

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

May 25 - 31

Monday, 5/25	9:00 a.m.	Deceased
Tuesday, 5/26	9:00 a.m.	Sonia Arce
Wednesday, 5/27	9:00 a.m.	Maria Isabel Pelacz
	7:30 p.m.	Joseph Berdini Jr.
Thursday, 5/28	9:00 a.m.	Homebound Parishioners (L)
Friday, 5/29	9:00 a.m.	Frances D'Aurora
Saturday, 5/30	9:00 a.m.	Rosalina F. Ruiz
	5:00 p.m.	Fred Theurer
Sunday, 5/31	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	9:30 a.m.	In Thanksgiving to St. George
	11:15 a.m.	RE Catechists & Families (L)
	5:00 p.m.	Annemarie Casey

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 Anna Maria Pinto, mother of Julia Pinto-Fryer, Glenn Doerrman, father of Andy Doerrmann.

Please pray for the sick... Diane Comly, William Daleus, Kristin Marie Denchfield, Allison Brauer, John McCormick, 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 May 24, 2020

Sunday:	Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/ Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20
Monday:	Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/ Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/ Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday:	Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26
Friday:	Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/Jn 21:15-19
Saturday:	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [cf. 7b]/ Jn 21:20-25
Next Sunday:	Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Mr. Rogers has told the story that when he was a boy he was talking with his mother about what to do when there was an emergency. She told him that in a crisis or an emergency, you always look to the helpers. I am very proud of the ways in which we have risen to the occasion by providing food to the St. Martin's Food Pantry, diapers to a local school that was collecting them for parents who needed them for their children, and masks for those living in shelters. Today I want to talk about another way in which we can help: by being an advocate for the poor, marginalized, the vulnerable and disenfranchised. This has always been a need and is even more so now during the pandemic. There are multiple ways to do this. Let me mention two now for your consideration.

First there is the Catholic Advocacy Network that is sponsored by the Maryland Catholic Conference. This is an online network of thousands of Catholics that works to connect those who participate in it with our Maryland elected officials so that they can take easy yet meaningful action on legislation. It is also a way to keep those who wish to participate up-to-date on what is happening in Annapolis. During the annual 90-day Maryland legislative session, the Maryland Catholic Conference sends out regular emails and or text alerts updating those participating on current issues being considered and inviting them to advocate on behalf of the poor, the marginalized, and the vulnerable.

The second way that I want to mention is the Voice of the Poor. Many people are familiar with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We have had a parish conference here for several years now that meets regularly to provide direct assistance to those who may need help paying their rent, paying utility bills, or even paying funeral expenses. Another aspect of the Vincentian work is advocacy through Voice of the Poor, which is the advocacy arm of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. With members representing every section and demographic of the nation, Vincentians identify those issues that are critical to those living in poverty and need, and help bring attention to them so communities and elected representatives can help develop strategies and tactics that will provide the most effective and efficient means to reduce or eliminate poverty.

Please let me know if you would be interested in either of these worthwhile endeavors. If you are, I would be happy to connect you with them.

Someone asked me recently if it is illegal for members of the Catholic Advocacy Network or the Voice of the Poor to lobby for or against legislation. Actually, the law provided that charitable organizations can engage in lobbying. In fact, the general experience for many organizations is that they have increased their impact by carefully undertaking lobbying activities. What the Catholic Advocacy Network and the Voice of the Poor are not permitted to do according to the law is to engage in electioneering. That is, getting involved in supporting or opposing a particular political candidate.

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Have I felt the power of the Holy Spirit when tackling something I did not think possible? What have I feared to do that now seems possible?

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.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Individual parishioners can do that on their own time and in their own name. Get-out-the-vote and voter education campaigns, including education about a specific issue, by law, are not considered electioneering. Lobbying policymakers is just one aspect of political or social involvement. Another is advocacy: arguing in favor of a particular cause or action. Not-for-profit organizations by their very existence are advocates for something specific, such as the arts, the environment, education, justice, transportation, or poverty.

