

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

September 21 - September 27

Monday, 9/21	9:00 a.m.	Isaac Scharbach
Tuesday, 9/22	9:00 a.m.	Reverend Luis G. Salcedo
Wednesday, 9/23	9:00 a.m.	Alice Guild
	7:30 p.m.	Christos Nicholson
Thursday, 9/24	9:00 a.m.	Carol Jean Jordan
Friday, 9/25	9:00 a.m.	Thomas Anessi
Saturday, 9/26	5:00 p.m.	Sixto Antonio
Sunday, 9/27	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Maryetta Schweitzer

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 D. R. Edwards, sister of Francis Edwards, Deacon Thomas P. Genis, Archdiocese of Washington.

Please pray for the sick... Mary Cutting, Jay Ruffin, Kathleen Caponiti, Nancy Culliton, Lynn Gardner, Jackie Komlo, Kim Carpentier, Kayla Garcia, Barbara Haff, Dan Piasecki, 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 September 20, 2020

Sunday:	Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 [18a]/ Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a
Monday:	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13
Tuesday:	Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44 [35]/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday:	Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163 [105]/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday:	Ecc 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc [1]/Lk 9:7-9
Friday:	Ecc 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4 [1]/ Lk 9:18-22
Saturday:	Ecc 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17 [1]/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday:	Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [6a]/Phil 2:1- 11/Mt 21:28-3

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

When I first heard reports about the corona virus affecting so many people in China, I wasn't sure what to think about this news. Then I heard about cases breaking out in various parts of our country. I think that the seriousness of our situation really hit home on Sunday, March 8, when a parishioner who was a physician warned me about the seriousness of the pandemic that would soon be upon us. Before that week was out we were instructed to close down. In the first few days and weeks I was concerned about how we would function as a parish. By Easter time we decided to have live-streamed Mass. We had no idea how well that it would be received. Soon it became clear that we should do it every week until we would be able to open again. In the meantime I have learned to use an internet tool about which I had never heard: Zoom. Over the next six months I have become somewhat adept at hosting Zoom conferences. While meetings in person would be much better, most of us have learned to live with Zoom. Because of it, life can carry on.

As I read or listen to what people say in print media or social media, I detect that people are becoming more and more cross with each other. The spirit of cooperation is dying down, whereas impatience and aggravation are increasing.

You may be wondering what we can do while the pandemic is raging. In a recent column in the Catholic Review, Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore gave four recommendations for us as we cope with this pandemic. Let me repeat them here in case you haven't already seen them.

First, we have to fast and pray for an end to this pandemic. We are rooting for the medical professionals to come up with a vaccine and effective treatment, but we should also be begging the Lord to remove this scourge from us. The evil one will tempt us to think that God does not listen. Our prayer must be full of faith, persistent and humble.

Second, through prayer, we must maintain a supernatural perspective. By keeping our eyes fixed on the Lord, we are better able to focus on what we need to do here and now to protect our loved ones and to serve the common good. As St. Paul wrote, "God makes all things work together for the good of those who love him" (Rom 8:28).

Third, we will be better equipped for the long haul if we have empathy for others. The pandemic has upended everyone's lives, but some have suffered more than others. When we have a heart for the sufferings of others help, we put our own burdens in a better perspective.

Fourth, we need to help one another through this. This includes our family members and loved ones but also our neighbors, friends, co-workers and even people outside our comfort zone.

Let me provide the link here for those who want to access his article: <https://catholicreview.org/the-long-haul/>.

In the meantime let us remember those very important words from Jesus to St. Faustina Kowalska: **Jesus, I trust in You.**

Until next week,

Fr. John

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I magnify Christ in myself? How can I imitate God's generosity?

SUNDAY MASS VIA YOU TUBE

Fr. John 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.

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY MASS ADDED

On Sunday, September 13th, we added another Mass to the schedule - 9:00 a.m. You will need to register for this Mass as you do for the Saturday, 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 12:00 Noon. You can register online via Flock Note or call the Parish Office, 301-840-1407.

HELPING LOCAL REFUGEES

Our SFA team is busier than ever during the pandemic providing support to local refugees, asylum seekers and other immigrants. We are currently providing financial and other support to 5 families struggling to meet basic needs. Several of the families' main breadwinners lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic and we assisted them with filing for unemployment and paying their rent if they did not qualify for unemployment. We are also providing financial support to help with paying utilities and transportation to work. We are helping the families find jobs, find legal support, address the struggle to help their children with online classes, acquire school supplies, attend to health related matters and many other things. The experience of being relatively new in the country and dealing with the pandemic has been traumatic for them. If you are interested in helping us with this effort please contact Mary Kate Ryner, rynoslp@msn.com, or Chris King, caking.home@gmail.com. Please also consider making a donation to the St Francis Refugee Fund. *Thank you!*

ST. FRANCIS FEAST DAY October 4, 2020

Animal Blessing at 3:00 p.m. in front of the church.
We are sorry to say there will be no parish picnic this year to celebrate our feast day.

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.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*

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.

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. Information packets have been mailed to all who have signed-up for this year's program.

Please contact the Religious Education Office (301-258-9193 OR sfareligioused@sfadw.org) to make alternate pick-up arrangements to pick up your materials if you are not able to stop by during the designated times. Thank you for allowing us to support you as you share faith in your home.

Our parish will celebrate **Catechetical Sunday** on September 19/20. At Masses this weekend (online and in-person), a blessing will be offered for our parish catechists, and also for parents and families as they make faith formation a priority in challenging times.

There's Still Time to Sign-up 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
 - Family Small Groups/Catechist Outreach (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 found at this link to sign up for this year's program: <https://forms.gle/D3QhYUmH4DivyQ3C7>

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.)

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR CANCELLED

We are sad to report that we will not be having our Annual Holiday Bazaar this year. Due to the pandemic and ongoing construction in the parish center it isn't possible this year. We do hope to see everyone next year though!

PLEASE NOTE - TIME CHANGE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 13

COMMUNION SERVICE SUNDAYS - 1:30-2:00 PM

Fr. John will offer Holy Communion from 1:30-2:00 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

ENCOURAGE MINISTRY

EnCourage is a ministry dedicated to the spiritual needs of parents, siblings, children, and other relatives and friends of persons who have same-sex attractions. Standing by the true teaching of the Catholic Church, EnCourage members support one another and their loved ones through discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Please contact Fr. John for more information at 301-840-1407 or email him at jdillon@sfadw.org.

TEAMS OF OUR LADY

Teams of Our Lady is a movement of Christian Marriage Spirituality that brings together couples united by the Sacrament of Matrimony and who wish, together, to deepen the graces of their Sacrament. It offers married couples a pathway toward love, happiness, and holiness. The movement's aim is to help couples live fully their Sacrament of Marriage. Interested in learning more, contact Fr. John at 301-840-1407 or email him at jdillon@sfadw.org.

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 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 sfareligioused@sfadw.org.

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