

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

May 18 - 24

Monday, 5/18	9:00 a.m.	Joseph Dukert
Tuesday, 5/19	9:00 a.m.	John Francis Stehle
Wednesday, 5/20	9:00 a.m.	Carol Jean Jordan
	7:30 p.m.	Reverend Francis Bober
Thursday, 5/21	9:00 a.m.	Nancy Baker
Friday, 5/22	9:00 a.m.	Catherine Dillon Bullen
Saturday, 5/23	9:00 a.m.	Reverend John Dillon (L) <i>Ordination Anniversary</i>
	5:00 p.m.	James Galvin
Sunday, 5/24	8:00 a.m.	Project Rachel Ministries (L)
	9:30 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Guy Beaven
	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 soul of Anthony Noble, brother of Ceil Noga, Eddie Gancayco.

Please pray for the sick... Kristin Marie Denchfield, Mary McGrath, Allison Brauer, John McCormick, 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 May 17, 2020

Sunday:	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 [1]/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21
Monday:	Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28
Next Sunday: Ascension:	Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Pope Francis, as a member of the Society of Jesus, has a special devotion to Our Lady under her title of Health of the Roman People (“*Salus Populi Romani*”). Since his election to the papacy in 2013, he has made it a point to go to the Major Basilica of St. Mary Major to pray before the icon of Mary, Health of the Roman People both before he would set on a journey and then on his return from the journey. In March Pope Francis had the icon brought to the Vatican to use as part of the special blessing for the City of Rome and the World (*Urbi et Orbi*).

This icon is said to be one of several “Luke images” that was painted by the Evangelist from real life. According to legend, Our Lady took with her a few personal possessions when she moved to the home of Saint John the Apostle after the Crucifixion. One of the items was a table built by Our Lord Jesus Christ in the workshop of Saint Joseph. When some pious virgins of Jerusalem prevailed upon Saint Luke to paint a portrait of Mary, Mother of God, it was the top of this table that was used to memorialize the image. While he painted, he listened carefully as the Mother of Jesus spoke about the life of her Son. These facts he later recorded in the Gospel. Legend also tells us that the image remained in and around Jerusalem until it was discovered by Saint Helena in the fourth century. Saint Helena arranged for the icon and other sacred relics to be transported to Constantinople where her son, the Emperor Constantine, built a church for their enthronement. Somehow the image got to Crete by the end of the sixth century.

The image is believed to have arrived in Rome from Crete in the year A.D. 590 during the pontificate of Pope Saint Gregory the Great. Since 1613 this icon has been located in the altar tabernacle in the Pauline Chapel in the Basilica of St. Mary Major. From the fourteenth century it has been venerated as a miraculous image. Various popes have prayed before the image at times of crisis of one sort or another or of particular celebration. Some notable examples include:

Pope Saint Pius V prayed before it in 1571 to pray for a victory in the battle of Lepanto.

Pope Gregory XVI prayed before the image in 1837 to ask for an end to the cholera epidemic then raging in Rome and Italy.

Pope Pius XII ordered that image be carried through Rome in 1954 to mark the beginning of the Marian Year,

Pope Saint John Paul II paid special attention to this image during World Youth Day during the Jubilee Year of 2000.

Pope Benedict XVI venerated the image of Mary, Health of the Roman People, on several occasions during his pontificate.

Pope Francis arranged for the restoration and conservation of the image and officiated at a Pontifical Mass in Our Lady’s honor on January 28, 2018, on the anniversary of the translation of the image to its new permanent location in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major. I have already mentioned his custom of praying before the image before he sets out on a journey and after he returns to Rome on the completion of the journey and his veneration of the image in the extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* blessing when he prayed for the end of the world-wide devastation being brought about by the Coronavirus several weeks ago.

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In the second reading, Peter tells his readers that they should “always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope” (1 Peter 3:15). Can I explain to others, gently and reverently, why I hope?

