

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

**September 13 - September 22**

<b>Monday, 9/13</b>	9:00 a.m.	James C. Dillon (L)
<b>Tuesday, 9/14</b>	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
<b>Wednesday, 9/15</b>	9:00 a.m.	Doris Barth
	7:30 p.m.	Thomas Boyle
<b>Thursday, 9/16</b>	9:00 a.m.	Romeo Rojas
<b>Friday, 9/17</b>	9:00 a.m.	Tom Krafchik
<b>Saturday, 9/18</b>	5:00 p.m.	Patsy & Stella Battista
<b>Sunday, 9/19</b>	8:00 a.m.	Dennis Parnell
	9:30 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Baby Timko
	5:00 p.m.	David Balkam Dickinson

***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 Margaret Wood, mother of Mary Ellen Rechen.

***Please pray for the sick...*** Carol Polosky, 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 September 12, 2021***

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/ Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35
<b>Monday:</b>	1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [1Cor 11:26b]/Lk 7:1-10
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf. 7b]/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [2]/Jn 19:25- 27 or Lk 2:33-35
<b>Thursday:</b>	1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10 [2]/Lk 7:36-50
<b>Friday:</b>	1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/ Lk 8:1-3
<b>Saturday:</b>	1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2]/ Lk 8:4-15
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16- 4:3/Mk 9:30-37

### ***THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR***

Last Monday we celebrated Labor Day which in my childhood marked the end of the summer vacation. The day after Labor Day marked the first day of school. It was a day of new routines, getting to know the new teacher—in most cases our classroom teacher was a Sister of Mercy, and seeing friends after the summer absence. It wasn't until many years later I learned the significance of Labor Day. Now that I have a better understanding of why we celebrate Labor Day, I look forward to the annual statement by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the occasion. Their statement follows in the footsteps of that great champion of the working man and woman: James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore from 1877 to 1921. The statement for Labor Day 2021 was issued by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City in his capacity as the chairman of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. Archbishop Coakley makes the observation that these are both encouraging signs of economic recovery and ongoing hardships related to COVID-19.

In his statement for Labor Day 2021, Archbishop Coakley echoes the call of Pope Francis from the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, to rise out of this crisis with an economy that expresses universal fraternity. He writes, "It is our task not only to reflect on the present ills of the economy, but also to build consensus around human dignity and the common good, the bedrocks of Catholic social teaching, and to answer the Pope's call to propose new and creative economic responses to human need, both locally and globally." Archbishop Coakley also calls attention to the Holy Father's Economy of Francesco initiative, as well as the responses of the Churches' many ministries to the increased needs of the pandemic.

The Economy of Francesco initiative refers to an online event that occurred in November 2020. At that time Pope Francis invited young people around the world to gather virtually to consider ways of making the economy of today and tomorrow fair, sustainable, and inclusive. The Economy of Francesco gathering, inspired by the example of St. Francis of Assisi, featured workshops, seminars, and lectures with leading experts in economics, sustainable development, and the social sciences, including Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

I want to close my column today by quoting Archbishop Coakley's remarks about "Going Forward":

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

**September 12, 2021**

### **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

*How do I put my faith into action? When do I resist putting my faith into action?*

### **RSVP FOR THE OCTOBER 3 PARISH PICNIC**

As our parish prepares to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will be kicking off our celebration with a Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 3 from 12:30-4:00 pm on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. Simply Fresh will be catering the event, so families will not need to prepare any foods. After the luncheon, families can enjoy games, a moon bounce, crafts and face painting on the parish grounds. There will also be the Blessing of the Animals at 3 pm in front of the church.

Please sign up for the Parish Picnic by filling out information on the enclosed flyer by Sunday, September 26 and drop it off in the box in the Gathering Space, to ensure organizers order enough food while ensuring as little waste as possible. For more information, please contact 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Co-Chair Sylvia Jones at [decaffqueen@gmail.com](mailto:decaffqueen@gmail.com).

