

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

May 24 - May 30

Monday, 5/24	9:00 a.m.	Reverend Luis G. Salcedo
Tuesday, 5/25	9:00 a.m.	Roseann Rohan
Wednesday, 5/26	9:00 a.m.	Mary Patricia Mc Gowan
VIRTUAL	7:00 p.m.	Ronald Arledge
Thursday, 5/27	9:00 a.m.	Richard Farlow
Friday, 5/28	9:00 a.m.	Sheila Duarte
Saturday, 5/29	5:00 p.m.	Frances D'Aurora
Sunday, 5/30	9:00 a.m.	<i>Propopulo</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Mary Ann Krumdieck

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 souls of Arnaldo Blor, Janet Casey, Susan Colona, Dan Downey.

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 23, 2021

Sunday:	Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25/ Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15
Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34
Tuesday:	Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23 [23b]/ Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday:	Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 [Sir 36:1b]/Mk 10:32-45
Thursday:	Sir 42:15-25/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [6a]/ Mk 10:46-52
Friday:	Sir 44:1, 9-13/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Mk 11:11-26
Saturday:	Sir 51:12cd-20/Ps 19:8, 9, 19, 11 [9ab]/ Mk 11:27-33
Next Sunday:	Dt 4:32-34, 39-40/Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22 [12b]/Rom 8:14-17/Mt 28:16-2

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

One of the Bible stories that I recall today is the story of the tower of Babel. People scatter all over the earth because they can no longer understand each other. At Pentecost (which we are celebrating today), the Holy Spirit leads people from all over the world together as one because now they can all understand the apostles even if each speaks a different language. On this Pentecost Day let's strive to overcome divisiveness by seeking understanding among people who come from different places, who seemingly speak different languages.

In November 2018, the Catholic Bishops of the United States (USCCB) issued a Pastoral Letter Against Racism entitled "Open Wide Our Hearts" to urge all the faithful to acknowledge "the scourge of racism" that still exists in our hearts, words, actions, and institutions. Racism can be individual, when persons fail to recognize certain groups as created in the image of God and equal in dignity. Racism can also be systemic. This would be case where practices or policies treat certain groups of people unjustly. One important systemic issue is race-based economic inequality. I am going to devote the rest of this column for this topic. For this purpose I am making use of a background document on the USCCB website entitled "Racial Economic Inequality" that you can consult for more information. Here is the link for that background: [racism-and-economic-inequality.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/racism-and-economic-inequality.pdf) (usccb.org).

As Pope Francis wrote in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, "Inequality is the root of social ills." In his 2015 Congressional address, the Holy Father spoke of the economic inequality in the U.S.A. On that occasion he challenged leaders and all Americans to work for the common good so that every individual, created in the image of God, can flourish.

In the United States, median wealth for white households ten times greater than for black households, and eight times greater for Hispanic households. This is significantly larger than many Americans perceive. Currently, Native Americans, blacks, and Hispanic experience poverty at roughly twice or more than twice the rate of whites.

For the typical household, two-thirds of wealth comes from housing equity, such that the wealth gap between white and black households is largely the story of work and housing policies that have created obstacles for African Americans to achieve home and land ownership for generations. Despite the gains of the Civil Rights Movement, barriers in education, in employment, and in housing still exist today and all contribute to racial economic inequality. For Native Americans, colonial and later U.S. policies led to loss of land, restrictions in self-government, and economic devastation and unemployment rates that remain among the highest in the country.

Income gaps across racial and ethnic groups have narrowed only slightly in the past few decades. For example, lower-income African Americans made 47% as much as low-income whites in 1970 and in 2016, they made 54% as much as white counterparts. Hispanics of all income categories actually fell further behind during this same period.

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

May 23, 2021

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When have I avoided the truth? What truth am I avoiding right now? How will I confront and accept it?

IN PERSON MASSES

As people continue returning to in-person Mass, we encourage everyone to sign up for Mass, either through the Flocknote invitation sent out at 5 pm on Wednesdays or by calling the Parish Office during business hours before the upcoming weekend Mass. With our church's maximum capacity set at 130 people for any liturgy, we want to ensure everyone can be seated safely and avoid asking walk-ins to wait until pre-registrants have been seated. Please continue wearing your facial masks anytime you are on church grounds. Thanks for your cooperation.



VIRTUAL MAY CROWNING

During this month of Mary, the parish will premiere a virtual May Crowning Service to honor our Blessed Mother. Celebrated by Fr. John Dillon, the virtual service will premiere on our Parish YouTube Channel before the end of the month. Please check our parish web site and electronic communication platforms, such as Flocknote, for the premiere date. For more information, please contact Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan at megan@sfadw.org.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

In 2017, The Harvard University Business School Review documented that hiring discrimination against African Americans has not declined in the past twenty-five years. The 2018 annual report of the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University found a widening gap in homeownership in recent decades, with current rates at 72% for whites and 43% for blacks. It is evident that many minority families still face challenges in achieving homeownership and economic equality.

Let close this column with this thought. Pope Francis recently inscribed the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church to occur on the day after Pentecost to better focus the Church's attention on the maternal care of the Blessed Mother for the disciples of Christ throughout the ages. Bearing that in mind, let's ask Mary's help in obtaining from her Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

Until next week,

Fr. John Dillon
Pastor

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

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.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICE MEN/WOMEN

Please continue to pray for all those parishioners, family members and friends who are serving in the military services in Iraq, Afghanistan and other dangerous areas. We have a prayer list posted in the Gathering Space for those who are serving in these areas. Please help us to keep it current by letting us know of any parishioner who is currently deployed so we can add them, and also those who have returned so that we can remove their names. Please continue to keep all of our military personnel in your prayers.

LAST CHANCE TO OFFER THEME FOR PARISH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

In October, the parish will begin commemorating its 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated in June 2022. Help the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee dream up the parish's anniversary theme by submitting your idea this month. Please send any suggestions to co-Committee Chairs, Linda Foster at thebchmom@gmail.com or Sylvia Jones at decaffqueen@gmail.com. The winner of the chosen theme will win a \$100 Amazon gift card. Find out more about how our parish is marking this milestone anniversary on our parish web page, <https://www.sfadw.org/50thanniversarycelebration>.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY

The St. Martin's Food Pantry needs the following items this week: Similac Blue Formula, baby diapers sizes 4 and 5, baby wipes, women's adult diapers, vegetable oil, canned soup, canned mixed vegetables, canned fruit, and meals in a can. Please place any donated items in the St. Martin's Food Pantry bin on the Rectory porch. Thanks for supporting our St. Martin's Food Pantry Ministry!

MOVING/CHANGE OF ADDRESS/E-MAIL

Please notify our Parish Office, 301-840-1407 or sfaparishoffice@sfadw.org, of any changes in your address, phone number or e-mail address. Thank you for helping to keep our database up-to-date.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

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 celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation this month: 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.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

CATCH OUR SPIRIT!

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 2021!

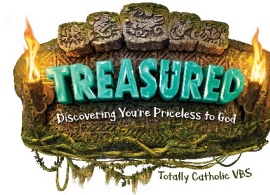
Spaces are filling up quickly so register now! Applications for fall enrollment are being accepted on a first come basis for our 3 year-old Pre-K to 7th grade (limited spaces are available). For information on the curriculum, admissions policies, and registration, contact Ellen Donnelly in the school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

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 is 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, Give, Give Now* and start shopping!

Send your kids on a gem of an adventure!

**Vacation Bible Camp: July 19-23, 2021
for children age 4 through those who are completing 5th grade in June 2021**



At Treasured VBC, kids will discover they are priceless to God as they enjoy one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, creative art projects, memorable Bible-learning activities, saint stories, & Catholic i.d., lively music and movement, games and more. Plus, we'll help kids see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings®.

Our program this summer will include options for participating from home OR in-person (with covid safety protocols in place) — families can choose the format that's best for them!

Due to covid protocols, our in-person option is limited to 48 campers total. Registrations will be processed in the order received. To allow time to order supplies and t-shirts, camper registration will close on June 12, 2021.

Check the parish website for registration information and more details!

ADULTS & TEENS (GRADES 6-12 AS OF JUNE 2021) CAN SHARE THE FUN AS WELL AS VBC VOLUNTEERS!

Due to covid protocols, in-person teen volunteer positions are limited. However, additional spots are available for those willing to help with preparation for the at-home option and other tasks as needed in preparation for VBC. To be considered for these volunteer opportunities, complete the teen volunteer application form (found on the parish website) by June 7, 2021. Placement will be announced by June 10, 2021.

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.

ENCOURAGE MINISTRY

EnCourage is a ministry dedicated to the spiritual needs of parents, siblings, children, and other relatives and friends of persons who have same-sex attractions. Standing by the true teaching of the Catholic Church, EnCourage members support one another and their loved ones through discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Please contact Fr. John for more information at 301-840-1407 or email him at jdillon@sfadw.org.