

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

July 19 - July 25

Monday, 7/19	9:00 a.m.	Raymond D. Stehle
Tuesday, 7/20	9:00 a.m.	Alexander O'Connor
Wednesday, 7/21	9:00 a.m.	Jack D'Aurora
	7:30 p.m.	Lucy Serna
Thursday, 7/22	9:00 a.m.	Roderic O'Connor
Friday, 7/23	9:00 a.m.	Anna Marie Kuzma
Saturday, 7/24	5:00 p.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
Sunday, 7/25	8:00 a.m.	Lillian Gordon
	9:30 a.m.	Thomas Anessi
	11:15 a.m.	Guy Beaven
	5:00 p.m.	Ann Dougherty Dillon

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 Reverend John S. Wintermeyer, Archdiocese of Washington, David Dickinson, brother-in-law of Grace O'Brien and Ruth Chite, Kenneth E. Sanderfoot, father of Reverend Brian Sanderfoot, Pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Parish.

Please pray for the sick... Chuck Huckestein, Michael Lapp, Joe Westner, Jeanette Davidson, Debra Price, Barbara Schmidt, Mary Cutting, Angelica Santos, Jackie Komlo, Allison Brauer, 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 July 18, 2021

Sunday:	Jer 23:1-6/Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 2:13-18/ Mk 6:30-34
Monday:	Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1bc,-2, 3-4, 5-6 [1b]/ Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday:	Ex 14:21—15:1/Ex 15:8-9, 10 and 12, 17 [1b]/ Mt 12:46-50
Wednesday:	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27- 28 [24b]/Mt 13:1-9
Thursday:	Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8- 9 [2]/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Friday:	Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [cf. Jn 6:68c]/ Mt 13:18-23
Saturday:	Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15 [14a]/ Mt 13:24-30
Next Sunday:	2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18 [cf. 16]/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-1

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I am continuing the presentation of General Principles that are covered by the Catholic Bishops of the United States in their 1996 statement on "Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care." I'll discuss two of these General Principles today.

The Place of Sexuality in God's Plan

The phenomenon of homosexuality poses challenges that can only be met with the help of a clear understanding of the place of sexuality within God's plan for humanity. In the beginning, God created human beings in his own image, meaning that the complementary sexuality of man and woman is a gift from God and ought to be respected as such. "*Human sexuality is thus a good, part of that created gift which God saw as being 'very good,' when he created the human person in his image and likeness, and 'male and female he created them' (Gn 1:27).*" The complementarity of man and woman as male and female is inherent within God's creative design. Precisely because man and woman are different, yet complementary, they can come together in a union that is open to the possibility of new life. Jesus taught that "from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother [and be joined to his wife], and the two shall become one flesh'" (Mk 10:6-8).

The purpose of sexual desire is to draw man and woman together in the bond of marriage, a bond that is directed toward two inseparable ends: the expression of marital love and the procreation and education of children. "The spouses' union achieves the twofold end of marriage: the good of the spouses themselves and the transmission of life." This is the order of nature, an order whose source is ultimately the wisdom of God. To the extent that man and woman cooperate with the divine plan by acting in accord with the order of nature, they not only bring to fulfillment their own individual human natures but also accomplish the will of God.

Homosexual Acts Cannot Fulfill the Natural Ends of Human Sexuality

By its very nature, the sexual act finds its proper fulfillment in the marital bond. Any sexual act that takes place outside the bond of marriage does not fulfill the proper ends of human sexuality. Such an act is not directed toward the expression of marital love with an openness to new life. It is disordered in that it is not in accord with this twofold end and is thus morally wrong. "Sexual pleasure is morally disordered when sought for itself, isolated from its procreative and unitive purposes."

Because of both Original Sin and personal sin, moral disorder is all too common in our world. There are a variety of acts, such as adultery, fornication, masturbation, and contraception, that violate the proper ends of human sexuality. Homosexual acts also violate the true purpose of sexuality. They are sexual acts that cannot be open to life. Nor do they reflect the complementarity of man and woman that is an integral part of God's design for human sexuality.⁸ Consequently, the Catholic Church has consistently taught that homosexual acts "are contrary to the natural law. . . . Under no circumstances can they be approved."

Continued in the column to the right....

July 18, 2021

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When has my compassion for others pushed aside my own need? How can I put others' needs first more often?

