

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

December 7 - December 13

Monday, 12/7	9:00 a.m.	Angelica Santos (L)
Tuesday, 12/8	Immaculate Conception	
	9:00 a.m.	Jessica Polissedjian
Wednesday, 12/9	9:00 a.m.	Elsy Mathew
	7:30 p.m.	Fred Biasini
Thursday, 12/10	9:00 a.m.	Ramon Buster Olivares
Friday, 12/11	9:00 a.m.	Alexander R. Schad
Saturday, 12/12	9:00 a.m.	Ramon Meneses
	5:00 p.m.	Patsy & Stella Battista
Sunday, 12/13	9:30 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Robert D. Ruiz

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 Reverend William F. Goode, 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 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 December 6, 2020

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
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/ Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/ Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/ Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

We are now in the second week of a new liturgical year. Often people make resolutions at the beginning of the year in the hope that they can make small improvements in their lives that will help us grow in virtue. One of the things that we could look at is how we spend our time, and notably how we spend our Sundays. What might we do now in the midst of the COVID-19 restrictions on our time and activities? What might we do when we return to a more “normal” schedule? Here are some thoughts.

A number of years ago Saint John Paul II wrote an apostolic letter on Sunday (*Dies Domini*) in which he made the following suggestion:

Through Sunday rest, daily concerns and tasks can find their proper perspective: the material things about which we worry give way to spiritual values; in a moment of encounter and less pressured exchange, we see the true face of people with whom we live. Even the beauties of nature—too often marred by the desire to exploit, which turns against man himself—can be re-discovered and enjoyed to the full.
(*Dies Domini*, no. 67)

It is true that certain people must work on Sundays. These include healthcare providers and public safety workers, including first responders. They need to work on Sundays to keep the rest of us safe and healthy. Other people must work for economic reasons that are beyond their control.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* provides us with good advice about appropriate activity on the Lord’s Day:

Sunday is traditionally consecrated by Christian piety to good works and humble service to the sick, the infirm, and the elderly. Christians will also sanctify Sunday by devoting time and care to their families and relatives, often difficult to do on other days of the week. Sunday is a time for reflection, silence, cultivation of the mind, and meditation which furthers the growth of the Christian interior life (CCC, no. 2186)

Here are some suggestions that may help us to celebrate the Lord’s Day more fully:

- Don’t use Sundays as your catch-all day for errands and household chores.
- Share a family dinner after Mass. Have the whole family join in the preparation and cleanup.
- Go for a walk or bike ride and give thanks to God for the beauty of nature.
- Spend time reading the Bible or a spiritual book.
- Pray the Rosary or the Liturgy of the Hours, alone or with others.
- Volunteer in a local food pantry.
- Visit parishioners and others who are homebound.
- Read Bible stories to your children.
- Turn off gadgets and enjoy the silence.

Many of the ideas I have taken from “Celebrating the Lords Day” copyright @2010, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops., Washington, D.C. Used with permission. All rights reserved. If you would like a complete copy of the document, please let me know and I’ll be glad to send it to you.

Until next week,

Fr. John

Second Sunday in Advent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What concrete action can I take this week to prepare myself for Jesus' coming?

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

During this Advent season, St. Francis parishioners are invited to take part in prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifices, as we anticipate celebrating the birth of our Lord and his return to us as our Redeemer and Savior. We invite you join in some of the following events and liturgies happening this Advent:

Digital Advent Mission: *December 6, 13, and 20 from 8-9 pm.* Join a multi-part online mission, titled, "The Fulfillment of All Desires," led by Catholic thought leader and author Ralph Martin. The event is free and registration is required at www.renewalministries.net/advent-mission.

Alternative Christmas Gift Program: *Through December 16.* This popular Advent program invites you to purchase a gift or service from a local or global charity and receive a card that can be given to a loved one in lieu of a material gift. Download the flyer and order from the parish web site at <https://www.sfadw.org/advent-christmas>; please return your selections and money to the church by December 16. For more information, contact Ministry Coordinators [Pat O'Connor](#) or [Doris Chung](#).