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. Details for other virtual services such as Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Praying the Rosary and Wednesday Evening Mass can also be found on our website.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

In the Archdiocese of Washington, the observance of the Ascension of the Lord is transferred to Sunday, May 24, Thursday, May 21, 2020 is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

During this month of May Pope Francis has encouraged families and groups to pray the Rosary with particular fervor and devotion for an end to the pandemic. He has presented two prayers that could be used at the close of the Rosary to ask the intercession of the Mother of God, Health of the Roman People, for an end to the pandemic. Here is the first of the two prayers here for your prayerful consideration:

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

“Protectress of the Roman people,” you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.

Until next week,

Fr. John

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

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!!

A REMINDER FROM FR. JOHN ... If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, it would be wise to consult with a priest to see whether that situation might be rectified. It could be as simple as repeating your marriage vows quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

This week, we take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to help Jesus in disguise. This collection helps six Catholic agencies provide relief and support to struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

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**

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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 and the Peace Pole where you can also pray. *Please remember to keep social distancing when visiting any of these locations.*

ARE YOU CELEBRATING A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?

The annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years will be held Sunday, **June 28, 2020** at 2:00 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. *At this time it is anticipated that this celebration will take place.* Please email the parish office to register dzezzo@sfadw.org. Please include the following information in your email:

- Name of the couple (as you want it printed on the certificate)
- Mailing Address
- Telephone Number or email
- Number of years married
- Will you attend the Mass if it is held

Names of Jubilarians need to be turned into the parish office on or before **Monday, May 18**. Please **do not call the parish office** as it is closed at this time. You can also mail in the above information to the Parish Office, ATT: Donna Zezzo.

WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL ENCORE?

If you are transitioning to full or part-time retirement and are thinking about all that follows a long and successful career, consider meaningful service with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC), a program established by the Jesuits to give seasoned women and men ages 50 and better an opportunity to share their experience and wisdom with those in our community in greatest need while also participating in a formation program rooted in Ignatian Spirituality. The commitment is part-time and there are a number of rewarding service opportunities in Montgomery County and D.C. For more information on IVC, please contact local director (and St. Francis parishioner) Mike Goggin at 202-277-4447 or mgoggin@ivcusa.org.

THIS WEEK AT HOME

(Bulletin Insert)

Monday, May 18 - Journeys

The Advocate that Jesus promised has unmistakably filled St. Paul. For the rest of the Easter season we will hear about Paul's extensive travels and missionary work. Paul takes every opportunity to tell others about Christ and to enter into fellowship with them. Make a map of your Christian journey. What significant moments are on that map?

Tuesday, May 19 - Revealing Righteousness

Jesus promises to send an Advocate who will reveal whether a person is ultimately righteous or sinful. In Acts, the jailer recognizes that Paul and Silas are righteous despite their imprisonment. The jailer is so impressed by their behavior that he listens to them and is baptized. Are there people you don't listen to because you are certain they are wrong? Do they have some words of truth to offer you?

Wednesday, May 20 - A Gospel for All

Jesus helps his disciples prepare for his death. He also promises that the "Spirit of truth" will give them insight into future events so that they can act in his name. This Spirit is active in Paul as he preaches in Athens, a city renowned for its diversity. Paul's ministry in that city anticipates the spread of the Gospel to the wider and still more diverse world. Today, the Gospel is lived and expressed in countless ways. What are some Catholic practices unique to your area or culture?

Thursday, May 21 - The Ascension of the Lord

In ancient texts, revered people were sometimes shown being taken up into heaven. Their ascension was a metaphor for divine approval. Luke draws on this imagery to show that God approves of Jesus but also that Jesus shares God's power. Having ascended, Jesus is no longer physically constrained but is spiritually and sacramentally present in those who are baptized.

Friday, May 22 - Everlasting Joy

Jesus insists that his disciples will soon be filled with a joy from God that no one can take away. This promise seems to clash with the passage from Acts where Paul is unjustly treated by a mob and those in authority don't care. Paul, however, compelled by love and gratitude for Christ, continues his ministry.

Saturday, May 23 - Our Every Need

Jesus tells his disciples that soon God will give them whatever they ask. Often, however, we receive without asking. Apollos receives much needed instruction about the Christian faith. The Christian community then receives in Apollos a well-formed and compelling preacher. Surprise someone by doing something helpful but unexpected for them today.

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>.