

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

March 23 - March 29

Monday, 3/23	9:00 a.m.	Patsy Battista
Tuesday, 3/24	9:00 a.m.	Zachariah John
Wednesday, 3/25	9:00 a.m.	Lynn Krafchik
	7:30 p.m.	Jose Luis Gonzalez
Thursday, 3/26	9:00 a.m.	Marge Locke
Friday, 3/27	9:00 a.m.	Reverend Derek Georg
Saturday, 3/28	9:00 a.m.	Gloria Lejano
	5:00 p.m.	Fred Theurer
Sunday, 3/29	8:00 a.m.	John Major
	9:30 a.m.	Terry King
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	5:00 p.m.	Catherine Bentkowski

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

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Peg Gleason.

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 Dudenhoefler, 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 22, 2020

Sunday:	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
Monday:	Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday:	Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-4

**PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
SATURDAY, MARCH 21
THRU SUNDAY, MARCH 29.**

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

In his *Message for Lent 2020*, Pope Francis points to the paschal mystery - the mystery of the Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection - as the basis of conversion. Last week I presented the first half of that message. In today's column I am going to present the second half of the Holy Father's message for Lent.

3. *God's passionate will to dialogue with his children*

The fact that the Lord once again offers us a favorable time for our conversion should never be taken for granted. This new opportunity ought to awaken in us a sense of gratitude and stir us from our sloth. Despite the sometimes tragic presence of evil in our lives, and in the life of the Church and the world, this opportunity to change our course expresses God's unwavering will not to interrupt his dialogue of salvation with us. In the crucified Jesus, who knew no sin, yet for our sake was made to be sin (cf. *2 Cor* 5:21), this saving will led the Father to burden his Son with the weight of our sins, thus, in the expression of Pope Benedict XVI, "turning of God against himself" (*Deus Caritas Est*, 12). For God also loves his enemies (cf. *Mt* 5:43-48).

The dialogue that God wishes to establish with each of us through the paschal mystery of his Son has nothing to do with empty chatter, like that attributed to the ancient inhabitants of Athens, who "spent their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new" (*Acts* 17:21). Such chatter, determined by an empty and superficial curiosity, characterizes worldliness in every age; in our day, it can also result in improper use of the media.

4. *A richness to be shared, not kept for oneself*

Putting the paschal mystery at the center of our lives means feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of war, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence. They are likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth's goods, human trafficking in all its forms, and the unbridled thirst for wealth, which is a form of idolatry.

Today, too, there is a need to appeal to men and women of good will to share, by almsgiving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world. Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness. We can and must go even further, and consider the structural aspects of our economic life. For this reason, in the midst of Lent this year, from 26 to 28 March, I have convened a meeting in Assisi with young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers, with the aim of shaping a more just and inclusive economy. As the Church's magisterium has often repeated, political life represents an eminent form of charity (cf. Pius XI, *Address to the Italian Federation of Catholic University Students*, 18 December 1927). The same hold true for economic life, which can be approached in the same evangelical spirit, the spirit of the Beatitudes.

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When have I judged someone unkindly without taking the time to look more deeply? What can I do to remember to allow Christ to illuminate my way?

PRAYER FOR HEALING BY POPE FRANCIS

Mary, you always shine on our way as a sign of salvation and hope, we rely on you, Health of the Sick, that under your protection and through your intercession, you will not despise the prayer of those in need and will comfort and protect us in every trial.

Help us to grow in this moment of grace, in communion and solidarity with the sick who suffer, and all who are caring for the sick. Help us to share and suffer with the burdens of our brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese, our city and throughout the world who suffer the trial of diseases and disasters of every kind.

Mary Our Mother, you know what we need and are sure that you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this trying moment. Help us we pray, to conform to the will of the Father, and to do what Jesus will tell us. He took our suffering upon himself and took on our pains to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

4. A richness to be shared, not kept for oneself (continued)

I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him. In this way, we will become what Christ asks his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. Mt 5:13-14).

Pope Francis promulgated this Message for Lent 2020 in Rome at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran on 7 October 2019 (the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary).

Until next week,

Fr. John

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HOOPS FOR HAITI

Thank you to the Anonymous Donor who donated \$1,000 to Hoops for Haiti. Your donation will have an impact in the countless lives of the poorest of the poor and was greatly appreciated.

TALK ON GROWING TOWARD MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 23

St. Francis Ministry Coordinators and emerging leaders are invited to join us Saturday, May 23, to hear a talk by Dr. Susan Timoney, an Associate Professor at The Catholic University of America, on the characteristics needed for pastoral leaders to grow as missionary disciples. The talk, which will take place from 9:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. in the Parish Center, is inspired by the teachings of the U.S. Bishops in "Living as Missionary Disciples." If you'd like to download or purchase a copy of the document, then please see <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-Sunday/living-disciples/index.cfm>.

CANCELLATION OF DAILY & SUNDAY 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 14th 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 22, 2020

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.

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).

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.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE U.S. CENSUS

On March 12, the U.S. Census Department mailed a U.S. Census Information to all U.S. households, providing instructions for online census completion and an identification code for each residence. If a household fills out the form completely and submits it with the correct ID number, the Census department should not contact you again until 2030. If the form is submitted without all information, or is not submitted, the household will receive additional mailings with information and eventually a Census staff person may follow up in person.

Montgomery County Government is asking all residents to:

- Complete the Census fully and accurately
- Encourage all other Montgomery County residents to do the same
- Contact the U.S. Census Department, Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships, or the non profit or governmental organization you trust with Census questions.

All Montgomery County residents are encouraged to fill out the Census, as its data is used for:

- Federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities based on population totals and breakdown by sex, age, race and other factors.
- Determining the number of congressional representatives a state will have in Congress.
- Determining how many delegates represent an area in the Maryland legislature.

For more information about the U.S. Census, Census volunteers, staff positions and informational flyers, please see <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/about/why.html>.

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

Dear St. Francis Community,

We are experiencing an event unlike anything that has happened in our lives. My heart goes out to all of those affected by this pandemic. Per Governor Hogan's directives, St. Jude will be closed through March 27th. We will return to classes on March 30th. During the break, our cleaning company will spend several days doing a heavy clean addressing all surfaces with disinfectant as an added precaution. You should have received academic work from your child(ren)'s teacher(s). All work will be available on Rediker and teachers will be checking emails at least twice daily Monday through Friday. Below are some additional points and information.

- Denim and Diamonds will become a virtual auction**Jeep Tickets are still on sale through online ticket sale at <https://sosj.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/DenimandDiamonds/tabid/1098759/Default.aspx>
- The drama performance will be rescheduled for a later date. THE SHOW MUST GO ON!!
- Easter Break will be shortened to recoup lost academic days. We will return from Easter on Tuesday April 14th. If you are scheduled to go on vacation, please do so.

I am certain there is more, but I want you to know I will be making every effort to ensure the next two weeks and the remainder of the school can be as productive as possible. I am available should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dr. Glenn J Benjamin

Principal

St. Jude Regional Catholic School

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

In keeping with the public health emergency measures announced by the State of Maryland and the Archdiocese of Washington, St. Francis Religious Education classes and Religious Education program activities are canceled until further notice. We will await further news and announce updates as they are made available.

Over the next few weeks, Religious Education families can expect to receive email updates, proposing ways we might approach this current situation from a faith perspective and continue to be intentional about faith formation through prayer at home and through use of free online resources.