

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

April 20 - April 26

Monday, 4/20	9:00 a.m.	Eugene Dudenhoeffer
Tuesday, 4/21	9:00 a.m.	Martin Fray
Wednesday, 4/22	9:00 a.m.	Carol Jean Jordan
	7:30 p.m.	Reverend Louis Tou
Thursday, 4/23	9:00 a.m.	Antonio Faria
Friday, 4/24	9:00 a.m.	Enrique Quemuel
Saturday, 4/25	9:00 a.m.	Olive Atwell Stehle
	5:00 p.m.	Mary Carney Gray
Sunday, 4/26	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Debbie Tucker
	11:15 a.m.	Wilfredo De Castro (L)
	5:00 p.m.	Sister Martha & George Costa

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 Norma Brito, Felix Espinal, Mila Paulino, Mary Zoghby-Hefner.

Please pray for the sick...James Charbonneau, Placido Brito, 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 19, 2020

Sunday:	Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/ 1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31
Monday:	Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/ Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday:	Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/ Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday:	Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/ Jn 3:16-21
Thursday:	Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/ Jn 3:31-36
Friday:	Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/ Jn 6:1-15
Saturday:	1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/ Mk 16:15-20
Next Sunday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [11a]/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Today is the Second Sunday of Easter and also Divine Mercy Sunday. The feast of Divine Mercy is based on the devotion to the Divine Mercy that Saint Faustina Kowalska reported as part of her encounter with Jesus. I should mention here that these apparitions would fall under the category of private revelations. The Church does not give any definitive teaching on the authenticity or nature of such apparitions. But the Church does study them carefully and, if the fruits of an event breathe of the providential designs, it approves the consequent devotions. The Bishops of the United States said in regard to certain approved Marian apparitions that these providential happenings serve as a reminder to us of basic Christian themes: prayer, penance, and the necessity of the sacraments. This same would be true in case of these apparitions to Saint Faustina. It would also apply to the case of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque who had a series of apparitions in the seventeenth century that were instrumental in promoting the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

At the bottom of the image of Divine Mercy we see words: "Jesus, I trust in you." These are very important words for us to recall in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. I listened to the Shields and Brooks report on the PBS News Hour on Good Friday. I was really struck by a remark that David Brooks made that evening. He said that he was focused in mental health of people after asking 6,000 readers of his column in the *New York Times* to report on how their health was doing. He saw that three groups of people were suffering in particular. The first group was that of young people who felt that their hopes and dreams were crushed. They reported to him that they were not eating and not sleeping and were crying on the sofa. A second group who were badly hit were senior citizens, especially widows and widowers. They had a sense of crushing isolation. The third group was that of people who already had mental health problems before the pandemic hit. They were experiencing new relapses. Once I heard this report I have been keeping young people, senior citizens, and those who live with mental health issues in my prayers. I would hope and pray that they—indeed all of us—would remember the words that Jesus said to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary when they encountered him after they discovered the tomb was empty on that Easter morn, "Do not be afraid!" These are two phrases that are very important at the present time: "Jesus, I trust in you" and "Do not be afraid!"

In his Easter message this year Pope Francis made several points that are well worth remembering. He recalled that Christ's resurrection is not a "magic formula that makes problems vanish." Rather, "it is the victory of love over the root of evil." Such a victory "does not 'by-pass' suffering, but passes through them, opening a path in the abyss, transforming good into evil."

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

Second Sunday of Easter

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can I identify with Doubting Thomas, at times unsure of my faith? In what ways has Jesus given me peace to overcome the anxieties in my life?

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

SUNDAY MASS VIA YOU TUBE

Fr. John says Mass every Sunday at 10 a.m. from the St. Clare Chapel. Please visit our website www.sfadw.org for more information and also the link to the Mass on Sunday.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

The Holy Father noted that this disease has not only deprived us of human closeness but also of the possibility of receiving in person the consolation that flows from the sacraments, particularly the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. He added that the Lord has not left us alone.

Pope Francis went on to say that this was not a time for indifference, self-centeredness, division, or forgetfulness. "Indifference, self-centeredness, division, and forgetfulness are not words we want to hear at this time," said the Pope. These words "seem to prevail when fear and death overwhelm us." He expresses the wish that we would want to ban them forever.

The Holy Father concluded his *Urbi et Orbi* message with a prayer: "May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of His glorious day. A day that knows no end."

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

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.

FUNDRAISING 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 K of C 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.

A MILLION ROSARIES

Every prayer counts! Please join the Little Sisters of the Poor in praying one million Rosaries to conquer the Coronavirus pandemic. Sign up for the one million Rosary campaign at <http://littlesistersofthepoor.org>.

THIS WEEK AT HOME

(Bulletin Insert)

Monday, April 20, Reborn in the Spirit

Nicodemus doesn't understand that Jesus is bringing about the Kingdom of God. In response, Jesus speaks about the Spirit. Those who are "born from above," who receive the Spirit, become part of God's Kingdom. When the Apostles were reborn in the Spirit, they went forth to bring others into God's Kingdom. At Baptism and Confirmation, we celebrate God's gift of the Spirit, but how much do we let the Spirit work within us? Pray for the courage to live as someone who is reborn in the Spirit.

Tuesday, April 21, What We Possess

Nicodemus is a leader among his people, but Jesus has far greater authority because he has come from heaven. Jesus has shared his authority with the Apostles. In Acts, we hear how converts entrust their wealth to the Apostles for distribution among the community. By giving up their wealth, people show that they have submitted themselves to Christ and his Church. They are no longer attached to material things. How attached are you to the things you own? How much would you put at the feet of the Apostles?

Wednesday, April 22, Faith to Share

The Acts of the Apostles reminds us that our Christian faith is not something to be kept private. We are instead to be like the Apostles and share the good news that God loves the world so much he became human. When the Apostles are imprisoned for sharing this good news, God sends an angel to free them. God goes to remarkable lengths to help us share his love with others. How can you help someone encounter God's love today?

Thursday, April 23, Brave Witness

Jesus, the one "from above" who has received everything from his Father, speaks on God's behalf and freely shares the Spirit with those who believe. Having received the Spirit, Jesus' followers continue to teach and heal in his name, despite being imprisoned, interrogated, and ordered to stop. Without their brave witness, we would never have heard the Gospel. Pray for those who risk their lives for Christ.

Friday, April 24, Thy Will Be Done

Despite not having nearly enough food for the crowd, Jesus feeds everyone, and has baskets left over. It is God's will that people be fed, that they be nourished. In Acts, a Jewish leader intervenes on behalf of the Apostles, pointing out that if they are doing God's will, their work will succeed. What work are we trying to do? Does God support us, or are we acting for ourselves alone?

St. Mark the Evangelist

St. Mark responded to the Lord's command to "proclaim the gospel" by writing down the story of Jesus. In Mark's Gospel account, the danger of the cross looms early in Jesus' ministry. Mark seems to have composed his work for Christians who were persecuted because of their faith in Christ. Like St. Peter in his letter, Mark encourages those who suffer to remain "steadfast in faith." Although we are in a season of rejoicing, we remember that being an Easter people means we must also be people of the cross. Read some or all of Mark's account of the Gospel today.