

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

November 23 - November 29

Monday, 11/23	9:00 a.m.	Angelica Santos (L)
Tuesday, 11/24	9:00 a.m.	Anna Thaimadam
Wednesday, 11/25	9:00 a.m.	Jean Cary
	7:30 p.m.	Homebound Parishioners (L)
Thursday, 11/26	10:00 a.m.	In Thanksgiving
Friday, 11/27	9:00 a.m.	Bill English
Saturday, 11/28	5:00 p.m.	Ignacio Garcia Semedo
Sunday, 11/29	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Jack Ryan
	11:15 a.m.	Frank Avolese

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 Alexander R. Schad, father of Reverend Marco Schad, Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Donald Zezzo, husband of Donna Zezzo, Deacon Roberto Salgado, Archdiocese of Washington.

Please pray for the sick... Mary Cutting, Angelica Santos, Jackie Komlo, 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 November 22, 2020

Sunday:	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 [1]/ 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46
Monday:	Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/ Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Rv 14:14-19/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 [13b]/ Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Rv 15:1-4/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 7-8, 9 [Rev 15:3b]/ Lk 21:12-19
Thursday:	Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [Rev 19:9a]/Lk 21:20-28
Friday:	Rv 20:1-4, 11—21:2/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a [Rev 21:3b]/Lk 21:29-33
Saturday:	Rv 22:1-7/Ps 95:1-2, 3-5, 6-7ab [1 Cor 16:22b]/ Lk 21:34-36
Next Sunday:	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18- 19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

SOCKTOBER THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who dropped off socks during October for the SOME SOCKTOBER Collection. We collected over 200 pairs of socks. Thank you again for your generosity!

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Even though we have waited for nearly two years for the McCarrick Report and knew that the news in it wouldn't be good, at least I am still dealing with the shock of some of the details in it. One detail from the Vatican's report on our former archbishop that saddens me is the following. Repeatedly senior officials were warned that something was unsuitable and inappropriate with promoting McCarrick and that charges from serious people needed to be considered. On each occasion a Vatican official disregarded the testimony of lay people, priests, and religious and based decisions exclusively on the advice of other bishops.

In 1994, Mother Mary Quentin Sheridan, a Sister of Mercy, informed the Papal Nuncio of charges against McCarrick. In 1999, John Cardinal O'Connor of New York did the same. Both Mother Mary Quentin and Cardinal O'Connor even suggested individuals from whom the Vatican could get more information. Yet, those individuals were never contacted or their contribution was dismissed.

In Mother Mary Quentin's case, then-Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, who was the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio to the United States from 1994-98, actually came to the conclusion that she had come forward because "she wanted to make herself appear important." John Allen, Editor of *Crux* commented that "is about as bald as synthesis of the clerical mindset as you're ever likely to see in print."

From our perspective now we can only wish that they and others like Fr. Boniface Ramsey who tried to sound a warning had been taken seriously. If that had happened, victims could have received justice much sooner and the Church might have been spared this heartache and nightmare.

In a recent interview John Allen of *Crux* asked Bishop Robert Barron what are the lessons learned from this report and how does it contribute in creating a safe environment within the Church? Bishop Barron thought that there were three lessons that we could learn from the McCarrick Report:

First of all, the clerical culture must be allowed to become self-referential and self-protective. "The priesthood is not a privileged club, but a brotherhood whose sole purpose is to serve the people of God."

Bishop Barron believes that a second lesson is that "lay people must be involved at all levels in the process of assessing the legitimacy of allegations of clerical misconduct."

Third, Bishop Barron asserts that serious investigations of complaints must be undertaken. He found himself saying over and over again to himself as he read the report, "Why didn't they look into it? Why didn't someone do a serious inquiry? Why do they keep dropping the ball?" Inasmuch as it inspires a serious engagement of these matters, the report does indeed contribute to a safer environment in the Church."

At the end of his Letter to a Suffering Church, Bishop Barron offered a Prayer for a Suffering Church. I am going to close this column by printing part of that prayer here:

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

Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Whom have I ignored or overlooked that I can reach out to now in mercy? At Thanksgiving, whom can I thank for reaching out to me in my need this year?



