

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

### March 16 - March 22

<b>Monday, 3/16</b>	9:00 a.m.	Msgr. James Lockman
<b>Tuesday, 3/17</b>	9:00 a.m.	Alexander O'Connor
<b>Wednesday, 3/18</b>	9:00 a.m.	Joseph Mastronardi
	7:30 p.m.	Carol Jean Jordan
<b>Thursday, 3/19</b>	9:00 a.m.	Alex Kutty & Mary Kutty Valiaveetil
<b>Friday, 3/20</b>	9:00 a.m.	Reverend John Stack
<b>Saturday, 3/21</b>	9:00 a.m.	Anastacia Meneses
	5:00 p.m.	Leonard Guild
<b>Sunday, 3/22</b>	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Juan Asuncion, Jr.
	11:15 a.m.	Dr. John Forgach
	5:00 p.m.	Richard & Pat Hunt

**Mass Intentions will be prayed for in a private daily Mass said by Fr. John.**

**Please pray for the sick**...Jennifer Culliton, Debra Price, Geraldine Offenbacher, Frank Knorr, 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 March 15, 2020

<b>Sunday:</b>	Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/ Jn 4:5-42
<b>Monday:</b>	2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf. Ps 42:3]/ Lk 4:24-30
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 [12a]/ Mt 5:17-19
<b>Thursday:</b>	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
<b>Friday:</b>	Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34
<b>Saturday:</b>	Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I have been reading the Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2020. I think that it is quite good. For that reason, I want to share it with you. Because of its length I will share it with you in the next two columns. Here is the first part for your reflection and study.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favorable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life. We must continually return to this mystery in mind and heart, for it will continue to grow within us in the measure that we are open to its spiritual power and respond with freedom and generosity.

#### 1. *The Paschal mystery as the basis of conversion*

Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This *kerygma* sums up the mystery of a love “so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue” (*Christus Vivit*, 117). Whoever believes this message rejects the lie that our life is ours to do with as we will. Rather, life is born of the love of God the Father, from his desire to grant us life in abundance (cf. *Jn* 10:10). If we listen instead of the tempting voice of the “father of lies” (*Jn* 8:44), we risk sinking into the abyss of absurdity, and experiencing hell here on earth, as all too many tragic events in the personal and collective human experience sadly bear witness.

In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian what I wrote to young people in the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*: “Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew” (No. 123). Jesus’ Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer.

#### 2. *The urgency of conversion*

It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God’s mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a “face to face” relationship with the crucified and risen Lord “who loved me and gave himself for me” (*Gal* 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God’s love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God’s eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will.

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

## Third Sunday in Lent

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*What do I thirst for spiritually? Can I find sustenance in the life-giving water I have received? How can I share this living water with those around me?*

### PARTICIPATION IN 2019 CRS RICE BOWL PROGRAM YIELDS \$520 GRANT FOR OUR PARISH

This Lenten season, don't forget to pick up the Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl in the Gathering Space to help your family reflect on global hunger among our brothers and sisters around the world. In this global program coordinated across the Archdiocese of Washington, 75 percent of contributions go to Catholic Relief Services and 25 percent remain in the archdiocese to be used as parish grants. On February 20, St. Francis of Assisi Parish received a \$520 parish grant to pay for future truck and van rentals needed to transport items for parish ministries. For more information about the CRS program, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

### SFA PARTICIPATION IN REBUILDING TOGETHER EFFORT WILL NOT OCCUR THIS YEAR

The Social Concerns Ministry is sorry to report that St. Francis of Assisi Parish will not be able to participate in the community Rebuilding Together program this year. We did not have a parishioner step forward to serve as co-leader with the parishioner who offered to serve as co-leader if someone else could be found. We will have a Parish Workday in the spring; the date and time are still being determined. For more information about Rebuilding Together, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

**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

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

#### 2. The urgency of conversion (continued)

In this favorable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. *Hos 2:14*), so that we can at last hear our Spouse's voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.

Until next week,  
**Fr. John**

### FR. JOHN OFFERED TESTIMONY TO MARYLAND SENATE COMMITTEE OPPOSING PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE

On February 28, Fr. John Dillon testified before the Maryland Judicial Proceedings Committee in Annapolis to oppose the End-of-Life-Option Act, which proposes to allow a doctor to prescribe lethal doses of drugs to a patient with a terminal illness who has been given six months or less to live. In his ministry as the on-call priest to Casey House, the only all-hospice, acute care inpatient medical facility in Montgomery County, Fr. John testified that he frequently encounters patients who, near the end of their lives, feel like a burden to their family members and friends.