### ***THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR continued***

[Last]. . .*Sunday's second reading instructs us to show no partiality as we adhere to the faith. St. James tells us that we become judges with evil designs when we remain distant from the poor (James 2: 1-5). Pope Francis has made a similar point as he observes that we sometimes justify our indifference for the poor by looking the other way and living our lives as if they simply do not exist. Not only are our actions insufficient, but our sight as well, when we ignore the poor and do not allow their pleas to touch our hearts. Let us accept together the challenge of reemerging from this crisis with an economy that works for all of God's children. Let us first pray for those who have died, their loved ones, those who are ill, those who have lost their jobs, and for an end to this crisis. Let us do what we can to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities from rising infections. We also invite all who are able to volunteer and donate at your local parish, Catholic Charities site, or CCHD-supported organization in rebuilding our communities. Finally, let us engage in building "a better kind of politics" by entering into dialogue with elected officials, calling them to an authentic politics that is rooted in the dignity of the human person and promotes the common good.*

The pandemic has universally presented us with many shared experiences. May we build on this moment with a global fraternity that transcends partnership and eradicates injustices in all its forms.

Until next week,  
**Fr. John**

### **CELEBRATING 500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES**

On Saturday, September 18, 2021, members of the Filipino community invite you to celebrate with them the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines and the feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz, the first canonized Filipino saint. Everyone is welcome to this historic event, which will take place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, beginning with a procession at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Holy Rosary at 10:00 a.m. and Holy Mass at 10:30 a.m. with Most Reverend Mario E. Dorsonville as celebrant. (<https://www.facebook.com/events/991683211654428/>)

### **TOGO MISSION THANK YOU**

Fr. Bill Ryan wishes to thank everyone for their generosity in response to his request for donations for the Togo Mission. St. Francis presented Fr. Ryan with a check for over \$8,000. **Thank you St. Francis parishioners, your generosity is overwhelming!**

### **40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF SEPTEMBER 22**

Do you want to take a stand against abortion? Please join other St. Francis of Assisi parishioners, as the fall campaign of the 40 Days for Life kicks off September 22-October 31. On a yet-to-be determined day in October, St. Francis parishioners are encouraged to pray and stand witness for life on the sidewalk in front of the office center strip in front of Montgomery College off Rockville Pike in Rockville. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

### **DR. SUSAN TIMONEY DISCUSSES EVANGELIZING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES ON OCTOBER 9**

Please save the date Saturday, October 9, for a talk by Susan Timoney, associate professor of practice pastoral studies area at The Catholic University of America, from 10 am to 12:30 pm. As we enter our parish's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Dr. Timoney will address the topic of "Evangelizing Missionary Disciples." The parish's Adult Faith Formation team hopes the talk will be in the Parish Center, but it may be offered online if conditions surrounding COVID warrant it. For more information, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

**DONATE YOUR USED CLOTHING** If you are sorting through gently used clothing to give away, remember that there is a St. Vincent de Paul clothing collection bin in the lower parking lot. Donations of clean clothing in good repair is greatly appreciated. Please put clothing in a plastic bag and deposit in the slot at the top of the bin. Collections are made weekly and will be a great blessing to those in need in the region.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS

Calendars are posted to the parish website, and are also being mailed to all who have registered. We look forward to welcoming families to this year's two program options:

**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. **Materials will be ready for pick-up and our first online parent meeting is today, September 12 at 1 pm.** Families registered for the Homeschool option will receive an email with link to join.

**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.**

**Children must be registered before they can begin classes.** Space is still available in most classes and children are welcome to start classes once registration is received and processed. Find registration forms on the parish web site ([www.sfadw.org](http://www.sfadw.org)), in the Church Gathering Space, and in the Parish Office. Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. 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 [sfareligoused@sfadw.org](mailto:sfareligoused@sfadw.org). Questions? Call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193 or email [sfareligoused@sfadw.org](mailto:sfareligoused@sfadw.org).

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

**Registering for Sacramental Preparation** Sacramental preparation for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation, 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist, Confirmation, and Christian Initiation for Children/Teens (CIC/CIT) is not grade specific and involves preparation in addition to grade level Religious Education classes. At minimum, children are expected to have participated in religious education in the year prior to preparing for a sacrament. *Please note: students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will attend their grade-level Religious Education classes as well as monthly Confirmation sessions.*

Families requesting sacramental preparation for their child are asked to mark their registration form accordingly so that additional information can be provided. Please note that there is a separate materials fee for sacramental preparation programs. More details will be provided at the parent meetings next year.

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS

(continued)

### Ways to Serve

The entire parish community shares responsibility for faith formation and the support of many volunteers makes our programs successful. There are a variety of ways to serve, including weekly, monthly, and "as needed" commitments:

- Catechist
- Classroom Aide
- Substitute Catechist
- Support for Service Projects
- Support for Art Projects (at home preparation)
- Help with Sacramental Celebrations & Special Events

Please consider supporting our Religious Education program as a volunteer! To learn more, please call 301-258-9193.