THANKSGIVING DAY MASS WILL BE AT 10:00 A.M.

There will be no 9:00 a.m. Daily Mass on Thanksgiving Day.

*Happy Thanksgiving from Fr. John, Fr. William
and the Parish Staff!*

FAITH DIRECT - ONLINE GIVING

This Thanksgiving we are expecting an unprecedented number of people throughout our community to turn to St. Francis of Assisi for warm meals, comfort, and shelter. No one in need should be turned away. Your generous online donations now will help sustain Thanksgiving ministries that reflect God's love and mercy. The unemployment and distress caused by COVID-19 give these ministries added importance, and your kindness will help families all around us. We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, Smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/MD110, or text 'Enroll' to 301-804-2584. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. 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.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

"Grant we pray, O Lord, healing for all victims of sexual abuse. Purify your Church of corruption. Bring justice to those who have been wronged. Grant consolation to all who are afflicted. Cast your light to banish the shadows of deception. Manifest to all your advocacy of those who have been so cruelly hurt, and your judgment upon those who, having perpetrated such crimes, remain unrepentant. Compel those in your Church whom you have entrusted to safeguard the innocent and act on behalf of the victims to be vigilant and zealous in their duties. Restore faith to those from whom it has been stolen and hope to those who have despaired."

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

LIST OF KNOWN ADVENT EVENTS THIS SEASON

As we look forward to the First Sunday of Advent on Sunday, Nov. 29, our parish will still offer many opportunities for parishioners to celebrate the season as we rejoice in Jesus Christ's birth. Because of COVID-19, many of our traditional activities will look somewhat different. Please see this list of known events during the Advent season and continue checking Flocknotes and the parish web site, www.sfadw.org, for updates to this list:

Parish Christmas Tree Sale: November 28-December 13.

Open from 9 am-8 pm on Saturdays and Sundays and from 3-8 pm on Mondays through Fridays. For more information, contact Ministry Coordinator Brian Pettit at brianpettit@pettitcompanies.com.

Digital Advent Mission: *November 29, December 6, December 13 and December 20 from 8-9 pm.* Join Catholic thought leader Ralph Martin, as he leads Catholics through a four-part online mission, titled, "The Fulfillment of All Desires." The event is free, but registration is required at <https://www.renewalministries.net/advent-mission/>.

Alternative Christmas Gift Program: *Weeks of November 29 and December 6.* This popular parish Advent program that allows parishioners to take the emphasis off material Christmas gifts by buying services benefitting charities will take place online this year. Please check Flocknote and Facebook for more details. For more information, contact Ministry Coordinators Pat O'Connor at leafs20879@aol.com or Doris Chung at di-chung14@gmail.com.

Spirit Tree Gift Program: *Week of November 29.* Instead of wrapped Christmas gifts, the Pope Francis Outreach Center at Assumption Church is asking this year for gift cards from area grocery stores in denominations of \$10 and \$25 to be distributed to families in need. Please check Flocknote and Facebook for how to drop off your gift card contributions to the parish. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

THANK YOU FROM ST. JUDE SCHOOL

During this season of Thanksgiving we at SJRCS want to thank you, our St. Francis families, for your support of the school. We continue to be thankful for the efforts of everyone in this community as we work to provide the best education in a safe environment.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

