

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

February 22 - February 28

Monday, 2/22	9:00 a.m.	Reverend William F. Goode Jr
Tuesday, 2/23	9:00 a.m.	Boton Eugenie, Silvestre & Nicole Kpamegan
Wednesday, 2/24	9:00 a.m.	Joseph A. Sappey
Virtual	7:00 p.m.	Donna Marchick
Thursday, 2/25	9:00 a.m.	Mary Ann Genutis
Friday, 2/26	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Ralph W. Cyrus Jr.
Saturday, 2/27	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 2/21	8:00 a.m.	Dea Rita Loberiza
	9:00 a.m.	Joseph Michael Gardner & Mary Treacy
	12:00 p.m.	Fred Biasini

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 Robert Becker, father of Keith Becker.

Please pray for the sick...Patricia Perryman, Karen Giannakoulas, 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 21, 2021

Sunday:	Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/ 1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/ Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/ Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/ Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/ Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday:	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16- 17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Fridays during Lent
(in the church)**

7:30 p.m.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

On November 11, 2020, Pope Francis released his Lenten message for 2021. He invites us to remember the One who “humbled himself and became obedient unto death, death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8). He encourages us to renew our *faith*, draw from the “living water” of *hope*, and receive with new hearts the *love* of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus, enable and express our conversion. The path of poverty and self-denial (fasting), concern and loving care for the poor (almsgiving), and child-like dialogue with the Father. These make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope, and effective charity.

Faith calls us to accept the truth and testify to it before God and all of our brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis reminds us that accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ means, first of all, opening our hearts to God’s word that the Church passes on from generation to generation. He comments that fasting helps us to rediscover God’s gift and to recognize that as we are created in His image and likeness we find our fulfillment in Him. Since fasting aids us in recognizing our own poverty, it helps us to love both God and neighbor. Pope Francis sees Lent as a time for believing and welcoming God into our lives and allowing Him to make His dwelling in us.

Hope as “living water” enabling us to continue our journey.

Pope Francis compares the virtue of hope to the “living water” that Jesus promises the Samaritan woman at the well. The woman was expecting physical water. Jesus, however, was promising the Holy Spirit who is given to us through the Paschal Mystery. Pope Francis understands that it may seem challenging to speak of hope in these troubled times when everything seems fragile and uncertain. Yet, he claims, Lent is precisely the season of hope when we turn back to God. During Lent, he challenges us to be increasingly concerned with speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation, and encouragement. We should avoid words that demean, sadden, anger, or show scorn. In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes simply enough to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference. Hope, he says, is given to us as inspiration and interior light through recollection and silent prayer. The experience of hope in Lent, Pope Francis tells us, means receiving the hope of Christ who gave His life on the Cross and was raised by God on the third day.

Love, following in the footsteps of Christ, in concern and compassion for all, is the highest expression of our faith and hope.

The Holy Father claims that love is a leap of the heart, which brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion. He emphasizes the need for “social love” in order to build up a “civilization of love.” He continues by saying that love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives. It helps us to see all men and women as our brothers and sisters. A small amount, if given in love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness. Such is the case with our almsgiving, whether it is small or large, when it is offered with joy and simplicity.

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

First Sunday in Lent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What cross have I been trying to avoid that I ought to accept during this desert time of Lent?

SHARE THE CROSS - CROSSES FOR HAITI MAKE THIS PART OF YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY

During Lent we usually initiate the "Share the Cross" campaign for our Haiti Medical Mission. This year because of the pandemic we aren't able to display the crosses and let you take them home. We will have Share the Cross envelopes on the tables at the entrance to the church from the Gathering Space. In the envelope will be a card with a list of the procedures that would have been stated on a cross. Please circle your donation and return the card and donation to the collection baskets at the doors to the church, drop it off in the Rectory Mail Box or mail it into the Parish Office. We are asking that you return your contribution before Palm Sunday.

Consider the gift as so much a day for the 40 days of Lent. There are many things we can give up each day, like that soda, purchasing a cup of coffee, lunch out, etc. Take the money you save and donate it to our Medical Mission. **10 cents** a day for 40 days is \$4 (Treatment for a child with asthma), **25 cents** a day is \$10 (Prenatal care for a woman), **50 cents** a day is \$20 (Treatment for a person with hypertension for one year), **\$1** a day is \$40 (Treatment for a diabetic for one year) and **\$2** a day is \$80 (Cataract surgery for one person to see again) and so forth.

Thank you and God Bless all of our parishioners who have been so generous over the years in support of our Medical Mission and Sister Parish in Leon Haiti.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Pope Francis explains that experiencing Lent with love means that we will care for those who suffer or feel abandoned or fearful because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We should keep in mind the Lord's word to his Servant, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you" (Isaiah 43:1) in these days of deep uncertainty about the future.

