

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

August 2 - August 8

Monday, 8/2	9:00 a.m.	Alexander O'Connor
Tuesday, 8/3	9:00 a.m.	Amelia Dudenhoeffer
Wednesday, 8/4	9:00 a.m.	Teresa Maguire
	7:30 p.m.	Teresita Marchany Vda. de Almodovar
Thursday, 8/5	9:00 a.m.	Cynthia Chin You
Friday, 8/6	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m.	Jeanette Davidson (L)
Saturday, 8/7	5:00 p.m.	Michele Gosslyn
Sunday, 8/8	8:00 a.m.	John Coady Dillon, Sr.
	9:30 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Joseph Lubega
	5:00 p.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall

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 Gabriela O'Connor, mother of Lita Silva, Msgr. Henry Otero-Diago, Archdiocese of Washington.

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 August 1, 2021

Sunday:	Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 [24b]/Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35
Monday:	Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [2a]/ Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday:	Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13 [cf. 3a]/Mt 14:22-36
Wednesday:	Nm 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35/Ps 106:6- 7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Mt 15:21-28
Thursday:	Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/ Mt 16:13-23
Friday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 [1a and 9a]/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mk 9:2-10
Saturday:	Dn 6:4-13/Ps 18: 28, 3-4, 47 and 51/ Mk 17:14-20
Next Sunday:	1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [9a]/ Eph 4:30-5:2/Jn 6:41-51

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Last Sunday was the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Pope Francis has recognized that this time is marked by a pandemic and by the suffering of our older generations in every part of the world. The fact that many elderly people have had to die alone and then not be able to have a funeral has been a source of deep pain in the Church. It has certainly been a source of deep pain here in the parish. This was one of the crosses of our time that came to mind during the Way of the Cross led by Pope Francis on Good Friday this year. During that solemn time of prayer one person reported the following: "People jumped out of the ambulance dressed like astronauts, wearing protective suits, gloves, masks, and face shield. They took away my grandfather who had been having difficulty breathing. That was the last time that I saw my grandfather. He died a few days later in hospital. I think of how lonely he must have felt. I couldn't be near him physically to say goodbye and comfort him."

To be unable to be close to those who suffer is at odds with a Christian's calling to show compassion. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to reaffirm that the Church can never remain distant from those who carry a cross. Pope Francis chose as a theme for this First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, "I am with you always." Hopefully this expresses clearly the desire during the pandemic and in the better times that hopefully will follow that every ecclesial community will want to be with the elderly always.

This first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is being celebrated midway through the year dedicated to family by the Holy See on the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. The Holy Father chose this theme because he is aware how the elderly—all the elderly, including those who are not grandparents—need a family environment in which to live, and also how it is necessary for families to become aware of the role being played by their older members. In our world today, the relationship between the elderly and families is no longer taken for granted but constantly being called into question. Recurring features of this suggest that there may be a crisis underway between the elderly and the family, a sign of the times that must be taken into account. Because family pastoral work is often concerned with couple relationships or those between parents and children, it can be difficult to focus on the relationship between elderly parents and adult children or between grandparents and grandchildren.

Pope Francis wrote about this in the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. Let's recall what he said there:

"We have seen what happened to the elderly in certain places in our world as a result of the coronavirus. They did not have to die that way. Yet something similar had long been occurring during heat waves and in other situations where older people found themselves cruelly abandoned. We fail to realize that, by isolating the elderly and leaving them to the care of others without the closeness and concern of family members, we disfigure the family itself. We also end up depriving young people of a necessary connection to their roots and of wisdom that the young cannot achieve on their own" (FT 19).

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I be a sign to others of the nourishment I've found in the bread of life?

PRAY FOR PEACE IN AUGUST

The members of Pax Christi at St. Francis, a section of Pax Christi Metro DC and Pax Christi USA, invite parishioners to spend time at the beginning of August, especially on August 6 and 9, praying for peace.

Pope Francis has said "... Weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, create nothing but a false sense of security. They cannot constitute the basis for peaceful coexistence between members of the human family.... The total elimination of nuclear weapons is "both a challenge and a moral imperative" of our time.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

These are important words that deserve to be pondered again. They can help us to reflect on the debt that families—and family pastoral care—own to a generation that has in some respects fallen into oblivion.

Let me close this column today by printing a prayer that was prepared for the first World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly:

I thank You, Lord for the comfort of your presence: even in times of loneliness, You are my hope and my confidence, You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank You for having given me a family and for having blessed me with a long life. I thank you for moments of joy and difficulty, for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me. I thank you for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which you call me.

Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace, teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me, to never stop dreaming and tell of you of your wonders to new generations.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church, that he light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth. Send your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world, that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed, the poor consoled and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness and help me to live life to the full in each moment that You give me, in the certainty that You are with me every day, even until the end of the age. Amen.

Until next week,
Fr. John

PRAY FOR PEACE IN AUGUST (continued)

To remember the past
is to commit oneself to the future.

To remember Hiroshima
is to abhor nuclear war.

