

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

April 19 - April 25

Monday, 4/19	9:00 a.m.	Maria Kutty John
Tuesday, 4/20	9:00 a.m.	Eugene Dudenhoeffer
Wednesday, 4/21	9:00 a.m.	Raymond Dundon
VIRTUAL	7:00 p.m.	Jean Tolnay
Thursday, 4/22	9:00 a.m.	Hilda Dacey
Friday, 4/23	9:00 a.m.	Antonio Faria
Saturday, 4/24	5:00 p.m.	Bernard Kohan
Sunday, 4/25	9:00 a.m.	Dennis Parnell
	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 soul of Henri-Norbert Nkombi, brother of Clementine Mpyanga

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 18, 2021

Sunday:	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/ 1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48
Monday:	Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/ Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday:	Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday:	Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/ Jn 6:35-40
Thursday:	Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/ Jn 6:44-51
Friday:	Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/ Jn 6:52-59
Saturday:	Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/ Jn 6:60-69
Next Sunday:	Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

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

I was reading a report from the Vatican News Service about recent developments in Haiti. Five Haitian and two French religious, as well as three laypersons, were kidnapped in Haiti on Sunday, April 11, as they were preparing to attend a ceremony for the installation of a new parish priest in the municipality of Croix-des-Bouquet, northeast of Haiti's capital. Reports indicate that the kidnappers, suspected to have been part of an armed gang, have demanded a ransom for the release of the people in their custody. The local bishop, the Most Reverend Pierre-André Dumas of Mirogoâne, made the following comment after learning of the kidnapping, "This is too much. The time has come for these inhumane acts to stop." The Haitian Conference of Religious (HCR) has expressed its deep sorrow, but also its anger at the situation. HCR noted that this kind of illegal activity has been going on for over a decade.

The report goes on to describe that for several years now the island nation has battled with political and socio-economic crises, further worsened by Covid-19 and a worsening atmosphere of insecurity.

The spike in kidnappings and the situation of political instability have led to protests by thousands of Haitian citizens who accuse the Haitian governmental authorities of not equipping the police sufficiently in their fight against insecurity in Haiti. In March, the government declared a state of emergency for one month in several areas of the country in an effort to stem the rising tide of crime and to allow the National Police of Haiti an opportunity to regain control of area overrun by gang activity.

In a report from October 17, 2019, Catholic Relief Services reports that while Haiti is still mired in poverty, the country has avoided in recent decades the repeated coups and violent revolutions of the past. It has slowly recovered from the 2010 earthquake and, in doing that, has built in more resilience to future natural disasters. Literacy rates have shown significant improvements, and farmers in the south of the country are beginning to increase productivity by innovating with crops like cacao.

Archbishop Eugene Nugent served as the Papal Nuncio in Haiti from 2015 until his recent appointment as the Apostolic Nuncio to Kuwait and Qatar earlier this year. Archbishop Nugent wrote that his service in Haiti was a rewarding and intense spiritual experience for him marked by the wonderful people that he had met during his nearly six years in Haiti. Archbishop Nugent admitted that Haiti is a very poor country that gets a lot of negative publicity in the media because of the natural disasters. But in the Nuncio's experience that is only one aspect of the country. Archbishop Nugent said that he discovered in Haiti an enormously gifted people who were very creative artists, musicians, writers, and poets.

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

Second Sunday of Easter

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I give witness to the forgiveness I have experienced in Jesus?

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

PARISHIONERS & CLERGY MEMEBERS TAKE OVER HOSTING OF LITURGY OF THE HOURS

On April 11, Deacon Jim Datovech wrapped up a year-long stint of hosting virtual Liturgy of the Hours on Zoom, except for a two-month break. The hosting duties for Morning and Evening Prayer will now fall to a rotating group of parishioners and clergy members, beginning April 12. Please continue joining this ancient prayer service which marks the hours of each day. To find the virtual links for Morning and Evening Prayer, please go to <https://www.sfadw.org/lentandeaster2021>.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS (effective April 19)

Office will be open to the public
Monday thru Friday, 9 am-12 Noon.

