

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

### January 4 - January 10

<b>Monday, 1/4</b>	9:00 a.m.	Caroline Knestout
<b>Tuesday, 1/5</b>	9:00 a.m.	Joseph Berdini, Jr.
<b>Wednesday, 1/6</b>	9:00 a.m.	Eugene Fitzgibbon
<b>Virtual</b>	7:00 p.m.	Homebound Parishioners (L)
<b>Thursday, 1/7</b>	9:00 a.m.	Don Zezzo
<b>Friday, 1/8</b>	9:00 a.m.	Noah Scott McDonough
<b>Saturday, 1/9</b>	5:00 p.m.	Jessica Polissedjian
<b>Sunday, 1/10</b>	9:00 a.m.	Maria Relunia
	12:00 p.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 Marilyn Ferguson, niece of Beverly Ryan.

***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 January 3, 2021**

<b>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
<b>Monday:</b>	1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/ Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
<b>Tuesday:</b>	1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/ Mk 6:34-44
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Mk 6:45-52
<b>Thursday:</b>	1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
<b>Friday:</b>	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/ Lk 5:12-16
<b>Saturday:</b>	1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:71 or Is 55:1 11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3])/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

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

On December 8, 1870 Blessed Pius IX declared Saint Joseph to be the Patron of the Universal Church. To mark that anniversary Pope Francis has announced that the Catholic Church would observe a Year in Honor of Saint Joseph, which actually began on December 8, 2020 and will end on December 8, 2021. Pope Francis has explained all this in his new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris Corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”). There Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved Father, a tender and loving Father, an obedient Father, and father who is creatively courageous, a working father, and a father in the shadows.

The Holy Father has written this Apostolic Letter with Covid-19 pandemic very much on his mind. Pope Francis states that this pandemic has helped us to see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope each and every day. These “ordinary” people resemble Saint Joseph who, as Pope Francis believes, is “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Pope Francis writes that Saint Joseph “concretely expressed his father” by making an offering of himself in love—“a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing in maturity in his home.” In this he echoes the thought of his saintly predecessor, Saint Paul VI. Pope Francis continues by stating that because of Saint Joseph’s role at the crossroads between the Old and New Testaments, the foster-father of Jesus has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people. Furthermore Jesus saw in Saint Joseph the tender love of God. Joseph is the one who helps us accept our weaknesses because it is through and despite our fears, our frailties, and our weakness that most divine designs are realized. Pope Francis continues, “Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser.” Especially by encountering God’s mercy in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation do we experience the truth and tenderness of Our Lord Jesus Christ. In doing so, we come to know that God’s truth does not condemn us but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains, and forgives us. Joseph is also a father in obedience to God. With his statement of acceptance of God’s will he protects Mary and Joseph and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, Saint Joseph co-operated in the great mystery of Redemption and is truly a minister of salvation.

At the same time, Joseph is “an accepting Father,” because he “accepted Mary unconditionally”—an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, “in our world where psychological, verbal, and physical violence towards women is so evident.” But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, “setting aside his own ideas” and reconciling himself with his own history.

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

## **Feast of the Epiphany**

### **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

*The magi's encounter with Christ leads them to change the course of their journey. How is my journey changed by my encounter with the Lord?*

### **RESULTS FROM THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM**

Thank you so much for your generous support! We collected \$4,625 in donations to help our brothers and sisters locally, in Haiti, and throughout the world.

### **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)**

Pope Francis also notes that Joseph's spiritual path is not one that explains but accepts. This does not mean that he is resigned but courageously and firmly proactive. Saint Joseph is able to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments because of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude and because he is a man full of hope. Through Saint Joseph God is able to repeat to us, "Do not be afraid!" because faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad and makes us aware that God can make flowers grow up from stony ground. Pope Francis observes that Saint Joseph did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it. For this reason Saint Joseph encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception and to show special concern for the weak.

We will continue our overview of the Pope's Apostolic Letter next week.

Until then,

**Fr. John**

**THANK YOU TO THOSE PARISHIONERS  
WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PARISH  
DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES. WE AP-  
PRECIATE ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE AND  
CONTINUE TO DO!!**

### **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*

### **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).

### **WHEN WE GATHER FOR MASS PLEASE OBSERVE OUR GUIDELINES**

#### **WEAR MASKS**

Face coverings are to be worn in and around the church for anyone over 2 years of age.

#### **STAY 6 FEET APART**

Physical distancing is practiced in the church and on the church property.

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Communion will be distributed only in the hand.

#### **OFFERTORY**

Baskets will be placed by the church doors for you to place your envelopes or donations.

#### **SEATING**

Seating by direction of an usher only. Please do not enter a pew until directed to do so.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

- 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 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@sfdaw.org.

## NIGHTLY ROSARY

The Council of Catholic Women for the Archdiocese of Washington (CCW-ADW) invites all, who would like to unite in prayer at this time of uncertainty, to join in our nightly Rosary at 8 p.m., 7 days a week. We offer this prayer for the healing of the Church and for our currently health - challenged world. To join us, call 605-468-8016, ID 357090# at 8 p.m. seven days a week. If you have any questions, please email us at [archdiocesecw@gmail.com](mailto:archdiocesecw@gmail.com). For other prayer resources please see our website <https://www.councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com/> See the tab: Coronavirus Prayer Resources, which lists many opportunities for daily Mass and meditations.

## A MILLION ROSARIES

Every prayer counts! Please join the Little Sisters of the Poor in praying one million Rosaries to conquer the coronavirus pandemic. Sign up for the one million Rosary campaign at <http://littlesistersofthepoor.org>.

## FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

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

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

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

St. Elizabeth Bereavement Ministry will offer a seven-week bereavement support group series for adults 18 and over who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse, or significant other. Because of the current Covid19 pandemic participants will be able to attend the sessions from the comfort and privacy of their own homes using our ZOOM format. This winter series will be held on Wednesday evenings, 7-8:30 PM, from January 13 – February 24, 2021. There is no fee but registration is required. Space is limited to 10 participants so call early. To register call Deacon Kevin Byrne (301-279-5962) or Claudia McAuliffe (301-881-1457).

## HELP OUR MARRIAGE

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 29th - January 31st, 2021, please visit: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org), call (443) 400-7017, or email: [3015@HelpOurMarriage.org](mailto:3015@HelpOurMarriage.org)

## “STRENGTH & DIGNITY”

### VIRTUAL SPIRITUAL SERIES FOR WOMEN JANUARY 6-27, 2021

The Archdiocesan Office for Family Life is sponsoring a virtual spiritual series for women hosted by the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women based on St. John Paul II's encyclical "*Mulieris Dignitatem*" (On the Dignity and Vocation of Women). We will read and discuss the nine sections of the letter during four consecutive Wednesdays to better understand God's beautiful design for women, and their essential contribution to the world. For more information, contact the Office for Family Life at 301-853-4546 or [visiblesign@adw.org](mailto:visiblesign@adw.org).

## VIRTUAL ESOL CLASSES

Are you looking for an opportunity to learn or improve your English skills? The Spanish Catholic Center in Gaithersburg will start the new academic cycle of Virtual English Classes in January! All levels, from beginners to advanced. Monday to Thursday, 6:30-8:30 pm or Saturday, 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Please email Laura Irwin, Program Supervisor [laura.irwin@cc-dc.org](mailto:laura.irwin@cc-dc.org) for more information and to receive the registration forms. You can also call 301-453-5560 and leave a message.