

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

April 6 - April 12

Monday, 4/6	9:00 a.m.	Fr. Ralph Kuehner
Tuesday, 4/7	9:00 a.m.	Fr. Ralph Kuehner
Wednesday, 4/8	9:00 a.m.	Dianne James
	7:30 p.m.	Jose Luiz Gonzalez
Thursday, 4/9	Holy Thursday	
	7:30 p.m.	For all Priests
Friday, 4/10	Good Friday	
	7:30 p.m.	Lord's Passion
Saturday, 4/11	Easter Vigil	
	8:00 p.m.	For the Newly Initiated
Sunday, 4/12	Easter Sunday	
	8:00 a.m.	Leafloor Lagumbay
	9:30 a.m.	Don Smith
	11:15 a.m.	Guy Beaven
	1:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

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 Roberr Praskiewicz, husband of GERALYN Praskiewicz, Pam Frisco, sister of Terry Davis, Dennis Meehan, husband of Yolanda Meehan.

Please pray for the sick... Mickey Spalding, Susan Spalding, Jennifer Culliton, 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.)

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

The best Catholic content. All in one place. It's EASY and FREE to Register!

- 1) Go to 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.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

On Friday, March 27, 2020, I was able to participate through communications media in the *Urbi et Orbi* message of Pope Francis. *Urbi et Orbi* is Latin for the following phrase: "For the city (of Rome) and the world. Usually this blessing would be given by the Holy Father at Christmas or at Easter. But as a result of the unprecedented manner in which the coronavirus pandemic has brought profound devastation on nations all over the world, the Holy Father prayerfully discerned that these extraordinary times need extraordinary measures. I hope that you have the opportunity to read it. If you don't have access to his meditation prior to that very special blessing, please let me know and I'll be happy to send a copy of it to you.

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles and president of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has made a statement on the Holy Father's *Urbi et Orbi* message on the same date it was delivered (March 27, 2020). Here is a copy of this statement:

"Along with my brother bishops of the United States, I am grateful for Pope Francis' Urbi et Orbi message today. We join him in asking God to bless the world and to us from the coronavirus pandemic.

"I think we all understand that we took part today [on March 27] in something historic, as the whole world was gathered together through communications media by the successor of St. Peter, united in one prayer before the living presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist.

"It was a moving and emotional moment, and I urge my fellow Catholics, and every person of good will, to read and reread Pope Francis' beautiful meditation.

"In his message, the Holy Father reminds us that this time of the coronavirus is a call to courage, a call to faith. And as he says, faith does not mean simply agreeing with a set of ideas. Faith means making a decision to entrust our lives to Jesus Christ and to follow his path, to embrace his cross.

"The Holy Father tells us today that this pandemic is a time for conversion, a time for us to make choices about what truly matters in our lives, a time for us to change the priorities of our societies. It is a time to turn to God and to recognize that no matter how advanced our civilization and technology, we cannot save ourselves. We need God.

"In this moment saints are being made, the Holy Father tells us, pointing to the quiet heroism of ordinary people carrying out their daily duties in extraordinary times, serving one another with kindness and patience. 'How many people pray, offer and intercede for the good of all,' our Holy Father observes. 'Prayer and silent service: these are our winning weapons.'

"So let us continue to unite with Pope Francis, in asking the Lord, through the intercession of Mary our Blessed Mother, to bless our world and to give us courage to love and serve our brothers and sisters in this time of trial."

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

Palm Sunday

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I rely on God during my trials and hardships? How will this help!

THANK YOU TO THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PARISH DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES. WE APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE AND CONTINUE TO DO!!

FAITH DIRECT - ONLINE GIVING

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. 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,

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

I want to end my column today, on which we celebrate Palm Sunday with this prayer to Our Lady asking her mother intercession for all of us during this coronavirus pandemic. This prayer was prepared and released through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Until next week,

Fr. John

Readings for the Week of April 5, 2020

Sunday: 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

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 [5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mt 28:1-10

Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-



In keeping with the public health emergency measures in place to limit the spread of the coronavirus, St. Francis Religious Education classes and Religious Education program activities will not be meeting until further notice.

