

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

January 11- January 17

Monday, 1/11	9:00 a.m.	Margaret Leo
Tuesday, 1/12	9:00 a.m.	Uri Pimstein
Wednesday, 1/13	9:00 a.m.	Alexander O'Connor
Virtual	7:00 p.m.	Deacon Raymond L. Chaput
Thursday, 1/14	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
Friday, 1/15	9:00 a.m.	Noah Scott McDonough
Saturday, 1/16	5:00 p.m.	Nicole & Silvestre Kpamegan, Boton Eugene
Sunday, 1/17	9:00 a.m.	Rosemarie Rippel
	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 souls of Bernard Kohan, husband of Carol Kohan, Deacon James A. Somerville, Archdiocese of Washington, Deacon Ralph W. Cyrus, Jr., Archdiocese of Washington.

Please pray for the sick... Josephine Fang, Bruce Hambidge, 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 10, 2021

Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/ Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
Monday:	Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/ Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 7]/ Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/ Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/ Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 [cf. 7b]/ Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/ Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday:	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I am continuing today the reflection that I began last week on *Patris Corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), the Apostolic Letter that Pope Francis released last month to announce the beginning of a Year Dedicated to Saint Joseph.

Pope Francis remarks on the "creative courage" of Saint Joseph. Pope Francis explains what he means in this way: "The carpenter of Nazareth was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence." Saint Joseph certainly had to deal with the problems that his family faced. These are problems faced by other families in the world. Indeed, these are problems faced by migrants. The Holy Father writes that Saint Joseph "is the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty." As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot "be other than the guardian of the Church," of her motherhood and the Body of Christ. "Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering, or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is 'the child' whom Joseph continues to protect." From Saint Joseph, writes Pope Francis, "we must learn...to love the Church and the poor."

The Holy Father next speaks about Saint Joseph as a father who teaches the value, dignity, and joy of work. Pope Francis explains: "A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family," Saint Joseph also teaches us "the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour." This provides Pope Francis with an opportunity to launch an appeal in favor of work which has become "a burning social issue." Pope Francis strongly believes that there is a need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron.

Work, Pope Francis writes, "is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion." Those who work, the Holy Father explains, "are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us." Pope Francis encourages everyone "to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work from bringing about a new 'normal' from which no one is excluded." In light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to "review our priorities" and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work."

Pope Francis has been influenced by a book entitled *The Shadow of the Father* by Jan Dobraczynski. From his reading of this work Pope Francis describes Joseph's fatherhood of Jesus as "the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father."

"Fathers are not born, but made," says Pope Francis. "A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child." The Holy Father laments that unfortunately in today's society children "often seem orphans, lacking fathers who are able to introduce them "to life and reality." "Children need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be "capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities."

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Baptism of the Lord

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I bear witness to others to the new life that I have in Christ and the Holy Spirit?

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

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RACISM CONTINUES DISCUSSION OF RACIAL JUSTICE ON JANUARY 9 & 16

As we begin a new year, the Ad-Hoc Committee on Racism will reconvene on January 9 and 16 from 3-4:15 pm on Zoom to continue its discussion of "Racial Justice and the Catholic Church." Written by Fr. Bryan Massingale, the book brings awareness and clarity to racial justice issues. Members of the discussion group will endeavor to address chapters 2-5 this month; 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 at pierrea35@hotmail.com, Ron Hays at Hays4mail@gmail.com, or Chris King at caking.home@gmail.com.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

In this sense we can speak of Saint Joseph being a "most chaste" father. This is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Pope Francis writes that Joseph "knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the center of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus."

Joseph was truly happy because he gave of himself. The Holy Father continues: "His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust." Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that "needs fathers," and not "tyrants"; a society that "rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppressions, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction."

True fathers "refuse to live the lives of their children for them," and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realizes that "he is most a chaste father and an educator at the point when he becomes "useless," when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied." Being a father, emphasizes the Holy Father, "has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a "sign" points to a greater fatherhood": that of the "heavenly Father."

Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, pray for us!

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon

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

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE REPORT

Dear Parishioners,

What a year St. Francis of Assisi Parish had...having yet another record-breaking Christmas tree season despite the pandemic challenges selling approximately **350** Frasier Fir Christmas trees in a 9-day selling season, the quickest in our history!

We earned an outstanding net profit of **\$13,764** for the year, despite the tree shortages due to high demand and increased cost of goods. Additionally, we were able to donate **\$1,375**, a record amount in "tip" money that the parish will use to support families in need.

I would like to thank all of the parishioners and individuals who donated countless hours of volunteering as well as to all of those who purchased a tree from us this year! We wouldn't be successful without you.

I want to especially recognize our dedicated team leaders **Andrew Lindquist, Damien Clark, Mike Thomas, Mark Lynch, Gary Palmer and Jim Knowles** for their selfless sacrifice of long hours and supply of in-kind donations which ensured another record success.

