

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

### March 22 - March 28

<b>Monday, 3/22</b>	9:00 a.m.	Bernard Kohan
<b>Tuesday, 3/23</b>	9:00 a.m.	Patsy Battista
<b>Wednesday, 3/24</b>	9:00 a.m.	Marta Bastides
<b>Virtual</b>	7:00 p.m.	Clara Tigano
<b>Thursday, 3/25</b>	9:00 a.m.	Lynn Krafchik
<b>Friday, 3/26</b>	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Joseph Testudine Sr.
<b>Saturday, 3/27</b>	5:00 p.m.	Donald Zizzo
<b>Sunday, 3/28</b>	9:00 a.m.	Juan Asuncion, Jr.
	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.**

**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 21, 2021

<b>Sunday:</b>	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
<b>Monday:</b>	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/ Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/ Jn 8:21-30
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42
<b>Thursday:</b>	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/ Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
<b>Friday:</b>	Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/ Jn 10:31-42
<b>Saturday:</b>	Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/ Jn 11:45-56
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-

**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

With the availability of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been asked for guidance by a number of parishioners about the morality of taking one of the vaccines. Even though I wrote about this several weeks ago, I am going to do it again because I think that there is a need to do so. Let me begin by quoting a statement that the Maryland Catholic Conference posted on March 9, 2021.

Last week, the Federal Drug Administration approved a third COVID-10 vaccine, resulting in three now in use: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. What should most Catholics know about receiving these COVID-19 vaccines?

- **Our bishops have encouraged Catholics to get vaccinated** (unless medically indicated otherwise). Vaccination against COVID-10 is an act of charity in light of the virus's grave risk to the life and health of others.
- Catholics may receive any of the three vaccines offered. There has been discussion in media about the morality of the vaccines, but the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith notes it is **morally acceptable** to receive COVID-19 vaccines that use a compromised fetal cell line in development, in light of the grave risk to public health and availability. Their document...provides a discussion of this topic, including remote cooperation.
- **Delaying or declining a vaccination may risk the health and life of others**, especially those who are not able to be vaccinated due to medical conditions. As the Vatican COVID-19 Commission, with the Pontifical Academy for life notes, "On the moral responsibility of undergoing vaccination ... it is necessary to reiterate how this issue also involves the relationship between personal health and public health, showing their close interdependence. In the light of this connection, we consider it important that a responsible decision be taken in this regard, since the refusal of the vaccine may also constitute a risk to others."

A concern many are asking is if they are compromising their pro-life values by receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. To that question, I want to provide this answer provided by the Archdiocese of Washington in its recently issued "FAQ on COVID-19 Vaccine Development":

Catholic moral teaching calls us to care for the common good, avoiding association with grave evil. Our Catholic moral teachings also teach us to take action to protect each and every person we encounter, especially the most vulnerable. This teaching has not changed in the life of the Church, and will never change. Our opposition to abortion and the development of vaccines using cell lines descended from the act of abortion should be made clear to pharmaceutical companies.

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

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*How can I sow the seeds of the Kingdom of God? What seed can I sow this spring that will blossom in a timely manner?*

### HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

#### HOLY THURSDAY – April 1

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Online)  
7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper (In Church)

#### GOOD FRIDAY – April 2

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Online)  
3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (In Church)  
7:30 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion  
(In Church)

#### HOLY SATURDAY – April 3

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Online)  
12:00 Noon Blessing of Easter Baskets (In Church)  
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil (In Church)

*No 5:00 p.m. Liturgy*

#### EASTER SUNDAY – April 4

9:00 a.m. (In Church)  
10:00 a.m. **VIRTUAL MASS**  
12:00 Noon (In Church)

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

When applying these moral values to the complex and nuanced situations we face in daily life, we are called to use the virtue of prudence. Prudence calls us to seek the most good in each and every situation, while avoiding evil. When faced with the nuance of the COVID-19 vaccines, each of us is called to discern how we can do the most good. For many of us, our commitment to protecting life at all stages calls each of us to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available, in order to defend those most at risk of serious corona virus. Because the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia have limited vaccines available during this rollout process, we encourage each member of the Archdiocese of Washington to receive the COVID-19 vaccine that is most readily and easily available. By seeking vaccination, we can help to protect our vulnerable communities from this deadly pandemic.

