

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM (CLP) FOR MARRIED COUPLES

(Program will be conducted in Spanish)

On February 14, our pastor Fr. John Dillon sent a Flocknote titled "Revisiting Pope Francis' Holy Message on Love and Family." Fr. John rekindled the spirit of the apostolic exhortation called **Amoris Laetitia**. In the Archdiocese Pastoral Plan for Amoris Laetitia, Couples for Christ is listed as one of the Catholic family movements. We are happy to inform you that beginning March 7, Couples for Christ will conduct a **Christian Life Program (CLP) in Spanish** intended to reach out and serve our Spanish community for the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life. St. Francis parishioners will deliver the Talks, facilitate the group discussion and share their witnessing. The Talks include content about the Basic Truths about Christianity, the Authentic Christian Life; and Living a Spirit-filled Christian Life.

The program is free but you must register due to limited seating. On **Sunday, March 1**, register in the Gathering Space after the Sunday Masses. You can also send an e-mail to Cris Flores at cris_jflores@yahoo.com with the name of the husband, wife and a contact number. The CLP kicks off at noon to 4 pm **Saturday, March 7, in the Rectory's Assisi Room**. Brunch will be served before each session. The remaining three sessions will be held on **March 14, March 21, and March 28**. Thank you!

Programa de Vida Cristiana (CLP) para Parejas Casadas Programa se llevará a cabo en español.

El 14 de febrero, nuestro pastor P. John Dillon envió una nota de rebaño titulada "Revisitando el Santo Mensaje del Papa Francisco sobre el Amor y la Familia". El P. Juan reavivó el espíritu de la exhortación apostólica Amoris Laetitia. En el Plan Pastoral Arquidiócesis para Amoris Laetitia, Parejas para Cristo figura como uno de los movimientos familiares católicos.

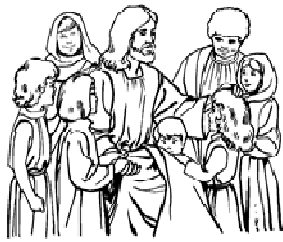
Nos complace informarles de que a partir del 7 de marzo, Parejas por Cristo llevará a cabo un Programa de Vida Cristiana (CLP) en español destinado a tender la mano y servir a nuestra comunidad española para la renovación y fortalecimiento de la vida familiar cristiana. Los feligreses de San Francisco presentarán las presentaciones, facilitarán la discusión en grupo y compartirán su testimonio. Las charlas incluyen contenido sobre las verdades básicas sobre el cristianismo, la vida cristiana auténtica; y vivir una vida cristiana llena de Espíritu. El programa es GRATUITO, pero usted tiene que registrarse debido a asientos limitados.

El domingo 1 de marzo, regístrese en el lugar en el Espacio de Reunión después de las Misas Dominicales. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a cris_jflores@yahoo.com con el nombre del marido y la esposa; número de teléfono.

El CLP comienza el sábado 7 de marzo de 2020 de 12:00 pm a 4:00 pm en la Sala de San Francisco, Sala Asís. El brunch se servirá antes de cada sesión. Las tres sesiones restantes se celebrarán el 14 de marzo, el 21 de marzo y el 28 de marzo. Sí, gracias.

Organizado por: Parejas por Cristo (CFC) en la Iglesia de Francisco Asociación Internacional de los fieles de derecho pontificio

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS



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.

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 will be on Sunday, March 8 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.

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.

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 or text the word ENROLL to 301-804-2584. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office.

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Dear Parents, Guardians and Teens,

As we move into Lent, we are canceling our youth group programs on Monday and First Saturday Mass and Breakfast and focusing on youth group meetings on Sunday. We meet in the Gathering Space and head over to the Youth Room (located at the bottom floor 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 email Sarah Seyed-Ali at sfayouth@sfadw.org.

