

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

January 18- January 24

Monday, 1/18	9:00 a.m.	Fred Biasini
Tuesday, 1/19	9:00 a.m.	Catherine Burkhart
Wednesday, 1/20	9:00 a.m.	Joseph T. Stehle, Sr.
Virtual	7:00 p.m.	Silvestre & Nicole Kpamegan, Boton Eugenie
Thursday, 1/21	9:00 a.m.	Donald Zezzo
Friday, 1/22	9:00 a.m.	Catherine Dillon Bullen
Saturday, 1/23	5:00 p.m.	Patsy & Stella Battista
Sunday, 1/24	8:00 a.m.	Co Chui
	9:00 a.m.	Zenaida Nabor
	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 Maria Madalena Silveira Faria Meade, mother of Marie Yeast, Beverly Kouzel, William & Kate Lafan, cousins of John Talcott, Agnes Joan Martin, wife of Deacon Robert Martin, Betty Ann Sullins, mother of Fr. Paul D. Sullins, Catholic University of America.

Please pray for the sick... Mary Dean, 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 Dudenhoeffer, 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 17, 2021

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
Monday:	Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c [5]/ Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/ Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [11a]/ Mk 3:13-19
Saturday:	Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/ Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday:	Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/ 1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

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

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Our late and beloved Fr. Ralph Kuehner told me a number of times over dinner how Victory Housing got started. During his time as Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Washington, DC, an elderly parishioner lived in a nearby apartment building and would walk to church on Sundays and other times during the week. The owners of the apartment building realized that they could make a lot more money from the properties by turning the apartments into condominiums. The elderly widow like so many in the building were being forced out of their apartments without a place to live that was affordable. The stress of the situation caused the woman to have a heart attack. She died in the hospital. When he would relate this story and discuss what had happened to this woman, he would shake his head and say, “We can do better than that.”

“We can do better than that.” These words ring in my head when I think about the assault on our U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. At least five people have died owing to the events of that awful afternoon. Here is an excerpt of what I posted in a Flocknote on Friday, January 8: “It is difficult to understand the motivations of people who would desecrate a sacred civic space like our nation’s house of laws, because they disagree with the outcome of a national election. It is challenging to understand that national leaders are unable to speak the truth of an election outcome, whether they like the result or not. It saddens me greatly as a faith leader that a woman [and a police officer] died during what has historically been a peaceful and uneventful transfer of power in our country after every presidential election.” We can do better than that.

Cardinal Gregory’s statement after the assault on the U.S. Capitol has been very helpful to me in processing the events of January 6, 2021. Let me reprint it here so that you can read it as well:

Our United States Capitol is sacred ground and a place where people over the past centuries have rightly demonstrated, representing a wide variety of opinions. We Americans should honor the place where our nation’s laws and policies are debated and decided. We should feel violated when the legacy of freedom enshrined in that building is disrespected and desecrated.

I pray for safety – of our elected officials, staffers, workers, protestors, law enforcement personnel, and neighbors to the United States Capitol. There are injuries and tremendous harm, including reports about the loss of life. Together, we must intentionally pause and pray for peace in this critical moment. The divisive tone that has recently so dominated our national conversations must change. Those who resort to inflammatory rhetoric must accept some responsibility for inciting the increasing violence in our nation.

We are called to be a people of democratic values that respect the opinions of others, even when we disagree with them. As people of faith seeking to bring our Lord into this world by how we live, we must acknowledge the human dignity of those with whom we disagree and seek to work with them to ensure the common good for all.

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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I discern the Lord's call among the many voices in my life? Is there an intermediary that I can trust to recognize the Lord's voice?

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD TO BE CELEBRATED NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

On Sunday, January 24, 2021, the universal Catholic Church will celebrate Sunday of the Word of God, an annual celebration decreed by Pope Francis dedicated to "the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God." The day seeks to inspire Catholics to discover or rediscover anew the constant dialogue God has with his people in the Holy Bible, a book held sacred by all Christian traditions. Access resources for Sunday of the Word of God at <https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god> and contact Director of Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org with any questions.

HELP FOR MARRIAGES IN TROUBLE

Is your marriage going down the right road or is it a little off track? Looking for a better way? The Retrouvaille Program is for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationship. It is a Christian marriage program, Catholic in origin, in which couples of all faiths or no faith background are encouraged to attend. It can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy, and heal. For confidential information about or to register for the weekend on 29-31 January 2021, please visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org, call 443-400-7017, or e-mail: 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org. There is hope!

