

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

August 24-30

Monday, 8/24	9:00 a.m.	Isaac Scharbach
Tuesday, 8/25	9:00 a.m.	Anastacia Meneses
Wednesday, 8/26	9:00 a.m.	Alexander O'Connor
	7:30 p.m.	Homebound Parishioners (L)
Thursday, 8/27	9:00 a.m.	Fr. Don Worch
Friday, 8/28	9:00 a.m.	Lois Gallahan
Saturday, 8/29	5:00 p.m.	All Students (L)
Sunday, 8/30	9:30 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Gilbert Reising
	5:00 p.m.	Deacon Leonard Cain

Mass Intentions will be prayed for in a private daily Mass said by Fr. John if not prayed for in a public Mass.

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Sister Paula Mary Aumen, John Less, Joseph Natale, Jennifer Troiano.

Please pray for the sick... Jackie Komlo, Kim Carpentier, Kayla Garcia, Barbara Haff, Dan Piasecki, Tony Montealgre, Allison Brauer, John McCormick, Frank Knorr, Allan Degen, Bob Jones, William Komlo, Joseph Michael Gardner, 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 August 23, 2020

Sunday:	Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 [8bc]/ Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20
Monday:	Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/ Jn 1:45-51
Tuesday:	2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 [13b]/ Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday:	2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 [1]/ Mt 23:27-32
Thursday:	1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [1]/ Mt 24:42-51
Friday:	1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 [5]/ Mt 25:1-13
Saturday:	1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Mk 6:17-2
Next Sunday:	Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b]/ Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-2

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

As he was finishing his address to a joint meeting of Congress on September 24, 2015, Pope Francis mentioned that he would finish his visit to the United States by taking part in the World Meeting of Families that was to be held in Philadelphia. Pope Francis has expressed great concern of the state of the family. He wanted it to be a recurrent theme of his 2015 visit to the United States and it remains a great concern of his in our day as well. Let's listen in again to what he said to the Congress about the family:

I will end my visit to your country in Philadelphia, where I will take part in the World Meeting of Families. It is my wish that throughout my visit the family should be a recurrent theme. How essential the family has been to the building of this country! And how worthy it remains of our support and encouragement! Yet I cannot hide my concern for the family, which is threatened, perhaps as never before, from within and without. Fundamental relationships are being called into question, as is the very basis of marriage and the family. I can only reiterate the importance and, above all, the richness and the beauty of family life.

In particular, I would like to call attention to those family members who are the most vulnerable, the young. For many of them, a future filled with countless possibilities beckons, yet so many others seem disoriented and aimless, trapped in a hopeless maze of violence, abuse and despair. Their problems are our problems. We cannot avoid them. We need to face them together, to talk about them and to seek effective solutions rather than getting bogged down in discussions. At the risk of oversimplifying, we might say that we live in a culture which pressures young people not to start a family, because they lack possibilities for the future. Yet this same culture presents others with so many options that they too are dissuaded from starting a family.

A nation can be considered great when it defends liberty as Lincoln did, when it fosters a culture which enables people to "dream" of full rights for all their brothers and sisters, as Martin Luther King sought to do; when it strives for justice and the cause of the oppressed, as Dorothy Day did by her tireless work, the fruit of a faith which becomes dialogue and sows peace in the contemplative style of Thomas Merton.

In these remarks I have sought to present some of the richness of your cultural heritage, of the spirit of the American people. It is my desire that this spirit continue to develop and grow, so that as many young people as possible can inherit and dwell in a land which has inspired so many people to dream.

God bless America!

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

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*How do I answer the question Jesus asks his disciples:
"Who do you say that I am?"*

SUNDAY MASS VIA YOU TUBE

Fr. John or Fr. Patrick will say 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 Praying the Rosary and Wednesday Evening Mass can also be found on our website.

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.faihdirect.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*

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!!

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Greeting of the Holy Father from the Porch of the United States Capitol:

Good day to all of you. I thank you for your welcome and your presence. I thank the most important people here today: the children. I want to ask God to bless them. Lord, Father of us all, bless his people, bless each of them, bless their families, grant them what they need most. I ask you to pray for me and, if there are some among you who do not believe or cannot pray, I ask you please to wish me well. Thank you. Thank you very much. And God bless America!