CANDLES IN THE CHURCH

Beginning Monday, April 19, we will resume lighting of candles in the church by parishioners.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Chris Bessey, the country representative for Catholic Relief Services in Haiti, reported that Haitians have been through an enormous amount of trauma over the years as a result of man-made and natural disasters. Bessy goes on to remark that the Haitians are resilient. They just need the international community's continued support. CRS pleads with the American people not to give up on Haiti.

As a parish, we are not giving up on Haiti. Indeed, we have been privileged to support Conversion of Saint Paul Parish, our sister parish in the Diocese of Jérémie, for over thirty years now. When our late beloved pastor Fr. Don Worch, Sister Grace, Pat Labuda, and Joan Treacy made the first visit to what is now our sister parish, they learned that the town of Leon was comprised of about 20,000 people who were poor, but also warm and kind. They learned that the people of Leon were requesting our help with health care, education, and economic development. Since our parish voted to become a sister parish to Conversion of St. Paul Parish in the 1980's, we have tried to respond to these needs and will continue to do so thanks to the generous support of the Saint Francis of Assisi Parishioners. ***We are not giving up on Haiti.***

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon



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**.



ANNUAL PLANT & FLOWER SALE

Friday, May 7	3 pm - 8 pm
Saturday, May 8	8 am - 8 pm
Sunday, May 9	8 am - 3 pm

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL LOOKING FORWARD TO PARISH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION KICKING OFF THIS FALL

During its meeting on March 25, the Parish Pastoral Council heard a report on the parish's upcoming 50th anniversary in 2022, with a prospective kickoff planned for the St. Francis Feast Day on October 3, 2021. Committee Chair and Parish Pastoral Council member Linda Foster reported that the committee will sponsor a contest this spring for parishioners to develop a 50th anniversary theme. Some stand-alone special events will be planned, along with festivities folded into already existing events, such as the Parish Bazaar.

In other business, the council also:

- Heard ministry reports on St. Jude Regional School, the Communications Ministry, the Hispanic Ministry, Religious Education, the Contemporary Ensemble, and the Knights of Columbus 2323.
- Learned its Ad-Hoc Committee on Racism planned its "Four Courageous Conversations on Racism and Violence in America" on April 10 and 17 on Zoom.
- Heard the parish is on the cusp of receiving its construction occupancy permit, as the facilities enhancement project nears completion.

See the Parish Pastoral Council's past meeting minutes at <https://www.sfadw.org/pastoral-council-meeting-minutes>. For more information, contact Executive Council member Alicia Church at asktheppc@gmail.com.

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 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 25.
- Online sessions for Middle School students meet on April 26 & 27.
- Family Small Groups will meet online during the week of May 2 on Sunday at 11 am and 7 pm; Monday at 7 pm; and Wednesday at 7:30 pm.
- Please also save the dates and watch for more information for these two Religious Education events in May: May Crowning Prayer Celebration for children and parents on Saturday, May 8 and a wrap-up parent meeting on Sunday, May 16.

UPCOMING SACRAMENTS AT ST. FRANCIS

Please pray for the children and young people of our parish who are preparing to receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation this Spring. First Eucharist will be celebrated at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 24 and Saturday, May 1. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at 11:00 am on Saturday, May 15; 7:30 pm on Friday, May 21; 11:00 am on Saturday, May 22; and 5:00 pm on Sunday, May 23.

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.

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 SUPPORT GROUP FOR FAMILIES PARENTING GRANDCHILDREN

Are you parenting your grandchildren, nieces, or nephews? Many extended family members have taken full-time responsibility for raising their grandchildren, nieces, and nephews to keep them out of the foster care system. This structured five-week support group addresses the unique challenges these families face and is facilitated by C.A.S.E. adoption competent therapists.

Who should attend? Kinship caregivers of children aged 6-11. Must reside in Montgomery County, MD

Dates/Times: Tuesdays, April 20-May 18 or Thursdays, April 22-May 22 from 10 am to 11:30 am.

Registration: E-mail <https://store.adoptionsupport.org/product/KINSHIPSUPPORTGROUP-MOCO/kinship-support-group-moco>

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

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

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.