

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

August 16 - August 22

Monday, 8/16	9:00 a.m.	Raymond Dundon
Tuesday, 8/17	9:00 a.m.	Colonel O'Brien
Wednesday, 8/18	9:00 a.m.	Gladys Bendetsen
	7:30 p.m.	Stephen V. Dillon, M.D.
Thursday, 8/19	9:00 a.m.	Marie Galvin
Friday, 8/20	9:00 a.m.	Daniel Mastronardi
Saturday, 8/21	5:00 p.m.	Marie & James Galvin
Sunday, 8/22	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	9:30 a.m.	William Pierre
	11:15 a.m.	Guy Beaven
	5:00 p.m.	Manuel Mello

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 Paul Lang, husband of Lynn Lang.

Please pray for the sick... Karen Mason, 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 15, 2021

Sunday:	Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16 [10bc]/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56
Monday:	Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44 [4a]/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday:	Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 9b]/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday:	Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday:	Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [8a and 9a]/Mt 22:1-14
Friday:	Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10 [1b]/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday:	Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [4]/Mt 23:1-12
Next Sunday:	Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [9a]/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Every now and then a solemnity like that of the Assumption falls on a Sunday. When this happens in Ordinary Time, the solemnity takes precedence. At the end of her earthly life, God assumed Mary into heaven where she reigns as queen until the end of time. From the beginning of her life on earth, when she was immaculately conceived, until the end the Blessed Virgin Mary conformed her life to God's will. We can look upon her as we endeavor to discern God's will in our own lives.

In response to repeated demands to the Popes to define the Assumption as a dogma of the Church from 1870 onwards, Pope Pius XII defined the doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin on November 1, 1950 in an apostolic constitution entitled *Munificentissimus Deus*.

In that document Pius XII points out that fathers and doctors of the church brought out clearly that what is commemorated in this feast is not just the total absence of corruption from the dead body of the Blessed Virgin Mary but also her triumph over death and her glorification after the pattern established by her only Son, Jesus Christ.

To support his argument he quotes at length two of the Greek Fathers of the Church. Let's read excerpts of what they wrote concerning the Dormition, or Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Saint Germanus of Constantinople (c. 640-733) was a Patriarch of Constantinople who was a very ardent promoter of the incomparable purity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Saint Germanus thought that it was in keeping not only with her divine motherhood but also with the holiness of her virginal body that it was incorrupt and carried up to heaven: "In the words of Scripture, you appear in beauty. Your virginal body is entirely holy, entirely chaste, entirely in the house of God, so that for this reason also it is henceforth a stranger to decay: a body changed, because a human body, to a preeminent life of incorruptibility, but still a living body, excelling in splendor, a body inviolate and sharing in the perfection of life."

Saint John Damascene (c. 655-750), a Greek theologian who was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1890, is preeminent as the great preacher of this tradition according to Pius XII. John Damascene relates the bodily assumption of the loving Mother of God to her other gifts and privileges. "It was necessary that she who had preserved her virginity inviolate in childbirth should also have her body kept free from all corruption after death. It was necessary that she who had carried the Creator as a child on her breast should dwell in the tabernacles of God. It was necessary that the bride espoused by the Father should make her home in the bridal chambers of heaven. It was necessary that she, who had gazed on her crucified Son and had been pierced in the heart by the sword of sorrow which she had escaped in giving him birth, should contemplate him seated with the Father. It was necessary that the Mother of God should share the possessions of her Son, and be venerated by every creature as the Mother and handmaid of God."

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

August 15, 2021

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What would I choose to include in my own Magnificat? For what great things would I praise God?

MASK MANDATE HAS BEEN REINSTATED

On August 5, the Montgomery County Council voted to require people to wear masks in indoor public spaces when the county is an area of substantial transmission, due to the high transmissibility of the delta variant. Per archdiocesan guidelines, all persons over the age of two should wear masks at church until Fr. John Dillon informs us otherwise. The parish staff has placed masks in a basket on the sign-in table in the Gathering Space, should parishioners forget to wear their masks to church. For more information, please call the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

**SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC
& ANIMAL BLESSING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021**

