

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

April 13 - April 19

Monday, 4/13	9:00 a.m.	James T. Reilly
Tuesday, 4/14	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
Wednesday, 4/15	9:00 a.m.	Andy Crossland
	7:30 p.m.	Helen Ann Bathon Tigano
Thursday, 4/16	9:00 a.m.	Alexander O'Connor
Friday, 4/17	9:00 a.m.	Luigi & Bernice Mastronardi
Saturday, 4/18	9:00 a.m.	Jane Ruiz (L)
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 4/19	8:00 a.m.	Romeo Alvarez
	9:30 a.m.	Carole Pettit
	11:15 a.m.	Margaret Madden
	5:00 p.m.	Patsy & Stella Battista

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 Lois Callahan, mother of Nancy Currier, Anna Lillian, mother of Maria Jayardene.

Please pray for the sick...Allison Brauer, John McCormick, Danielle Payen, Susan & Mickey Spalding, Frank Knorr, 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 April 12, 2020

Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4
Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 [5b]/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Lk 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118: 1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a [22]/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/Mk 16:9-15
Next Sunday:	Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Christ is risen, alleluia! He has risen indeed, alleluia! ***Happy Easter everyone.***

I am actually writing this column at the beginning of Holy Week. At this time, the coronavirus pandemic has now infected 1.2 million people globally with 330,000 in the U.S., and 69,000 deaths worldwide. I suspect that when you read this, the numbers will be much higher. The Surgeon General, Jerome Adams, said that this pandemic rivals some of the darkest moments in U.S. history, including the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor and the September 11th terrorist hijackings. Surgeon General Adams went on to say that it was not going to be localized. It will be happening all over the country. He wanted America to understand that.

It is profoundly sad for me that we won't be able to celebrate Easter together in church. I really wish that this would be possible. But we have to keep the church closed in order to promote the health and well-being of our brothers and sisters, especially the frail and the elderly.

People have asked me, where is God in all of this? How can we make sense of what has been happening to us in the last few months?

Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso, Texas, recently published a reflection at the beginning of Holy Week that addresses some of these sentiments and fears fairly well. Let me quote what he wrote:

"In a moment like this we know deep in our hearts that there is only One who can help us. We need a superhero. We need God to come to the rescue and fix this situation, like a genie in a bottle who will grant our wish. But where is God anyway? Why has God, if God is out there at all, allowed this to happen? And why didn't he fix things when we asked?"

"Maybe we should start by not casting a blaming eye at God. Maybe we ought to start looking within. Not to say that this is caused by us. We are not that powerful. But look within to recognize the truth about ourselves—that we have lived an illusion. We, in the USA, were not in control after all. Consuming would never fill the emptiness in our hearts. No amount of drugs, legal or otherwise, no amount of alcohol, no amount of food, no amount of porn or sex, no amount of money will fill that place within us that is reserved for the love of our Creator."

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

Easter Sunday

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I come to a deeper and firmer belief? How can I guide others in their faith?

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,
Fr. John

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

We can find the penance of being confined to our homes to be very challenging. How can we make good use of this time at home with the right attitude and in a truly productive manner? Pope Francis has made a few suggestions for this in his remarks for Holy Week:

"It is a difficult time for everyone. For many, very difficult. The Pope knows this and, with these words, he wants to tell everyone of his closeness and affection. Let us try, if we can, to make the best use of this time: let us be generous; let us help those in need in our neighborhood; let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks; let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty in Italy and in the world. Even if we are isolated, thought and spirit can go far with the creativity of love. This is what we need today: the creativity of love. This is what is needed today: the creativity of love."

Yes indeed, brothers and sisters, today we celebrate Easter. Satan thought that he had won. He thought that he had killed off the Son of God. But as we all know, the Resurrection of Jesus was not about flesh and blood. Instead the Resurrection of Our Lord is about pure, unconditional, all-forgiving, all-embracing love that can never be confined to a tomb. Today we are invited to unite ourselves more deeply with Christ, knowing full well that it involves uniting us in his death. It also means facing the constant challenges and chaos of life. The end-game is being united with Christ in eternal glory.

