

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

March 15 - March 21

Monday, 3/15	9:00 a.m.	Dolores Dougherty
Tuesday, 3/16	9:00 a.m.	John DeLuca
Wednesday, 3/17	9:00 a.m.	Renee Witmore
Virtual	7:00 p.m.	Mercedes Dela Cruz
Thursday, 3/18	9:00 a.m.	Joseph Mastronardi
Friday, 3/19	9:00 a.m.	Maria Madalena Meade
Saturday, 3/20	5:00 p.m.	Reverend John Stack
Sunday, 3/21	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Stella Battista

Mass Intentions will be prayed for in a private daily Mass said by Fr. John if not prayed for in a public Mass.

Please pray for the sick... Debra Price, Barbara Schmidt, Linda Ryan-Connors, Betsy Nicholson, 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 March 14 2021

Sunday:	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday:	Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47
Friday:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday:	Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

THANK YOU TO THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PARISH DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES. WE APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE AND CONTINUE TO DO!!

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Our late and beloved Msgr. Ralph Kuehner (Fr. Ralph) was a tireless advocate for affordable housing in the District of Columbia and in the five Maryland counties in the Archdiocese of Washington. He also was a frequent champion for affordable housing in Annapolis. One thing of which he would wholeheartedly approve were he still here among us would be House Bill 58, which establishes the Workgroup on Minority Homeownership, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Household Wealth Equity. If the bill becomes law, it would require this Workgroup to study and make recommendations to promote homeownership and create wealth-building opportunities for minority households and promote community revitalization through targeted investments in homeownership. The Workgroup would be asked to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2021.

The Maryland Catholic Conference supports this bill. Housing is a universal and inviolable right of all persons because it is necessary to live a genuinely human life. This right must be available to all people. The Bishops of the United States have long expressed concern about acts that undermine fair housing, such as redlining, disinvestment from communities, discriminatory practices in the sale or rental of housing, racial and economic segregation, and other harmful practices that do not respect the inherent dignity of all people.

In their recent pastoral statement, *Open Wide Our Hearts*, the U.S. Bishops call attention to the fact that these policies continue to harm communities of color today. *"The poverty experienced by many of these communities has its roots in racist policies that continue to impede the ability of people to find affordable housing, meaningful work, adequate education, and social mobility."*

This bill will work to find ways to increase minority homeownership and identify programs and resource available to minority communities to achieve greater minority homeownership.

The Maryland Catholic Conference hopes for a favorable report on House Bill 58 as well as eventual passage of this legislation. I can think of no better way for us to carry on Fr. Ralph's legacy than to contact our Delegates, Senators, and Governor and urge them to act favorably upon this piece of legislation.

Until next week
Fr. John

Fourth Sunday in Lent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do I have the courage to examine my heart in the light of Christ and turn away from everything that binds me to goodness, justice and truth?

TAKE PART IN THE LAST TWO SESSIONS OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH MISSION

It is not too late to take part in the last two sessions of the virtual Lenten Parish Mission. At 8 pm Friday, March 19, Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick and parishioners Betty Baklarz and Carolyn Brauer will speak on "Serving Our Neighbors in Need." Sign up for one or both sessions at <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/43104>; you will receive the Zoom link and passcode after you register for the event(s). For more information, please contact Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org. To watch the first two series of the Lenten Parish Mission, please visit <https://www.sfadw.org/lenten-parish-mission>.

ON MARCH 20, JOIN ST. FRANCIS DAY DURING THE 40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN

Would you like to pray for the unborn this Lent? Save the date of March 20 to attend St. Francis of Assisi Day during the 40 Days for Life campaign. On this date, please gather for an hour or two from 10 am-4 pm to pray for the unborn outside the Carhart Clinic, a long-term abortion facility, in Bethesda. Please meet on the public sidewalk facing Old Georgetown Road, wear a facial mask and stay socially distanced from others who are praying. For more information, visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/bethesda> or contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

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).

