

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

May 3 - May 9

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| Monday, 5/3 | 9:00 a.m. | Jimmy Gierula |
| Tuesday, 5/4 | 9:00 a.m. | Don Smith |
| Wednesday, 5/5 | 9:00 a.m. | Alexander O'Connor |
| VIRTUAL | 7:00 p.m. | Maria Luz Aquino |
| Thursday, 5/6 | 9:00 a.m. | Elise Reising |
| Friday, 5/7 | 9:00 a.m. | Millie & Christy Zezzo |
| Saturday, 5/8 | 5:00 p.m. | <i>Pro populo</i> |
| Sunday, 5/9 | 9:00 a.m. | For All Mothers |
| | 12:00 p.m. | For All Mothers |

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, 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 May 2, 2021

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| Sunday: | Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8 |
| Monday: | 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14 |
| Tuesday: | Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a |
| Wednesday: | Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/ Jn 15:1-8 |
| Thursday: | Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/ Jn 15:9-11 |
| Friday: | Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/ Jn 15:12-17 |
| Saturday: | Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21 |
| Next Sunday: | Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17 |

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.

ANNUAL PLANT & FLOWER SALE

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



THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I have been very struck by the address that Pope Francis gave on Easter Monday just before he prayed the Regina Caeli in the Library of the Vatican Apostolic Palace. As we are still in the Easter season for a few more weeks, I wanted us to have an opportunity to review his words again today.

The Monday after Easter is also called the *Monday of the Angel* because we recall the meeting of the angel with the women who arrived at Jesus' tomb (cf. Mt 28:1-15). The angel said to them: "I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen (vv. 5-6). This expression "He has risen" goes beyond human capacity. Even the women who had gone to the tomb and had found it open and empty could not confirm "He has risen", but they could only say that the tomb was empty. "He has risen" is a message. Only an angel could say that Jesus had risen, only an angel with the authority to be the bearer of a heavenly message, with the power given by God to say it, just as an angel — only an angel — had been able to say to Mary: "you will conceive a son, [...] and he will be called the Son of the Most High" (cf. Lk 1:31-32). This is why we call it Monday of the Angel because only an angel with the power of God can say Jesus has risen.

Matthew the evangelist narrates that on the dawn of Easter "there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it" (cf. v. 2). That large stone, which was supposed to be the seal of the victory of evil and death, was put underfoot, it became the footstool of the angel of the Lord. All of the plans and defenses of Jesus' enemies and persecutors were in vain. All the seals had crumbled. The image of the angel sitting on the stone of the sepulcher is the concrete, visible, manifestation of God's victory over evil, the manifestation of Christ's victory over the prince of this world, the manifestation of the victory of light over darkness. Jesus' tomb was not opened by a physical phenomenon, but by the Lord's intervention. The angel's appearance, Matthew continues, "was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow". (v. 3). These details are symbols that confirm the intervention of God himself, bearer of a new era, of the last times of history because with Jesus' resurrection, begins the last times of history which could last thousands of years, but they are the last times.

There is a twofold reaction to this intervention of God. That of the guards who cannot face the overwhelming power of God and are shaken by an interior earthquake: they became like dead men (cf. v. 4). The power of the Resurrection overthrows those who had been used to guarantee the apparent victory of death. And what did those guards have to do? Go to those who had given them orders to keep guard and tell the truth. They had a choice to make: either tell the truth or allow themselves to be convinced by those who had given them the order to keep guard. And the only way to convince them was money. And those poor people... sold the truth, and with the money in their pockets they went on to say: "No, the disciples came and robbed the body". The "lord" money, even here, in Christ's resurrection, is capable of having the power to deny it. The women's reaction is very different because they were expressly invited by the angel of the Lord not to be afraid: "Do not be afraid!" (v. 5) and not to seek Jesus in the tomb. In the end, they were not afraid.

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

May 2, 2021

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In order to flourish and bear fruit, the vine needs to be pruned. What in me needs to be pruned so that I can bear fruit to the fullest extent possible?

