

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

### March 1 - March 7

<b>Monday, 3/1</b>	9:00 a.m.	Noah Vincent
<b>Tuesday, 3/2</b>	9:00 a.m.	Guy Beaven
<b>Wednesday, 3/3</b>	9:00 a.m.	Deacon James A. Somerville
<b>Virtual</b>	7:00 p.m.	Maria Madalena Faria Meade
<b>Thursday, 3/4</b>	9:00 a.m.	Keith Kopak
<b>Friday, 3/5</b>	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
<b>Saturday, 3/6</b>	5:00 p.m.	Ann Austin
<b>Sunday, 3/7</b>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Dennis Parnell

**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 Patience Railey, John Maloney, father of Teri Olivier.

**Please pray for the sick...** Linda Ryan-Connors, Betsy Nicholson, Patricia Perryman, Mary Cutting, Angelica Santos, Jackie Komlo, Allison Brauer, John McCormick, Frank Knorr, Allan Degen, Bob Jones, William Komlo, Sandra Kimball, Ed Dudenhoefter, 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 28, 2021

<b>Sunday:</b>	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
<b>Monday:</b>	Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9 11 and 13 [cf. 103:10a]/Lk 6:36-38
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 23:1-12
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 [17b]/Mt 20:17-28
<b>Thursday:</b>	Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Lk 16:19-31
<b>Friday:</b>	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
<b>Saturday:</b>	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Last week I was able to receive the first of two COVID-19 shots. When I told several people this, they asked if it really was all right for Catholics to receive these vaccines. They had seen various postings on social media urging people not to receive them for various reasons. In light of that I thought that I would include today in this column the joint letter the Catholic Bishops of Maryland issued on this subject in December, 2020. I think their comments are well worth reading carefully. ~ Fr. John

December 12, 2020

*Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As the current pandemic continues to devastate families and communities, we must, as people of faith, continue to take necessary steps to protect the health and life of our families and communities, even when it is difficult or uncomfortable.

We are grateful to the clergy, religious and lay people in our parishes, schools, social service programs and health care facilities who have been providing ministry under very difficult circumstances, as well as the parishioners and parents who have made significant sacrifices to help protect public health.

We look with hope toward recent developments to produce effective and life-saving vaccines. We are heartened by the quick progress to date and look forward to working with federal, state and local government leaders to promote widespread vaccination against COVID-19 in the interests of protecting public health and human life.

In response to some questions about the source of the vaccines, we wish to provide some clarity regarding the ethical and moral status of COVID-19 vaccines. As a recent communication from the chairmen of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' pro-life and doctrine committees notes:

*"Neither the Pfizer nor the Moderna vaccine involved the use of cell lines that originated in fetal tissue taken from the body of an aborted baby at any level of design, development, or production."*

At the same time, they add, *"They are not completely free from any connection to abortion, however, as both Pfizer and Moderna made use of a tainted cell line for one of the confirmatory lab tests of their products. There is thus a connection, but it is relatively remote."*

Over a number of years, the Holy See has addressed the use of tainted vaccines and, as the chairmen write, "at the level of the recipient, it is morally permissible to accept vaccination when there are no alternatives and there is a serious risk to health."

Therefore, a Catholic can in good conscience receive these COVID-19 vaccines. Moreover, given the grave risk of harm to others, we strongly encourage the faithful to receive a vaccine against COVID, unless medically indicated otherwise. It is vitally important that the most vulnerable among us and those who are from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID receive the vaccine swiftly. It also is imperative that pharmaceutical companies be urged to develop vaccines that fully respect the dignity of the human person at all stages.

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



**BETTER MEALS IN MADAGASCAR** - In Madagascar, half of all children are undernourished. That means 50% of kids won't grow to reach their full potential. But communities are changing this by focusing on improving health and nutrition. What role has food played in your life? How can you help those who lack access to enough nutritious food. Visit [crisricebowl.org](http://crisricebowl.org) to learn more.

## Second Sunday in Lent

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*How can I transfigure my life this Lent? What will I do to show the transfiguration Jesus had made in me?*

### LENTEN PARISH MISSION CONTINUES ON FRIDAY, MARCH 5

Join us for the virtual Lenten Parish Mission on Fridays during Lent, through March 19. With a theme of “Encountering Jesus on Your Journey,” the four-part series brings together clergy members and parishioners to discuss their faith over topics close to their hearts at 8 pm on Friday, March 5, March 12, and March 19 on Zoom.

- March 5: Parishioners Trish Olin and C.C. English speaking on their favorite saints
- March 12: Deacon Jim Datovech speaking on reading and praying the Word of God
- March 19: Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick and parishioners Betty Baklarz and Carolyn Brauer speaking on serving our neighbors in need.