AMAZONSMILE ENABLES ST. FRANCIS TO INCREASE FUNDRAISING THROUGH ONLINE SHOPPING

St. Francis parishioners can support our church whenever they're shopping online at Amazon.com. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church recently became a recipient of AmazonSmile, which enables the church to receive 0.5 percent of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases you make. Go to our Home Page to start shopping!

LENTEN EVENTS & SERVICES

Prayer:

- **Morning and Evening Prayers:** 7:30 am and 7:30 pm daily on Zoom. *During Lent Evening Prayer is at 7:00 p.m.*
- **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.**
- **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 6:30-7:45 pm on March 17, 24, and 31 in the St. Clare Rectory Chapel and from 3:30-4:30 pm on Saturdays in the Church.
- **Lenten Mission** given by clergy and parishioners dedicated to discipleship during a virtual session March 19.

VISIT THE ST. FRANCIS WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT EVENTS AND SERVICES (www.sfadw.org)

As we near Holy Week, which begins Sunday, March 28, please check our web site's Lenten page at <https://www.sfadw.org/lentandeaster2021> to see a list of services, events and resources at our parish. Among the Holy Week services to be offered include an Outdoor Stations of the Cross on Palm Sunday; a virtual Seven Last Words of Christ service premiering on Good Friday; and a Family Stations of the Cross for Religious Education families on Zoom, also on Good Friday. For more information, please call the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.



TRYING NEW FOODS IN TIMOR-LESTE - Timor-Leste has the highest rate of child malnutrition in Asia, and many children suffer from stunting, which makes a big impact on a child's growth and future. Home gardens and fishponds are helping families provide better nutrition for their children. What do you eat to stay healthy? What can you do to ensure children have enough food to thrive? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

RETURNING YOUR RICE BOWL - Please drop off your Rice Bowl at the parish office or you can give your donation online at crsricebowl.org/give. Rice Bowls should be returned before Holy Week.

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 March 14: Session 19
- 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.
- Next week, we look ahead to Unit 5 lessons with an online parent meeting at 11 am on Sunday, March 21. The link for this Zoom meeting will be sent to registered families, and a recorded version will also be made available. Unit 5 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 OR 301-258-9193.
- Special Needs Catechesis Class meets online at 3:30 pm on Sunday, March 21.

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.

VOLUNTEER WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Summer Interns: Current undergraduate students are invited to serve with us during Summer 2021! We have openings in programs from Public Health to Communications to Social Work, with opportunities for students of all majors. Most work will be remote. Explore the roles and apply [here!](#) Apply by March 28th and serve from May 25th – August 6th, 2021. Have questions? Send us an email to Volunteer@CC-DC.org

Volunteer Lawyers: Catholic Charities Legal Network counsels and provides legal representation to low- income and poor residents throughout the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. and relies heavily on volunteer lawyers to fulfill its mission. If you are a lawyer in active status who wants to make a real difference in the lives of families and individuals struggling in our community, please reach out to Dan Collopy at (301) 615-0949 or daniel.collopy@cc-dc.org to discuss how you can help. The Legal Network handles most civil practice areas and criminal expungements.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

The Catholic Relief Services Collection will be taken this weekend, March 13/14. CRS supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from the collection help provide food to the hungry, welcome and support to displaced refugees, and invaluable life skills to those seeking a better life. Please give generously to this Archdiocesan collection.

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.



ANNUAL PLANT & FLOWER SALE

May 7, 8 & 9

Save the date!!

A REMINDER FROM FR. JOHN ... If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, it would be wise to consult with a priest to see whether that situation might be rectified. It could be as simple as repeating your marriage vows quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist.

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

Friday, March 19, 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, Mother Seton Parish Center, Germantown. In celebration of St. Joseph's Day and the Year of St. Joseph, the Fr. Horace B. McKenna Council of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a St. Joseph Altar. St. Joseph is the patron saint of immigrants, workers, unborn children, refugees, fathers, and craftspeople, among others. According to tradition, the practice of creating large food altars, or St. Joseph's Tables, dates to the Middle Ages, when there was a severe drought and famine in Sicily. The peasants prayed to St. Joseph, and when the rains arrived, they organized a celebration in his honor. **Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to a local food pantry to help feed our neighbors in need.**

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.