- This week, we are preparing to start Unit 2 lessons with an online parent meeting at 11 am on Sunday, November 22. The link for this Zoom meeting will be sent to registered families, and a recorded version will also be made available. Unit 2 materials were sent by US mail to all families. Please contact the Religious Education office if you have not yet received this mailing: sfareligioused@sfadw.org OR 301-258-9193.
- On Sunday, December 6, all religious education students and parents are invited to share in our 11 am Online Family Event Advent celebration. The link to join will be shared with registered families by Flocknote, and a resource packet for this event is also being sent by U.S. Mail.
- As noted on the Unit 2 checklist provided to all registered families by US mail, students are scheduled to complete lessons in their textbooks as follows:
 - week of November 29: Advent Lesson/Session 10
 - week of December 6: Session 6
 - week of December 13: Session 7
 - week of December 20: Session 8
 - week of December 27: Christmas lesson/Session 15
- **Circle of Grace** Safe Environment lessons for Kindergarten-Grade 5 students are being taught online. Please look for sign-up information in email messages from the Religious Education office. If your child was not able to attend the November 15 session, please be sure to sign-up for the December 13 session which will be offered online at 11 am. The link to join this session will be sent to families who have signed up.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** On Sunday, December 20, all religious education students and parents are invited to share in our 11 am Online Family Event Christmas celebration. The link to join will be shared with registered families by Flocknote, and a resource packet for this event will also be sent by U.S. Mail.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Confirmation candidates will meet online on Monday, November 23, for Confirmation class from 7:00-8:30 pm. The link to join the meeting will be sent to registered families. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Your local American Heritage Girls (MD0134) are selling wreath sponsorships online [https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/20041for Wreaths Across America](https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/20041for+Wreaths+Across+America). Sponsorship of each wreath costs \$15, five dollars of which will help support our troop. The Christmas wreaths will be laid on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery and Soldier's and Airmen's Home in Washington, D.C. on December 19, 2020. Thank you for honoring our deceased heroes and helping to remember our fallen, honor those who serve, and teach younger generations the value of freedom. Please contact Melissa Steenson if you would like to arrange to pay with cash or a check. 703 732 6887.

NEW NEIGHBORS INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

St Francis of Assisi is involved in a new effort expanding our current refugee support effort, called the New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance. This new alliance will be working with other faith communities assisting refugees, asylum seekers, asylees, and undocumented immigrants who settle in Montgomery and P.G. Counties. We are seeking volunteers from the SFA community who would be willing to support this effort in any number of ways. Please contact Chris King (caking.home@gmail.com), or Bob Cook (cookerh1251@gmail.com) for more information.

ADVENT BOOKLETS

The Little Books of the Diocese of Saginaw won't be available through the parish this Advent. Little Books can be ordered directly from their website at littlebooks.org. They are available in paper and ebook formats. You can also get all the seasonal books on the Little Books app available for iOS and Android devices. To learn more about the app, go to littlebooks.org/app.

CRAFTERS INVITED TO DECORATE CHRISTMAS WREATHS ON NOVEMBER 27/28

Crafters are still needed to sign up to decorate fresh wreaths to be sold at the Christmas Tree Sale, which will operate from November 28-December 13 in front of the church. Join the crafters from 6:30-9 pm Friday, November 27 and 9 am-12:30 pm Saturday, November 28, in the Parish Center as they decorate more than 70 wreaths. The parish will supply all the decorations and floral wire, but participants should bring their own wire cutters. Volunteers will be socially distanced, with two volunteers each working at nine tables in the Parish Center. All volunteers are strongly encouraged to wear face masks or facial coverings. Any children over 12 are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Please sign up for this event via this Flocknote link: <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/24203>. For more information, contact Ministry Coordinator Carolyn Brauer at carolyn_brauer@yahoo.com.

JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE SALE STARTING NOVEMBER 28!

In just one week, the St. Francis of Assisi Christmas Tree Sale will open for business at 9 am Saturday, Nov. 28, in front of the church. Please come purchase your Christmas tree in a socially distanced environment – we will have Frasier Firs in varying sizes, from tabletop trees affixed to plastic stands to full-size trees. We will also have freshly decorated Christmas wreaths for sale, as well as pine roping. Tell your neighbors and friends and please join us in supporting this annual fundraiser for our parish. The Christmas Tree Sale is also still in need of volunteers to sell trees during the duration of the Tree Sale, which closes on Sunday, December 13. Sign up for as many shifts as you can at <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/21902>. The sales shifts will be Monday through Friday from 3-6 pm and 6-8 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 9 am-12 pm; 12-3 pm; 3-6 pm and 6-8 pm. All volunteers are strongly encouraged to wear personal protective equipment while working at the lot. For more information, please e-mail Ministry Coordinator Brian Pettit at brian-pettit@pettitcompanies.com or call him at (240) 372-1662.