

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

November 27 - December 3

Monday, 11/27	9:00 a.m. John Monten
Tuesday, 11/28	9:00 a.m. Albert Sammartino
Wednesday, 11/29	9:00 a.m. William English 7:30 p.m. Laura Wallen
Thursday, 11/30	9:00 a.m. Jacqueline Gordon
Friday, 12/1	9:00 a.m. Barbara Lynn Beall 7:30 p.m. Michael Waters
Saturday, 12/2	9:00 a.m. John Ryan 5:00 p.m. Jacqueline Gordon
Sunday, 12/3	8:00 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 9:30 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen 11:15 a.m. Rita C. Arias 5:00 p.m. Kenneth Yeast, Sr.

Please pray for the sick....Jackie Komlo, Maureen Hurley, Ed Dudenhoeffer, Bernard Kohan, Bob Coyne, Evelyn Haddad, Carolyn Speaks, Bart Trickett, Katrina Schmidt, Bienvenido Delrosario, Jackie Roebuck King, Jeni Stepanek.. *(Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.)*

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Gemma Palini, Kathryn Blanchard, David Foggo, Father of Reverend Shaun Foggo, Josephine Griffin, Mother of Reverend Carter Griffin, Gerry Bergbigler, brother of Deby Dicello..

Readings for the Week of November 26, 2017

Sunday:	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-3, 5-6/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46
Monday:	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52-56/Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57-61/Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62-67/ Lk 21:12-19
Thursday:	Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 4:18-22
Friday:	Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75-81/Lk 21:29-33
Saturday:	Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82-87/Lk 21:34-36
Next Sunday:	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Earlier this month Cardinal Wuerl issued a pastoral letter, *The Challenge of Racism Today*. In writing the pastoral letter Cardinal Wuerl hopes that all of us in the Archdiocese of Washington might join in a renewed effort to confront what continues to be a grave evil and sin in our society, and to drive it and other intolerance out of hearts, our lives and our community.

Our faith helps us to see each other as members of God's family. Sadly, the divisive force of racism continues to be felt in our land and our society. We are called to face, confront, and overcome this evil which has wounded so many in the history of our nation and still wounds people today. It is also urgent that we address other forms of intolerance and prejudice that are likewise a denial of fundamental human dignity and clearly not a part of God's plan that we are made equal in his image and likeness as part of one human family.

In this struggle to remove the attitudes that nurture racism and the actions that express it, we must show how the differences we find in skin color, national origin or cultural diversity are enriching. Each person should be seen in his or her uniqueness as a reflection of the glory of God and a full and complete member of the human family.

Intolerance and racism will not go away without a concerted effort on the part of everyone. As members of the Church failure to undertake this concerted effort is not an option. We are called to be witnesses of the unity of God's family. In this effort we put our confidence in the Lord with the conviction that in some personal ways we can help to resolve it.

How can we help resolve it? Let me give you an example of two people who responded to the sin of racism with holiness.

Julia Greeley was born a slave in Missouri, sometimes between 1838 and 1848. As a child, a slave master, when beating Julia's mother caught Julia's right eye with his whip, causing her to lose it. Once freed, Julia eventually settled in Denver, Colorado. Despite all that she suffered, her forgiveness opened her heart to others. While supporting herself through work, she would spend her earnings helping poor families, many of whom were white. Realizing the shame people felt for being poor, Julia left her donations for them at night. She became a Catholic in 1880, and later joined the Secular Franciscan Order. When she died, hundreds of people came to pay their respects. Her limitless charity, selflessness, and devotion to Christ made Julia a model of mercy, so much so that her cause of canonization was opened in 2016. If you have experienced racist assaults, either physical or verbal, forgiveness is not easy. I recommend that you pray to Julia, who was indeed a model of mercy and charity, for healing, peace, and forgiveness. For more information about the canonization of Julia Greeley, go to juliagreeley.org.

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

The Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Having myself been found by divine mercy, what will I do during Advent to seek those in need? Are they already right there in front of me?

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., December 1st, followed by adoration until 9:00 p.m. in the Church..

COMMITMENT & FAITH DIRECT ENROLLMENT FORMS DUE BACK TO THE CHURCH ON NOVEMBER 25/26

Following Fr. John's appeal last weekend for St. Francis parishioners to prayerfully consider whether they can increase their offertory contributions in 2018, all are asked to return their Commitment Forms or Faith Direct Enrollment Forms to church this weekend. The form may either be placed in the collection basket, returned to the Information Desk or brought to the Parish Office. Thank you for praying over your blessings and considering whether you can help further support St. Francis of Assisi Parish by raising your financial commitment to the church.