Lastly, a special thanks to **Carolyn Brauer** and her team of creative decorators (a record-breaking number of volunteers) who made **72** beautiful wreaths that once again sold out very quickly!

We look forward to seeing you next season. Until then, have a safe and Happy New Year!

Thank you,
Brian Pettit

Christmas Tree Ministry Coordinator

LAST CHANCE TO DONATE TO THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES COAT DRIVE

Sunday, January 10, is your last opportunity to take new or gently used winter outerwear to the church to benefit the Catholic Charities Coat Drive. The parish Social Concerns Ministry is 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 in need. Parishioners are asked to please clean their donations or have them dry cleaned before dropping them off in the marked box in front of the St. Clare Room in the Gathering Space. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

- This week, we are preparing to start Unit 3 lessons with an online parent meeting at 11 am today, Sunday, January 10. The link for this Zoom meeting will be sent to registered families, and a recorded version will also be made available. Unit 3 materials were sent by US mail to all families. Please contact the Religious Education office if you have not yet received this mailing: sfareligioused@sfadw.org OR 301-258-9193.
- As noted on the Unit 3 checklist provided to all registered families by US mail, students are scheduled to complete lessons in their textbooks as follows:
 - *week of January 17: Session 11
 - * week of January 24: Session 12
 - * week of January 31: Session 13
 - * week of February 7: Session 14
- Online sessions for Middle School students will meet on January 11/12 and, again, on February 1/2.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

Confirmation candidates will meet online on Tuesday, January 19, for Confirmation class from 7:00-8:30 pm. The link to join the meeting will be sent to registered families. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

RECONCILIATION PREP DAY AND FIRST RECONCILIATION UPDATES

Please note the following schedule update and notes about adjustments being made to our plans for preparation for First Reconciliation:

1) Starting Saturday, January 9, an online guide (google slides) for at-home Prep Day activities will be sent by email to families with children preparing for First Reconciliation, and an at-home Prep Day kit will be ready for pick up from the Rectory porch. This kit will include all resources needed to complete the at-home Prep Day activities, plus the materials needed for two crafts (which families can complete on their own, or at an optional online session with catechists . . . see below). Families can work on the at-home activities at their own pace throughout the month of January.

2) Parents are asked to sign-up for their child to attend a 30-minute online Zoom meeting class with catechists on Saturday morning, January 23. A sign-up link will be shared in advance with three lesson times available (9:30-10 am; 10:30-11 am; 11:30-Noon; children attend one of these three sessions). In addition, families may also sign-up their child for an optional Zoom meeting Craft session planned for 1-2 pm on Saturday, January 23. Catechists will teach the two Prep Day crafts using the materials in the Prep Day kit (sheep craft and decorating a votive candle).

3) Saturday, February 6 is our new date for First Reconciliation (with February 13 as a snow date). Reconciliation will be held in the church, with a number of priests available for confession. Appointment times will be set up for this Saturday morning and parents will be asked to sign-up in advance. This will allow us to maintain safe distance and limit the size of the gathering. Masks will need to be worn when in the church and on parish property, and, of course, hand sanitizer will be available.

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MAJOR CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS TO BEGIN AT OUR CHURCH ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11

On Monday, January 11, our parish begins the next exciting phase of our facilities enhancement project. During the weeks of January 11, 18 and 25, significant work will occur in the church and in the Gathering Space, including:

- Removing ceiling tiles; painting ceiling tile grids and installing new ceiling tiles in the church and the Gathering Space.
- Upgrading to all LED lighting using the current fixture locations in the church and the Gathering Space.
- Installing a new sound system in the church, with speakers in the ceiling. New acoustic panels will also be installed in the walls of the church.
- Installing doors to the confessional and Usher Room.
- Replacing the window system above the altar, which has failed and is leaking water during rain events.

This construction work will significantly affect the accessibility and use of the church during this period. Impacts will include the following:

- In-person Masses the weekends of January 16/17 and 23/24 will be celebrated at 50 percent capacity, meaning 55 people total will be able to attend a liturgy those weekends.
- Daily Masses during the weeks of January 11, 18 and 25 will be held in the Parish Center, including Saturday Masses.
- Fr. John has asked nearby churches if we can celebrate funerals there during this period of disruption at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

We anticipate being back in the church at full capacity by the weekend of January 30/31. Daily Masses and funerals should resume in the church beginning Monday, February 1. The entire construction project should be completed on or before March 15, 2021.

Thank you for your cooperation during this construction process as we make needed improvements made possible through your generosity. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES (continued)

Parents and other family members may also take this opportunity to celebrate the sacrament during your scheduled appointment time. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.