

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

**February 15 - February 21**

<b>Monday, 2/15</b>	9:00 a.m.	Jessica Polissedjian
<b>Tuesday, 2/16</b>	9:00 a.m.	Margaret Mary Young
<b>Wednesday, 2/17</b>	9:00 a.m.	Alex Kutty Joseph
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	12:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	7:00 p.m.	Homebound Parishioners (L)
<b>Thursday, 2/18</b>	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Raymond Chaput
<b>Friday, 2/19</b>	9:00 a.m.	Joseph & Mary Polosky
<b>Saturday, 2/20</b>	5:00 p.m.	Patsy & Stella Battista
<b>Sunday, 2/21</b>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Marilyn Ferguson

**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 Donald Perryman, father of Keith Perryman, Victor Salinas-Linares, father of Reverend Rodolfo Salinas, Joanne Myers.

**Please pray for the sick...**Patricia Perryman, Karen Giannakoulis, 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 14, 2021

<b>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
<b>Monday:</b>	Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 [14a]/Mk 8:11-13
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10 [11b]/Mk 8:14-21
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a]/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
<b>Thursday:</b>	Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Ps 40:5a]/ Lk 9:22-25
<b>Friday:</b>	Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/ Mt 9:14-15
<b>Saturday:</b>	Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/ Lk 5:27-32
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/ 1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Today is World Marriage Day. In observance of that occasion, I am offering an article on “Ten Pointers for Prayer” from the National Marriage Initiative, an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to communicate the meaning and value of marriage life for the Church and for society.

The baby’s crying, the dog is whining, and you need to leave for work in five minutes. Finding time for prayer can seem impossible. Amid the busyness of family life, how can one respond to God’s ongoing invitation to speak with and listen to Him? Here are ten pointers to help you do just that.

**1. Pray as you can, not as you can’t.** God calls most Christians to an active life in the world, with family, work and community responsibilities. Such a call, while holy, does not usually allow for long periods of prayer and reflection. Lay people can become discouraged when they try to pray like a cloistered contemplative. Be realistic about what’s possible.

**2. Take ten — or twenty.** If a half hour for prayer isn’t possible, how about ten minutes, or twenty? Choose a good time of day and stick with it. Designate a special site for prayer so that spot become holy. Spouses can help by minding children during respective quiet times.

**3. Pray as a family.** Build upon rituals such as grace before meals. In addition to the usual “Bless us, O Lord...,” encourage family members to offer thanks for the blessings of the day, as well as prayers for those in need. Couples can deepen their spiritual relationship by taking a few minutes, perhaps before bedtime, to commend to God the joys and sorrows of the day.

**4. Decorate your domestic church.** When we enter our parish church, the statues and pictures focus our minds on Jesus, Mary and the saints. We can create an atmosphere for prayer in our home- the domestic church- by displaying a crucifix, icons, the Bible and other holy objects. Take the children to a religious goods store and let them choose a picture or statue for their rooms.

**5. Short prayers count, too.** When you’re stopped at a long light or put on hold, consider it as God’s invitation to turn your heart and mind to him, if only for a few seconds.

**6. Find God at work.** Connecting with God in the workplace takes effort. Try to cultivate a few simple habits. For example, offer the day to God as you turn on your computer, or pray for the person you’re about to call or wait upon.

**7. Jump start your prayer life.** Sooner or later almost everyone experiences dryness in prayer. God seems far away and prayer becomes a burden. Praying with Scripture, perhaps the daily Mass readings, can help us focus. So, too, can an inspirational book, especially one of the spiritual classics. A good choice is St. Francis de Sales’ Introduction to the Devout Life, written specifically for lay people who are striving for holiness.

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

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*What strained bond can I help heal this week? What barrier can I break down?*

### ASH WEDNESDAY

#### Mass Schedule – February 17

9:00 a.m. 12:00 Noon 7:00 p.m.

6:00 a.m. Virtual Mass on Parish YouTube Channel  
Can be viewed anytime during the day.