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

COMMUNION SERVICE SUNDAYS - 3:00-3:30 PM

Fr. John and Fr. Patrick will offer Holy Communion from 3-3:30 pm in front of the church to parishioners who are unable to receive the Eucharist during in-person Mass. Attendees should park their cars, put on a face mask and line up, maintaining six feet of distance between households or unrelated parties; please note that there may be two lines of people receiving Holy Communion.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Please see the last page for information on our new program format - an at-home model of catechesis instead of our usual in-person classes. Also, please share this information with others, especially those who will be new to our program.

2020 MARRIAGE JUBILARIAN MASS CANCELLED

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Archdiocesan Marriage Jubilarian Mass scheduled for November 22, 2020 has been cancelled. We are still accepting registrations of couples who are celebrating milestone-wedding anniversaries (25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50+ years) and will be providing each couple an anniversary certificate. Couples who wish to receive a certificate should contact the parish office by September 30th. 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

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There's Still Time to Pre-Register for this year's

Religious Education Program

For the 2020-21 program year, we will be supporting families with an at-home model of catechesis instead of our usual in-person classes. We are also planning a variety of ways to connect families with catechists and others in the parish community through outreach, online gatherings, and, as conditions allow, the possibility of in-person gatherings, all in support of your efforts to teach the faith at home.

Our program offerings for Kindergarten-Grade 8 will include the following:

1) An At-Home Catechesis Kit with the following resources:

- *Finding God* 2021 grade-level textbook for each child (K-8)
- 60-page (print out or digital access) of *Finding God* At-Home Edition parent lesson plans for each grade
- Access to online resources, including Interactive Session Reviews and Learning Games
- A Bible appropriate to your child's grade level

2) Religious Education Program Events facilitated by parish staff and volunteer catechists, including:

- 7 online sessions for parents using *Finding God* Family Catechesis program, offered in live and recorded formats
- Catechist outreach/Family Small Groups (parents choose one); 7 or more throughout the year
- Online Religious Education Program events for all; 7 throughout the year (any of these could be offered in-person as safety allows)
- Online class meetings with catechists for students in Grades 6-8; to be scheduled every 3 weeks; families choose Monday or Tuesday evening sessions

The registration fee for this year's program is \$100 per child. Complete the form to sign up for this year's program at this link:

<https://forms.gle/UnhwSYvUZyPDNfdH7>.

Payment is not required at this time. All who sign-up using the online form will receive a follow-up registration packet, payment information, and additional details about this year's program. (Please note: We never want finances to be a deterrent to faith formation. Please contact us if you have a situation that requires assistance.)

Information Regarding Sacramental Preparation for 2020-21

Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, and full initiation in the adapted RCIA for children and teens seeking Baptism will also be offered in a blended program including online and at-home formats. Since preparing for a sacrament involves formation in addition to grade-level catechesis, sacramental preparation at St. Francis is not grade specific and children are expected to have participated in religious education in the year prior to preparing for a sacrament. Families requesting sacramental preparation for their child are asked to indicate this on the pre-registration form so that additional information can be provided. Please note that there is a separate materials fee for sacramental preparation programs.

Questions? Call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193 or email sfareligoused@sfdw.org.

WHEN WE GATHER FOR MASS PLEASE OBSERVE OUR GUIDELINES

WEAR MASKS

Face coverings are to be worn in and around the church for anyone over 2 years of age.

STAY 6 FEET APART

Physical distancing is practiced in the church and on the church property.

HOLY WATER

Fonts will be empty.

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed only in the hand.

OFFERTORY

Baskets will be placed by the church doors for you to place your envelopes or donations.

HYMNALS & BULLETINS

All hymnals, prayer cards and other papers are not available. The bulletin will only be available online at our website.

SEATING

Seating by direction of an usher only. Please do not enter a pew until directed to do so.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO STRENGTHEN & ENRICH YOUR MARRIAGE?

Attend a 7-Session Virtual Experience Monday and Thursday evenings, October 5-26 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. **3RE: Restore, Rekindle, Renew Enrichment.** A 3RE is an alternative format of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. To apply online go to: moments4marriage.org. For more information please leave a message at 301-541-7007.

AMAZONSMILE ENABLES ST. FRANCIS TO INCREASE FUNDRAISING THROUGH ONLINE SHOPPING

St. Francis parishioners can support our church whenever they're shopping online at Amazon.com. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is a recipient of AmazonSmile, which enables the church to receive 0.5 percent of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases you make. *Go to our Home Page, Give, Give Now* and start shopping!

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.