During this time when we cannot meet, we are providing resources for use at home and are sending these by email each week. Families are encouraged to continue to be intentional about faith formation through use of these at-home lessons and by sharing prayer daily.

Religious Education program updates are being sent through *Flocknote*. If you are not receiving these messages, please contact Susan Anderson at sanderson@sfdw.org.

**ST. FRANCIS
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER**

THE ROSARY

Parishioners are invited to pray the Rosary every day with other St. Francis parishioners during “parish times of prayer.” Two of these times are 9:30 am when the Legion of Mary prays the Rosary and 4:30 pm, when the Saturday Morning Spiritual Reading Group prays the Rosary.

MORNING PRAYER

Deacon Jim Datovech will host Morning Prayers (Liturgy of the Hours) at 7:30 am every day beginning Friday, March 27, up to and including Holy Saturday on Zoom. Attend by using any Internet-supported device; he will “share” his screen so you can see and participate in morning prayer. Please mute your device to eliminate background noise. [Participate in morning prayers](#) and use Meeting ID: 465030429 and Password: 668644.

EVENING PRAYERS AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Deacon Jim will host Evening Prayers at 7:30 pm every night beginning Friday, March 27 up to and including the Wednesday of Holy Week. On Friday nights during Lent, Evening Prayer will be followed immediately by a virtual Stations of the Cross. Deacon Jim will “share” his screen so you can see and participate in the prayer; you do not need anything other than your device’s screen to participate. Please mute your device to eliminate background noise. [Participate in evening prayers and Stations of the Cross](#) and use Meeting ID: 806890951 and Password: 255455.

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.

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.

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.

THIS WEEK AT HOME

(Purple Bulletin Insert)

Monday, April 6, The Lord of Life

As Jesus anticipates his death, we notice a terrible irony. People want to kill the one who raised a man from the dead. Moreover, Jesus is the servant God sent into the world. The Father, who breathes life into people and sustains creation with his Spirit, sent his Son to lead people out of darkness, to open their eyes and give them life. Although the people will crucify this servant, he will rise from the dead.

Tuesday, April 7, Failures

When Jesus speaks of his glorification, he refers not only to being raised up to new life but also to being raised up on the cross. He undergoes his glorification as one friend betrays him and another denies knowing him. Jesus is the servant who seems to have accomplished nothing, to have failed in revealing his Father to the world. As God declared to his servant, however, Jesus’ work has not been in vain. Should you try again at something you had given up on?

Wednesday, April 8, Facing It

We hear again from God’s servant, who perseveres in doing God’s will despite offensive and painful mockery. As Jesus eats with his disciples for the last time, he knows what he will endure because of his ministry, yet he “sets his face like flint” and remains steadfast. Despite all that is done to him, he will neither falter nor be ashamed. Is there a particular conflict you have been avoiding? How can you face it calmly and prayerfully?

Thursday, April 9, Holy Thursday

As Jesus celebrates the liberation of his people from Egypt and the many blessings God had bestowed, he prepares his disciples for the blessings of eternal life that God bestows through him. To share in this new life, we must be humble and selfless enough to give up the lives we have now.

Friday, April 10, Good Friday

God’s servant offers himself up for judgment. Like Pilate, our decision about Jesus becomes a statement about us. We profess that Jesus is God’s Son and our Savior, but have we followed his way, accepted his truth, and welcomed his life? Surround yourself with as much silence as you can today

Saturday, April 11, The Easter Vigil

Ancient texts are proclaimed to us this holy night, but even these could not prepare people for the Resurrection. Creation again shakes in fear and wonder, yet we are told not to be afraid but to embrace our Risen Lord and to go quickly to share this joyous news.

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