After Pope Francis tells us that every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping, and loving, he continues with these words:

"The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer, and sharing of our goods, helps us—as communities and individuals—to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father."

He concludes his Lenten message for 2021 by asking Mary, Mother of the Savior who is ever faithful at the foot of the Cross and in the heart of the Church, to sustain us with her loving presence. He also prays that the blessing of the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey toward the light of Easter.

Until next week,

Fr. John

LENTEN EVENTS & SERVICES

Prayer:

- **Morning and Evening Prayers:** 7:30 am and 7:30 pm daily on Zoom.
- **Virtual Parish Rosary:** 4 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays on Zoom.
- **Rosary in Spanish:** 6:30 pm on Tuesdays on Zoom.
- **Daily reflection booklets from the Diocese of Saginaw:** These black-covered reflection books were placed on a table near the Gathering Space the weekend of February 13 and 14.
- **Small Group discussion by Commissioned by Christ.** Starting February 22, the Catholic missionary organization will begin a weekly study of *Laudato Si* at 7 pm. The journey will culminate in a one-day service project in the metropolitan area. Register at [Commissioned by Christ Faith and Action Community - Commissioned by Christ](#).
- **Outdoor Stations of the Cross:** 3:30 pm Palm Sunday.

Fasting and Almsgiving:

- **Catholic Relief Services Activities:** Rice Bowls were placed on tables in the Gathering Space the weekend of February 13 and 14. They were also mailed to the homes of Religious Education students.
- **Crosses for Haiti:** Pick up envelopes near the church doors on February 20 and 21 to support this Lenten fundraiser benefitting our Haiti Medical Mission.

Special Liturgies and Services:

- **Confession** heard from 7-8 pm on February 24 and March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 and from 3:30-4:30 pm on Saturdays in the St. Clare Chapel of the Rectory.
- **Lenten Mission** given by clergy and parishioners dedicated to discipleship during four virtual sessions on February 26, March 5, 12, and 19.

Please see an updated list of Lenten events and services on the parish web site at www.sfadw.org.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION BEGINS FEBRUARY 26

On February 26, Fr. John Dillon will kick off the parish Lenten mission with a virtual talk on the Year of St. Joseph. The talk will be the first of a four-part series featuring St. Francis clergy members and parishioners sharing about different facets of their faith. Other speakers include:

- **March 5:** Parishioners Trish Olin and CC English speaking on "Favorite Saints and What They Teach Us."
- **March 12:** Deacon Jim Datovech speaking on "Reading and Praying the Word of God."
- **March 19:** Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Director Tony Bosnick and parishioners Betty Baklarz and Carolyn Brauer speaking about "Serving Our Neighbors in Need."

Please check the parish web site and Flocknote to find out the time of the virtual presentations and how to access them. 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 4 checklist provided to all registered families by US mail, students are scheduled to complete lessons in their textbooks as follows:
 - * Week of February 21: Session 16
 - * Week of February 28: Session 17
 - * Week of March 7: Session 18
 - * Week of March 14: Session 19
- 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.

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 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).

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

This year due to Covid restrictions we are not able to display our Vocations Tree for Archdiocese of Washington Seminarians in the Gathering Space. However, it's not too late to choose an archdiocesan seminarian and commit to praying for him each day during the remainder of Lent. This year you can choose a seminarian by going online at saintjohnneumann.org/vocations-tree.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - COUNCIL 2323

The Knights of Columbus are looking for new, transferring or readmitted members to share in their Charity, Fraternity, Unity and Patriotism activities. Council 2323 supports many St. Francis activities and has many social events. The KofC offers life and long term care insurance opportunities as well as annuities. A new opportunity: join as an Online Member for \$30 per year; go to www.kofc.org and click on "Join Us". If you wish you can join the Council later. If interested in learning more, contact Gary Palmer (301-948-6494 or email gtdbpalmer@verizon.net).

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

SIN OF RACISM

St Francis has a number of yard signs available supporting the Archdiocese's campaign against the sin of racism. They include the same message as the banner in front of the church: Made in God's Image: Pray and Work to End the Sin of Racism." Signs are available at the rectory or can be delivered locally to your home. If you would like a sign delivered please email Ron Hays at hays4mail@gmail.com. A free will donation of \$20 is suggested. Checks can be made out to St Francis of Assisi with a note "yard sign."

TEAMS OF OUR LADY

Teams of Our Lady is a movement of Christian Marriage Spirituality that brings together couples united by the Sacrament of Matrimony and who wish, together, to deepen the graces of their Sacrament. It offers married couples a pathway toward love, happiness, and holiness. The movement's aim is to help couples live fully their Sacrament of Marriage. Interested in learning more, contact Fr. John at 301-840-1407 or email him at jdillon@sfdaw.org.

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. 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*



HUNGER IN OUR WORLD - Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger - it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.