Christ is risen, alleluia! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

Until next week,
Fr. John



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@sfadw.org.

FORMED

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- 1) Go to sfadw.formed.org
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- 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.

EVENTS POSTPONED

Our Annual Yard Sale scheduled for Saturday, May 9th is being postponed to a later date. There is a possibility it may also be cancelled for this year. Please watch the bulletin for additional information.

Our Annual Plant Sale scheduled for Saturday, May 1-3 is being postponed to a later date. There is a possibility this may also be cancelled. Please watch the bulletin for additional information.

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.

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.

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.***

PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICE MEN/WOMEN

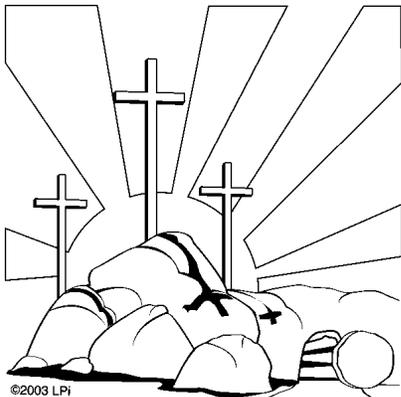
Please continue to pray for all those parishioners, family members and friends who are serving in the military services in Iraq, Afghanistan and other dangerous areas. We have a prayer list posted in the Gathering Space for those who are serving in these areas. Please help us to keep it current by letting 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.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Please remember to pray for all the Doctors, Nurses, Technicians, Administrative Staff, and the Housekeeping Staff of our hospitals in their day to day work with patients who suffer from COVID-19.

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.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

(Bulletin Insert)

Monday, April 13, The Empty Tomb

No one disputes that the tomb was empty. The question is how it became empty. By spreading a false report, some of the religious authorities hope to prevent people from believing that Jesus rose from the dead. When Peter speaks to the crowd, however, he doesn't use the empty tomb as proof of Jesus' Resurrection, but refers instead to the Scriptures and his encounter with the Risen Jesus. How would you explain the true meaning of the empty tomb?

Tuesday, April 14, The Spirit of the Risen Lord

Mary Magdalene must let go of Jesus as she knew him in order to encounter him in a new way. Having been crucified and raised, Jesus is no longer confined to time and space, but is now present among and even within his followers through the gift of the Holy Spirit. All who accept this gift become brothers and sisters of the Risen Lord and sons and daughters of God the Father. Send a note of welcome to anyone in your community who was baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Wednesday, April 15, Amazement

The two disciples leaving Jerusalem are amazed by the women's report of the empty tomb. They grow increasingly astonished as the Risen Christ opens the Word and breaks bread with them—and then vanishes. Also astonished are the people in the temple who see the disabled man jumping about and praising God. These stories invite us to rejoice at the enduring power of Christ in the world.

Thursday, April 16, Witnesses

Jesus' followers witnessed his mighty deeds. Two of his disciples witnessed the Risen Lord as they headed to Emmaus. Still more disciples heard the Risen Christ speak words of peace to them and prepare them to minister in his name. A man in the temple area experienced the Risen Lord acting through Peter. Peter urged the people who witnessed that healing to acknowledge the saving power of the Risen Lord. Thank someone who has been an especially strong Christian witness for you.

Friday, April 17, Bolder than Ever

Peter seems as impulsive as ever as he dives into the water to swim to the Risen Lord. This man of action then rushes to drag over the net laden with fish when Jesus asks for more food. The Holy Spirit strengthens this natural tendency of Jesus' lead disciple. After a night in the custody of religious authorities who wish to silence him, Peter goes on to speak as boldly as ever. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you do something brave today.

Saturday, April 18, Dealing with Disbelief

The extended ending of Mark's Gospel account is reassuring to those who struggle to believe in the Risen Lord. Even Jesus' closest followers did not initially believe in the Resurrection. Jesus had to appear to them and empower them with his Spirit. Once that happened, it became "impossible" for them not to share the story of Christ. Read and reflect on a Gospel passage for this week. Imagine you are one of those early disciples. Ask God to strengthen your faith.