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 decaf-queen@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PLANT SALE

If you would like to volunteer on one of the three days (2 hour shifts), please contact Sylvia Jones, 240-755-2247.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

We can reap a precious teaching from the angel's words: let us never tire of seeking the risen Christ who gives life in abundance to those who meet him. To find Christ means to discover peace in our hearts. The same women of the Gospel, after initially being shaken — that is understandable — experience great joy in finding the Master alive (cf. vv. 8-9). In this Easter Season, my wish is that everyone might have the same spiritual experience, welcoming the joyful proclamation of Easter in our hearts, in our homes and in our families: "Christ, having risen from the dead dies now no more; death will no longer have dominion over him" (Communion Antiphon). This is the Easter proclamation: "Christ is alive, Christ accompanies my life, Christ is beside me". Christ knocks at the door of my heart so I can let him in, Christ is alive. In these days of Easter, it would be good for us to repeat this: "the Lord is alive".

This certainty moves us to pray today and throughout the Easter Season: "*Regina Caeli, Laetare* — that is, Queen of Heaven, rejoice". The angel Gabriel had greeted her thus the first time: "Rejoice, full of grace!" (cf. Lk 1:28). Now Mary's joy is complete: Jesus lives, Love has conquered. May this be our joy as well!

Until next week,

Fr. John

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL HEARS UPDATE ON ONGOING INTERFAITH SERVICES TO NEW IMMIGRANTS

The Parish Pastoral Council at its meeting on April 22 heard updates on the New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance, a group of faith communities throughout Montgomery County and Prince Georges County that is providing support to newly resettled immigrants in need. As a founding member of the original group that worked with immigrant families in the region, St. Francis of Assisi Parish is now one of about a dozen faith communities working with Catholic Charities, Vincentian Friends on the Periphery and the International Rescue Center in serving these populations.

Parish Pastoral Council member Chris King said the alliance is now developing a web site and newsletter to broaden awareness and outreach to stakeholders interested in learning about the alliance's work. In the meantime, St. Francis of Assisi Parish continues to work with the Vincentian Friends on the Periphery in supporting more than six families, including with rent payment and other support.

In other business, the council also:

- Received an update on the parish's finances.
- Passed a motion asking Fr. John Dillon to work with the archdiocese in investigating alternatives for online payments and donations, such as PayPal or Venmo.
- Heard reports on the two "Four Courageous Conversations on Racism and Violence" listening sessions held on April 10 and 17.
- Heard a report on the work of the parish's 50th Anniversary Planning Committee.
- Heard reports from the Communications Ministry; the Religious Education Ministry; Adult Faith Formation and Social Concerns Ministries; St. Jude Regional Catholic School; the Triple V Youth Ministry; the Knights of the Columbus Council 2323.

Read past minutes from the Parish Pastoral Council meetings at <https://www.sfadw.org/pastoral-council-meeting-minutes>. If you have any questions for the Parish Pastoral Council, please e-mail asktheppc@gmail.com.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The only qualification to be a volunteer at St. Martin's Food Pantry, Gaithersburg is a desire to help others who are in need. There are no age qualifications for adults. We have volunteers who are in their 90s, 80s, 70s and 60s. High school students can get community service hours or confirmation hours by working at the Food Pantry. Grade school students must have one parent in attendance with their son or daughter. Anyone who wants to volunteer can send an email to Tom Hill, Interim Coordinator, St. Martin's Food Pantry foodpantry@stmartinsweb.org.

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 May 2: Session 24

- Family Small Groups will meet this week, on Sunday, May 2 at 11 am and 7 pm; Monday at 7 pm; and Wednesday at 7:30 pm.
- Please also save the date and watch for more information on our online Family End of the Year Celebration-May Crowning at 10 am on Saturday, May 8. The link to join will be shared with registered families by Flocknote. Please look for the resource packet for this event being sent by U.S. Mail.
- Please also save the date and watch for more information on our online Religious Education Parent Meeting planned for 11 am 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 was celebrated 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.

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

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. In most cases, there is no deferral time if you received a vaccine.

FIRST EUCHARIST APRIL & MAY 2021



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| Charlotte Boardman | Brooklyn Lucas |
| Edward Bolek | Kelsey Meisch |
| Eliza Booth | Saira Pacantara |
| Lucia Castro | Matthew Perrin |
| Bradley Cronise | Isabela Rivera |
| Elizabeth Di Marino | George Salyer |
| David Donnelly | Monserrat Small |
| Isabella Erazo | Lucien St. Gerard |
| Mark Fernando | Bethany Stein |
| Alexa Ganoza | Ian Tanseco |
| Evan Giganti | Irvin Tanseco |
| Maeve Healy | Catalina Truong |
| Vincent Klover | Emma Ward |
| Erin Lewallen | Marina Zara |

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 May 17, 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