THE JUSTICE THOUGHT

The Parish Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Racism will provide a brief message each week under the title, "The Justice Thought" that is intended to educate and help us contemplate ways we can combat the sin of racism. This project stems from recommendations made to the committee by participants in the parish-sponsored dialogue, "Four Courageous Conversations on Racism." Please contact Vincent Price at price93507@aol.com with any comments or suggestions.

What is unconscious bias? In today's world, there is more unconscious racial bias than overt actions of racism. About 7 in 10 African Americans say unconscious racial bias has been a major barrier in their lives, posing as much or more of a problem than structured racism and individual discrimination, according to the article "Undeclared" which summarized a poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation. The poll defined unconscious racism as white people discriminating against Black people without realizing they are doing it. Also known as implicit racism, unconscious bias is an amorphous subject, hard to prove and difficult to measure.

Over the next several weeks, "The Justice Thought" will provide examples of unconscious racial bias on which we will reflect. As we consider these examples of unconscious racial bias, we should remember that we all need personal, ongoing conversion. The pastoral letter from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Open Wide Our Hearts," stated: If racism is confronted by addressing its causes and the injustice it produces, then healing can occur.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

In support of this judgment, the Church points not only to the intrinsic order of creation, but also to what God has revealed in Sacred Scripture. In the book of Genesis we learn that God created humanity as male and female and that according to God's plan a man and a woman come together and "the two of them become one body." Whenever homosexual acts are mentioned in the Old Testament, it is clear that they are disapproved of, as contrary to the will of God. In the New Testament, St. Paul teaches that homosexual acts are not in keeping with our being created in God's image and so degrade and undermine our authentic dignity as human beings. He tells how homosexual practices can arise among people who erroneously worship the creature rather than the Creator:

Therefore, God handed them over to degrading passions. Their females exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the males likewise gave up natural relations with females and burned with lust for one another. Males did shameful things with males and thus received in their own persons the due penalty for their perversity.

St. Paul listed homosexual practices among those things that are incompatible with the Christian life.

I'll continue the presentation of these General Principles next week.

Until then, *Fr. John*

**SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC
& ANIMAL BLESSING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021
OUR PARISH 50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION KICKOFF**

IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO CONSIDER RCIA STARTING THIS FALL

Do you know someone who is interested in knowing Jesus Christ better in our Catholic faith tradition? If so, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will begin in September. If you know anyone who might be interested in entering RCIA, please ask them to call the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407 and leave their name and contact information. If you are interested in becoming a member of the RCIA team or a sponsor, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

NEW STATE LAWS IMPORTANT TO CATHOLICS NOW ENACTED

On July 1, hundreds of new laws that were passed during the 2021 General Assembly session went into effect in Maryland. Some of the laws on the books that were supported by the Maryland Catholic Conference include:

- Establishment of a task force on oral health and availability and access of dental services (SB 100/HB 368)
- Expansion of higher education tuition exemption for foster care recipients and homeless youth (SB 155)
- Support access to healthy food in certain areas that are food deserts (SB 365)
- Increase distribution of abandoned property funds for the Maryland Legal Services Corporation fund to assist with pro bono legal services (SB 413)
- Require public schools to provide free feminine hygiene products in women's restrooms (SB 427/HB 205)
- Provide support to pregnant and parenting students so they may continue their education and care for their new baby (SB 438/HB 401)
- Expand funding for and availability of tax clinics for low-income Marylanders (SB 480/HB 421)
- Establish educational programs for juveniles in residential facilities (SB 497)

Read the Maryland Catholic Conference's testimony on some of these bills at www.mdccatholic.org by clicking on the 'Legislation' link and navigating to '2021 Testimony.' For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BIBLE STUDY

Knights of Columbus Montgomery Council 2323 is hosting a Bible Study at Father Cuddy Hall in Derwood. The Bible Study will run on Mondays from September through May. The Bible Study will utilize the Jeff Cavins Great Adventure Bible Study Course. The only cost for the course will be \$35.95 to order the Study Set from Ascension Press. For additional information or details, please contact Kevin McClintock kevinmc64@verizon.net or 240-305-0337.

REGISTRATION FOR 2021-2022 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OPENS SOON!

