

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

April 5 - April 11

Monday, 4/5	9:00 a.m.	Donald Romie
Tuesday, 4/6	9:00 a.m.	Alexander O'Connor
Wednesday, 4/7	9:00 a.m.	Msgr. Ralph Kuehner
VIRTUAL	7:00 p.m.	Thomas Vadnais
Thursday, 4/8	9:00 a.m.	Tom Boyle
Friday, 4/9	9:00 a.m.	Jessica Polissedjian
Saturday, 4/10	5:00 p.m.	William Farmer
Sunday, 4/11	9:00 a.m.	Marilyn McKay
	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.

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Joseph Dillon, cousin of Fr. John Dillon, Carol Irene Church Harmon, sister of Alicia Church.

Please pray for the sick... Donna Ford, Debra Price, Barbara Schmidt, 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 April 4, 2021

Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9
Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/ Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [5b]/ Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/ Lk 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2, 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/ Lk 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27 [22]/ Jn 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/Mk 16:9-15
Next Sunday:	Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/ 1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3

COVID VACCINATION REGISTRATION HELP

Do you or a family member need assistance to get registered for an appointment for the COVID vaccine? If so, email Betty Baklarz, SFA Faith Community Nurse at lbbaklarz@yahoo.com or call 301 412-1909 for assistance.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

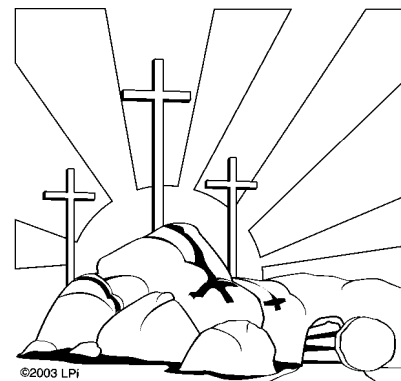
The Lord has risen as he said, Alleluia! As we listen to John's Gospel today we have the opportunity to hear three different reactions to the empty tomb. Mary Magdalene is the first one on the scene. She is confused and upset. She notices the stone has been rolled away. It is still dark and she is by herself. She runs for help. I rather imagine the scene the way Anne Bancroft played Mary Magdalene in the 1977 movie *Jesus of Nazareth*: Mary comes back to report what she had seen. When they dismiss what she says, she scolds them sharply for their unbelief and cowardice and storms out of the room where they are hiding. Mary Magdalene was indeed on this occasion an apostle to the apostles, as St. Thomas Aquinas called her centuries ago. Eventually Peter and John set out to see what is going on. John defers to Peter, so Peter is the first to enter the tomb. Peter is confused but notices that the burial cloths are rolled up separately and not thrown about or unrolled on the floor—which would have been the case if the body had been dragged away. Neither Peter nor John who also entered the tomb by that point understood, but John saw and believed.

This initial encounter of the empty tomb is a paradox. It is not the presence of Jesus that inspires belief in John, but his absence. Belief came without seeing, hearing, or touching. It came without proof. Different apostles took different routes to belief. Next week we hear about Thomas who does not believe, even stating that unless he could put his finger in the nail marks and his hands in his side he would not believe. As we know the risen Jesus will give him an opportunity to do just that. Our Lord Jesus tells Thomas that he believes because he has seen but blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. It bears repeating: different apostles took different routes to belief. We will continue to hear this message over the next two weeks. Let's admit it: we take different routes ourselves. In the presence of Jesus, or in his absence, we can believe because of the grace of God.

Happy Easter Everyone!

Until next week,

Fr. John



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Easter Sunday

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How have I come to believe? How can I witness to "Resurrection time," to this era in which our lives have a deeper dimension and a greater purpose?

VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSIONS ON RACISM TO TAKE PLACE APRIL 10 & 17

On April 10 and 17, the St. Francis of Assisi Ad Hoc Committee on Racism will host "Four Courageous Conversations about Racism and Violence in America," a two-part virtual listening session to learn about parishioners' knowledge, awareness of and personal experiences with racism. This virtual discussion on Zoom is modeled after the "Four Courageous Conversations" on the clergy sexual abuse crisis held at the parish in 2018. At the session held from 12-2 pm on Saturday, April 10, Fr. John Dillon will lead the session, during which participants will address questions 1 and 2. At the second session also from 12-2 pm Saturday, April 17, attendees will tackle questions 3 and 4. Please sign up to participate in this timely and thought-provoking conversation. Space is limited, so please sign up by Saturday, April 3. If you have any questions, e-mail Vincent Price at price93507@aol.com or Chris King, caking.home@gmail.com to register.

