

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

### February 8 - February 14

<b>Monday, 2/8</b>	9:00 a.m.	James Galvin
<b>Tuesday, 2/9</b>	9:00 a.m.	Christopher Milano
<b>Wednesday, 2/10</b>	9:00 a.m.	Alexander O'Connor
<b>Virtual</b>	7:00 p.m.	Guy Beaven
<b>Thursday, 2/11</b>	9:00 a.m.	Gemma Palini
<b>Friday, 2/12</b>	9:00 a.m.	Donald Zezzo
<b>Saturday, 2/13</b>	5:00 p.m.	Marilyn Ferguson
<b>Sunday, 2/14</b>	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
	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 of John Estampador, son of Emmanuel & Roselyn Estampador, Donald Mc Arthur.

**Please pray for the sick...** Donald Perryman, Karen Giannakoulis, Mary Dean, 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 February 7, 2021

<b>Sunday:</b>	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
<b>Monday:</b>	Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c [31b]/Mk 6:53-56
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/ Mk 7:1-13
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 [1a]/Mk 7:14-23
<b>Thursday:</b>	Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1a]/ Mk 7:24-30
<b>Friday:</b>	Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [1a]/Mk 7:31-37
<b>Saturday:</b>	Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13 [1]/ Mk 8:1-10
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]// 1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Even though there is much discussion about what is going in the U.S. Congress these days, I want to focus attention not on that legislative body but on the Maryland General Assembly. I have admired the great work that the Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) does year after year in highlighting priority issues for Catholics statewide. This year the MCC invites us to participate in Catholic Advocacy Day on February 16, 2021. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, this year this event will be virtual. In 2021 the issues that the MCC wants to highlight are: education, life, and human rights.

Before I entered the seminary I was the legislative captain for one of our local archdiocesan parishes. I would regularly attend what was then called Lobby Night. It proved to be a great way to become educated in those issues that were of concern to the Catholics in Maryland. Since my ordination to the priesthood, I have tried to go as often as I can. I want to invite you to participate in this year's Catholic Advocacy Day. The MCC will create the action alerts. All you have to do in bringing our voice before the Maryland legislators is to click, sign, and send the alerts to our legislators (or make a personal call to their offices, if you prefer. I also invite you to join the Catholic Advocacy Network to get advance notice and alerts sent right to you through text messages and/or email.

A number of people have asked the MCC staff some very good questions. I want to copy two questions and repeat for your benefit the answer the MCC staff have provided.

#### 1. My legislator doesn't agree with the church on these issues. Why should I bother sending a message of calling?

As a Catholic, you are one of more than 1,000,000 Marylanders who share our faith. Standing together, we are a strong voice worth listening to and legislators listen to their voters. Even if your senator or delegate does not personally agree with you, he or she still represents you and needs to know where you and other constituents stand on important issues like these. We have seen the power of speaking up for change.

If your elected Senator or Delegate doesn't agree with you, it might be helpful to remind them just how much of an impact Catholics like you are having [in] their district...

#### 2. Why these issues?

As many as 3,000 bills can be introduced each session in Maryland. The Maryland Catholic Conference works hard to identify, follow, and advocate on many issues. Timing, need for direct action and other considerations guide what we need at different times during the session. The issues we highlight are pending before the General Assembly and would have a significant impact on our faith and those we serve. We do send issue-specific action alerts at other times during the session. Sign up for the Catholic Advocacy Network to get those.

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

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*How do I serve God and serve my neighbor? Will I commit to doing all that I can?*

### HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY ST. FRANCIS!

A couple preliminary meetings were held in 2019 prior to the Pandemic, which put a halt to a lot of the initial planning/discussions for this parish celebration. With 2020 behind us, we need to reconvene and begin working on preparing for this milestone celebration of our Parish's 50th Anniversary! I would like to invite any additional Parishioners interested in helping with these preparations, to contact Linda Foster at [thebch-mom@verizon.net](mailto:thebch-mom@verizon.net) or 301-466-1256.

The first meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, February 22 at 7:30. p.m. In order to receive the zoom link, please make sure you contact Linda (above).

### THANK YOU FROM ASSUMPTION PARISH

*Dear St. Francis Parishioners,  
Thank you so much for all you have done this year. In the time of this pandemic it was very easy to give families food cards so they could buy, probably, more food than they had ever purchased at one time. Your gift allowed them to decide on Christmas dinner, breakfast and a lot more meals through the holidays. The guests smiled with joy receiving the food cards. They were very grateful. Thank you for assisting our families by making their children happy. Thank you for your continuous support of the Pope Francis Outreach Center at Assumption Catholic Church.*

Mildred J. Brown, Director of the Pope Francis Outreach Center &  
Fr. Gregory Shaffer, Pastor of Assumption Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Finally, St. Paul reminds us in his first letter to Timothy 2:1-3 to pray for our government officials. In following St. Paul's advice, let me share with you in closing today this prayer for the General Assembly and Governor offered by the Maryland Catholic Conference.