Our religious education program is gearing up for the 2021-22 school year, offering families a choice of two options for religious education:

1) "Homeschool model" with parents teaching their children at home with textbook resources and support provided by the parish

OR

2) "Classroom model" with children attending in-person classes with modifications in place to comply with covid safety protocols (including keeping 3 ft. distance in classrooms, required use of face masks, and frequent hand washing/sanitizing). In-person classes for Kindergarten through Grade 8 will be offered as follows:

- Elementary (Kindergarten-Grade 5) classes with students attending class in person on alternating weeks and completing a lesson at-home between each in-person class. Two Elementary session times will be offered: Sunday morning, 9:20-10:35 am and Monday afternoon, 4:45-6:00 pm.
- Middle School (Grade 6, 7 & 8) classes with students attending weekly. Two Middle School session times will be offered: Monday and Tuesday evenings, 6:45-8:00 pm.
- Classes for children and youth with special needs will continue to be offered via Zoom meeting on Sunday afternoons 3:30-4:30 pm.

Registration for the 2021-22 Religious Education program and sacramental preparation will open soon and will include information about registration fees and additional details! Check the parish website and/or sign up for the "Religious Education" group found in Flocknote to receive email updates and link to registration forms: <https://SFADerwood.flocknote.com/ReligiousEducation>.

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.

Information Regarding Sacramental Preparation for 2021-22

Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, and full initiation in the adapted RCIA for children and teens seeking Baptism will also be offered in adapted formats as needed for compliance with covid protocols.

- Since preparing for a sacrament involves formation in addition to grade-level catechesis, sacramental preparation at St. Francis is not grade specific and children are expected to have participated in religious education in the year prior to preparing for a sacrament.
- Families requesting sacramental preparation for their child are asked to indicate this when registering for religious education so that additional information can be provided. Please note that there is a separate materials fee for sacramental preparation programs.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

Instagram: [stjuderockville](https://www.instagram.com/stjuderockville)

Twitter: [@StJudeRCS](https://twitter.com/StJudeRCS)

MRS. JEANNE DONATELLI IS NEW INTERIM PRINCIPAL! We are excited to announce that Mrs. Jeanne Donatelli has accepted the position of Interim Principal for the 2021-2022 school year! Since 2000, Mrs. Donatelli has held a number of teaching positions at SJRCS and she has been the vice principal for the past 11 years. Under her leadership, we look forward another strong academic and spirit filled year. "Wherever God has put you, that is your vocation. It is not what we do but how much love we put into it." St. Mother Teresa

Looking for a wonderful, spirit filled school? St. Jude has openings in K, 1st, 2nd, 6th, and 7th. Limited seating! Contact Ellen.Donnely@stjuderockville.org or the front office 301-946-7888. "Build yourselves up in your most holy faith, pray in the Holy Spirit." Jude 1:20

"TODAY A READER, TOMORROW A LEADER!"

The SJRCS Free Little Library for children is open! Please take a book and return it when you have finished reading it. The library is located just outside the main entrance to the school.

The SJRCS office will be closed for vacation from July 21st through July 30th. It will be reopened for business on August 2nd. If you wish to visit us, 9-1 Monday through Thursday.

MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL

Mother of God School in Gaithersburg, MD is recruiting for a variety of part-time positions for the 2021-2022 school year. Positions include 7th-grade religion, K-5 Technology, Before and After Care, and Pre-School aides. MOG School is an Independent, Catholic PreK through 8th-grade school, affiliated with the Archdiocese of Washington. At Mother of God, faith is not an extra but an integral part of everything we do! Candidates must be practicing Catholics/Christians with a zeal for living out their faith. All religion teachers must be practicing Catholics. For more information please email the principal, Melissa Sloan at principal@mogschool.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SHRIMP FEAST - JULY 31

Knights of Columbus #2323 will host a Shrimp Feast-Family Night from 6-9 pm Saturday, July 31, at the Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road, in Derwood. Enjoy this evening out with family and friends, with proceeds benefitting the Little Sisters of the Poor. Dinner includes spiced shrimp, grilled chicken breast, corn on the cob, French fries, coleslaw, beer, wine, and soft drinks. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children 16 and under, and \$5 for a chicken nugget meal. They may be purchased at the door and payment by credit card is available. For more information, contact Dan Huff at Huffdar@gmail.com.

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

Please pray for our campers and volunteers as we share this week of faith and fun!