For many years the Maryland Catholic Conference organized Lobby Night, which was held on President's Day. I remember hearing a member of the House of Delegates or a staff member say that Catholics argued on behalf of those who otherwise had no voice: namely, the poor, the marginalized, and the vulnerable. That is not a bad reputation to have. On another occasion I heard that a member of the House of Delegates complain one Lobby Night: "Why can't the Church just leave us alone! It used to be enough just to go to Mass on Sunday. Now you are all here with these items that you want us to work on!" My answer to that is that something the work of the Church is to comfort the afflicted. But on other occasions we need to afflict the comfortable. Even the saints have been involved in lobbying the government for legislation that promotes justice. Saint Katharine Drexel worked to advance legal protection of Native Americans and people of color through fierce and unyielding letter-writing campaigns. Newspapers that published biased or racist articles about Native Americans or African Americans would hear from her! She was also a vocal supporter of early civil rights legislation, especially anti-lynching laws. Pope Saint Paul VI once remarked, "If you want peace, work for justice!" St. Katharine would heartily agree with that sentiment.

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!!

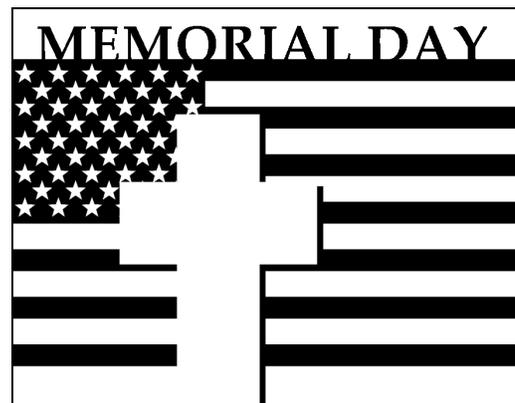
FAITH DIRECT - ONLINE GIVING

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.faihtdirect.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**

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.

MOVING/CHANGE OF ADDRESS/E-MAIL

Please notify our Parish Office, 301-840-1407 or sfaparishoffice@sfadw.org, of any changes in your address, phone number or e-mail address. Thank you for helping to keep our database up-to-date.



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.*

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.

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, May 25 - Fill Us

Although Jesus' disciples think they understand him, Jesus insists that their understanding is incomplete: during his passion, they will abandon him. Only with the gift of the Holy Spirit will they find the courage to stay faithful. By contrast, Paul encounters men who have not heard of the Holy Spirit but who are well prepared to receive this gift. We need both the Spirit and the formation of our faith community to guide us forward. Pray for the Spirit to fill you and your faith community.

Tuesday, May 26 - Imitators

There are similarities between Paul's journey to Jerusalem and Jesus' preparations for his passion. In John's account of the Gospel, Jesus gives a long farewell discourse in which he talks with his disciples about all that is going to happen. Paul also makes a formal farewell before facing the hardships that await him. As he says goodbye, Paul urges his listeners to imitate Jesus just as he has. Hear more of Paul's heartfelt words by reading all or part of his letter to the Philippians.

Wednesday, May 27 - Set Apart

In the Gospel passage, the word *world* refers to all that opposes God. As Jesus continues his prayer to the Father, he speaks about how his followers are set apart from the world. He prays that God will further consecrate or sanctify them to continue his work of sharing the truth of God's love. Paul also was set apart for God's work, and he reminded others to remain steadfast in holiness. In what concrete ways can you set yourself apart from the world?

Thursday, May 28 - That All May Be One

Religion, sadly, often divides people instead of uniting them. The Pharisees and Sadducees disagreed on whether there was any kind of afterlife. Disagreements about beliefs and practices persist among Christians today. Such division compels us to bow our heads and echo Jesus' prayer for unity.

Friday, May 29 - In the Hands of Others

In Luke's Gospel account, Jesus tells his disciples that they will be handed over to kings and governors (21:12-13). In the passage from Acts, Paul is in the hands of the local governor who consults on his case with the king. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus tells Peter that one day Peter will be arrested and crucified. Centuries later, Christians still come into conflict with those in authority. Pray for those who are attacked or imprisoned because of their faith.

Saturday, May 30 - The Work Continues

As we near the end of our Easter season, we hear the conclusions to the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel according to John. Paul has arrived at Rome, in fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy that his followers would be his witnesses throughout the world. Today Christian missionaries have crossed oceans to enter new regions and share the story of salvation. John's Gospel notes that Jesus said and did far more than any book could contain. The Jesus who has risen, ascended to his Father, and filled us with his Spirit continues his mission through us. May the good work we do in Jesus' name fill more volumes than could ever be written.