

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

April 26 - May 2

Monday, 4/26	9:00 a.m.	Marinetta Bertram
Tuesday, 4/27	9:00 a.m.	Jim Barber
Wednesday, 4/28	9:00 a.m.	Henry Heller
VIRTUAL	7:00 p.m.	J. Willard Beaudoin
Thursday, 4/29	9:00 a.m.	Donna & Jay Ruffin (L)
Friday, 4/30	9:00 a.m.	Glenn Kovac
Saturday, 5/1	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 5/2	9:00 a.m.	Gena Asuncion
	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.

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 25, 2021

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
Monday:	Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/ Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [117:1a]/ Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/ Jn 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/ Jn 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/ Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/ Jn 14:7-14
Next Sunday:	Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-

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.

MOTHER'S DAY CARDS

A limited supply of Mother's Day Cards will be available in the Gathering Space the weekend of May 1/2. Please return your envelopes to the parish office or place in the collection basket before Mother's Day, May 8th.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, celebrated a noon Mass on April 21 which was live streamed online in observance of April as National Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault Prevention Month. Cardinal Gregory encourages us that "[a]s we work together to bring this darkness in our community to light, let us continue to embrace those who are suffering with such pain and respond in a way that supports healing, comfort and peace."

Courtney Chase, the executive director of the Office of Child Protection & Safe Environment for the Archdiocese of Washington, noted recently the importance of safe environment training has not been detoured because of the pandemic because every individual regardless of age or sex or anything else has the right to a safe environment. Her office has created a virtual, interactive online training so that community members can be educated on the many important aspects of child protection and safe environment. The Office of Child Protection has one-and-a-half hour sessions online to address how to identify signs of abuse and sexual assault and how to properly support and create a safe environment for everyone.

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Parents of course play the primary role in educating their children about sexual abuse. Here are five tips for teaching safety to our children:

1. Keep it practical. Teach your children the differences between safe touches and unsafe touches.
2. Tell your children that saying "no" is okay. Empower your children to say "no" if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable or touches them inappropriately.
3. Give your children a way to alert you. Tell your children they can use an excuse or share a special "code-word" with you to alert you about an unsafe person or situation.
4. Tell your children to report an unsafe touch. Let your children know they should tell you if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe around any adult or peer. You can also identify other adults they can tell about unsafe touches.
5. Tell your children that you trust them. If your child makes a report to you, believe him or her. Tell them that it is not their fault and that you love them. Immediately bring the allegation to the attention of public authorities.

Finally, the Archdiocese of Washington has provided the following prayer to be prayed during this month:

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

Second Sunday of Easter

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How is the Lord calling me to guide, nurture and care for others?

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

PASTOR FROM OUR SISTER PARISH IN HAITI SENDS HIS THANKS!

Pere Jeanot, pastor of our sister parish Conversion of St. Paul's Church in Léon, Haiti, recently sent his thanks for money sent by St. Francis of Assisi Parish raised through the Student Sponsorship drive and other Haiti Ministry fundraising efforts. The money funded the salaries of teachers who work at the Bon Pasteur School and the "Philo Year St. Francois d'Assise." Pere Jeanot also expressed his thanks for money sent by the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which funded the purchase of food for the students at those schools. "I would like to present to you, not only my gratitude for your heart, and for your humanity," Pere Jeanot wrote. "Thank you for your economic action, thank you for thinking of us in Haiti in a difficult economic, political and climatic context." For more information about the parish Haiti Ministry, please contact Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile via email at dancardile@yahoo.com.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

"God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross.

"Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

"Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters who have been gravely harmed, and the cries of those who love them. Soothe their restless hearts with hope, steady their shaken spirits with faith. Grant them justice for their cause, enlightened by your truth.

"Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Until next week,

Fr. John



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.

PLANS FOR THE PARISH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN 2022

ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE

With the parish's 50th anniversary quickly approaching in June 2022, the Planning Committee for the parish's milestone event is beginning to put some of the plans to paper. Two of the large planned events bookmarking our parish's 50th anniversary will be the Parish Picnic on St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day on Sunday, October 3, 2021, and the commemoration Mass on June 5, 2022, celebrating the actual anniversary date.

A page will be created on the parish web site to promote some of the upcoming anniversary festivities; please look for upcoming information there. Volunteers to help coordinate some of the smaller festivities are also needed and welcome! For more information, please contact co-Planning Committee Chairs Linda Foster at thebchmom@gmail.com or Sylvia Jones at decafqueen@gmail.com.

DONATE BLOOD & PLATELETS TO HELP PATIENTS IN NEED

The American Red Cross is experiencing a critical need for blood and platelet donations. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, donations of both are needed to ensure patient care is maintained. To schedule an appointment and learn more please visit www.redcrossblood.org. If you have received a COVID-19 vaccination, the Red Cross is following blood donation eligibility guidance from the Federal Drug Administration. It is important that you know the manufacturer of the vaccine you received to determine your eligibility to donate blood.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

BOOST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM We are excited to share that the state is currently accepting applications for the BOOST Scholarship Program for the 2021-2022 school year! The program is open to both public school students seeking a scholarship to St. Jude Regional Catholic School (or any other nonpublic school) and current St. Jude students! Please remember that you must reapply even if your student received BOOST in prior years. All applications must be submitted by **midnight on April 30, 2021**. To apply or learn more about the BOOST scholarship program visit: www.marylandpublicschools.org/BOOST.

BOWMAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Due: Friday, May 7th

The Kayleigh Anne Bowman Memorial Guardian Angel Scholarship has been designed to provide financial assistance, based on need, annually to a St. Jude student who has displayed academic promise and the values that are learned through a Catholic education. The intent of the Scholarship is to provide a grant of \$4,000 towards tuition for that student. If you are interested in this scholarship, please contact Mrs. Donnelly at Ellen.Donnelly@stjuderockville.org.

CATCH OUR SPIRIT!

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 2021!

Spaces are filling up quickly so register now! Applications for fall enrollment are being accepted on a first come basis for our 3 year-old Pre-K to 7th grade (limited spaces are available). For information on the curriculum, admissions policies, and registration, contact Ellen Donnelly in the school office at 301-946-7888 or register your student online at www.StJudeRockville.org

GAITHERSBURG MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Gaithersburg Meals on Wheels has an urgent need for drivers to deliver hot lunches and cold suppers weekdays at lunchtime to the elderly and shut-ins in the Gaithersburg area. Meals are prepared at Asbury Methodist Village, 333 Russell Ave., and picked up by drivers between 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. Monday-Friday. Containers are provided for carrying the meals, and delivery takes about one hour, with 8 to 12 clients on each route. Volunteers are asked to drive either once a week, or once every other week. Children are welcome to accompany parents. Training is provided. Please call 301-216-4200, or contact Lisa Koenig at 301-869-0190 or lisamkoenig1@gmail.com