

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

### December 28 - January 3

<b>Monday, 12/28</b>	9:00 a.m.	Catherine Celeste Dillon
<b>Tuesday, 12/29</b>	9:00 a.m.	Mary Stehle Rockenstein
<b>Wednesday, 12/30</b>	9:00 a.m.	Reverend William F. Goode, Jr.
	7:30 p.m.	Reverend Luis G. Salcedo
<b>Thursday, 12/31</b>	9:00 a.m.	Carol Jean Jordan
	5:00 p.m.	Eusebio Veloso
<b>Friday, 1/1</b>	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
	12:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
<b>Saturday, 1/2</b>	5:00 p.m.	Eva Gomez Arraujo
<b>Sunday, 1/3</b>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Catherine Sgambati

***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 Joseph Michael Gardner, brother of Joan Treacy, Dennis Parnell, husband of Kathleen Parnell, Deacon Raymond L. Chaput, 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, Sandra Kimball, 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 27, 2020

<b>Sunday:</b>	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
<b>Monday:</b>	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
<b>Tuesday:</b>	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
<b>Thursday:</b>	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
<b>Friday:</b>	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
<b>Saturday:</b>	1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

### **THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR**

On December 1, 2019, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter entitled *Admirabile Signum* (“Enchanting Image”) on the meaning and importance of the Nativity Scene. As you read this it is now two days after Christmas. Happily we are still within the Christmas season which will last until January 10 when we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. One of the scenes that Pope Francis recalls in his Apostolic Letter is the origin of the Christmas crèche and the role that St. Francis of Assisi had in its origins. Let’s listen to the Holy Father tell this story:

“But let us go back to the origins of the Christmas crèche so familiar to us. We need to imagine ourselves in the little Italian town of Greccio, near Rieti (a city in Central Italy). Saint Francis stopped there, most likely on his way back from Rome where on 29 November 1223 he had received the confirmation of his Rule from Pope Honorius III. Francis had earlier visited the Holy Land, and the caves in Greccio reminded him of the countryside of Bethlehem. It may also be that the ‘Poor Man of Assisi’ had been struck by the mosaics in the Roman Basilica of Saint Mary Major depicting the birth of Jesus, close to a place where, according to an ancient tradition, the wooden panels of the manger are preserved.

“The Franciscan Sources describe in detail what then took place in Greccio. Fifteen days before Christmas, Francis asked a local man named John to help him realize his desire ‘to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem, to see as much as possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in the manger, and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay’ (Thomas of Celano, *First Life*, 84; *Franciscan Sources*, 469). At this, his faithful friend went immediately to prepare all that the Saint had asked. On 25 December friars came to Greccio from various parts together with people from the farmlands in the area, who brought flowers and torches to light up that night. When Francis arrived, he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey. All those present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the Christmas scene. The priest then solemnly celebrated the Eucharist over the manger, showing the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist. At Greccio there were no statues; the nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present.

This is how our tradition began: with everyone gathered in joy around the cave, with no distance between the original event and those sharing in its mystery.”

The Holy Father writes in his Apostolic Letter that St. Francis carried out a great work of evangelization with the simplicity of that sign. His teaching touched the hearts of Christians and continues today to offer a simple yet authentic means of portraying the beauty of our faith. He continues his reflection on the lasting significance of what St. Francis first did in Greccio in 1223:

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

## Feast of the Holy Family

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*How can I see better Christ in my family members? How can I see better neighbors and strangers as my brothers and sisters?*

### SPIRIT TREE PROGRAM PROVES TO BE ROUSING SUCCESS, AS PROGRAM FAVORS FOOD OVER TOYS

Despite the absence of the Spirit Tree as a visual reminder, St. Francis parishioners come through in generously supporting this Advent program benefitting the Assumption Church/Pope Francis Center in Anacostia. Parishioners donated over \$3,000 in gift cards for Giant, Safeway and Aldi for the program, which helps families accessing help from the Pope Francis Center. Thank you so much for your generosity! Gifts cards were delivered to the Center in time for Christmas distribution.

### AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RACISM CONTINUES DISCUSSION OF RACIAL JUSTICE ON JANUARY 9

After taking a break for the holidays, the Ad-Hoc Committee on Racism will reconvene from 3-4:15 pm Saturday, January 9, and January 16 on Zoom to continue discussing Fr. Bryan Massingale's book, "Racial Justice and the Catholic Church." Discussion topics will include how culture affects racism and how the Catholic Church's position on racism has evolved. Interested persons are invited to attend, even if they did not join the first two discussions. For more information, please contact Ann Pierre at [pierre35@hotmail.com](mailto:pierre35@hotmail.com), Ron Hays at [Hays4mail@gmail.com](mailto:Hays4mail@gmail.com), or Chris King at [caking.home@gmail.com](mailto:caking.home@gmail.com).

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

"Setting up the Christmas crèche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on that event. At the same time, its portrayal in the crèche helps us to imagine the scene. It touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real in a broad gamut of historical and cultural contexts.

"In a particular way, from the time of its Franciscan origins, the nativity scene has invited us to 'feel' and 'touch' the poverty that God's Son took upon himself in the Incarnation. Implicitly, it summons us to follow him along the path of humility, poverty, and self-denial that leads from the manger to Bethlehem to the cross. It asks us to meet him and serve him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in greatest need" (cf. Mt 25:31-46).

**Happy New Year!**

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*

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Friday, January 1,

**Vigil Mass, Thursday December 31 - 5:00 p.m.  
Friday, January 1  
9:00 a.m. & 12:00 Noon**

**Please register for Mass as you normally do  
for the Sunday Masses.**

### 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

### SET ASIDE YOUR GENTLY USED WINTER OUTERWEAR FOR THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES COAT DRIVE

If you receive any new winter gear this Christmas, please donate any new or gently used outerwear to the Catholic Charities Coat Drive next month. On the weekend of January 2/3 and January 9/10, the parish Social Concerns Ministry will be collecting new or gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, and other outerwear to be distributed to people in need of these items. Men's coats with hoods in sizes XXL+ and women's coats with hoods in sizes XL+ are particularly desired. Parishioners are asked to please clean their donations or have them dry cleaned before dropping them off in marked receptacles in the Gathering Space. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

### 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.

## 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 27: Christmas lesson/Session 15
- \*week of January 3: Christmas and/or Session 9

- Special Needs Catechesis class meets online on January 3
- *Family Small Groups meet and Catechist Outreach.* Family Small Groups meet during the week of January 3 on Sunday at 11 am; Sunday at 7 pm; Monday at 7 pm; and Wednesday at 7:30 pm. If you'd like to join one of these groups, please let me know.
- Our next online parent meeting introducing the themes of Unit 3 will be held at 11 am on Sunday, January 10. The link for this Zoom meeting will be sent to registered families, and a recorded version will also be made available. Families will also be receiving Unit 3 materials around this time.

Questions please contact the Religious Education Office (301) 258-9193 or Susan Anderson, sanderson@sfdw.org.

## 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)

### 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](#). On January 1st the admissions window will open for everyone.

## FORMED

### THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

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

- 1) Go to [sfdw.formed.org](http://sfdw.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.

## 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.faidirect.net](http://www.faidirect.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: in honor of the Beatification of founder Father McGivney, join as an Online Member for free for one year thru December 31 2020; go to [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) and click on "Join" on the Home Page. If you wish you can join the Council later. If interested in learning more, contact Gary Palmer at 301-948-6494.

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL VOTES TO ENDORSE MISSION, VISION OF AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON RACISM

Thirteen members of the Parish Pastoral Council voted December 10 to endorse the mission and vision of the Ad-hoc Committee on Racism, making this ministry's work part of the foundational undertakings of the parish. The 10-member committee -- whose composition includes five Parish Pastoral Council members -- aims to raise awareness of racial justice issues to the parish through prayer, education, dialogue and action. Currently, the committee is hosting an online book discussion on Fr. Bryan Massingale's book, "Racial Justice and the Catholic Church."

The council at its meeting also:

- Heard a building construction update from Deacon Jim Datovech on the new meeting room attached to the Gathering Space and the status of the elevator under construction.
- Heard ministry reports from the Religious Education and Communications ministries.
- Welcomed new member, Ted Modrick, to the council.
- Heard a report on the parish's finances from Fr. John Dillon.
- Learned that member Linda Foster will coordinate the parish's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which will be celebrated in 2022.

[See the minutes from past Parish Pastoral Council meetings](#). For more information, contact Executive Committee member Alicia Church at [asktheppc@gmail.com](mailto:asktheppc@gmail.com).



*Happy & Blessed New Year to All!*

*Fr. John, Fr. William  
& the Parish Staff*

**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!!**