

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

### Mass Intentions

#### March 30 - April 5

<b>Monday, 3/30</b>	9:00 a.m.	Adolfo Arias
<b>Tuesday, 3/31</b>	9:00 a.m.	Sr. Marcella Missar
<b>Wednesday, 4/1</b>	9:00 a.m.	Marie Galvin
	7:30 p.m.	Terry King, Jr.
<b>Thursday, 4/2</b>	9:00 a.m.	Mary Catherine Kohler
<b>Friday, 4/3</b>	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m.	Ranjith Leitan
<b>Saturday, 4/4</b>	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Alfredo Hidalgo
	5:00 p.m.	Helen Hillstrom
<b>Sunday, 4/5</b>	8:00 a.m.	Angel Andrada
	9:30 a.m.	Antonio Nabor
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	5:00 p.m.	Eligio Vitug Earjardo

**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 souls of Geraldine Offenbacher, mother of Maria Shumar, Joseph Polosky, uncle of Donna Zezzo.

**Please pray for the sick...** Anna Lilian, Jennifer Culliton, Debra Price, 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 29, 2020

<b>Sunday:</b>	Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/ Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45
<b>Monday:</b>	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 /Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/ Jn 8:31-42
<b>Thursday:</b>	Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Jn 8:51-59
<b>Friday:</b>	Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/ Jn 10:31-42
<b>Saturday:</b>	Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/ Jn 11:45-56
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66

#### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I am writing this column as the Coronavirus outbreak is in our midst. As a precaution the parish offices will be closed this week. The office staff will work remotely. I will be here to answer phone calls, but am trying to practice social distancing. I need to be prudent about such things as I am in the at risk category. I am now 70 (and as someone recently told me I am officially an old person) and have a somewhat compromised immune system owing to a necessary treatment of powerful chemotherapy for an aggressive cancer several years ago.

It is very difficult for many who are used to receiving Holy Communion on a regular basis to be deprived of the consolation of receiving the Eucharist. It is likewise very difficult for me as your pastor not to be able to give you Communion! One thing that we have been encouraged to do is to communicate to you, my beloved brothers and sisters, the value of making a spiritual Communion. The graces of a sacramental Communion are present in a spiritual Communion " [through] their desire for the sacrament in union with the Church, no matter how distant they may be physically, they are intimately and really united to her and therefore receive the fruits of the sacrament" even absent the sacramental sign." This statement is from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Letter to Bishops of Certain Questions Concerning the Minister of the Eucharist. I truly believe that embracing this cross of limited access to the Sacrament is our path to sanctity and an opportunity to die to ourselves and our desires—as faith-filled as they may be.

The Most Reverend Mark Brennan was, for many years, our neighbor as Pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish, Gaithersburg. Now Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, he wrote a letter on March 13, 2020 to the faithful of his diocese on the occasion of his having to suspend public Masses there because of the Coronavirus outbreak. The last three paragraphs of the letter contain some good advice for all of us. I would like to share those paragraphs with you here:

Faithful Catholic people love the Mass, so it is a hardship not to be able to celebrate it. I encourage you to remain steadfast in faith during this time by praying the Liturgy of the Hours in your homes, praying the Rosary, and by reflecting on the readings of the day. All of these resources are available online. We can look on this development as a penance we do together during this Lenten season and offer our disappointment and sorrow up to God. May the Lord give us the joy of celebrating Easter together in good health!

Finally, I would urge everyone to pray for the sick and for those who care for them, in particular our doctors, nurses, and other medical support staff who must deal with up close with the sick every day.

Let us pray for a quick end to the Corona Virus outbreak in our country and around the world. May Jesus, the Divine Physician, send his healing grace upon the people he has redeemed. Let us hold one another close in prayer and Christian love.

God bless you and your loved ones!

Until next week,

**Fr. John**

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*How can I free myself from the burial bonds in my life? How can I help others to release their own?*

### 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.

### FORMED

#### THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

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- 1) Go to [sfadw.formed.org](http://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.

FORMED is also offering many resources for parishioners to use for meditation and prayer during this difficult time.

### FAITH DIRECT - ONLINE GIVING

This Lent, I want to invite you in joining me and many others at St. Francis of Assisi in setting up recurring eGiving through Faith Direct. Thanks to eGiving, your weekly offertory will be automatically taken care of, which saves you time and saves our parish money by eliminating all those unused offertory envelopes. To sign up for electronic contributions visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net). The code for St. Francis is MD110 or text the word ENROLL to 301-804-2584. I want to thank you for your continued support of our parish family especially during these trying times.

*God Bless You,  
Fr. John*

### INVITATION TO PRAY

Please remember we have the outdoor Stations of the Cross which you are welcome to visit and pray the Stations. Also, we have our Mary Garden where you can also pray. Please remember to keep social distancing when visiting either of these locations.

### 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 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.

**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.

### 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).

### 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.