Each virtual presentation will last about 45 minutes and will feature a virtual choir recording, an opening prayer, the talk, and a question-and-answer period. For the Zoom link and more details, please see the Lenten page on our parish web site at <https://www.sfadw.org/lentandeaster2021>. For more information, please contact Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

This has been a difficult year. We mourn with all those who have lost loved ones. We pray for the faithful departed and for all those experiencing deep suffering, including illness, loss of employment, isolation, loneliness and anxiety. May the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, bring healing and comfort to our Catholic community. And may she draw us ever closer to her Son, the Divine Physician.

*In Christ,*

*Most Reverend William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore*

*Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Archbishop of Washington*

*Most Reverend W. Francis Malooly, Bishop of Wilmington*

*Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell, Jr. Auxiliary Bishop of Washington*

*Most Reverend Mario E. Dorsonville-Rodriguez, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington*

*Most Reverend Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore*

*Most Reverend Denis J. Madden, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Baltimore*

*Most Reverend Adam J. Parker, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore*

### 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.
- **Stations of the Cross (in the church) Fridays during Lent, 7:30 p.m.**
- **Daily reflection booklets from the Diocese of Saginaw (Little Black Books):** These reflection books are available on a table in the Gathering Space.
- **Outdoor Stations of the Cross:** 3:30 pm Palm Sunday.

#### Fasting and Almsgiving:

- **Catholic Relief Services Activities:** Rice Bowls are available on a table in the Gathering Space.
- **Crosses for Haiti:** Pick up envelopes near the church doors to support this Lenten fundraiser benefitting our Haiti Medical Mission.

#### Special Liturgies and Services:

- **Confession** heard from 7-8 pm on 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 three virtual sessions March 5, 12, and 19.

### CHECK OUT THE WEB SITE TO FIND OUT LENTEN EVENTS

Curious about what is happening this Lent at St. Francis of Assisi Church? Please see the Lenten page of the web site <https://www.sfadw.org/lentandeaster2021> for all our offerings, services, and events during this holy season. We will continue updating the page, as event details become finalized. For more information, please call the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

### WITNESS AT THE CARHART CLINIC LATE-TERM ABORTION CLINIC

Would you like to witness for the unborn? Come join other local Catholics at 2 pm Sunday, March 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](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

### 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](mailto: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."

## 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 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, March 7.
- Family Small Groups meet online during the week of March 14 on Sunday at 11 am and 7 pm; Monday at 7 pm; and Wednesday at 7:30 pm.
- Online sessions for Middle School students meet next on March 15 and 16.

### CONFIRMATION RETREAT: SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Confirmation Candidates are reminded that our Confirmation Retreat will be on Saturday, March 6, meeting online from 12:30-5:00 pm. The link to join the retreat will be sent to families this week.

### FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING

A reminder to families of children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist this year: the next First Eucharist Parent Meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 10 or Thursday, March 11 at 7:30 pm. Parents are asked to attend one of these online Zoom meetings. The link to join will be sent directly to families. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP!

St. Francis of Assisi Church invites children from age 4 to those who will complete the 5th Grade in June 2021 to join us for this summer's Vacation Bible Camp, July 19-23. Program details will be announced later this spring as we know more about safety protocols for summer programs. Our VBC format could include any or all of the following: some level of in-person sessions, at-home activities, digital content, and possible online gatherings. We expect to open registration for campers and teen volunteers by June 1.

### THANK YOU ST. FRANCIS PARISHIONERS

*Thank you for your donations to St. Patrick's 2020 Holiday Giving Program. Thanks to your generous support, we were able to meet the needs of all our recipients, which included 400 families with about 700 children. The parish depends upon contributions to implement its Holiday Giving Program, and we are so grateful for the outpouring of your support and generosity. May the peace of Christ be with you and yours in this new year, and may you be filled with hope!* **Monica Ludwig, Social Concerns Director**

### 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](http://saintjohnneumann.org/vocations-tree).

### 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.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL HEARS REPORT ON NEW NEIGHBORS INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council on February 18 learned about a new initiative to replace the interfaith coalition of houses of worship that aids immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers who settle in and around Montgomery and Prince Georges counties seeking help in their new country.

The New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance provides support to newly resettled immigrants who have recently arrived in the Washington DC metro area. The immigrants' needs can range from financial and emotional support with government programs; medical, food, educational and legal help; or practical support with transportation, translation, clothing, childcare or housing.

Chris King, who has helped spearhead help to resettled immigrants through the now defunct Montgomery County Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Neighbors, said the new organization needs to partner with additional faith communities to have a wider impact and share the work required to support the immigrants.

*"This is work that is not without huge reward," King said. "We need to be really proud of this effort."*

In addition, the council also:

- Heard a construction update on the facilities enhancement project in the church.
- Heard the latest and upcoming activities of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Racism.
- Listened to a report on the parish's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which will begin being celebrated in October.
- Heard reports from the Religious Education, Social Concerns, Music and Communications ministries, as well as from the representatives of St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

For more information, please see past Parish Pastoral Council minutes at <https://www.sfadw.org/pastoral-council-meeting-minutes>. If you have any questions, please contact members of