LENTEN PARISH MISSION SESSIONS CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR PARISH WEB SITE

Thank you to everyone who attended the live sessions of the virtual Lenten Parish Mission, which took place on February 26, March 5, March 12, and March 19 on Zoom. We had a great turnout for all the sessions, ranging from 30-50 attendees for the live sessions. The session recordings are all available on our parish web site at <https://www.sfadw.org/lenten-parish-mission>, so please check them out there if you would like to watch them for the first time or view them again. Special thanks to all the presenters and, especially, to Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick.

DRIVE-THROUGH SPAGHETTI DINNER

Spaghetti and meatballs! On Sunday, April 11th, Montgomery Council 2323 of the Knights of Columbus will host a drive-through spaghetti dinner to benefit *St. Francis of Assisi's Medical Mission to Haiti*. The dinner includes spaghetti with sauce and meatballs; garden salad, and garlic bread; *or* buttered spaghetti, with garden salad and garlic bread. Pickup times for the dinner will be in 15-minute slots from 1:00 to 6:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus' Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road, Derwood. The cost is \$10.00 per meal. There are a limited number of time slots, **so reservations for pickup are needed.** Contact Mike Thomas at (301) 330-5970 or cinnabarmike@verizon.net. We will also have a 50/50 raffle. You will not have to be present to win.

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. **There will be a Communion Service on Easter Sunday, 1:30 - 2:00 p.m.**



ANNUAL PLANT & FLOWER SALE

May 7, 8 & 9

Save the date!!



HAPPY EASTER! - We prayed, fasted and gave alms-and now we rejoice because Christ is risen! Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl challenges us as we begin the Easter season to share the joy of having a loving God that is alive and accompanies us always. Let's do the same by being present to our global family by caring for their material and spiritual needs. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl.

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. FYI . . . When making an online donation, please include a **note that your donation is coming from St. Francis Parish in the Archdiocese of Washington**. This will help to ensure that the Archdiocese receives 25% of the contributions that go to fund the dual work of CRS, which supports both the **global church** (Rice Bowl) and the **local church** in the Archdiocese of Washington. 25% of our donations to CRS will go to help fund the work of food banks, and pantries located in the Archdiocese, including the [Community Food Security Program](#) that was begun at the beginning of the pandemic as a response to the needs identified by parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

- 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 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
- Special Needs Catechesis Class meets online at 3:30 pm on Sunday, April 11.
- Online sessions for Middle School students meet on April 12 & 13.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE AND PARENT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Confirmation candidates and parents will meet online on Wednesday, April 7, from 7:00-8:30 pm. The link to join this meeting will be sent to Confirmation families in a reminder message.

EUCARIST PREP DAY: SATURDAY, APRIL 10

First Eucharist parents are asked to sign-up for their child to attend a one-hour in-person Prep Day lesson on Saturday morning, April 10. A sign-up link was shared with three lesson times available (9-10 am; 10:30-11:30 am; Noon-1 pm; children attend one of these three sessions). Bring your child's completed First Communion banner to Prep Day.

In addition, families are asked to use the at-home Eucharist Prep Day kit and online guide (google slides) to complete the at-home Prep Day activities. Families can work on the at-home activities at their own pace in preparation for First Eucharist on April 24 and May 1. 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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS SPRING

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is a Jesuit service ministry that gives retired men and women the opportunity to provide meaningful service for people in need within a framework of Ignatian Spirituality and adult faith formation. IVC is currently recruiting Service Corps Members to serve with a variety of non-profit agencies in the District of Columbia and Suburban Maryland. Typically, service is offered two days per week for ten months per year, with much of the service being provided remotely during the pandemic. The needs are great as our community responds to the challenges of the times, with our underserved schools in special need of retired educators to provide support in (virtual) classrooms. For more information, contact Director Mike Goggin (who is also a longtime St. Francis parishioner) at 202-277-4447 or mgoggin@ivcusa.org.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

<http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd>

Apply for BOOST Today

Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program

BOOST provides scholarships for some students who are eligible for the free or reduced-price school meals program (FARMS) to attend eligible nonpublic schools. Awards are granted based on household income, with the lowest income served first. An application for admission to St. Jude Regional Catholic School must be submitted to the school before a BOOST application is submitted.

Application Deadline: April 30, 2021

[SY 21-22 BOOST program application](#)

Follow the link in our website www.stjuderockville.org

FINDING THE HAPPY LIFE

(Young Adult Conference)

20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg MD 20879

April 9-11 2021

Are you a young adult looking to *encounter* Jesus? Do you know that God wants to work personally in your life? Come and hear dynamic speakers on the love and power of God. Cost is \$25. To register visit encounterschool.org/dc.

PLEASE SUPPORT LOCAL PREGNANT MOTHERS AND

THEIR BABIES. During the past 2 months, more than 50 NEW client mothers and their families have requested help from the Gabriel Project Cluster. This is in addition to the over 200 already being assisted. 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 Holy Season 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 please visit the website at 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!

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).