#### LENTEN SCHEDULE

**Daily Mass:** Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m.  
**Virtual Mass** Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

**Stations of the Cross** Friday Evenings 7:30 p.m.

**Confession:** Saturdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Location to be determine.

#### LENTEN REGULATIONS

**Fasting:** Ages 18-59 fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, limiting themselves to one full meal.

**Abstinence:** Catholics age 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

**8. Ask your Mother for help.** The Blessed Virgin Mary, our spiritual mother, understands our needs and offers profound comfort. One family, gathered around the bedside of their dying husband and father, found peace and healing through the recitation of the rosary. The rosary is ideal for the family since children can be taught the simple prayers at an early age. Check out instructions on [how to pray the rosary](#).

**9. Read a good story.** Children and adults alike enjoy an inspiring story, and few stories are more compelling than those of the saints. Whether it's the little way of Therese of Lisieux or the heroism of Maximilian Kolbe, their stories offer something for everyone. Consider the particular virtue that a saint demonstrates and pray for help to emulate it. Perhaps it's the humility of St. Francis of Assisi, the patience of St. Monica, or the courageous witness of St. Thomas More.

**10. Walk with a spiritual friend.** Prayer can lead to new thoughts and questions. Who better to share them with than a spiritual friend? A friend can help us to work through the concerns that inevitably arise in prayer. Good friends will hold each other accountable for their prayer life, making sure that prayer has not been neglected in the busyness of life. For married couples a spouse is often this spiritual friend, but God will also put wise and holy people in our path when we need them. They can be the answer to prayer.

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*

### DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

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 of Washington.

### 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.

### HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY ST. FRANCIS!

A couple of 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).



**WE ARE CALLED** - Join our faith community-and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States-in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl in the Gathering Space near the doors this weekend. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

- This 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.
- As noted on the Unit 4 checklist provided to all registered families by US mail, students are scheduled to complete lessons in their textbooks as follows:
  - \* Week of February 14: Lent Lesson/Session 20
  - \* Week of February 21: Session 16
  - \* Week of February 28: Session 17
  - \* Week of March 7: Session 18
  - \* Week of March 14: Session 19
- On Tuesday, February 16, all religious education students and parents are invited to share in our 7 pm Online Family Event Shrove Tuesday celebration. We encourage families to use the placemat included with the Unit 4 materials and, perhaps, have the customary “pancakes for dinner” before joining the online event. The link to join this event will be shared with registered families by Flocknote.
- Special Needs Catechesis Class meets online at 3:30 pm on Sunday, February 21
- Online sessions for Middle School students meet next on February 22/23.

### CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Confirmation candidates will meet online on Monday, February 15, for Confirmation class from 7:00-8:30 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>.

### SAINT PETER’S SCHOOL OPENINGS

Saint Peter’s School, a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, has openings in Pre K- 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stpetersschoololney.org).

## Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School *We are...St. Jude* [www.StJudeRockville.org](http://www.StJudeRockville.org)

### 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](http://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.

### CHURCH IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

On Ash Wednesday we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This Collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that still struggle to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this Collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the Collection. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee).

### PLEASE SUPPORT LOCAL PREGNANT MOTHERS AND THEIR BABIES

During the past 12 months, more than 250 client mothers and their families have been assisted by Gabriel Project Cluster Angel Friend volunteers. More women volunteers are needed, especially bi-lingual women. The Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery County is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that assists low-income pregnant women and their children. During the pandemic and economic crisis, the need for the Gabriel Project’s services has grown tremendously while typical sources of support are greatly reduced. During this Right to Life Month, you can help provide critically needed material resources by purchasing essential items like baby gear, diapers, and clothing through the Gabriel Project’s Amazon Charity List. For more information about the Gabriel Project, and to support our efforts, please visit the website at [www.gpmoco.org](http://www.gpmoco.org) and look for the link for the Gabriel Project’s Amazon Charity List at the top of the home page. Thank you for your generous support!

### 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*