*God of power and might, wisdom and justice, through you, authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment is decreed.*

*Assist with your spirit of counsel and fortitude the law-makers of the State of Maryland.*

*May they always seek the ways of righteousness and mercy.*

*Grant that they may be enabled your powerful protections to lead our State with honesty and integrity. 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*

### 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.

### INFORMATION ABOUT OUR ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

As we prepare for our Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday, February 17, Fr. John Dillon and visiting priests will celebrate three in-person Masses on **Ash Wednesday at 9 am, 12 pm and 7 pm in the church.** This year, because of safety protocols limiting immediate physical contact in this time of COVID-19, the priests, deacons, and laity will distribute ashes by sprinkling them on the head of the person coming forward to receive them. This is an ancient practice of the Catholic Church and is still used in many countries, such as in Italy. It will be the norm throughout the Archdiocese of Washington this year, per guidelines issued January 27 by the Archdiocese.

In addition to the in-person Masses on Ash Wednesday, the parish will also premiere an **Ash Wednesday Mass at 6 am** that day on the Parish YouTube Channel. The Mass will be viewable as a recording anytime after the premiere. However, because ashes are usually distributed only within the celebration of a Mass, there will be no separate service for the distribution of ashes for those unable to attend an in-person Mass.

Although receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday is a visible and tangible sign of our Catholic faith, please remember that receiving ashes is not obligatory. Parishioners who choose to attend an in-person Mass on Ash Wednesday may also remain in their seats during the imposition of ashes. For more information about Ash Wednesday, please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

**REMINDER** 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.

## 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 February 7: Session 14
- *Family Small Groups meet and Catechist Outreach.* Family Small Groups meet during the week of February 7 on Sunday at 11 am; Monday at 7 pm; and Wednesday at 7:30 pm. The Sunday 7 pm group has rescheduled and will meet on February 21. If you'd like to join one of these groups, please let me know.
- Next week, we begin Lent/Unit 4 lessons with an online parent meeting at 11 am on Sunday, February 14. The link for this Zoom meeting will be sent to registered families, and a recorded version will also be made available. Unit 4 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](mailto:sfareligioused@sfadw.org) OR 301-258-9193.
- On Tuesday, February 16, all religious education students and parents are invited to share in our 7 pm Online Family Event Shrove Tuesday celebration. The link to join will be shared with registered families by Flocknote.

### FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

A reminder to families of children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist this year: there will be a First Eucharist Parent Meeting this Wednesday, February 10 meeting online at 7:30 pm. The link to join this meeting will be sent to all families registered for First Eucharist preparation. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

### CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Confirmation candidates will meet online on Monday, February 15, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 pm. The link to join this meeting will be sent to Confirmation families in a reminder message.

### SUPPORT CATHOLIC ADVOCACY DAY

Are you interested in helping 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.mdccatholic.org/advocacyday>. To learn about proposed legislation impacting issues of interest to Catholics, please sign up for the Catholic Advocacy Network at <http://www.mdccatholic.org/joincan>.

**ATTEND A VIRTUAL TEA** These teas have been such a hit that we are making them a tradition! In honor of St. Josephine Bakhita's feast day on February 8, the Council of Catholic Women will have a brief presentation on the topic of human trafficking. See more at <https://www.nccw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Human-Trafficking-Feb-24-16.pdf>. Register for the tea by e-mailing [ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com](mailto:ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com).

## LENTEN SMALL GROUPS ARE FORMING

Are you interested in joining a Lenten Small Group this year? The St. Francis of Assisi Adult Faith Formation team is offering 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 Tutti* published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

The options require different reading commitments. Some are better suited to group study or individual reflection. More guidance on suitable options for different groups will be disseminated via Flocknote 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](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org). The parish also has Zoom accounts that can be offered to parishioner groups wanting to convene for a Lenten discussion. Please contact Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan at [megan@sfadw.org](mailto:megan@sfadw.org) if you would like to use a parish Zoom account for a Lenten Small Group.

### TOOLS FOR MARRIAGE:

#### ENRICHMENT FOR YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES

Are you engaged or newly married? Looking for a way to grow closer to God and each other? The Archdiocese of Washington Office for Family Life is offering a six-week small group series for young married couples, in collaboration with Teams of Our Lady, titled *Tools for Marriage*. Topics will include praying as a couple, the reality of married love, love in daily life, enriching married love, serving others, and your marriage in action. The series will take place on Wednesday evenings from February 27–March 31 from 8-9 pm. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tools-for-marriage-tickets-125660749685>. For more information, contact the Archdiocese of Washington Office for Family Life at (301) 853-4546 or [visiblesign@adw.org](mailto:visiblesign@adw.org).

**WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS** From 7-8 pm every Thursday, March 4 through March 25, the Archdiocesan Office for Family Life in collaboration with the Christian Family Movement will offer a four-week virtual workshop series for parents. Topics will include recognizing God in our families, using our time faithfully, caring for our relationships, faith-building customs and activities, and guiding our children to live for Christ. Materials for all sessions will be provided. The cost per family is \$10. Register at <https://workshopforparents.eventbrite.com> or call the archdiocesan Office for Family Life for more information at (301) 853-4546 or e-mail [visiblesign@adw.org](mailto:visiblesign@adw.org).