

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

August 31 - September 6

Monday, 8/31	9:00 a.m.	Reverend Louis Tou
Tuesday, 9/1	9:00 a.m.	Silvestar Ordon
Wednesday, 9/2	9:00 a.m.	Norma Gomez
	7:30 p.m.	Erlinda Quemuel
Thursday, 9/3	9:00 a.m.	Ann Dillon Carlin
Friday, 9/4	9:00 a.m.	Elsie Mastronardi
	7:30 p.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
Saturday, 9/5	9:00 a.m.	Anna Castelluci
	5:00 p.m.	Noah Vincent
Sunday, 9/6	8:00 a.m.	Susan Maloney Fennelly
	9:30 a.m.	William J. Fecko
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	5:00 p.m.	In Thanksgiving for the De Castro Family (L)

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 soul of Mary Treacy, sister of John Treacy.

Please pray for the sick... Nancy Culliton, Lynn Gardner, Jackie Komlo, Kim Carpentier, Kayla Garcia, Barbara Haff, Dan Pisecki, Tony Montealgre, Allison Brauer, John McCormick, Frank Knorr, Allan Degen, Bob Jones, William Komlo, Joseph Michael Gardner, Sandra Kimball, Dennis Parnell, Ed Dudenhoefler, 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 30, 2020

Sunday:	Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b]/ Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27
Monday:	1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 [97]/Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday:	1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 [17]/Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday:	1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 [12]/ Lk 4:38-44
Thursday:	1 Cor 3:18-23/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [1]/ Lk 5:1-11
Friday:	1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 [39a]/ Lk 5:33-39
Saturday:	1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21 [18]/ Lk 6:1-5
Next Sunday:	Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 13:8-10/ Mt 18:15-20

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Pope Francis established September 1 as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in 2015. It is also the first day of the Season of Creation or Creation Time. The Season of Creation or Creation Time, is marked throughout the Christian world from September 1 to October 4 (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. Let's look at the message of Pope Francis from the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation from last year. The message for 2020 had not been released by the time this issue of the bulletin had to go to press. Let's recall some of the remarks that the Holy Father made on this occasion last year:

For this reason, I strongly encourage the faithful to pray in these days that, as the result of a timely ecumenical initiative, are being celebrated as a Season of Creation. This season of increased prayer and effort on behalf of our common home begins today, 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on 4 October, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. It is an opportunity to draw closer to our brothers and sisters of the various Christian confessions. I think in particular of the Orthodox faithful, who have celebrated this Day for thirty years. In this ecological crisis affecting everyone, we should also feel close to all other men and women of good will, called to promote stewardship of the network of life of which we are part.

This is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew by closeness to nature, which spontaneously leads us to give thanks to God the Creator. Saint Bonaventure, that eloquent witness to Franciscan wisdom, said that creation is the first "book" that God opens before our eyes, so that, marveling at its order, its variety and its beauty, we can come to love and praise its Creator (cf. Breviloquium, II, 5, 11). In this book, every creature becomes for us "a word of God" (cf. Commentarius in Librum Ecclesiastes, I, 2). In the silence of prayer, we can hear the symphony of creation calling us to abandon our self-centeredness in order to feel embraced by the tender love of the Father and to share with joy the gifts we have received. We can even say that creation, as a network of life, a place of encounter with the Lord and one another, is "God's own 'social network'" (Audience for the Guides and Scouts of Europe, 3 August 2019). Nature inspires us to raise a song of cosmic praise to the Creator in the words of Scripture: "Bless the Lord, all things that grow on the earth, sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever" (Dan 3:76 Vg).

It is also a season to reflect on our lifestyles, and how our daily decisions about food, consumption, transportation, use of water, energy and many other material goods, can often be thoughtless and harmful. Too many of us act like tyrants with regard to creation. Let us make an effort to change and to adopt more simple and respectful lifestyles! Now is the time to abandon our dependence on fossil fuels and move, quickly and decisively, towards forms of clean energy and a sustainable and circular economy. Let us also learn to listen to indigenous peoples, whose age-old wisdom can teach us how to live in a better relationship with the environment.

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

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Looking at the way I lead my life, what aspect do I need to deny myself and in what way can I take up my cross and follow him?

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.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)

This too is a season for undertaking prophetic actions. Many young people all over the world are making their voices heard and calling for courageous decisions. They feel let down by too many unfulfilled promises, by commitments made and then ignored for selfish interests or out of expediency. The young remind us that the earth is not a possession to be squandered, but an inheritance to be handed down. They remind us that hope for tomorrow is not a noble sentiment, but a task calling for concrete actions here and now. We owe them real answers, not empty words, actions not illusions.

Our prayers and appeals are directed first at raising the awareness of political and civil leaders. I think in particular of those governments that will meet in coming months to renew commitments decisive for directing the planet towards life, not death. The words that Moses proclaimed to the people as a kind of spiritual testament at the threshold of the Promised Land come to mind: "Therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live" (Dt 3:19). We can apply those prophetic words to ourselves and to the situation of our earth. Let us choose life! Let us say "no" to consumerist greed and to the illusion of omnipotence, for these are the ways of death. Let us inaugurate farsighted processes involving responsible sacrifices today for the sake of sure prospects for life tomorrow. Let us not give in to the perverse logic of quick profit, but look instead to our common future!

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.

TOGO MISSION

Fr. Bill Ryan visited St. Francis last weekend to tell people about his mission efforts in Togo. If you were unable to make a donation there is still time. You can mail a check made out to Togo Mission and mail it to Togo Mission, Inc., P.O. Box 130, Gaithersburg MD 20884. You may also make an online donation at www.TogoMissionParish.org. To those parishioners who made a donation at the Masses last weekend - thank you from Fr. Bill Ryan.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY COLLECTION

This Archdiocesan collection will be taken on the weekend of September 5/6. CUA provides an academically rigorous education guided by Catholic intellectual tradition to nearly 7,000 students every year. More than 4,000 students, including many from our archdiocese, receive scholarship aid directly from this collection. Please give according to your means.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM START

Thank you to all who have already signed-up for this year's Religious Education Program. Our first events will be an online parent orientation on September 20, and a kick-off online family event on October 4, our parish feast day. Those who have signed-up for this year's program will be receiving more information by Labor Day, including details about these events and a plan for picking up textbooks and other at-home materials. Thank you for allowing us to support you as you share faith in your home.

There's Still Time to Sign-up for this year's RE 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/UnhwSYvUZvPDNfdH7>.

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.

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.

NIGHTLY ROSARY

The Council of Catholic Women for the Archdiocese of Washington (CCW-ADW) invites all, who would like to unite in prayer at this time of uncertainty, to join in our nightly Rosary at 8 p.m., 7 days a week. We offer this prayer for the healing of the Church and for our currently health - challenged world. To join us, call 605-468-8016, ID 357090# at 8 p.m. seven days a week. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please email us at archdiocesecw@gmail.com. For other prayer resources please see our website <https://www.councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com/>

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!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (continued)

Families requesting sacramental preparation for their child are asked to indicate this on the sign-up 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@sfadw.org.

Please share this information with others, especially those who will be new to our program!