

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

February 1 - February 7

Monday, 2/1	9:00 a.m.	Ann Dillon Carlin
Tuesday, 2/2	9:00 a.m.	John Coady Dillon, Jr.
Wednesday, 2/3	9:00 a.m.	Deacon John W. Somerville
Virtual	7:00 p.m.	Joseph T. Stehle, Sr.
Thursday, 2/4	9:00 a.m.	Donald Zezzo
Friday, 2/5	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
Saturday, 2/6	5:00 p.m.	Fred Biasini
Sunday, 2/7	9:00 a.m.	Roderick O'Connor & Fernando Silva
	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 Marinetta Bertram and Clara Tigano aunts of Donna Zezzo.

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 31, 2021

Sunday:	Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28
Monday:	Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 [25]/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday:	Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [8]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40
Wednesday:	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a [cf. 17]/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday:	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 [cf. 10]/Mk 6:7-13
Friday:	Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc [1a]/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday:	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday:	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

On January 18, 2021, we celebrated Martin Luther King Day. The Maryland Catholic Conference has posted on their website a statement from the Roman Catholic Bishops of Maryland. I want to share their statement for that occasion with you today.

As we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day today, we do so with heavy hearts, yet also with hope.

The racism, strife, violence, and inequality that have marked our nation over the past year sadly show that we still are a nation divided. We have not yet achieved the promise of unity and peace envisioned by Rev. King and longed for by so many throughout our nation's history.

This must change. We must continue to work for unity, dignity, and respect for every person no matter who they are. We must truly listen to each other, to seek to understand the experiences and the pain suffered by our brothers and sisters and to commit to understanding and to change. We must see Christ in every person and be Christ in our own actions.

The promise of Christ's love makes this possible. Our nation can be united if we work together. As we reflect on the life of Martin Luther King and look ahead, as a nation, to the inauguration of a new President, let each of us commit to work toward a world of unity, peace, and hope.

In the words spoken by our predecessor, Archbishop of Washington Patrick O'Boyle, as he stood with the Rev. King at the 1963 March on Washington:

"May we be sensitive to our duties toward others as we demand from them our rights. May we move forward without bitterness, even when confronted with prejudice and discrimination. May we shun violence, knowing that the meek shall inherit the earth. But may this meekness of manner be joined with courage and strength so that with Your help, O heavenly Father, and following the teachings of Christ, Your Son, we shall now and in the days to come live together as brothers in dignity, justice, charity, and peace."

I want to close this reflection by sharing *Our Family Prayer for Justice and Human Dignity* that was written by Cardinal Gregory, Bishop Campbell, Bishop Dorsonville, and Bishop Fisher (now the Bishop of Buffalo, NY):

Loving and faithful God, we come to you, Father, to ask that through your Son, Jesus and in communion with the Holy Spirit, you help us the battle against America's "original sin" of racism that divides us from being the Body of Christ that we are called to be as your children.

We implore you to give us your wisdom, so that we may build a community founded on the Gospel message of the life and dignity of all people from the womb to the tomb, and to live in communion like the divine communion of the Holy Trinity.

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What unclean spirits need to be driven out of my life? How can Jesus, within me and among us, defeat them?

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.

SAVE THE DATE FOR CATHOLIC ADVOCACY DAY ON FEBRUARY 16

Do you want to help advocate for Catholic issues? On Tuesday, February 16, the Maryland Catholic Conference will host a virtual Catholic Advocacy Day, on which they will ask Catholics to contact their state legislators either through Action Alerts or with a phone call to weigh in on three key Catholic issues on education, health, and human rights. Read more at <https://www.mdatholic.org/advocacyday>.

REMINDER - JUST HAITI COFFEE SALE

Just Haiti Coffee will be sold after all in-person Masses in the grassy area just in front of the church the weekend of February 6-7. Please support the Haitian farmers in our sister parish by purchasing a bag or 10 of this fair trade coffee, which is also available in K-cups. Cash, check or credit cards are accepted payment.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

*Our Family Prayer for Justice and Human Dignity
(continued)*

Bless parents that they may form their children in faith, to love each other regardless of skin color, ethnicity and national origin, just as Jesus loves us. Bless and protect all of us as we live out our faith in being "instruments of your peace" as St. Francis said. Fill us with a thirst for justice and righteousness.