Community Gifting Opportunities (Spirit Tree Gift Program, Christmas Stocking Help Line and St. Patrick Catholic Church's Holiday Giving Program): *Now through early December.* Instead of wrapped Christmas gifts, the Pope Francis Outreach Center at Assumption Church in Washington DC is asking this year for \$10 and \$25 gift cards from Safeway, Giant, and Aldi to be distributed to families in need. Alternately, the St. Patrick Catholic Church's Holiday Giving Program invites St. Francis parishioners to donate \$10, \$25 or \$50 gift cards from area grocery stores or big-box retailers, such as Target or Giant. Parishioners wishing to participate can:

- Put cash or gift cards in an envelope marked 'Spirit Tree Gift Program' or 'St. Patrick Holiday Giving Program' and place it in the Rectory mailbox, in the marked basket at the back of church during in-person Mass or in the marked basket in the Gathering Space during the Sunday Communion service. Donations for the Spirit Tree Gift Program are due by Monday, December 7, and for the St. Patrick Holiday Giving Program by Tuesday, December 21.
- Religious Education families can also help Christmas be extra special for area families served by Catholic Charities of Montgomery County through the Christmas Stocking Help Line Program. In lieu of gifts, families are invited to donate department store gift cards.

For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns [Tony Bosnick](#) (abosnick@sfadw.org) or Director of Religious Education [Susan Anderson](#) (sanderson@sfadw.org).

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

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Tuesday, December 8

A Holy Day of Obligation

MASS TIMES:

8 am (Virtual)

9 am (Public in the Church)

CONFESSION DURING ADVENT

December 9 and 16 from 5-7 pm. In lieu of a Parish Penance Service, Fr. John Dillon and Fr. William Brailsford will hear Confession on these dates in the Gathering Space.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4 pm and 8 pm in the Church. A virtual Christmas Mass will also premiere at 6 pm on Christmas Eve on the parish YouTube Channel and can be viewed as a recording thereafter.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

9 am and 12 pm in the Church.

For a complete list of Advent events and liturgies, please go to <https://www.sfadw.org/advent-christmas>.

RACIAL JUSTICE & THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Join Fellow Parishioners in Reading and Discussing *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* The parish Ad-Hoc Committee on Racism has selected *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* by Fr. Bryan Massingale for its inaugural book discussion on racial justice topics. This is a challenging book to read, and it raises some important points that bring awareness and clarity to racial justice issues. Parishioners are invited to the first virtual meeting from 3-4:15 pm Saturday, December 12. Discussion topics will include how culture affects racism and how the Catholic Church's position on racism has evolved. For more information, please contact Ann Pierre, pierrea35@hotmail.com, Ron Hays, Hays4mail@gmail.com, or Chris King, caking.home@gmail.com.

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!!

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](#)

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

To receive credit in 2020, your contributions must be dated December 31, 2020. If you are mailing a contribution, it must be received in the parish Office on or before Saturday, January 2, 2021. As a reminder, the parish statement of contributions will not include your FAITHDIRECT contributions. You will receive a statement directly from FAITHDIRECT.

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

SUPPORT THE AGING RELIGIOUS

Next weekend, the second collection is for the Retirement fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. *Please be generous.*

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*

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

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

The best Catholic content. All in one place. It's EASY and FREE to Register!

- 1) Go to sfadw.formed.org
- 2) Click "Register" and enter your name, email address, and desired password
- 3) You're all ready to access the inspiring and Engaging content on FORMED!
- 4) Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

FORMED is available 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. St. Francis has purchased this gift for parish use.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

Christmas Tree Sales will continue through Sunday, December 13 if we still have trees left. They seem to be going quite fast this year. Sale hours are Monday-Friday, 3 pm-8 pm and Saturday & Sunday, 9 am-8 pm. If you would like to help, please contact Brian via email brianpettit@pettitcompanies.com. Thank you for your support!!