"This is not so," Fr. John said. "They are precious in God's eyes and to their loved ones, who care for them out of love for them. But these patients need this reassurance and reminder that their lives are valuable and worthy." The full text of Fr. John's written testimony is posted on the homepage of [sfadw.org](http://sfadw.org).

Sign up to voice your opposition to physician assisted suicide at <https://stopassistedsuicidemd.org/take-action/sign-up-to-help/>. For more information about this and other Maryland legislation of interest to Catholics, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

### CANCELLATION OF MASSES

In the interest of public health and safety, local governments have issued restrictions on certain activities in response to the coronavirus. Most recently this afternoon, Governor Hogan announced that all public schools in the State of Maryland will be closed from March 16 through March 27. As a result of this order, Archbishop Gregory has indicated that all Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Washington will be closed during this same time frame of March 16 through March 27. Mr. William Ryan, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, will be forwarding additional information on this school closure to principals, pastors with schools and parents later this evening.

Additionally, the State of Maryland has ordered that no public gatherings in excess of 250 people may be held until further notice. As a result of this order, Archbishop Gregory has indicated Masses open to the public, in ALL archdiocesan parishes, missions, and campus ministries will not be celebrated starting this Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> until further notice. Weddings and funerals may proceed but attendance should be limited to immediate family.

Archbishop Gregory has also issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass during this time to all parishioners of the Archdiocese of Washington.

We realize this is a significant disruption to our carrying out the mission of the Church. We hope these changes are for a very limited period of time. Let us remember to keep each other -- and all those impacted -- close in prayer during these challenging moments.

**March 15, 2020**

**POOR BOX DONATION** – The donations for next week-end will go to the Prison Ministry Outreach Program. *Thank you for your generosity.*

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER CHAIN** If you have a prayer request, please contact Marianne Bullen, (240) 751-7259 or [mariannebu@comcast.net](mailto:mariannebu@comcast.net) with your requests.

### “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.

#### 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](http://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](mailto:gtdbpalmer@verizon.net)).

#### THE SUNDAY TV MASS

Do you know someone who can't get to Mass? Since 1952, the Archdiocese of Washington has produced a weekly televised Mass for those who are homebound, broadcast from the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It is a wonderful ministry for those members of our Catholic family who are unable to be physically present with a local worshipping community for the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy. *The Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30am on WDCW-50:*

- No cable; Dish or DIRECTV subscribers: Ch. 50
- Comcast: Ch. 23 in Washington, DC and Montgomery County; Ch. 3 in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland
- RCN: Ch 15
- Verizon: Ch. 3

#### 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](http://adw.org/the-way-retreat). To register, email [mcdonald@adw.org](mailto:mcdonald@adw.org) or call Deborah McDonald at 301-853-4466.

### CONVOCATION ON ENGAGEMENT ACROSS GENERATIONS

Are you interested in building community across generations in our Catholic Church? Catholic Charities of Washington and the Montgomery County Justice and Advocacy Council invite parishes and their ministries to participate, understand, explore and create faith-driven relationships across generations to promote the good of all. All are welcome! The event will be held from 9 am-1 pm Saturday, March 21, at the Montgomery County Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD. For additional information, questions or to register, email [leah@empoweringtheages.org](mailto:leah@empoweringtheages.org)



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](http://www.TheLightisON.org).

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAMILY STATIONS OF THE CROSS VOLUNTEER TO READ OR ACT

A special Stations of the Cross for children and families will be held on Good Friday, April 10 at 1:00 PM. *The stations are an excellent way for families to honor Jesus on this special and solemn day in a way that children of all ages can understand.*

- **Children (Grades 1-5) read the stations:** *No rehearsal required* for readers. Instructions and material are provided ahead of time so children can practice reading at home. *To volunteer as a reader, please contact the Religious Education Office at [sfareligioused@sfadw.org](mailto:sfareligioused@sfadw.org), or 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

### YOUTH GROUP

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Teens,

Thank you to all who participated in the 24 Hour Food Fast! Sunday, March 15, is the last day to turn in donations. Please bring your donations to Youth Group.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask! Also, parents, please pick up Lent/Theology of the Body resources from the youth group table in the Gathering Space.

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