VIRTUAL MARCH FOR LIFE TO TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 29

This year's March for Life will be held virtually on Friday, January 29, given the risks of congregating in large groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check the March for Life web site at <https://marchforlife.org/> for updates. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Finally, Pope Francis appealed to Americans to protect democracy and promote reconciliation In his Angelus address on Sunday, January 10, 2021. The Holy Father said that he was "shaken by the recent assault on Congress" and said that he was praying for the five people who lost their lives "in those dramatic moments." Pope Francis continued, "I reiterate that violence is always self-destructive," and "Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost." "I urge the State authorities and the entire population to maintain a high sense of responsibility in order to soothe tempers, promote national reconciliation, and protect the democratic values rooted in American society," he said. The Pope concluded his remarks on the assault on Capitol Hill by invoking the Immaculate Virgin Mary, patroness of the United States of America, "to help keep alive the culture of encounter, the culture of care, as the way to build the common good together, and do so with all those who live in that country."

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

CONSTRUCTION WORK CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH

THROUGH JANUARY 29, IMPACTING WORSHIP

As Corbett Construction continues work in the church during this next phase of the facilities enhancement project, please remember the following impacts on worship in the church through Friday, January 29:

- Through Friday, January 29, the church will be closed to the public except for the three weekend Masses. The church will not be open for prayer during this period of construction work, but you can still pray on church grounds and at the Outdoor Stations of the Cross.
- In-person Masses on the weekends of January 16/17 and 23/24 will be celebrated at 50 percent of current capacity, meaning 55 people total can celebrate Mass at any one weekend liturgy. Signup for Masses will continue on a first-come, first-served basis, but some regular worshippers should plan to join us for the virtual Sunday Mass on our Parish YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6uP6iX4cmy_6dzOl-KuP_w/videos.
- Daily Mass through January 29 will be celebrated in the Parish Center. The capacity for Daily Mass is limited to 15 worshippers, excluding the presider.
- Fr. John has asked pastors in our neighboring Catholic parishes if we can celebrate funeral Masses there during this period of disruption at our church.

We expect to be back in our church at full capacity for Masses the weekend of January 30/31. Daily Masses and funeral Masses should resume in the church on Monday, February 1. Thank you for your cooperation during this time of disruption to our worship over the next three weeks.

DISCUSSION ON "RACIAL JUSTICE & THE CATHOLIC CHURCH" CONTINUES

The Ad-Hoc Committee on Racism reconvenes on Saturday, January 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 pierre35@hotmail.com, Ron Hays at Hays4mail@gmail.com, or Chris King at caking.home@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

- 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.

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.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School *We are...St. Jude* www.StJudeRockville.org

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (CSW): Faith, Excellence, Service

CSW is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. SJRCS will observe CSW week on a limited basis. Through these events, we focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to Church, local communities and the nation.

Catholic Schools Week Schedule

- January 29 10:00 am – Opening School Mass (live streamed)
- February 1 8:00 am - Drive through coffee for our parents
- February 2 Service Day – We will be collecting baby items for the St. Ann’s Center and men and women’s socks for the Homeless Shelters of Rockville. The students will also be writing letters to the residents of local Catholic Nursing homes.
- February 3 Virtual Open House (More information to follow)
- February 4 Student Appreciation Day (More information to follow)
- February 5 10:00 am - Closing Mass with an international flair (live streamed)/12:00 dismissal-Teacher Appreciation Day

ENROLL NOW!

Applications for enrollment for the 2021 school year are being accepted. Do not delay as we already have waiting lists in many classes. Visit www.stjuderockville.org. Go to Admission, then Apply Online, then Enrollment: [TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment](#). We would love to share information about our school with you. Please call Ellen Donnelly at 301-946-7888 to get more information or visit our website at [Visit www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org). You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

KOC 2323 SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE

For the past 25 years, the Annual Polar Plunge has been the kick-off for the year in helping to support our Special Olympics athletes and provide inclusive experiences. This event generally brings athletes and plungers from all over the state to participate in one of the largest fundraisers of the year. Due to current conditions, the plunge is going to be virtual, and the Knights need your help to continue to make this event possible. We'll perform the icy plunges, but we need your assistance in donating to the cause. Our team website for donations, and where we'll post our plunges is: <https://support.somd.org/Kofc2323> Team Members of the plunge will also have individual sites you can view from there. Donations are being accepted through January 31st, so please help us to reach our goal and make this 25th Anniversary Plunge a great one!! If you have any questions, please feel free to visit our council website at www.kofc2323.org where you can contact one of our Team Members.

SAINT PETER’S SCHOOL OPENINGS

Saint Peter’s School, a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, has openings in Pre K- 7th grade, for the 2021-2022 school year. Our mission is to help each child grow – spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Learn more about Saint Peter’s School during one of weekly virtual information sessions, offered each Wednesday, at 10AM. Space is limited; register through the website, www.stpetersschoololney.org.