... In the face of the calamity
that every war is,

one must affirm and reaffirm,
again and again,

that the waging of war
is not inevitable or unchangeable,

Humanity is not destined to self-destruction.

Pope John Paul II

Parishioners are also invited to pray the "Prayer of St. Francis" or the following Novena, beginning on August 1 and ending August 9.

A Novena from the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace that was prepared in 2020 for the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, on August 6 and August 9, 1945. May it strengthen our resolve to pray and work to free the world from the horror of nuclear weapons.

August 1- We pray for the people of Japan who carry the wounds of nuclear warfare.

August 2- We pray for our scorched and damaged earth, poisoned and polluted by nuclear tests and nuclear waste.

August 3- We repent and ask forgiveness for the times we have turned a blind eye or shown apathy in response to our government's proliferation of nuclear weapons.

August 4- We pray for all those who work in the nuclear industry, may they find ways to transfer their skills to the green economy.

August 5- We pray for politicians and leaders of the nuclear states that they would 'choose life' and sign the nuclear ban treaty.

August 6- May we listen afresh to the wisdom of the Hibakusha (surviving victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) calling us to a nuclear-free world.

August 7- We pray for all investors and manufacturers in the nuclear industry, that they will divest and transfer their money and skills to bringing life, not death.

August 8- We pray for all who suffer the violence of poverty, may the billions wasted on nuclear weapons be redirected to health, education, housing, and the environment.

August 9- We pray for all peacemakers, especially those who risk their own liberty to non-violently resist the preparations for nuclear war.



**VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2021
July 19-23**

Thank you to our teen and adult volunteers for supporting our Vacation Bible Camp offered in-person and in an at-home format and making Vacation Bible Camp a spirited, faith-filled event for our campers! To all our campers and families - We're so glad you joined our Treasured adventure to discover you are priceless to God.

REGISTER FOR 2021-22 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION .

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

Option 1: "Homeschool model" with parents teaching their children at home with textbook resources and support provided by the parish, including 7 online parent meetings and additional events for students and families

OR

Option 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. Classes will start Sept. 19/20 for Group A and Sept. 26/27 for Group B.
- **Middle School (Grade 6, 7 & 8) classes with students attending weekly.** Two Middle School Session times will be offered: Monday & Tuesday evenings, 6:45-8:00 pm. Classes start September 20/21.
- **Classes for children and youth with special needs will continue to be offered via Zoom meeting** on Sunday afternoons 3:30-4:30 pm. Classes begin Sept. 19.

Registration fee: \$125.00 per child

(\$25 discount for registrations received by 8/15/2021)

If payment of registration fees poses a financial hardship, please contact us and allow us to assist you.

Register for the 2021-22 Religious Education program and sacramental preparation using the forms found here on our parish website:

<https://www.sfadw.org/children-grades-pre-k-8>

Completed forms can be mailed to the parish, dropped off in person at the Rectory Office (Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm), or returned as digital copies via email to sfareligioused@sfadw.org. Questions? Call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193 or email sfareligioused@sfadw.org.

Please share this information with others, especially those who will be new to our program!

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.

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"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.

Where do you live and send your children to school? We have the great advantage in Montgomery County of living among an exceptionally racially diverse population. However, we need to examine where we are willing to live and send our children to school and what are the reasons behind those choices. What neighborhoods did you explore when you looked for a home? Did you consider the neighborhood school's test scores, the crime rates and whether people who looked like you lived there?

Love of God and neighbor is the greatest commandment. Love requires us to reflect on our words and our actions and how they impact those around us. In the pastoral letter, "Open Wide Our Hearts," the U.S. bishops wrote: The command of love requires us to make room for others in our hearts. In practice, love compels us to stop, look and listen to what we think, say and to do to others.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - COUNCIL 2323

The Knights of Columbus are looking for new, transferring or readmitted members to share in their Charity, Fraternity, Unity and Patriotism activities. Council 2323 supports many St. Francis activities and has many social events. The K of C offers life and long term care insurance opportunities as well as annuities. A new opportunity: join as an Online Member for \$30 per year; go to www.kofc.org and click on "Join Us". If you wish you can join the Council later. If interested in learning more, contact Gary Palmer (301) 948-6494 or email gtdbpalmer@verizon.net.

NEW HOUSE CAPTAIN & HOUSE AMBASSADOR SOUGHT FOR PARISH REBUILDING TOGETHER TEAM

Are you interested in taking on a leadership role in a longstanding ministry that helps perform critical home repairs for Montgomery County residents in need? St. Francis of Assisi's Rebuilding Together Ministry still needs a House Captain or Co-Captains and a House Ambassador to coordinate its team of parishioners providing crucial home renovation and landscaping projects on Rebuilding Together Montgomery County's Rebuilding Day, scheduled on September 11 and 12. The nonprofit organization's goal for the weekend is for corporate and faith-based teams to help 14 homeowners in need across the county. If you are interested in helping please contact Tony Bosnick, 301-840-1407 or abosnick@sfadw.org.

Sacramental Preparation for 2021-22 (continued)

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.