Hear our prayer and give us the courage, compassion, and perseverance to root out any form of injustice within our communities and to bring the healing love of Christ to all in need.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, hasten to help us and intercede on our behalf, so that our Archdiocese can continue to witness to the Gospel message of life and dignity of all people. Amen.

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

2021 ANNUAL APPEAL ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON SEEKING CHRIST

"EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR YOU" Mark 1:37

The 2021 Annual Appeal is here! This year's theme is *Seeking Christ* to remind us in this time of hardship and need that Christ is the one, true source of the healing, unity, and love that we all seek. Through our collective support of the Annual Appeal, we strengthen the Body of Christ that is our local Church, and we sustain her many charitable works that serve the spiritual and other needs of all those within and beyond our parish boundaries. Parishioners will be asked to make a commitment to the 2021 Annual Appeal next weekend. Your gift will also be credited towards our parish goal. Learn more about the Annual Appeal at appeal.adw.org.

WITNESS AT THE CARHART LATE-TERM ABORTION CLINIC

Would you like to witness for the unborn? Come join other local Catholics at 2 pm Sunday, February 7, in praying to end abortion. The group meets at the LeRoy Carhart third-trimester abortion facility in the Wildwood Medical Center in Bethesda, along the public sidewalk facing Old Georgetown Road; please wear a facial mask and stay socially distanced from others who are praying. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

CONSIDER JOINING A SMALL GROUP THIS LENT

With Lent beginning on February 17, it is not too early to begin thinking about joining a Lenten Small Group. This year, the St. Francis of Assisi Adult Faith Formation team will offer four options for Small Group study, including:

- *Live Lent, Year B* published by Renew International
- *Not by Bread Alone: Daily Reflections for Lent 2021* published by Liturgical Press
- *Lent: Season of Transformation* published by Little Rock Scripture Study and
- *Fratelli Tutii* published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

The options require different reading commitments, and some are more appropriate for group study; others can be used for individual reflection. The Adult Faith Formation team will provide more guidance on the best options for different groups in coming days. Small groups will begin meeting the week of February 21, the first full week of Lent. If you can, participants are invited to donate \$5 to offset the cost of materials. For more information, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

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 31: Session 13
 - * week of February 7: Session 14
- Online sessions for Middle School students will meet on February 1/2.

CATECHIST MEETING TODAY

All catechists are invited to attend the Online Catechist Meeting at 1:30 pm on Sunday, January 31, as we plan for our spring program events, and also begin to look ahead to plans for next year's program. The link to join the meeting will be sent by email.

FIRST RECONCILIATION ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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 are being 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

- 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.stjudeockville.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.stjudeockville.org. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

NEW LEADERS FOR REBUILDING TOGETHER ARE SOUGHT

The parish Social Concerns Ministry is seeking a new captain or co-captains for the parish Rebuilding Together Team for 2021. The role takes time, commitment, and effort, but the joy and rewards of serving in this way are great. Rebuilding Together Day is typically the last Saturday of April. Because of the pandemic, we are unsure whether it will take place this year. However, we do want to plan for the event if it does proceed. Our last two parish captains have given years of service to Rebuilding Together and would like to pass on leadership to others. Both are willing to help make the transition to new leadership work smoothly! If you are interested or would like to hear more, please contact Director of Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at (301) 840-1407 or e-mail him at abosnick@sfadw.org. You can also text him at (301) 538-5576.

ENCOURAGE MINISTRY

EnCourage is a ministry dedicated to the spiritual needs of parents, siblings, children, and other relatives and friends of persons who have same-sex attractions. Standing by the true teaching of the Catholic Church, EnCourage members support one another and their loved ones through discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Please contact Fr. John for more information at 301-840-1407 or email him at jdillon@sfadw.org.

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/Kofc2323Team> 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.