

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

May 10 - May 16

Monday, 5/10	9:00 a.m.	Rev. William F. Goode, Jr.
Tuesday, 5/11	9:00 a.m.	Winnie Gardner
Wednesday, 5/12	9:00 a.m.	Deacon John W. Somerville
VIRTUAL	7:00 p.m.	Arsenio Garcia
Thursday, 5/13	9:00 a.m.	Anne Marie Casey (L)
Friday, 5/14	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
Saturday, 5/15	5:00 p.m.	Dennis Parnell
Sunday, 5/16	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 Dr. Graciano P. Gancayco, father of Reverend Richard K. Gancayco, Archdiocese of Washington.

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 9, 2021

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
Monday:	Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8]/Jn 15:9-17
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-10, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28
Next Sunday:	Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20 Seventh Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 [19a]/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Recently Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, auxiliary bishop of Washington and chair of the U. S. Catholic Conference of Bishops' Committee on Migration expressed disappointment that the number for the fiscal year will continue to be at a historic low but appreciation that a number of persecuted refugee families who could not previously travel will finally be permitted resettlement in the United States. Here is his statement:

“The number of refugees who will be welcomed this year is far short of what we can do as a country and is not an adequate response to the immense resettlement need. We will work with the Administration, state and local officials and communities, and our colleagues to ensure that every one of the 15,000 refugees re-affirmed as this year’s ceiling are resettled safely and as quickly as possible. We expect the Administration to recalibrate and raise this ceiling, as it stated it would do Friday evening. We further encourage the Administration to build back the program to more normal and just levels by getting to an admission goal of 125,000.

“Given the unprecedented number of refugee families seeking new homes after being persecuted for religious, political, and other reasons, we appreciate that the U.S. refugee admissions program will now offer previously left out refugees an opportunity to resettle in our country. At the same time, we were hopeful that the Biden Administration would increase the ceiling for refugee admissions in this fiscal year, and we are disappointed that it has not yet done so. The dire circumstances confronting refugees and asylees has been of particular concern for the Catholic Church. The work of the U.S. Catholic bishops in assisting and advocating on behalf of immigrants and refugees is rooted in the recognition that every person is created in God’s image and must be valued, protected, and respected for the inherent dignity that he or she possesses.”

Perhaps you might be asking yourself what you can do to assist and advocate on behalf of immigrants and refugees. If you are interested in assisting with this, you should find the following information about a recent briefing by Chris King to the Parish Pastoral Council to be of interest. St. Francis of Assisi Parish (SFA) is a founding member with St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Temple Beth Ami and Or Chadash Congregations of the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA). Some recent activities of NNIA include the following:

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

May 9, 2021

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How am I being called to sacrifice my own priorities in order to serve others?



***Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers!
Thank you for all you do!***

JOIN THE CLEANUP AT THE OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON MAY 15 & 22

Have a desire to dig in the dirt? Come join the Garden Care Ministry, as members weed, mulch and plant in the Outdoor Stations of the Cross, next to the Rectory. People of all ages are welcome, especially teens and young adults. However, if a child under 13 is present, he or she should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To sign up, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

- Two introductory sessions were presented over the last month to more than forty people, twelve faith communities. Seven new faith communities has agreed to participate. NNIA is anticipating a significant increase in refugees and asylum seekers.
- SFA provided support to more than six families working with the Vincentian Friends on the Periphery including rent payments and other support.
- NNIA is developing a website and a newsletter

Chris also reviewed current needs of NNIA with the Parish Council.

- Financial and other support is needed for Vincentian Friends on the Periphery, Catholic Charities support of refugees and migrants. There are some funds in SFA Refugee Fund.
- NNIA is partnering with the International Rescue Center (IRC), which is asking for mentoring support for eight families. IRC is the largest placement agency for refugees in Maryland.
- A Syrian family seeking asylum is in need of support.
- NNIA Steering Committee is in need of additional leaders and coordinators.
- For more information, please feel free to contact me at the Parish Office (301-840-1407).