For more information, contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Bernard Quinn was born in 1888. Ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Brooklyn, Fr. Quinn became the pastor of St. Peter Claver Church in 1922. In 1928, he founded an orphanage for homeless black children. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) twice burned down the orphanage. Msgr. Quinn defied the KKK and rebuilt it each time. In a letter to his parishioners, he wrote, "I love you, I am proud of every one of you, and I would willingly shed the last drop of my life's blood for the least among you." A tireless advocate for the equality of all people, Msgr. Quinn's cause for canonization was opened in 2008. Standing up to racism is hard. In moments of fear, I suggest that we pray to Msgr. Quinn and ask for the courage to stand up to hate in big and small ways. For more information about the cause of canonization of Msgr. Bernard Quinn, go to fatherquinn.org.

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon

SIGN-UPS FOR VARIOUS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES STILL SOUGHT IN THE GATHERING SPACE

St. Francis parishioners and their families are encouraged to sign up for several activities taking place during the Advent and Christmas season for which we need help.

- **Pick up a name from the Spirit Tree in the Gathering Space.** The annual activity with Assumption Parish in Washington DC allows St. Francis parishioners to choose names and gift requests of parishioners in that parish. St. Francis parishioners then buy the suggested gift, label it with the gift tag on the ornament and take it to the Gathering Space. All gifts are due back to the Gathering Space on Sunday, December 10. Volunteers are needed at the Spirit Giving Tree ministry table at all Masses to help parishioners choose ornaments and help log in which ornaments are taken. For more information, please contact Ministry Coordinator Bobbi McLaughlin at bobbienmcl@comcast.net.
- **Sign up to light the Advent Wreath.** Individuals, couples and families are invited to sign up to light the Advent Wreath in the church on one of the Sundays of Advent. Sign-up sheets are available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. Advent begins the weekend of December 2 and 3.
- **Buy a gift card from the Alternative Christmas Tree Catalog.** Starting December 2, honor your friends and loved ones by purchasing a service or good that will be used by beneficiaries helped by area charities. The gift cards will be sold after all Masses the weekends of December 2/3 and 16/17. Please bring your checkbook and support your favorite charities.

For more information, please contact ministry coordinators Patti O'Connor, leafs20879@aol.com or Doris Chung, dichung14@gmail.com.

RESPECT FOR LIFE - CHANGE FOR LIFE BABY BOTTLES ARE DUE BACK

Did you bring a baby bottle home in October to collect "change for life," and help the needy mothers and babies served by the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center? Baby bottles are **due back today**. Please place your bottle on the Respect for Life table in the gathering space or drop it off at the Parish Office. If you forgot your bottle, please return it next time you're at church. (It's okay to return your baby bottle even if it is not "full" of change or bills.) Thank you.

November 26, 2017

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Lamb of God Prayer Meeting will not be held on Tuesday, November 28. For details, please call Louise, (301) 977-5217.

POOR BOX DONATION – The donations for next week-end will go to *Gaithersburg Help*. *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's 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.



DECEMBER 2017 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, December 6 Noon at Red Hot & Blue, 16811 Crabbs Branch Way, Gaithersburg MD 20855. If are planning to attend, please contact Mary Lou Habib and she will save a seat for you, (301) 417-0243.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE

On Friday, December 1, the Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine, in conjunction with the Chorus and Symphony Orchestra of The Catholic University of America, will present their Annual Christmas Concert for Charity. This festive concert of beautiful Christmas music is free and open to the public. The Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and seats fill up quickly. No tickets or reservations are required; arrive early for seating. The Basilica is located at 400 Michigan Ave., NE, offers ample free parking, and is walking distance from the Brookland-CUA Station on Metro's Red Line. For more information please visit www.nationalshrine.org or call 202-526-8300.

2017 HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Congratulations to our Raffle Winners

First Prize	Jane Agricola Veronica Pease
Second Prize	Pat Shevock
Third Prize	Shari Cornely

*Congratulations to the winners!
Thank you all for participating*

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE STARTS THIS WEEK- END UNTIL THE LAST TREE IS SOLD

Ready to break out the hand warmers, rev up the chainsaws and shake pine needles off your clothes? St. Francis' annual Christmas Tree Sale opens to the public this weekend!

The Christmas Tree Sale goes from Saturday, November 25, through Sunday, December 17, or whenever the last tree is sold. The sale will feature some 400 Frasier Firs, ranging in size from 3' tabletops with stands to 10' trees. Patrons can also shop for 75' white pine roping and freshly decorated Christmas wreaths.

Volunteers are still needed to help sell trees during all hours of operation, which will be from 3-9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Men and women are encouraged to sign up in the Gathering Space for shifts from 3-6 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m.-noon, 12-3 p.m., 3-6 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. on weekends. School-aged children are also invited to earn Student Service Learning Hours doing tasks, such as tagging trees, cleaning the lot, emptying trash cans and re-staking trees. All volunteer tips received will go a family in need identified by Fr. John.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact Christmas Tree Sale Ministry Coordinator Brian Pettit at (240) 372-1662 or BrianPettit@PettitCompanies.com.

THANK YOU FOR THE BEDDING!

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society thank the generous St. Francis parishioners who donated two twin beds, a day bed, two cots, and sheets, blankets and comforters in response to our recent bulletin request. The beds and bedding will help the St. Vincent de Paul's Society to respond to several families in need, since parishioners donated more than was requested. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

For more information on the St. Vincent de Paul Society, contact Social Concerns Minister Anthony Bosnick abosnick@sfadw.org.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE THANK YOU

Thank you to all the St. Francis parishioners who donated to the Thanksgiving food drive held the weekend of November 4-5 at the parish. Generous parishioners donated 10 boxes of food, which were added to those gathered by St. Patrick Church and other congregations in our area. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and is an ongoing response to Pope Francis's request that we reach out to the needy with real actions to address the needs of the poor. We remember the Lord's words, "When I was hungry, you gave me to eat" (Matthew 25:35).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

CHRISTMAS STOCKING HELP LINE

Religious Education families are invited to participate in the *Christmas Stocking Help Line*, an Advent project to benefit children and families in need. Items needed will be listed on “stockings” hung in the Parish Center during RE class times beginning November 19. Families may choose to take one or more stockings, purchase the items listed, and return them to RE classes by December 12. Letters with more information about this project will be given to students in RE classes.

RE CLASS SCHEDULE & THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

There are no Religious Education classes today, Sunday, November 26. Classes resume on a normal schedule this week, November 27 and 28.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING

A reminder to families of children preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation this year: the next First Reconciliation Parent Meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 29 or Thursday, November 30 from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Parish Center. Parents are asked to attend one of these meetings. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR RE STUDENTS

The students in grades 3 - 8 will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their Religious Education classes in Advent. Catechists will review the Sacrament of Penance in advance, and we encourage parents to talk with their children about the Sacrament as well. Please note the date for your child's session and grade as shown below:

Sunday 9:20 Session:

Grade 5 - Sunday, Dec. 3
Grade 3 - Sunday, Dec. 10
Grade 4 - Sunday, Dec. 17

Monday 4:30 Session:

Grades 3, 4 and 5 - Mon., Dec. 4

Monday 6:45 Session:

Grades 6, 7 & 8 - Monday, Dec. 11
(participating in the Parish Penance Service starting at 7:00 pm)

Tuesday 6:45 Session:

Grades 6, 7 & 8 - Tuesday, Dec. 12

CATECHISTS AND AIDES NEEDED

Additional volunteers are still needed in our Sunday morning and Monday 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, and if schools are dismissed early, Religious Education classes, including FRED, are also cancelled. This applies to Sunday classes as well if Montgomery County Public Schools announces cancellation of weekend school activities. Cancellation announcements will be recorded on the Religious Education Office phone (301-258-9193) and posted on the St. Francis Parish Facebook page (“St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church”) and website. Whenever in doubt, please use your own judgment about local weather and driving conditions, and err on the side of safety when making decisions about bringing your child to class.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY *Upcoming Events*

FRED

NOVEMBER

26 NO FRED — *Happy Thanksgiving!*

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR CHEESECAKE FOR CHRISTMAS CHEESECAKE FUNDRAISER

Please support St. Francis Youth Ministry by ordering cheesecakes for Christmas. This fundraiser runs from now until December 1st. Sweetz Cheesecake in Gaithersburg will be providing the cheesecakes. Order forms can be picked up in the office or on the Youth Table in the Gathering Space. You can also e-mail Fr. Jack @ jberard@sfadw.org.

NEW POSTCARDS TO HELP PROMOTE ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECENTLY MOVED TO THE AREA

The St. Francis of Assisi Neighbor-to-Neighbor Team has mailed out the first batch of newly designed postcards to be sent to people who have moved into the Derwood and Gaithersburg area over the past year. The postcards, which promote Advent and Christmas events, activities and liturgies at St. Francis, are designed to promote our parish as a potential faith home for people who are new to the area. A total of 1,800 postcards will be sent out based on lists maintained by the Paulist service, and because of the volume of postcards sent, some St. Francis parishioners who have recently joined the parish may receive them, too.

St. Francis parishioners are welcome to pick up a few postcards at the Information Desk and give them to neighbors who have either moved into the area recently or who may be looking for a church home. The Neighbor-to-Neighbor Team is also developing other materials to be sent out as soon as a new neighbor moves in – so, more to come.

The postcards and other peripherals are partially supported by an evangelization grant St. Francis of Assisi Parish received from the Archdiocese of Washington. For more information about the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Team or if you would like to join the team, contact Deacon Dan Finn at deacondanfinn@gmail.com.

MOVING/CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407, of any changes in address, phone number or e-mail. *Thank you.*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH FEATURED ON BLOG OF NATIONAL BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

The Justice, Peace and Human Development Department of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has posted an article, "Advocating and educating on the federal budget in a parish" on their blog *To Go Forth*. The article can be found at <https://togoforth.org> and is listed on the side of the blog.

The post describes the effort at St. Francis on the weekend of July 1-2, when the Pax Christi Ministry collected 20 pages of signatures to send to the bishops supporting their letter to Congress, published May 19, 2017, urging a budget promoting the common good.

Thank you to all who participated in this effort. Copies of the blog post and the letter from the bishops can be found on the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. For more information, please contact Pax Christi Ministry member Marie Barry at mariebarrydc@aol.com.

CHRISTMAS DANCE PARTY FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Persons with developmental disabilities and their families and friends are invited to a Christmas Dance Party on Saturday, December 2, 7:00-10:00 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist School Gym, 10201 Woodland Drive, Silver Spring MD. People of all ages and faiths are invited to this holiday celebration. \$5 per person. For additional information call Mari Anne Hamilton (301) 656-3463 or Peg Kolm, (301) 562-9573.

A RETREAT FOR PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE AWAY FROM THE CHURCH

The Archdiocesan Office for Family Life is hosting a half-day retreat, "Gather Together All Your Children Scattered Throughout the World," for parents whose children are away from the Church. This hope-filled retreat on Saturday, December 2, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., will include inspiring talks from a pastor, a young adult who has returned to the Church, and parents who have started prayer groups. There will be Mass, the opportunity for Confession, and hearts lifted in song before the Lord. The retreat is free, with lunch, refreshments, and resources provided, and there will be Spanish translation. It will be held at the St. John Paul II National Shrine (3900 Harewood Rd. Washington DC 20017). To RSVP, please call 301-853-5334 or email flm@adw.org.

SEARCHING FOR THE LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is searching for the longest married couple. For the eighth year in a row the annual search for the Longest Married Couple (LMC) in the United States has begun. The project runs from October 10, 2017 to January 10, 2018 with the national winners named in February 2018. One national winner and winners from each of the 50 states are recognized each year. This project is held to honor the commitment of married couples and to give hope and inspiration to younger couples that they too can have long and lasting marriages. Nominations must be received by January 10th, 2018. To nominate a couple you know, please visit us at <http://wwme.org> or contact us directly at [321-804-2310](tel:321-804-2310).

ARE YOU AFFECTED BY SOMEONE ELSE'S ADDICTION?

NAR-ANON offers hope. Nar-Anon Family Groups are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. As a twelve step program, we offer help by sharing our experience, strength, and hope. A meeting is held on Wednesday evenings 7:00 p.m., 15886B. Gaither Drive, Gaithersburg. For additional information contact Alison, (301) 963-6640 or visit the website nar-anon.org.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School
www.StJudeRockville.org
<http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd>

ARCHDIOCESE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The ADW Tuition Assistance Program is available for students who are applying to or currently enrolled in Catholic Schools. All tuition assistance obtained through the archdiocese is based on financial need. Families must apply each year to receive assistance and financial need must be demonstrated each year to qualify. The 2018-2019 ADW Tuition Assistance Program is online at <http://www.adw.org/tuition-assistance/>. Application deadline is December 1, 2017. Other Scholarship opportunities are also available at the link.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA – DEC 9TH

Join us in the Thaddeus Room for the Holiday Shoppe that will be available for kids to buy presents for family and friends. Games, crafts, and gift wrapping will also be available. Please e-mail Sandra Cortez at scortez1108@gmail.com for more information about this event.

LUAU GALA – MARCH 10, 2018

S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)

Through the generosity of supporters like you, SJRCS upgraded classrooms and the computer lab with leading edge equipment and technology including iPads, LCD projectors, and interactive white boards.

It's time to expand on these improvements. Will you help?

The money raised at this year's gala will allow us to convert our current science lab into a **state-of-the-art STEM lab**, providing our students with the tools and programs needed for more hands-on discovery experiences. In the upgraded setting and with new technological integration, the students will apply science concepts they are learning in the classroom and have more opportunities to build, create, design, investigate and grow.

Our Goal

Your contribution will help our children succeed in all facets of STEM. Please consider joining us and helping us reach our goal of raising \$75,000 to upgrade the science lab. Thank you!

Check out the Gala website <https://sosj.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/Luau2018/tabid/915846/Default.aspx> for more details about the event and to register. From the St. Jude website, navigate to **Giving > Luau 2018**. Questions or want to volunteer? Contact Kim Lora at kiml119@msn.com.