### Religious Education Catechist Meetings

New and returning religious education catechists are asked to note the following events as well:

- ✦ **Catechist Meetings by Session** (in the Parish Center):
  - Grade K-5 Catechists:**  
Sunday Session: September 12, 9:20-10:35 am  
Monday Session: September 13, 4:45-6:00 pm
  - ✦ **Grade 6-8 Catechists:**  
Monday Session: September 13, 6:45-8:00 pm  
Tuesday Session: September 14, 6:45-8:00 pm

### Catechetical Sunday Blessing of Catechists at all Masses Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19

*Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.*

When you attend Mass this weekend, all parish catechists and Catholic school teachers will be invited to present themselves for a blessing as part of the Prayer of the Faithful. For new and returning catechists, we thank you for allowing us to pray for you and bless your ministry.

### 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 first class meets online on Sunday, September 19 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.



### **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](mailto:price93507@aol.com) with any comments or suggestions.*

**CDC Reports Black and Hispanic Americans Experienced Decreased Lifespans Compared with White Americans in 2020, Largely Due to COVID** When officials with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced that U.S. life expectancy had fallen by 1 ½ years in 2020, COVID-19 played an outsized role, as the virus disproportionately impacted people with underlying health conditions and magnified lifestyle choices and other factors. From 2019 to 2020, the life expectancy dropped three years for the Hispanic population, 2.9 years for the non-Hispanic Black population and 1.2 years for the non-Hispanic White population, according to a [report](#) from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

Why are the Black and Hispanic populations more adversely affected? This is due to a greater lack of access to quality healthcare, more crowded living conditions, and a greater proportion of the population in low-paying jobs that required them to keep working at the pandemic's peaks. A CDC study of selected states and cities with data on COVID-19 deaths by race and ethnicity showed that 34 percent of deaths were among non-Hispanic Black people, though this group accounts for only 12 percent of the total U.S. population.

Let us recognize it: Systemic racism has helped create the environment in which this data is our reality.

What does an extra few years of life mean to each of us? It is not enough for us to say we are not racist but passively support the systems and policies that promote racial inequality. We can strive to be antiracists and actively engage in the fight against racism.

Scripture tells us we cannot ignore these issues. "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment." (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Let us pray that we learn how to speak out and act against the systems and policies that cause these differences.

\* References Associated Press, 7/21/2021, Dr. Michael Stobb. His article is supported by articles in 1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report "Introduction to COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities" dated December 10, 2020; 2) Hannah Cohen's peer review article in Record Technology, Inc "The Disproportionate Effects of COVID-19 on Racial & Ethnic Minorities" dated June 19, 2020; 3) Many articles written in the United States Library of Medicine's online database PubMed.gov.

### **ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

**Saturday, November 13**

#### **HOLIDAY BAZAAR CRAFTERS**

We are making crafts for the 2021 Holiday Bazaar on Wednesday September 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. If you enjoy being creative and socializing with fellow parishioners, please plan on attending. Also, projects can be taken home to work on. For additional information, please call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

#### **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>

#### **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 KofC 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](http://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](mailto:gtdbpalmer@verizon.net)).

#### **YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE ABUSED**

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It can consist of repeated severe beatings or subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. For additional information or to learn more about domestic violence, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace).

#### **RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY AFTER AN ABORTION THROUGH A DAY OF PRAYER AND HEALING**

Have you or someone close to you experienced an abortion about which you still have unresolved feelings? Experience God's mercy by taking part in an in-person *Entering Canaan* Day of Prayer and Healing next month. This day-long retreat will feature someone giving a witness talk on her healing journey, time for retreatants to share their story with others who have had the same experience, Eucharistic Adoration and an opportunity to go to Confession. There will be a day of prayer of healing in Spanish on October 9, 2021, and on April 2, 2022 and two in English on October 23, 2021, and on April 23, 2022. For more information, contact the Project Rachel Ministry at (301) 982-2008 or e-mail [hope@adw.org](mailto:hope@adw.org). There is a suggested donation of \$40 for each attendee, but financial assistance is available.

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS MASS & ROSARY AT ALL SOULS CEMETERY** Since the earliest days of the Church, believers have found consolation and hope in the companionship of Our Lady in prayer at the cemetery. Gather with us at All Souls Cemetery on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at 5:00PM. For more information, please contact All Souls Cemetery at 301-428-1995.

