

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

November 30 - December 6

Monday, 11/30	9:00 a.m.	Noah Vincent
Tuesday, 12/1	9:00 a.m.	Michael Waters
Wednesday, 12/2	9:00 a.m.	Jacqueline Gordon
	7:30 p.m.	Enrique Quemuel
Thursday, 12/3	9:00 a.m.	Kenneth T. Yeast, Sr.
Friday, 12/4	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
Saturday, 12/5	9:00 a.m.	John Ryan
	5:00 p.m.	Eva Breeden
Sunday, 12/6	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Donato D'Agostino
	11:15 a.m.	Guy Beaven

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 Jessica Polissedjian, daughter of Andre & Mary Polissedjian..

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 29, 2020

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
Monday:	Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

The McCarrick report remains in the news and probably will remain in the news for some time as we absorb some of things that have been related in it. Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, commented that that were heroes in this sad story. One such hero was the late Cardinal John J. O'Connor who tried unsuccessfully to stop our former archbishop Theodore McCarrick's appointment to the Archdiocese of Washington where often the Archbishop receives the red hat. Even more courageous were the victim survivors who tried to speak up, the mother who sought to protect her children, the counselors who warned of the allegations that they were hearing. Sadly, the impression that we receive is that those who wanted to raise concerns were not given an attentive listening and rumors were dismissed rather than investigated thoroughly.

Erlandson's observation on the whole matter: "Like many large and not particularly efficient organizations, the church is a series of silos, inhibiting close communication and collaboration. Also, like large organizations, it is inherently cautious and self-protective. Add to this the deference given to rank and hierarchy, and it is too easy to see how the default was to explain away, ignore, or hide."

He concludes his article by noting that the sin of abuse, the sin of covering up, or ignoring the abuse will not go away with this report. Pope Francis realizes the challenges before him. The Holy Father must continue to press for accountability and transparency without fear or favor. Both laity and clergy likewise must continue to press for reform and renewal.

Cardinal Wilton Gregory issued a statement on Monday, November 16 after reading the McCarrick report. Let me quote a few excerpts from his excellent statement:

The Vatican's report demands to be viewed through the eyes of the survivors and their loved ones without prejudice to where they may have first encountered Theodore McCarrick or where they may be today. As has happened too often in recent history, it revealed to me and to you dark corners of our Church of which I am deeply ashamed and profoundly angry - again. It pushed into sunlight a culture that has too often served not to build up our cherished Catholic Church - Jesus Christ's greatest Gift to us - but to undermine it, far beyond the amoral ecclesiastical tenure of a single fallen cleric. Those of us in leadership have too often failed to understand, to acknowledge, to respond to, and to prevent the damage done to our innocent faithful - minors and adults.

In the report there were mercifully no revelations of sexual abuse alleged to have been perpetrated in this Archdiocese, and while I am of course grateful for that, it provides little comfort. I promise you with all my heart that our vigilance in the Archdiocese of Washington will continue - we will support the healing of those who have been harmed, our protocols for reporting and responding to these crimes will continue unabated and with renewed vigor, our safe environment efforts on behalf of those of every age will reflect the very best practices available.

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

First Sunday in Advent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I give control over to God?

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, November 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.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Even so, as I read the Vatican text I felt such deep sorrow for those who should have been able to rely on the ministers of Christ's Church to protect and respect them. Instead they found themselves abused by a man who may have been outwardly charming and gregarious, but who allowed himself to be motivated by his own sinful gratification rather than the diametrically opposite Gospel call to go and make disciples for Jesus Christ. For a priest of His Church there can be no greater failing, except possibly to be aware of such incongruity and, in response, do nothing.

In his concluding remarks Cardinal Gregory notes that the Church has taken a step forward in looking honestly at both this particular case and the future of accountability within the church. People are waiting to see how large and how enduring this step indeed will be. There are challenges to our integrity that must be met before we move forward. At the same time it seems that we cannot move forward until integrity is restored. This will require time and transparency, contrition and commitment, prayer and reconciliation, authenticity and humility.

Let us join Cardinal Gregory in imploring our Heavenly Father to shower His grace upon all whose faith has been tested too often by what we have done and what we have failed to do.

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.

"WE MISS YOU" RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

1st Prize	J. Curran
	G. Palmer
2nd Prize	K. Denson
3rd Prize	D. Pettit
Christmas Tree	R. Delion

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported St. Francis. Your response was overwhelming.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

- 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.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

<http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockville>

Instagram: [stjuderockville](https://www.instagram.com/stjuderockville)

Twitter: [@StJudeRCS](https://twitter.com/StJudeRCS)

SJRCS RE-ENROLLMENT

The re-enrollment period is upon us! As of November 1st, you have the opportunity to register for the 2021-2022 school year. School families can enroll now through December 31. On January 1st the admissions window will open for everyone.

Enrollment: [TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment](#)

ARCHDIOCESE TUITION ASSISTANCE

To apply for tuition assistance from the Archdiocese of Washington for the 2021 – 2022 school year, follow the links from www.stjuderockville.org - **Admissions tab- Archdiocese Tuition Assistance** or <https://adwcatholicschools.org/tuition-assistance/archdiocesan-tuition-assistance-program/>The Deadline to apply is December 4th. Once you've completed the application it will roll over to St. Jude Regional Catholic School. One application and 2 opportunities to receive financial aid.

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.

CONFIRMATION 2020

Keanan Phillips

Thank you for your prayers for Keanan and for all the other parishioners who have celebrated Confirmation this fall. May God continue to bless these young people as they live in God's grace!

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*

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

Fr. John offers Holy Communion from 1:30-2:00 pm in front of the church or in the Gathering Space depending on the weather 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

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.

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.