- 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, Youth Minister*

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER & DANCE

As Co-Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council, I want to thank everyone who helped make the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Dance a great success again this year. Without the help of Sylvia Jones and the Special Events Committee, this event would not have happened. St. Francis has sponsored this free event for over 35 years to thank all the wonderful adult volunteers in the parish. (Youth Volunteers are shown appreciation in a separate event usually held in the summer).

Thank you to Melissa Egan for getting the information out via Flocknote, pulpit announcements and on the Information Monitor in the Gathering Space. A special shout out to Donna Zizzo and the parish staff who placed the flyers in the Gathering Space and kept tally of all the RSVPs. This year, we had over 200 RSVPs, however, fewer than 150 people attended. As we host future Volunteer Appreciation Dinners, we respectfully ask that those who RSVP do attend the event, as the church must pay for the stated numbers of meals we submit and cannot recoup the cost of uneaten food. For those who attended, I believe everyone had a great time dressed in their hippie attire, taking pictures in the "Love Bus" photo booth, socializing with friends, sharing a meal and dancing to 60's Rock & Roll. Thank you to all our faithful volunteers at St. Francis of Assisi Parish! ~*Alicia Church*, Executive Committee Member of the Parish Pastoral Council



SAVE THE DATE ST. FRANCIS SPRING FUNDRAISERS

May 1-2-3 Annual Plant Sale

May 9 Annual Yard Sale

Watch the bulletin for more details!

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>

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

Visit our Book Fair homepage at

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/stjuderegionalcatholicsch>

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!

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 10th. The fee for the program is \$175, financial based scholarships are available. Please visit <https://www.girlsontherunofmoco.org/Register-Now> to register.

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 gcctompson@juno.com.

HOOPS FOR HAITI IS AROUND THE CORNER

There are just two more weeks until Hoops for Haiti happens from 3:15-9 pm Saturday, March 14, at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney. If you needed one good reason to go, then here's five!

- 1. 3-on-3 tournament:** Come out and watch a double-elimination basketball tournament featuring teams of parish ministries, families and friends and friends of friends! Slots for teams of three to enter are still available; contact Gibby Flores at gabby_bflores@yahoo.com to register.
- 2. Fun, games and food:** There are lots of fun activities planned for young children, including facepainting, a halftime contest and Bible trivia. Certificates will also be given out to the fastest runner, best dribbler and sunniest smiler. And some delicious food will be on sale, to boot!
- 3. Gretchen Harris:** Come see award-winning Catholic singer Gretchen Harris, who will perform at Hoops for Haiti between 5:15-6:15 pm. Hear this artist whose vocal interpretations on church hymns and songs about Mary are heard on Christian radio stations around the United States.
- 4. See old friends:** The main event between the Ol' Saints (adults) and the Swole Saints (young adults) is attracting a diverse lineup, including former St. Francis Parochial Vicar Fr. Jack Berard. Come cheer on your fellow parishioners and Fr. Jack!
- 5. Walk on sunshine:** This year's fundraiser will raise money to buy and install solar panels for the Bon Pasteur School at our sister parish in Leon, Haiti, giving members of the school community a source of power. Let's help our Haitian brothers and students in "Walking on Sunshine!"

Advance tickets will be sold along with Just Haiti Coffee on March 7/8 in the Gathering Space after all Masses or can be bought at the Parish Office. For more information, please contact Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net or Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.

**HOPE & HEALING FOR BEREAVED PARENTS
(COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS)**

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is an international organization that offers support to bereaved parents. These parents come together in an informal setting to learn how to cope with the pain and grief of living after their child has died. The TCF sessions are open to parents, grandparents, siblings and supportive friends. There is a local Chapter that typically meets at 6:45 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854; the next meeting is on Tuesday, March 3. Parents do not have to attend a meeting to receive support. St. Francis of Assisi parishioners George and Barbara Beall, who lost their daughter to cancer 14 years ago, are available to speak with those in pain at any time of the day or night. Their phone number is (301) 253-8740 and their e-mail address is oldedish@starpower.net. Feel free to contact them if you have any questions about TCF or would like to receive a brochure.