Finally, it is vitally important that Catholics remember how remote the connection between abortion and these recently developed vaccines really is. Our moral teaching opposes abortion under all circumstances, and there is a moral difference between committing an act of abortion, harvesting cells for use in treatment and vaccine development, and receiving a vaccine with the intent to protect your community. We must discern our level of responsibility in each of these circumstances to avoid oversimplifying a complex theological tradition.

Until next week,

**Fr. John**

### 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. on Fridays.**
- **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: (Last Weekend)

- **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 Wednesday March 24, and 31 in the St. Clare Rectory Chapel and from 3:30-4:30 pm on Saturdays in the Church.

### HOLY WEEK BEGINS MARCH 28 WITH AN OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Holy Week will start Sunday, March 28, with Palm Sunday. To mark this first day of Holy Week, please join us for an Ecological Stations of the Cross to be held at 3:30 pm that day at the Outdoor Stations of the Cross. Please download the reflection for that service on the Lenten page of the web site at <https://www.sfadw.org/lentandeaster2021>. You can also find other Holy Week events and services at that URL, which will be updated with more current information this week. For more information, please call the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.



**COMMUNITY IN MADAGASCAR** - Poor Nutrition can lead to devastating long-term consequences for individuals, communities and entire countries. That's why communities must work together to ensure that all children have access to better food and nutrition. New planting and cooking techniques are helping many communities in Madagascar improve the health and wellbeing of their children. How does your community work together for the good of others? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://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](http://crsricebowl.org/give). Rice Bowls should be returned before Holy Week.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

- This week, we begin 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](mailto:sfareligioused@sfadw.org) OR 301-258-9193.
- As noted on the Unit 5 checklist provided to all registered families by US mail, students are scheduled to complete lessons in their textbooks as follows:
  - \*Week of March 21: no lesson assigned; use this week to catch up if needed.
  - \*Week of March 28: Holy Week lessons
  - \*Week of April 4: Easter lessons/Session 25
  - \*Week of April 11: Session 21
  - \*Week of April 18: Session 22
  - \*Week of April 25: Session 23
  - \*Week of May 2: Session 24
- Online sessions for Middle School students meet on April 12 & 13.
- Special Needs Catechesis Class meets online at 3:30 pm today, Sunday, March 21.

### FAMILY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A special Stations of the Cross for children and families will be held online at Noon on Good Friday, April 2. The stations are an excellent way for families to honor Jesus on this special and solemn day in a way that children of all ages can understand. We will pray using the booklet included with Unit 5 materials, *Praying the Stations with Children*. The link to join this Zoom meeting will be sent to all registered families.

### 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.

### 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).

## ANNUAL PLANT & FLOWER SALE

May 7, 8 & 9



## 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.

### VIRTUAL LENTEN PARISH MISSIONS

The last of our four virtual parish missions ended on March 19th. Video recordings of the first three missions can be viewed on our parish web site. The fourth mission will be posted sometime in the coming week. If you would like to experience the virtual parish missions please view them at <https://www.sfadw.org/lenten-parish-mission>. For more information, please contact Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

### PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICE MEN/WOMEN

Please continue to pray for all those parishioners, family members and friends who are serving in the military services in Iraq, Afghanistan and other dangerous areas. We have a prayer list posted in the Gathering Space for those who are serving in these areas. Please help us to keep it current by letting us know of any parishioner who is currently deployed so we can add them, and also those who have returned so that we can remove their names. Please continue to keep all of our military personnel in your prayers.

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

St. Elizabeth Bereavement Ministry will offer a seven-week bereavement support group series for adults 18 and over who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse, or significant other. Because of the current Covid19 pandemic participants will be able to attend the sessions from the comfort and privacy of their own homes using our ZOOM format. The spring series will be meeting via ZOOM on Thursday evenings beginning April 8th and running through May 20th. There is no fee but registration is required. Space is limited to 10 participants so call early. To register call Deacon Kevin Byrne (301-279-5962) or Claudia McAuliffe (301-881-1457).

### YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE ABUSED

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It can consist of repeated severe beatings or subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace).