

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

October 2 - October 8

Monday, 10/2	9:00 a.m. Frank Chite
Tuesday, 10/3	9:00 a.m. Frances D'Aurora
Wednesday, 10/4	9:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen 7:30 p.m. Deacon Wilbur Pinder
Thursday, 10/5	9:00 a.m. Carolyn Maltz
Friday, 10/6	9:00 a.m. Barbara Lynn Beall 7:30 p.m. Sharon Bernard
Saturday, 10/7	9:00 a.m. Kay Arnaud 5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 10/8	8:00 a.m. Anne De Stwolinski 9:30 a.m. In Honor of St. Jorge 11:15 a.m. Charles Abbate 5:00 p.m. William English

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Francis Rockie Fera.

Please pray for the sick... Gemma Palini, Larry Church, Fatimah Seyed-Ali, Barbara Sposato, Evelyn Haddad, Carolyn Speaks, Bart Trickett, Katrina Schmidt, Bienvenido Delrosario, Kathy Denchfield, Jackie Roebuck King, Bob Coyne, Jeni Stepanek, Debbie & Roger Petrocelli. *(Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.)*

Readings for the Week of October 1, 2017

Sunday:	Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-9/Phil 2:1-11/Mt 21:28-32
Monday:	Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-23, 29/Mt 18:1-5, 10
Tuesday:	Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-7/Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday:	Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-6/Lk 9:57-62
Thursday:	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8-11/Lk 10:1-12
Friday:	Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9/Lk 10:13-16
Saturday:	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-37/Lk 10:17-24
Next Sunday:	Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20/Phil 4:6-9/ Mt 21:33-43

Scripture Corner SIN AND REPENTANCE

In today's Gospel (Matthew 21:28-32) Jesus tells the parable of two sons. Matthew uses the situation to develop two of his special themes. First of all, there is the necessity of doing good and not just talking about it. The first son rejects his father's order. Later he thinks it over and repents and does what is asked of him. The second son says that he will carry out the father's order, but does not do it!

In the Sermon on the Mount Christ had stressed the need for action. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven." (Matthew 7:21) Jesus reminded his audience that the tax collectors and prostitutes accepted John the Baptist, but the leaders did not. The leaders feared that the Baptist's influence with the people could cost them their special political and religious positions.

Another key theme of our Lord was that there was still time for repentance. The first son in the parable could still repent and find forgiveness. This is also true of the leaders. Jesus warns them "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." (Matthew 21:31) In today's first reading (Ezekiel 18:25-28) the prophet speaks of forgiveness. "But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die."

Our second reading today (Philippians 2:1-11) has a wonderful Christian hymn, honoring the SON of God! He was willing to assume our human nature with all its weaknesses, except sin. His humility led him to accept a terrible death for us. In return, his Father exalted him, bestowing on him the name LORD. Every tongue will confess to the glory of God the Father, JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.

Fr. Ralph

PARISH PICNIC SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 12:30-4:30 PM

RSVP BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

*Please bring a side dish to share.
St. Francis will provide the dessert.*

See Page 4 for additional information.

The Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

If at times I've been the one who said no, what would my saying yes to God look like in my life this week?

NEW ALTAR SERVER CLASS 5TH GRADE & UP

A new altar server information and sign-up meeting will be held on Friday, October 6 at 5:00 p.m. in the Church. At least one parent **MUST** attend this first session. Servers must be in the 5th grade and up. They must be able to attend the server classes and be willing to serve at **ANY** Mass to which they are scheduled. To sign up for the information session, please call the parish office to register, (301) 840-1407.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

All are welcome! Join the Ministry of Eucharistic Adoration and assist with adoration in the following manner:

- *Become a regular attendee at adoration in the Parish.*
- *Pray that Eucharistic Adoration will increase.*
- *Foster Eucharistic Adoration in our parish by evangelizing His Eucharistic Presence.*
- *Deepen your personal relationship with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.*

First Friday Mass will be at 7:30 p.m., October 6, followed by adoration until 9:00 p.m. in the Church.

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

The following individuals and their families recently joined our St. Francis faith community during the month of September:

Marcos & Sabrina Battistel
Juan & Carol Caripa
Sergio & Laura Cella
Kirk & Kelly Grothe
Kevin & Katherine Healy
Randy de Leon & Marie Johnson
Aaron & Elise Marcella
Patrick Tutka
Joshua & Leah Vincent

The following children were baptized during the month of September:

Allison Rose Greer
Asher Kale Lucas
Nicholas Luis Videla



OCTOBER 2017 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, October 4 (*Feast of St. Francis*), 12:00 Noon at Red Lobster, 15700 Shady Grove Road, Gaithersburg. If you are

planning to attend, please contact Mary Lou Habib and she will save a seat for you, (301) 417-0243.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Today is Respect Life Sunday. The Catholic Bishops of the United States initiated Respect Life Sunday in 1972, the year before the Supreme Court legalized abortion in the United States through their decision *Roe v. Wade*. The theme featured for this year (from October 2017 through September 2018) is *“Be Not Afraid.”* The program promotes respect for human life in light of our intrinsic dignity as having been created in God’s image and likeness and called to eternal destiny with him. One of the tasks of the Respect Life program is building a culture of life.

In order to understand how we can effectively build a culture of life, we need to consider that God created us in his image and likeness. Indeed the essence of our worth comes not from how much money we make, how much power we wield, or how much we can boast of our bloodline. No--the essence of our identity and worth, the source of dignity, is that we are loved by God. We are called to true communion with God and we can grow in this communion through daily prayer, reading the Scriptures, and frequent reception of the Sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist.

When someone we know is facing a great trial, we need to meet them where they are, we accompany them on their journey, we intercede for them, and we try to remain open to sharing Christ’s love with them however God directs us. Sometimes our actions speak for themselves. Other times, words are needed. In this context the words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi apply, *“Preach the Gospel on every occasion, and when necessary, use words.”* Jesus knows how to speak to the heart of each person. Our job is to follow where he leads.

This is our call as missionary disciples. Some, like Blessed Stanley Rother or Saint Marianne Cope are called to leave the comforts of home and to engage in missionary work in distant lands. Most of us are called, instead, to be missionary disciples right where we live. In living as missionary disciples of Christ we are engaged in promoting the Gospel of Life in the midst of the culture of death all around us. Changing the culture is a process of conversion that begins in our own hearts and includes a willingness to be instructed and close to Jesus, who is the source of our joy, our love, and our hope.

A simple and practical thing that we can do is to participate in the baby bottle campaign that will take place during this month of October. Our Respect Life Committee is organizing it. Last year we were able to give over \$3,000 to the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center through this effort. Our support helps them in their mission to help anyone who may be experiencing problems because of an unintended or unwanted pregnancy.

Until next week,

Fr. John Dillon

***P.S. Hope to see you all at the Parish Picnic next Sunday
rain or shine!***

October 1, 2017

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, October 3, 7:30 p.m., St. Clare's Chapel in the Rectory. For details, please call Louise, (301) 977-5217.

POOR BOX DONATION – The donations for next weekend will go to the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. *Thank you for your generosity.*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER CHAIN If you have a prayer request, please contact Marianne Bullen, (301) 963-3420 or mariannebu@comcast.net with your requests.

ROSARY FOR PRIESTS

Every Wednesday evening at 6:45 p.m. we pray the rosary for our priests before the 7:30 p.m. Mass.

HOLY HOUR FOR THE DYING

On Thursday evenings in the St. Clare Chapel in the Rectory, a prayer group meets at 7:00 p.m. to pray for the dying. This is a Holy Hour Devotion for the Dying. As a central work of our Catholic faith, we are called to pray for the dying, especially for those who may die suddenly, unprepared to face God. For additional information, please call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

ROSARY CENACLE OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE
Cenacle of Our Lady, Queen of Peace to pray for priests and vocations, 2:00 p.m. in the St. Clare's Chapel (Rectory) every Sunday. Please join us.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - COUNCIL 2323

The Knights of Columbus are actively pursuing new members. Our council incorporates members from St. Francis, St. Mary's and St. Martin's. Though best known for our many charitable projects, we also have a lot of fun with dinners, fund raisers, family nights and many other fraternal social occasions. If interested in learning more, please contact Gary Palmer, (301) 948-6494 or e-mail gtdbpalmer@verizon.net.

BUY TICKETS FOR THE HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT DURING BUSINESS HOURS AT THE PARISH OFFICE (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Tickets are now on sale at the Parish Office for the Haiti Benefit Concert at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, featuring former St. Francis Music Director Verena Anders and her husband, award-winning musician William Buthod. The couple is preparing a robust program reflecting Haiti's cultural identity and featuring vocal and keyboard works. Program themes include the historical occupations of Spain and France, Haiti's complicated relationship with the United States and the country's own unique and independent identity as a nation.

The program will also feature the debut of *Three Quotes*, an original short-work composition by William Buthod based on three short quotes by Haitian descendant Alexander Dumas. Tickets are \$20 each and children under 12 will be admitted for free. In addition to buying tickets at the Parish Office, prospective attendees can also buy tickets in the Gathering Space the weekends of October 7-8 and 21-22.

For more information, contact St. Francis Music Director Deirdre Sweet at sfadwmusic@gmail.com.

NEXT STEPS FOR SMALL GROUPS

Thanks to the approximately 40 people who have signed up to participate in a Small Group this fall. Parishioners have signed up to join a couple sessions of the Pivotal Players Small Group, as well as the new Sunday Mass Preparation Small Group. The Psalmody Small Group will start off with a core group of participants planning to pray through ensemble singing and instrument playing, while a great discussion group has emerged for the Catholic Perspectives on the Vietnam War Small Group. We wish all those Small Groups well, as they begin this journey into a deeper faith life with their fellow parishioners.

Even though sign-up for this batch of Small Groups has closed, new Small Groups can form and start meeting at any time. If you have a book, movie or other source material that you'd like to discuss and two to three people who would be interested in forming a Small Group, then contact Small Group Coordinator Alice Welanetz at awelanetz@gmail.com or (301) 351-6706 to find out how you can launch a new group.

Some examples of Small Groups that have been suggested include:

- The Catholic Vote
- Women in the Church
- Dinner and a Movie

What might interest you?

DON'T MISS THE PARISH PICNIC ON OCTOBER 8

Don't forget to RSVP for the Parish Picnic and Feast Day on Sunday, October 8, by filling out a response form and dropping it off at the table in the Gathering Space today. The agenda for the annual event, which will kick off with Bishop Barry Knestout celebrating the 11:15 a.m. Mass, will loosely follow this schedule:

- 12:30-3:30 p.m.** Potluck lunch in the Parish Center.
- 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.:** Crafts, including pumpkin decorating, sand art and face painting.
- 3:00 p.m.** Blessing of the animals.
- 3:30 p.m.** Make your own sundae.

The crafts, blessing of the animals and sundae assembly will take place outdoors unless it's raining. Picnic organizers also plan to have two Moon bounces and a clown to entertain the children. Parish Administrative Assistant and FRED Core Team member Marie Yeast will also staff a table on St. Francis so that people can learn more about our patron saint. Hope to see you there!

MARTHA/MARY WOMEN'S GROUP

Just as Martha opened her home in service to Jesus and Mary sat at His feet to learn, our women's group opens the door to you to join us twice a month to learn and discuss how we, too, can move closer to Jesus. We meet at 7:30 p.m. every other Wednesday, in the Youth Room of the Rectory. We are currently reading the book, *Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self* by Sr. Joyce Rupp. It is a very casual women's group, and we always welcome newcomers. Our next 2 meetings: October 4 & 18. Questions: Email Linda Call at dcall94080@aol.com or Marie Yeast at Mffy313@aol.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes have started and we are looking forward to a wonderful year! Space is still available in most classes and children are welcome to start classes once registration is received and processed. Registration forms can be found in the Gathering Space, the Parish Offices, and also on the parish website. Please call the Religious Education Office if need more information: 301-258-9193. **Children must be registered before they can begin classes.**

CATECHISTS AND AIDES NEEDED

Additional volunteers are still needed in our Sunday morning and Monday afternoon Elementary programs, and Monday and Tuesday evening middle school program. Please consider whether you can serve as a catechist or classroom aide for our children and young people. We need your help to keep our class sizes small. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES NEXT WEEK, OCTOBER 8, 9 & 10

There will be no Religious Education classes on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, October 8, 9 and 10. In lieu of class, we hope that all RE families will plan to attend the Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 8.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE & PARENT MEETING: OCTOBER 11

A reminder to those who have registered for this year's Confirmation Program: There will be a meeting for students and parents on Wednesday, October 11, from 6:45-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Letters with additional information are being mailed to families with children registered for Confirmation this year. If you have any questions about this meeting or our Confirmation program, please call Susan Anderson at 301-258-9193.

REMINDERS ABOUT REGISTERING FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sacramental preparation for 1st Reconciliation, 1st 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. ***Families requesting sacraments for a child attending Catholic School are also asked to complete and return a religious education registration form as soon as possible.*** Additional details about sacramental preparation will be provided at parent meetings in October. If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

OCTOBER

1 FRED
8 Parish Picnic—No FRED
15 FRED
22 FRED
29 FRED

FRED JR.

OCTOBER

30 NET Retreat

GET SOCIAL

"FRED - SFA Youth Ministry" Page on Facebook
"St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church" page on Facebook

MARIAN CONFERENCE REGISTRATION EXTENDED THROUGH OCTOBER 5

It's not late to register for the 2017 Marian Conference to be held 12:30-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Mother of God School Gymnasium in Gaithersburg. St. Francis parishioners are welcome to attend this free conference, focused on learning more about Mary and why she is important to our Catholic faith.

The Marian Conference is a tradition of our profound devotion to Mary – the mother of all, bringing to us the message of unity among diverse people. As Pope Francis said, in the "culture of encounter," we must be open and inclusive. Mary is our pilgrim guide in our missionary journey.

The conference is sponsored by the Central Maryland Chapter of Couples for Christ, in partnership with the Mother of God Community. Conference organizers request that attendees please eat lunch before the event or bring their own lunch. Water and light refreshments will be provided. Register for the conference by navigating to <https://tinyurl.com/cfcmarian2017>.

SAVE THE DATE FOR UCR HOEDOWN ON OCTOBER 14

St. Francis of Assisi Parish will host the Upcounty Community Resources (UCR) Hoedown from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, October 14, in the Parish Center. The annual event brings adults with developmental and intellectual differences and their families to our church to have a night of fun, food and fellowship.

St. Francis parishioners – and particularly, our youth – are invited to celebrate with members of UCR to dance, have fun and demonstrate inclusion for all of God's people in our church. Hot dogs and beans will be served for dinner. Come support our community's adults with developmental and intellectual differences and their families during this fun event. For more information, contact parishioner Sylvia Jones at decaffqueen@gmail.com.

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

CRAFTING

We will be making craft items on Wednesday, October 4 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Please join us and bring your craft ideas. Projects can be taken home.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We are looking for silent auction items such as Time Shares, Sports Tickets, Theater Passes, etc. for our Fall Bazaar (November 11). Items donated are a tax write-off! For more information or to make arrangements to donate, please call the Parish Office, Donna, (301) 840-1407.

FLEA MARKET

Start saving your "stuff" for our flea market

**CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION - IN HONOR OF
OUR LADY OF FATIMA**

A candlelight procession celebrating the Fifth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima will take place on Friday, October 13 at St. John Neumann Church, Gaithersburg. Bilingual Mass at 7:30 p.m. followed by Consecration of Families, Rosary and procession. Everyone is invited. Questions call (301) 926-7014 or visit www.saintjohnneumann.org.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

Catch our Spirit

www.StJudeRockville.org

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP
SUMMER READERS!**

Combined they read 30,000 minutes!

- 1st Place - William Etta (8th Grade),
- 2nd Place - Christina Argyros (6th Grade),
- 3rd Place - Ethan Mendes (6th Grade),
- 4th Place - Jack Young (5th Grade),
- 5th Place - Kala Edwards (3rd Grade)

OKTOBERFEST

Join us on Saturday, October 14 for the Third Annual Oktoberfest. This is a wonderful opportunity for all parents, alumni and community members to meet and have a night to unwind. 6:30-10:30 p.m. (rain or shine), \$30 if you purchase through October 12 or \$35 at the door!. Traditional German food and beverages. ***Remember this is an adult only event!***

SFA HEALTH MINISTRY (continued)

VACCINATION UPDATE

- Last year, 70 people from 16 states were reported to have measles.
- Mumps is no longer as common in the United States as it once was, but cases can range annually from a couple hundred to a couple thousand. Forty two states and the District of Columbia reported 2,570 mumps cases from Jan. 1 to April 22, 2017. In 2016, 5,311 cases were reported to the CDC.
- Up to date immunization records are required for entry into public schools.
- This year's flu vaccine is currently available in many retail locations such as CVS, Giant and Safeway

SFA HEALTH MINISTRY

Encouraging healing in body, mind and spirit

The Opioid Addiction Crisis

The Baltimore Sun recently reported that drug and alcohol related deaths in Maryland climbed 37 percent for a total of 550 overdose deaths in the first three months of this year. The biggest increase were in deaths related to persons taking opioids laced with the potent additive fentanyl, another powerful narcotic. The rapid rate of addiction and consequent rising death toll has left countless families and friends devastated in the wake of loss and grief. On a national level Maryland has federal approval to use Medicaid dollars for residential substance abuse treatment. On the state level, Governor Hogan has declared opioid addiction an epidemic and state wide public health emergency in Maryland. Consequently, Opioid Intervention Teams have been formed in all of Maryland's local jurisdictions so that the state and local health and emergency agencies can coordinate their prevention and protection efforts. The current opioid crisis has affected many families right here in our area as it has nationwide. Because it is central to our mission to bring hope and healing to the suffering in our midst a compassionate response to help families become informed and better equipped to cope with this crisis will be presented in October by the Health Ministry.

**BEREAVEMENTSUPPORT
COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is an international grief support organization. TCF offers friendship and understanding to parents who come together to learn how to cope w/ the pain and grief of having a child die. We do not have professional therapists, just other parents who understand what it means to suffer the tragedy of losing a child. The Montgomery County Chapter meets monthly on each first Tuesday.

LOCATION: Potomac Presbyterian Church,
10301 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

DATE & TIME: October 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m..

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Barbara or George Beall 301-253-8740 or olddedish@starpower.net. (St. Francis parishioners, whose youngest child and daughter, died in 2004). They are available to speak with parents at any time, night or day.

LIVING WELL PROGRAM

Sponsored by Holy Cross Community Health and Montgomery County Health and Human Services. LIVING WELL is an evidenced based program developed by Stanford University .

Join this free six-week workshop to show you how LIVING WELL allows you to enjoy a healthier life despite ongoing health problems such as: heart disease, asthma, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, arthritis. Learn to successfully manage your symptoms, improve your quality of life and become your own healthcare advocate.

WHO: Anyone with a long-term health condition, their family members, friends and caregivers.

LOCATION: Stedwick Community Center, Montgomery Village, MD

DATE: Fridays: through November 3 (10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27 and 11/3))

TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

REGISTRATION: Call Holy Cross Health at 301-754-8800.