

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

March 9 - March 15

Monday, 3/9	9:00 a.m.	Jane Lakebrink
Tuesday, 3/10	9:00 a.m.	Nitha Thomas
Wednesday, 3/11	9:00 a.m.	Jose Luis Gonzalez
	7:30 p.m.	Elvie Cabling
Thursday, 3/12	9:00 a.m.	Roy Meade, Sr.
Friday, 3/13	9:00 a.m.	Sue Yesko
Saturday, 3/14	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 3/15	8:00 a.m.	Margaret Madden
	9:30 a.m.	Albert Vermont
	11:15 a.m.	Guy Beaven
	5:00 p.m.	Helen Dolores Dougherty

Please pray for the sick... Jennifer Culliton, Debra Price, Geraldine Offenbacher, Frank Knorr, Ceil Noga, Allan Degen, 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 8, 2020

Sunday:	Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [22]/ 2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9
Monday:	Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 [cf. Ps 103:10a]/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday:	Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 [17b]/ Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Ps 40:5a]/ Lk 16:19-31
Friday:	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18- 19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday:	Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5- 8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

On Friday, February 28, 2020, I went to Annapolis to testify against the “End of Life Options Act” (Senate Bill 701/House of Delegates Bill 643). Two weeks before that date I had sent out a Flocknote to those who have signed up to receive Flocknotes from St. Francis of Assisi Parish. When a couple of people encouraged me to use what I had written as a basis for testifying in opposition to the legislation, I prayed about it. After praying and coming to the conclusion that I should offer to do this, I contacted the appropriate officials at the Archdiocese of Washington to gain their permission for me to do this. A few days after my initial contact I received the encouragement to testify from the appropriate officials of the Archdiocese who then referred me to the Maryland Catholic Conference. Once the Conference had an opportunity to review what I was proposing to say in my testimony, they referred me to Maryland Against Physician-Assisted Suicide. As they say, the rest is history! My testimony against the “End of Life Options Act” (SB 701/HB 643) has now been posted on our parish website (www.sfadw.org) for anyone who wishes to read it.

The website for Maryland Against Physician-Assisted Suicide includes these facts that I did not put into my testimony:

- There are documented cases of people being denied insurance coverage of life-saving treatments in favor of cheaper, life-ending drugs.
- In states where this dangerous practice is legal, overall suicide rates are on the rise.
- Proponents of assisted suicide falsely claim that no one has ever been harmed by assisted suicide and that making physician-assisted suicide an “option” makes end-of-life care better. We know that is not true.

Some of the most compelling testimony against the “End of Life Options Act” came from physicians opposed to the act who spoke on these three points. For the fifth time in six years, out-of-state groups are pushing the Maryland General Assembly to legalize physician-assisted suicide. I hope that by the time you are reading this column that effort organized by Maryland Against Physician-Assisted Suicide will have been successful in stopping this bill once again.

Let me now talk about a letter that priests of the Archdiocese received from Father Daniel Carson, Moderator of the Curia for the Archdiocese of Washington, on February 28, 2020. Fr. Carson writes that the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center has received some requests for guidance about parish liturgies in light of the public concern currently being expressed about the **Coronavirus**, as well as other strains of the flu virus that occur at this time of year. Most inquiries are in regard to the Sign of Peace, receiving the Blood of Christ from the chalice and receiving the Body of Christ on the tongue.

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

Second Sunday in Lent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I listen to Jesus over the next week? What is he telling me?

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

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

Christopher & Erica Bailey
Melvis Bumah
Christian De Guzman & Maria Luisa Santillan
De Guzman
Genevieve & Robert Fitzpatrick
Alvenne Goh
Celesty Mecherkany
Daniel Sullivan
Emily & Benjamin Unglesbee

There were no February Baptisms.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Fr. Carson continues by saying that pastors may wish to remind their parishioners that no one is ever under an obligation to shake hands during the Sign of Peace or to receive from the chalice. Christ is fully present in each species when the bread and wine have been consecrated into His Body and Blood. Pastors may also wish to remind their parishioners they can receive the Body of Christ in their hand instead of on the tongue. He also says that pastors may also consider discontinuing temporarily the practice of offering communion under the form of Precious Blood as well as to take other precautions that we deem necessary. After speaking with a number of people ***I have decided to discontinue temporarily the practice of offering communion under the form of Precious Blood. We'll resume the practice when it is prudent to do so.***

Fr. Carson also recommends that if anyone is ill, or suspects that he or she is ill, he or she should refrain from participating in public activities, including Mass. If you need to refrain from Sunday Mass, you are dispensed from the Sunday obligation.

