

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

**April 12 - April 18**

<b>Monday, 4/12</b>	9:00 a.m.	Virginia Molina
<b>Tuesday, 4/13</b>	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Alfred A. Miller, Jr.
<b>Wednesday, 4/14</b>	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
<b>VIRTUAL</b>	7:00 p.m.	Keith Kopak
<b>Thursday, 4/15</b>	9:00 a.m.	Erik Govert
<b>Friday, 4/16</b>	9:00 a.m.	Luigi & Bernice Mastronardi
<b>Saturday, 4/17</b>	5:00 p.m.	Marcella Kelemen
<b>Sunday, 4/18</b>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Guy Beaven

**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 Sylvia Giese, mother of Father Samuel Giese, Saint Jane de Chantal Parish.

**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 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 April 11, 2021

<b>Sunday:</b>	Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/ 1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3
<b>Monday:</b>	Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/ Jn 3:1-8
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/ Jn 3:7b-15
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/ Jn 3:16-21
<b>Thursday:</b>	Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/ Jn 3:31-36
<b>Friday:</b>	Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/ Jn 6:1-15
<b>Saturday:</b>	Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/ Jn 6:16-21
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Acts 13:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/ 1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

### 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](mailto:lbbaklarz@yahoo.com) or call 301 412-1909 for assistance.

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Today is the Second Sunday of Easter and also Divine Mercy Sunday. The feast of Divine Mercy is based on the devotion to the Divine Mercy that Saint Faustina Kowalska reported as part of her encounter with Jesus. I should mention here that these apparitions would fall under the category of private revelations. The Church does not give any definitive teaching on the authenticity or nature of such apparitions. But the Church does study them carefully and, if the fruits of an event breathe of the providential designs, it approves the consequent devotions. The Bishops of the United States said in regard to certain approved Marian apparitions that these providential happenings serve as a reminder to us of basic Christian themes: prayer, penance, and the necessity of the sacraments. This same would be true in case of these apparitions to Saint Faustina. It would also apply to the case of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque who had a series of apparitions in the seventeenth century that were instrumental in promoting the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

At the bottom of the image of Divine Mercy we see words: "Jesus, I trust in you." These are very important words for us to recall in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. I remember listening to the Shields and Brooks report on the PBS News Hour on Good Friday of last year. I was really struck by a remark that David Brooks made that evening. He said that he was focused in mental health of people after asking 6,000 readers of his column in the *New York Times* to report on how their health was doing. He saw that three groups of people were suffering in particular. The first group was that of young people who felt that their hopes and dreams were crushed. They reported to him that they were not eating and not sleeping and were crying on the sofa. A second group who were badly hit were senior citizens, especially widows and widowers. They had a sense of crushing isolation. The third group was that of people who already had mental health problems before the pandemic hit. They were experiencing new relapses. Once I heard this report I have been keeping young people, senior citizens, and those who live with mental health issues in my prayers. I would hope and pray that they—indeed all of us—would remember the words that Jesus said to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary when they encountered him after they discovered the tomb was empty on that Easter morn, "Do not be afraid!" These are two phrases that are very important at the present time: "Jesus, I trust in you" and "Do not be afraid!"

In his 2020 Easter message this year Pope Francis made several points that are well worth remembering. He recalled that Christ's resurrection is not a "magic formula that makes problems vanish." Rather, "it is the victory of love over the root of evil." Such a victory "does not 'by-pass' suffering, but passes through them, opening a path in the abyss, transforming good into evil."

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

## Second Sunday of Easter

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*To whom do I need to offer mercy?*

### 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*

### MARY GARDEN

Now that the construction is finished, we will be re-establishing our Mary Garden. The statue of Mary was donated to St. Francis by the Free Family in memory of Ann Free. The garden will be enhanced to resemble a grotto and provide a shelter for Mary. The garden will be located outside of our new room in the Gathering Space. If you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of Mary's Grotto, please make the check out to St. Francis and note that it is for Mary's Grotto.

**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

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

The Holy Father noted that this disease has not only deprived us of human closeness but also of the possibility of receiving in person the consolation that flows from the sacraments, particularly the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. He added that the Lord has not left us alone.

Pope Francis went on to say that this was not a time for indifference, self-centeredness, division, or forgetfulness. "Indifference, self-centeredness, division, and forgetfulness are not words we want to hear at this time," said the Pope. These words "seem to prevail when fear and death overwhelm us." He expresses the wish that we would want to ban them forever.

The Holy Father concluded his *Urbi et Orbi* message with a prayer: "May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of His glorious day. A day that knows no end."

Until next week,

**Fr. John**



### ANNUAL PLANT & FLOWER SALE

May 7, 8 & 9

**Save the date!!**



### ARE YOU CELEBRATING A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?

The annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 60 and 70+ years will be held Sunday, **June 27, 2021** at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew. Please call the parish office to register (301-840-1407). Names of Jubilarians need to be turned into the parish office on or before **Friday, April 30.**

### JOIN A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP TO READ FRATELLI TUTTI

The Saturday Morning Spiritual Reading Group will begin reading and reflecting on Pope Francis' encyclical "Fratelli Tutti," beginning at 8 am Saturday, April 10. All parishioners are invited to discuss this beautiful letter on solidarity and friendship during this one-hour long discussion on Saturday mornings. Those who would like to join should contact Ministry Coordinator Trish Olin at [mpolin@comcast.net](mailto:mpolin@comcast.net) or at (240) 355-5753, so arrangements can be made to get a book and receive the link. The letter can also be downloaded at <https://www.usccb.org/fratelli-tutti>.



**THANK YOU** - Our community changed lives this Lent, and CRS Rice Bowl wants to say **THANK YOU!** Don't forget to turn in your Rice Bowl if you haven't already done so or donate online at [crsricebowl.org/give](http://crsricebowl.org/give).

**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. 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 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.

### 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](mailto:mgoggin@ivcusa.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](http://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](mailto:gtdbpalmer@verizon.net)).

### GIVE THE GIFT OF SERVICE

Catholic Charities DC encourages you to give back by taking advantage of a variety of volunteer opportunities available in Washington, DC and southern Maryland. For more information on volunteering with Catholic Charities, or to register to volunteer, visit [catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteer](http://catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteer).

### 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.

### 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@sfadw.org](mailto:jdillon@sfadw.org).

### VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSION ON RACISM CONTINUED ON APRIL 17

On April 17, the St. Francis of Assisi Ad Hoc Committee on Racism will continue the virtual listening session "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 this second session 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 soon. If you have any questions, e-mail Vincent Price at [price93507@aol.com](mailto:price93507@aol.com) or Chris King, [caking.home@gmail.com](mailto:caking.home@gmail.com) to register.

### Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

*We are...St. Jude*

[www.StJudeRockville.org](http://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](http://www.stjuderockville.org)

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER CHAIN** If you have a prayer request, please contact Marianne Bullen, (301) 963-3420 or [mariannebu@comcast.net](mailto:mariannebu@comcast.net) with your requests.