**OUR PARISH 50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION KICKOFF**

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Pius XII goes on to note that the reasonings and considerations of the holy Fathers rest on Scripture as their ultimate foundation. Scripture portrays the loving Mother of God, almost before our very eyes, as most intimately united with her divine Son and always sharing in His destiny. He also notes that from the second century the holy Fathers present the Virgin Mary as the new Eve, most closely associated with the new Adam, though subject to him in the struggle against the enemy from the nether world. This struggle, as the first promise of the redeemer implies, was to end in perfect victory over sin and death, always linked together in the writings of the Apostle to the Gentiles [Saint Paul]. Therefore, just as the glorious resurrection of Christ was an essential part of this victory and its final trophy, so the struggle shared by the Blessed Virgin and her Son was to end in the glorification of her virginal body. As the same Apostle says: *When this mortal body has clothed itself in immortality, then will be fulfilled the word of Scripture: Death is swallowed up in victory.*"

Let me conclude this reflection today with the Collect (Opening Prayer) for today's Solemnity:

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through our Lord Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Until next week,
Fr. John

2021 ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

Thank you if you have made a gift to the 2021 Annual Appeal. Our parish stands at 75.9% of our goal of \$133,100. If you have not yet made your gift, which will be credited to our parish, please do so today by visiting appeal.adw.org.

Your donation helps our parish community and local Church in many ways: promoting vocations, strengthening Catholic education, expanding prolife and evangelization ministries, sustaining diverse communities, and supporting many charitable works that would be difficult to undertake on our own.

100% of your gift to the Annual Appeal is restricted to the ministries that are part of the Annual Appeal and cannot be used for any other purpose. For more information, visit appeal.adw.org.

Thank you!

Fr. John

NNIA NEEDS YOUR HELP

Our parish, St. Francis of Assisi, is a leader in NNIA (New Neighbor Faith Alliance) helping immigrants who are resettling in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties become acclimated to the area and culture as well as helping with many basic needs, both financially and with direct personal assistance.

We recently began working with a Guatemalan family of 12 who needs assistance with completing applications to become permanent residents of the United States. This is a very tedious and expensive process requiring physicals for each family member that range in cost from \$300 to \$700 per individual and this expense cannot be covered by standard Medicaid. The family lives on minimum wage incomes and they cannot afford these expenses. We are seeking sponsors to finance all or part of a physical for each family member.

We are also looking for donations of used cars for several immigrant families. If you have a car that you no longer need and it will likely pass Maryland State Inspection, please consider donating it to provide transportation to enable a local family to go to work where public transportation is not available. We will manage the inspection and obtain a tax-deductible receipt for you.

If you are interested in sponsoring a physical for a family member, donating a car, or if you would like to hear more about volunteering with NNIA, please contact Mary Kate Ryner, rynoslp@msn.com, or Chris King, caking.home@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY OFFERED

Knights of Columbus Montgomery Council 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. Sign Up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4BA8AB2CA1FE3-great>

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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Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

Welcome & Welcome Back!

Ms. Karen Murphy is our Resource Director. Ms. Murphy was our resource director a few years ago and then she relocated to Florida, returned last year, and was at St. Raphael. She now has returned to St. Jude.

Mrs. Amy Rueth will be teaching 2nd grade. Her four children will also attend St. Jude. Welcome, Maureen in PreK 4, Max 1st grade, Josh 3rd grade, and Lydia 5th grade. Welcome to St. Jude Mrs. Rueth and family!

Mrs. Tiffany Brown is back after having a beautiful baby girl in April, and she will be teaching 1st grade.

Mrs. Michelle Ardillo is returning to us after taking a year off from teaching due to increased risks for COVID. She is thrilled to return to her home parish school to teach middle school religion for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Ardillo served as youth minister for the Shrine of St. Jude from 2004-2007 and taught religious education for over eight years.

Odyssey of the Mind is returning on Fridays with Mrs. Sutherland. Odyssey of the Mind (OM™), an international program, teaches students how to develop and use their natural creativity to become problem-solvers.

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

Mark your Calendars

August 26th - Back-To-School Picnic and Drive-in Movie at 6:30PM. The movie is Luca! Kona Ice truck will be on campus for you to purchase a delicious Icy. Come on out to see your friends and meet your teachers.

August 31st - 1st Day of Classes (full day for grades 1 to 8, ½ day for Pre-K and Kindergarten).

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

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.