Finally, let me close with the following prayer: For civic leaders, medical personnel and others coordinating a response to the Coronavirus, may God give them wisdom and strength. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

Until next week,
Fr. John

HOOPS FOR HAITI TIPS OFF ON MARCH 14 AT THE GOOD COUNSEL GYMNASIUM

In just one more week, Hoops for Haiti will be happening from 3:15-9:30 pm Saturday, March 14, at the Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Gymnasium in Olney. Come out to support this annual Youth Ministry fundraiser, the proceeds of which will purchase and install solar panels for the Bon Pasteur School in Leon, Haiti.

Come for the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at 3:15 pm and then stay for award-winning Catholic singer Gretchen Harris, who will perform at 5:15 pm. The main event between the Ol' Saints and the Swole Saints will tip off at 7 pm – let's see if the young adults can earn bragging rights for the Hoops for Haiti trophy this year!

Tickets to the event will be sold this weekend during the Just Haiti Coffee sale after all Masses in the Gathering Space. Parishioners can also purchase tickets by stopping by the Parish Office. For more information, please contact Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com or parishioner Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net.



LENTEN FISH DINNERS SERVE UP FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN

Are you interested in attending some traditional Lenten fish dinners this season? Please join us for the fish dinners from 6-8 pm Friday, March 20, and Friday, April 3, at the Knights of Columbus Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Drive, in Derwood. Salmon and shrimp scampi will be served at the March 20 dinner. Come enjoy food and fellowship, while helping support charities adopted by Knights of Columbus Council 2323. For more information, contact Jim Gierula at gierulaj@fitzmall.com.

JOIN US FOR THE ST. FRANCIS DAY FOR LIFE ON MARCH 21 IN BETHESDA

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 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.

March 8, 2020

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, March 10, 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 Upper Montgomery Assistance Network (UMAN). *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.

‘VOCATIONS TREE’

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

Please take a moment today to stop by the *Vocations Tree* in the Gathering Space, where you'll see cards for each of the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington. Choose one or more cards and pray for that Seminarian each day during Lent. Make it a beautiful offering to the Lord this Lent to pray for those whom He calls to give their lives in service of His church in our Archdiocese.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMEBERS COME FORWARD TO STUDY OFFERING MASS IN SPANISH

On February 20, two new members of the Parish Pastoral Council joined an ad-hoc subcommittee to study whether St. Francis of Assisi Parish should offer a Mass in Spanish or another language spoken by growing numbers of parishioners. Pastoral Council members Marianne DeAussen and Ron Hays will serve on the ad-hoc subcommittee, along with members of the Spanish Ministry, to study the need for a Mass in Spanish and report back to the full Parish Pastoral Council after they've begun their work.

Under other business before the Parish Pastoral Council, the consultative body to the pastor also:

- Reviewed a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the Parish Pastoral Council's role.
- Received an update on building projects at the church. Fr. John reported that Minkoff Company has nearly finished replacing and repairing the church roof system; the next priority will be conducting an acoustical study in the church to determine the requirements of a new sound system.
- Heard an update on the Parish Safety Committee's work.
- Heard ministry reports from St. Jude Regional School and the Communications Ministry.

To see past minutes of Parish Pastoral Council meetings, please go to <https://www.sfadw.org/pastoral-council-meeting-minutes>. If you have any questions about the council, please e-mail ask-theppc@gmail.com.

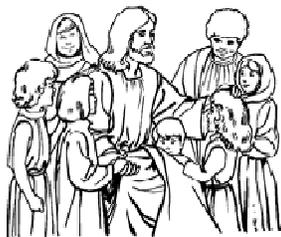
CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM IN SPANISH KICKS OFF THIS WEEKEND IN THE ASSISI ROOM

Please pray for couples participating in the **Christian Life Program in Spanish** that begins March 7 in the Rectory's Assisi Room. Spanish speaking members of Couples for Christ will lead the four-week session, which is intended to renew and strengthen Christian family life. For more information, please contact parishioner Cris Flores at cris_jflores@yahoo.com.

LEARN HOW ST. FRANCIS CAN SERVE ACROSS GENERATIONS AND CREATE STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS

Are you interested in learning how our parish can create more faith-driven relationships to create a stronger Catholic community across generations? If so, then please join Catholic Charities and the Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County at the Montgomery County Catholic Convocation on Engagement Across Generations from 8:15 am to 1 pm Saturday, March 21, at the county Executive Office Building Auditorium, 101 Monroe St. in Rockville. The gathering will convene parishes and their ministries, Catholic schools and nonprofit organizations to understand, explore and create these relationships across generations to promote the good of all. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/montgomery-county-catholic-convocation-on-engaging-the-generations-registration-86729146211>. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS



CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers monthly catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our next session is today, 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.