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

ONLINE GIVING THROUGH FAITH DIRECT

Ten reasons to make your Offertory gift through Faith Direct:

1. No more checks to write or envelopes to find
2. 52 Weeks of predictable income for your parish
3. Greater security than cash or checks
4. No cost for you to participate
5. Online control of your offertory giving – including special collections
6. Reduction of envelope and postage expense for St. Francis of Assisi
7. Less work for our parish office staff to post contribution records
8. Offertory cards enable you to witness your gift of treasure
9. Earn credit card points for your offertory gifts
10. Father John does!

Join the parishioners who use *Faith Direct* for their parish giving. Visit faith.direct/MD110, or call 1-866-507-8757 (toll-free) for more information.

NOW IS THE TIME: This past year of the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how quickly one's health can unexpectedly become a crisis. While unexpected circumstances are not foreseeable, addressing critical healthcare planning and decision-making amid a crisis is avoidable. On April 16, we marked Annual National Healthcare Decisions Day, which is devoted to the importance of planning and telling loved ones and healthcare providers your wishes regarding healthcare decisions. To help you and others consider options and begin conversations, visit the End of Life Care on the Archdiocese of Washington website <https://adw.org/living-the-faith/marriage-family/end-life-care/>. Additional information is available through [The Conversation Project](#), [Aging with Dignity](#), and [Voice Your Choice](#), which is supported by Nexus Montgomery Regional Partnership for decision-making and has many tools and resources for individuals and families.

NEW PAGE LISTING COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS FOR PARISH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY NOW LAUNCHED

Did you know our parish is celebrating its 50th anniversary in June 2022? Find out how our parish is marking this milestone anniversary on the new parish web page, <https://www.sfadw.org/50thanniversarycelebration>. The web page will feature all new activities and events that are being planned by the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee. The first activity involves a parishwide contest to identify a theme for the 50th anniversary. Please send any suggestions to co-Committee Chairs, Linda Foster at thebchmom@gmail.com or Sylvia Jones at decaqueen@gmail.com, by May 21.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

All Religious Education parents are asked to join us for a time of reflection and celebration as we meet online for a wrap-up Religious Education Parent Meeting at 11 am on Sunday, May 16. The link to join will be shared with registered families by Flocknote.

Thank you to all of our catechists and Religious Education families for all that you have done to support our children's continuing growth in faith! Student textbooks are yours to keep and you may wish to take time over the summer to complete any lessons that have been missed during the school year. Please continue to also use the Bible provided for reflection and prayer at home. We hope that students will be able to use their Bibles again for RE classes when we resume in the fall.

REGISTRATION FOR 2021-2022

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WILL OPEN IN MID-JULY

We will be following with care the safety protocols required by Montgomery County and the Archdiocese of Washington as we make plans for next year's Religious Education classes. Please watch for updates on the parish website and through parish communications. We will announce plans and open registration for next year's Religious Education program and sacramental preparation in mid-July.

As we look ahead to next year's Religious Education program, please consider whether you can serve as a catechist for our children and young people. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

UPCOMING SACRAMENTS AT ST. FRANCIS

Please pray for the young people of our parish who are preparing for Confirmation. 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.

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.

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.

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

DONATE YOUR USED CLOTHING If you are sorting through gently used clothing to give away, remember that there is a St. Vincent de Paul clothing collection bin in the lower parking lot. Donations of clean clothing in good repair is greatly appreciated. Please put clothing in a plastic bag and deposit in the slot at the top of the bin. Collections are made weekly and will be a great blessing to those in need in the region.

AMAZONSMILE ENABLES ST. FRANCIS TO INCREASE FUNDRAISING THROUGH ONLINE SHOPPING

St. Francis parishioners can support our church whenever they're shopping online at Amazon.com. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church recently became a recipient of AmazonSmile, which enables the church to receive 0.5 percent of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases you make. Go to our Home Page to start shopping!

YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE ABUSED

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It can consist of repeated severe beatings or subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace.

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COLLECTION

This national collection, scheduled for the weekend of May 15/16 makes it possible for people worldwide to watch papal programs and view papal documents online. Locally it supports the broadcast of Sunday Mass for the homebound and the website for The Catholic Standard. Please be generous according to your means.