**HEALING PRAYER** Fr. Greg Bramlage, a Catholic priest with a nationally-known healing ministry, will lead three nights of healing prayer at Mother of God Community, 20501 Goshen Rd, Gaithersburg MD 20879, Sept. 13-14-15 starting at 6:30 pm. Get ready to experience the healing power of Jesus! For more info call Teri at 301-990-2081 or visit [www.motherofgod.org](http://www.motherofgod.org)

### **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

The St. Elizabeth Bereavement Ministry will offer a support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse, or significant other. The next bereavement support group will begin Thursday, Sept 23rd, and run for 7 consecutive Thursday evenings ending Nov. 4th. The series will take place from 7:00 - 8:30 PM through ZOOM. Registration is required. To register contact Deacon Kevin Byrne (301-279-5962) or Claudia McAuliffe (301-881-1457).

### **COMING THIS FALL**

#### **ENCOUNTER SCHOOL OF MINISTRY**

Be encouraged in your efforts to live as a disciple of Jesus! Gain confidence in your identity as a child of God - hear the Lord's word for yourself and others - learn to evangelize with joy. **Encounter School of Ministry** draws from the richness of our Catholic heritage as we seek to teach, equip, and activate disciples to demonstrate the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. This one year program with Encounter DC begins Sept. 21 and meets weekly on Tuesday nights in Gaithersburg with worship, teaching, and time for ministry activation. Join the hundreds who have found new grace and power to live out their calling. Check out [encounterschool.org/dc](http://encounterschool.org/dc) for more information and to register.

#### **MASS & ROSARY IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA**

Please join the World Apostolate of Fatima Archdiocese of Washington Division as we resume monthly Mass and Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Fatima at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception-400 Michigan Ave, NE at 1:00 pm in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel every 13<sup>th</sup> of the month (except when the 13<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday.) For more information call Mary Ann at 301-595-1770.

#### **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. 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.

### **VOLUNTEER WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

Catholic Charities ADW is seeking volunteers for many different projects this summer! Here are some ways you can get involved, both individually and with a group:

#### **Individual Opportunities**

**St. Maria's Meals is back!** Every Tuesday in Temple Hills and Wednesday in downtown DC, Catholic Charities volunteers and staff members provide individuals and families with hot meals. Sign up on our event calendar: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteercalendar/>

**Food Distributions:** Throughout the summer, we will help deliver food items at St. Bernard in Riverdale, MD every other Tuesday. Learn more and sign up on our [event calendar!](#)

**Prepare and deliver a meal for 20 people at Dorothy Day Place in Rockville**, any night of the week! Signing up to cook a meal helps staff focus on other priorities such as clinical work and employment services. <http://bttr.im/80hmc>

**Sign up for a year of service with Catholic Charities** through AmeriCorps or Capuchin Franciscan Corps!

- Financial Stability AmeriCorps
- Nutrition Education AmeriCorps
- Volunteer Office VISTA
- Volunteer Medical Clinic VISTA
- Capuchin Corps Volunteer in Volunteer Office, Spanish Catholic Center, or Medical Clinic

You can learn more on our Volunteer Homepage: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteer/>

#### **Group Opportunities**

**Coordinate bimonthly virtual mock interviews** for adults with intellectual disabilities participating in [Catholic Charities Maryland Employment Program](#). This is a great opportunity for your office to commit to volunteering! Contact [Claire.Sanfilippo@cc-dc.org](mailto:Claire.Sanfilippo@cc-dc.org) to learn more!

Bring your gardening interests, skills and supplies to join COMPASS in serving our Ward 7 client with a **yard make-over!** Contact [Lett.Protor@cc-dc.org](mailto:Lett.Protor@cc-dc.org) for more information. Design your own group project! Complete an interest form, and we will work with you to create a project which matches your group's interests and availability: <http://bttr.im/dn82w>

#### **Say Yes!: Catholic Charities' Fall Call For Volunteers**

As our region reopens after the devastating coronavirus pandemic, now is the time to give back to our community members! From August 2 – September 15, Catholic Charities is recruiting dedicated individuals to make a once-a-week, year-long commitment to serve as mentors, pro bono professionals, behind-the-scenes supporters, and more! **Learn more and apply on our website: [Say Yes!: Fall Call for Volunteers](#)**

#### **HOLIDAY VOLUNTEER EVENTS**

Not ready to make a once-a-week commitment but still want to get involved as a volunteer? You can check out our online calendar for one-time events at various Catholic Charities programs (including St. Maria's Meals and SHARE). Starting in November we will host holiday-specific volunteer projects.