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD - On the weekend of March 14-15, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up a collection for the Church in the Developing World. This collection is directed toward the Church in Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and Africa. It supports evangelization, the education of clergy and laity, youth ministry, catechesis, social service programs, and church construction and renovation. The faithful in these areas are often limited in what they can contribute, so your generosity will provide support for areas of ministry we often take for granted in our archdiocese.

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

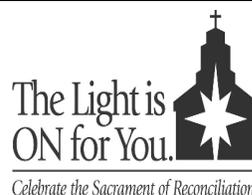
Dear Parents, Guardians and Teens,

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.

- Hoops for Haiti Saturday, March 14 (Meet at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School)

*God bless you,
Sarah Seyed-Ali, Youth Minister*



On Wednesday evenings, 5:30– 7:00 p.m., visit St. Francis and experience the simple generosity of God's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To find Confession times at other parishes and for additional resources please visit www.TheLightisON.org.

LENTEN DAY RETREAT JOURNEY WITH SAINT JOSEPH

DATE: Saturday, March 21

TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

EVENTS: Sign-in, Morning Prayers, Holy Mass, Conferences, Adoration, Lenten Reflections on Saint Joseph.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: Rev. Father Thomas G. Morrow, Saint Raphael's Parish, Rockville.

LOCATION: Mother of God Community, 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg.

PHONE: 301-990-2081

Continental Breakfast Available. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages available. Cost is \$5 - please pay at the door.

Sponsored by the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Community of the Sacred Heart, Frederick MD.

THE ART OF PRAYER

Taking place on Sunday evenings from 6-7 pm at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC (3900 Harewood Rd., NE), *The Art of Prayer* includes a presentation on interior prayer, time for silent meditation, and a sung Sunday Vespers service. For more information, visit jp2shrine.org or email pastoral.programs@jp2shrine.org.

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/stjuderegionalcatholicssch>

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.

THE WAY RETREAT FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

As the Church continues to minister to all survivors of abuse, the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring a retreat for survivors. The Archdiocese will offer a women's retreat on April 3-5, 2020. This retreat is an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. This retreat is free for all participants. For more information on this or future retreats for men and women, visit adw.org/the-way-retreat. To register, email mcdonald@adw.org or call Deborah McDonald at 301-853-4466.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - OFFERING HOPE FOR THOSE FACING ADDICTION AND THEIR LOVED ONES

Come pray the Stations of the Cross on Monday, March 30, 7:00 pm. at St Rose of Lima (in the historic chapel). Whether you suffer from addiction or are affected by a loved one who does, Jesus holds out to you the possibility of new life. This Lent, take a step toward the One who broke the chains of addiction, pain and despair. Receive strength, hope and God's abundant love! All who attend will receive a free copy of the *Stations of the Cross for Persons in Recovery*. For more information contact St Rose of Lima parish, 301-948-7545.

WOMEN'S LENTEN DAY RETREAT

Date: March 14, 2020

Preacher: Fr. José Maria Cortes, F.S.C.B. (Chaplain of the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC)

Location: Shrine of Saint Anthony in Ellicott City, MD

Timeframe: 8:30 am - 4 pm

Registration Fee: \$45/person (includes continental breakfast and lunch). Please make check payable to St. Patrick Catholic Church and write "Women's Lenten Retreat" in memo line. Please mail to St. Patrick's Catholic Church, ATT: Melanie Baker, 4101 Norbeck Road, Rockville MD 20853.

MEN'S LENTEN DAY RETREAT

Date: March 21, 2020

Preacher: Fr. Patrick Mullan

Location: Shrine of Saint Anthony in Ellicott City, MD

Timeframe: 8:30 am - 4 pm

Registration Fee: \$45/person (includes continental breakfast and lunch). Please make check payable to St. Patrick Catholic Church and write "Men's Lenten Retreat" in memo line. Please mail to St. Patrick's Catholic Church, ATT: Melanie Baker, 4101 Norbeck Road, Rockville MD 20853.

MESSIAH COLLEGE CHOIR CONCERT

Parishioners are invited to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Corner of Route 355 and South Westland Drive, Gaithersburg on Friday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. to hear the Choir from Messiah College, Mechanicsburg PA. The concert is free with a freewill offering to help defray costs for the Choir. A simple reception will follow the Concert.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICE MEN/WOMEN

Please continue to pray for all those parishioners, family members and friends who are serving in the military services in Iraq, Afghanistan and other dangerous areas. We have a prayer list posted in the Gathering Space for those who are serving in these areas. Please help us to keep it current by letting us know of any parishioner who is currently deployed so we can add them, and also those who have returned so that we can remove their names. Please continue to keep all of our military personnel in your prayers.

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.