

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

### December 14 - December 20

<b>Monday, 12/14</b>	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
<b>Tuesday, 12/15</b>	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Joseph Testudine, Sr.
<b>Wednesday, 12/16</b>	9:00 a.m.	Alexander O'Connor
	7:30 p.m.	Angel Andrada
<b>Thursday, 12/17</b>	9:00 a.m.	Angelica Santos (L)
<b>Friday, 12/18</b>	9:00 a.m.	Silvestar Ordone
<b>Saturday, 12/19</b>	9:00 a.m.	Anne Stehle Hope
	5:00 p.m.	Girolamo Battista
<b>Sunday, 12/20</b>	8:00 a.m.	Rufino Loberiza
	9:30 a.m.	Yolanda Perez
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

**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 Hilda Torres Hernandez, grandmother of Arleen Hall.

**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 December 13, 2020

<b>Sunday:</b>	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
<b>Monday:</b>	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
<b>Thursday:</b>	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/ Mt 1:1-17
<b>Friday: J</b>	er 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/ Mt 1:18-25
<b>Saturday:</b>	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

For many centuries this particular Sunday in Advent has had a special name "Gaudete Sunday." This comes from today's opening antiphon which begins with the word Gaudete, which means "rejoice." Originally Advent was a forty-day period of penance that used to begin on November 12. Because this is one day after the Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours, Advent used to be called "St. Martin's Lent." Now Advent begins on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Andrew (sometime between November 27-December 3). While Advent is primarily penitential in spirit, it also reflects the joy of anticipation. The expectation not only refers to Christ's first appearance on earth but also reflects his Second Coming. For the people of God who are waiting in between there is a third coming of Christ whereby he is in the hearts of all the faithful by his grace.

During the season of Advent, the Church prepares us for Christ's coming in a three-fold manner: We have Old Testament prophecies, particularly from the prophet Isaiah that provide a progressive revelation. Our longing for the Redeemer develops at the same time.

The second way in which we are prepared is through John the Baptist, the herald of the Arrival of the Savior in history. John the Baptist shows us that Advent is a time of conversion. His words lead us to a genuine reformation.

Since our salvation is built on a human framework it is not surprising that God chose to work through the immaculately conceived Mary who became the Mother of God. Mary is a most exemplary model of God's indwelling as she bodily contained and sheltered him.

In Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Mary, we have models of our longing, repentance, and intimacy with God. On the last seven days the O Antiphons are intoned, with holy desires, in which enters the great anguish that our Lord has planted in our hearts: the anguish for salvation of souls. But the horizon lights up: He, for Whom the "nations cry," is coming.

**Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus!**

Until next week,

**Fr. John**



Third Sunday in Advent

## Second Sunday in Advent

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*When and where do I recognize the presence of the Lord in the world?*

### 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 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](http://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 mid-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 14, 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](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org) (abosnick@sfadw.org) or Director of Religious Education [Susan Anderson](mailto:sanderson@sfadw.org) (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*

### CONFESSION DURING ADVENT

*December 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>.

**SIGN-UP FOR THE IN-PERSON MASSES ON CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY OPENS AT 12:00 NOON ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, ON FLOCKNOTE.**

### VIRTUAL HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT EXTENDS MUSIC, MISSION TO ONLINE AUDIENCE

On November 21, the parish Music Ministry presented a virtual Haiti Benefit Concert featuring Stephen Czarkowski on the cello and Director of Music Ministry Janet Pate on the piano that premiered on the parish YouTube Channel. The 34-minute concert features performances from composers J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, Camille Saint-Saëns and Astor Pizzolla; it also offers heartfelt testimonials on the Haiti Ministry from Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile, Pere Pierre Jeanot from our sister parish in Haiti, and parishioners and Haitian natives Ketlard Boursiquot and Mona Kernisan. The virtual concert is still available in its entirety on our parish YouTube Channel at <https://youtu.be/6rhzQA-mrHY> through Monday, December 21. Please watch the concert, listen to some beautiful performances and consider supporting our Haiti Ministry, which includes the Haiti Medical Mission, the Bon Pasteur School and the Just Haiti Coffee initiative. Thank you to all the generous donors who have supported our Haiti Ministry through the concert!

**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

- 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 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.StJudeRockville.org)

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

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

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

### MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The faculty and staff of St. Jude Regional Catholic School wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas and a faith filled New Year. SJRCS is closed for the Christmas holiday from December 21<sup>st</sup> through January 4<sup>th</sup>.

### SJRCS RE-ENROLLMENT

The re-enrollment period is open! School families can enroll now through December 31. Space is limited in several classes so register now! To register for the 2021-2022 school year go to : [TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment](https://www.sjrccatholic.org/Registration). On January 1st the admissions window will open for everyone.

### 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

This 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

### YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE ABUSED

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It can consist of repeated severe beatings or subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace).