

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

June 7 - June 13

Monday, 6/7	9:00 a.m.	Monsignor Godfrey Mosley
Tuesday, 6/8	9:00 a.m.	Joseph & Francis Lubaga
Wednesday, 6/9	9:00 a.m.	Anthony Leroy Jones
VIRTUAL	7:00 p.m.	Carol Harmon
Thursday, 6/10	9:00 a.m.	Tony Williams
Friday, 6/11	9:00 a.m.	Donald Zezzo
Saturday, 6/12	5:00 p.m.	Daphne Chung
Sunday, 6/13	9:00 a.m.	Bernard Kohan
	12:00 p.m.	<i>Propopulo</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 Deborah LaReine Woods, mother of Reverend Scott Woods, Archdiocese of Washington.

Please pray for the sick... Fr. Bob McCreary, Fr. Joe Mindling, Betty Johnson, 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 June 6, 2021

Sunday:	Ex 24:3-8/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 [13]/ Heb 9:11-15/Mk 14:12-16, 22-26
Monday:	2 Cor 1:1-7/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [9]/ Mt 5:1-12
Tuesday:	2 Cor 1:18-22/Ps 119:129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135 [135a]/Mt 5:13-16
Wednesday:	2 Cor 3:4-11/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 8, 9 [cf. 9c]/ Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	2 Cor 3:15—4:1, 3-6/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 10b]/Mt 5:20-26
Friday:	Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/ Eph 3:8-12, 14-19/Jn 19:31-37
Saturday:	2 Cor 5:14-21/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 2:41-51
Next Sunday:	Ez 17:22-24/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/2 Cor 5:6-10/Mk 4:26-34

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Over the last month, we have been looking at *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, a pastoral letter that the Catholic Bishops of the United States issued in November 2018. In that letter the Catholic bishops urge all Catholics 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, or it can be systemic, where practices and policies treat certain groups of people unjustly. One area of systemic racism is lack of access to equal employment opportunities for many persons of color. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have issued a well-written background sheet on “Racism and Employment” that will be my source of information for what I say in this column. Here is the link for the background for those who wish to consult it directly: [racism-and-employment.pdf \(usccb.org\)](https://www.usccb.org/racism-and-employment.pdf)

Pope Saint John Paul II reminded us that due to every person being created in the image and likeness of God, everyone who is willing and able should have access to opportunities for fair employment. Unfortunately, this was not the case for Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and many immigrants throughout the nation’s history—and fair access to employment remains a challenge today.

For Native Americans, colonial and later U.S. policies led to the loss of land, restrictions in self-governance, and economic devastation, and employment devastation that left a legacy of low educational attainment and unemployment rates which remain among the highest in the country. Throughout its history, the United States has, especially during times of economic distress discriminated against and placed legal restrictions on newly arrived groups of immigrants and blamed them for social ills. The blame, discrimination and legal restrictions were detrimental to the impacted groups and led to restricted access to employment opportunities and other means of advancement.

After the end of slavery until the First World War, 90% of African Americans lived in the South, the great majority toiling as sharecroppers. The entailed back-breaking labor in white landowners’ fields for a small share of the crop and often substandard housing. In addition, the imposition of Jim Crow, which guaranteed segregation and disenfranchisement, was ample impetus to leave the South for god. With the start of the First World War in 1916, the Great Migration brought black laborers north to work in factories.

However, they faced many challenges. Many white residents in northern cities resented the new black residents, and tensions could boil over into violence and riots. Despite high available salaries than those in the South, black migrants to the North were typically relegated to lower paying jobs. The Great Depression further eroded job possibilities. Even with post-Depression economic recovery, many labor unions that secured just wages were closed to African Americans, as were many professions. Even college-educated African Americans often found limited entry-level employment. Unemployment, under-employment, and discrimination in the workplace were the norm.

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

June 6, 2021

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How will the Body and Blood of Christ that I receive today make a difference in what I say and do this week?

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office is back to normal office hours. Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4 pm.

We are asking visitors to please wear Face Masks when coming to the Parish Office.

A REMINDER FROM FR. JOHN ... If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, it would be wise to consult with a priest to see whether that situation might be rectified. It could be as simple as repeating your marriage vows quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Part of the Civil Rights agenda in the 1960s was focused on jobs with dignity and job training opportunities. The U.S. Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) was created in 1964 to protect against illegal discrimination in the workplace, which unfortunately has continued. In 2016 and 2017, for example, investigated tens of thousands of racial discrimination cases. Employment disparities among college graduates of different races persist.

In 2017, the Harvard University Business School Review documented the hiring discrimination against African Americans was still a reality—and did not decline in the past twenty-five years. The authors note that despite a growing concern with diversity, “subtle forms of racial stereotypes” in the work place and “unconscious bias” have shown little change: support for more affirmative action policies and stronger enforcement of antidiscrimination legislation is critical because this pattern “will not diminish on its own.” The unemployment rate among African American workers and Hispanic workers is still higher than for whites, and in fourteen states and the District of Columbia black unemployment is at least twice as high as white employment. Native American communities often have vastly higher unemployment than the national average. Unequal opportunity still remains a concern.

A closing thought from the U.S. Bishops: “All too often, Hispanics and African Americans ... face discrimination in hiring, educational opportunities, and incarceration.” (*Open Wide Our Hearts*).

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

FATHER'S DAY MASS CARDS

Mass Cards for Father's Day (June 20) will be available in the Gathering Space next weekend. Envelopes with names should be returned to the parish office before Friday, June 18th to be placed on the altar for Father's Day.

CHURCH EXPANDS ITS HOURS WHEN OPEN FOR PRAYER

Beginning Monday, May 31, the church began opening its doors for prayer from 7:30 am until 7 pm Monday through Friday. Daily Mass will continue being celebrated at 9 am on the weekdays only. Please continue entering the church through the front doors and sit in the two middle sections. Unrelated households should continue to maintain an appropriate social distance from each other, which is marked in the pews by green tape.

Please note that that the church will not be open Saturday during the day. Also, beginning the weekend of June 5 and 6, copies of the bulletin will once again be available in the church. For more information, contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

PEOPLE OF HAITI NEED OUR PRAYERS AS CORONAVIRUS INFECTIONS RISE

Please pray for the people of Haiti, where a state of emergency has been in effect until at least May 30 due to rising coronavirus infections. The state of emergency and political disorder in the capital city of Port-au-Prince have necessitated the Haiti Medical Mission, which was to take place in June, to be cancelled. The native Haitians in Leon will be hosting a remote clinic as soon as medications for chronic conditions can be transported to Port-au-Prince and to Leon. For more information, please contact Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR COLLECTION

Normally the Little Sisters would visit our parish and stand at the doors asking for donations. Unfortunately due to COVID they are not able to do that at this time. They are still in need of your help. We will have envelopes at the church doors marked “Little Sisters of the Poor” for the weekends of June 5/6 and June 12/13. Please put your donation in the regular collection basket. If you are writing a check please make the check out to St. Francis and we will make sure your donation gets to the Sisters. ***On behalf of the Little Sisters thank you for your generosity.***

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our class meets online today, Sunday, June 6 from 3:30-4:30 pm. If you would like to learn more about these sessions, or if you are interested in serving as a catechist or aide for children with special needs, please call Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

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.

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!

Camper Registration is due by June 12.

Check the VBC page of parish website for registration form and more details!

Due to covid protocols, our in-person option is limited to 48 campers total. Registrations will be processed in the order received.

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

Teen volunteer application form can be found on the VBC page of the parish website and is due by June 7, 2021. 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. Placement will be announced by June 10, 2021. Adults interested in volunteering can contact the Religious Education office for more information: 301-258-9193.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON RACISM DEVELOPS ACTION PLAN

After hosting two listening sessions to hear parishioners' experiences with racism and violence, members of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Racism have developed an action plan to address the concerns and strengths participants identified as the parish continues grappling with this ongoing dialogue.

Committee members identified the following issues as priorities and suggested the following actions to implement them:

- **Addressing conscious and unconscious biases:** Summarize and share unconscious biases or overt racist actions and share them through our communications platforms. This awareness campaign will be introduced from the pulpit.
- **Encouraging Catholic leaders to speak out more against racist actions:** Write a letter to Cardinal Gregory and the archdiocesan church leaders encouraging them to speak out more from their pulpits. At the same time express gratitude for statements they have already made. This addresses a concern and perception from listening session participants that the Church does not consistently and continuously speak out against racism.
- **Incorporating anti-racism teachings in the Religious Education curriculum:** Ask the Religious Education staff how this can be done and what the committee can do to help.
- **Addressing lack of understanding of cultures propagating biases:** Investigate how multicultural practices, prayers and music can be incorporated into the liturgy and music.
- **Celebrating different races and cultures in the parish:** Sponsor an International Night, including a potluck dinner, music, and dancing. This could potentially be planned in concert with the 50th Anniversary Celebration.
- **Keeping the dialogue of racism on the forefront:** Offer the "Four Courageous Conversations" listening sessions again, possibly teaming up with another parish.

The Action Plan will be implemented in phases, beginning with the awareness campaign on conscious and unconscious biases. For more information, please contact Committee Co-Chairs Chris King at caking.home@gmail.com and Vincent Price at price93507@aol.com.

NIGHTLY ROSARY

The Council of Catholic Women for the Archdiocese of Washington (CCW-ADW) invites all, who would like to unite in prayer at this time of uncertainty, to join in our nightly Rosary at 8 p.m., 7 days a week. We offer this prayer for the healing of the Church and for our currently health - challenged world. To join us, call 605-468-8016, ID 357090# at 8 p.m. seven days a week. Please email archdiocesecw@gmail.com for additional information or questions. For other prayer resources please see our website <https://www.councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com/> See the tab: Coronavirus Prayer Resources, which lists many opportunities for daily Mass and meditations.