

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

### Mass Intentions

**April 24 - April 30**

<b>Monday, 4/24</b>	9:00 a.m. Henry Quemuel
<b>Tuesday, 4/25</b>	9:00 a.m. Mauricio Baclit
<b>Wednesday, 4/26</b>	9:00 a.m. Joe Perkins 7:30 p.m. Scott Wayne Vaszil
<b>Thursday, 4/27</b>	9:00 a.m. Lacava & Jamgochian Families
<b>Friday, 4/28</b>	9:00 a.m. Gladys Juhans Browner
<b>Saturday, 4/29</b>	9:00 a.m. Rosita Saquilayan 5:00 p.m. John & Anne Sullivan (L)
<b>Sunday, 4/30</b>	8:00 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 9:30 a.m. Joseph Spiekermann 11:15 a.m. Raymond McGrady 1:00 p.m. Pamela Belmes 5:00 p.m. Alfredo Labajo

***Please pray for the sick....***Maureen Ferraro, Marta Monzon, Patrice Datovech, Carla Cosman, David O'Connor, Carolyn Maltz, Jackie Roebuck King, Bob Coyne, Jeni Stepanek, Robert Dax. *(Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.)*

#### ***Readings for the Week of April 23, 2017***

<b>Sunday:</b>	Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31
<b>Monday:</b>	Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-9/Jn 3:1-8
<b>Tuesday:</b>	1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/ Mk 16:15-20
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-9/Jn 3:16-21
<b>Thursday:</b>	Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20/Jn 3:31-36
<b>Friday:</b>	Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
<b>Saturday:</b>	Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

### *Scripture Corner*

#### JESUS AND THOMAS

On the evening of Easter Sunday Jesus appeared in the midst of his disciples. He says to them, "Peace be with you." He showed them his hands and his side. Our Lord then breathed on them and said. "Receive the Holy Spirit Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20:23)

Thomas was not present and insisted, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail-marks, I will not believe." (John 20:25) The following Sunday Thomas was present; the doors again were locked. Our Lord appears and encourages Thomas to check his side and hands and "do not be unbelieving, but believe. (John 20:27) Relatively few Christians will see the resurrected Christ, but all must believe in him to be saved,

The response of Thomas is truly amazing! 'MY Lord and my God.' (John 20:28) It is the clearest expression of our Lord's divinity in the New Testament. These same two titles are applied to God in Psalm 35:23: "Awake, be vigilant in my defense, in my cause, my God and my Lord."

Twice Christ uses the greeting, "Peace be with you." (John 20:21 and 26) "Peace is an important word in the early Church. It means the sum total of the messianic blessings, especially Jesus himself, our Messiah. Jesus also says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (John 20:29)

Jesus has this important greeting, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20:22-23) The spiritual life of Christ's disciples will be his gift to them. They will be able to forgive sins in the sacrament of penance.

The Church celebrates the Sunday of Divine Mercy on this second Sunday of Easter. The loving treatment of Thomas by Christ is a great example of God's mercy.

~ Fr. Ralph

## Second Sunday of Easter

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

To whom or to what situation this week can I bring Jesus' healing gift of *shalom* (peace) by offering my own forgiveness and reconciliation?



### MOTHER'S DAY MASS CARDS

Cards will be available next weekend in the Gathering Space. This is a wonderful way to remember your Mother, Mother-in-law, Grandmother, Aunt or anyone special at all the Masses on Mother's Day. Please return your spiritual bouquet envelope to the parish office on or before Wednesday, May 10.

### REBUILDING TOGETHER: SFA GROUNDS

Volunteers Needed: On Saturday, April 29, while the Rebuilding Together crew is working on the house in Silver Spring, we hope to have other volunteers work several hours at the parish office/rectory. Can you help with this: painting inside, cleaning the grounds, planting a perennial garden in front of the rectory. If you can help, sign up in the Gathering Space or contact Pat O'Connor, [pjoconnor826@gmail.com](mailto:pjoconnor826@gmail.com) or Tony Bosnick, (301) 840-1407, Ext. 11 or [abosnick@sfiadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfiadw.org). It was lots of fun last year. Lunch provided!

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

The school should provide a moral climate where excellent education in a faith-based situation benefits each student. The lessons learned about faith and love in these institutions help graduates build a better world.

Similarly, those who agree to assist the Church in her mission and ministries represent the public face of the Church. Whether Catholic or non-Catholic, they should respect our Catholic identity and avoid behavior that contradicts the very mission of the Catholic institution.

In recent legislation in various parts of our nation, efforts are being made to force the Church to accept our teaching faculties, staff, and charitable services personnel those who live in a way that publicly repudiates the teaching of the Church. The Church does not require others to believe or live by her teaching. But we do ask for and insist on the freedom to present and demonstrate publically our faith in our Catholic schools and institutions.

Pope Francis writes eloquently of the act of assent that is required of those who want to belong to the Catholic Church or who wish seek to share in her mission and work. His words were addressed specifically to teachers but are applicable to all the areas of Church ministry. "We need to remember that all religious teaching ultimately has to be reflected in the teacher's way of life, which awakens the assent of the heart by its nearness, love and witness" (*Evangelii gaudium*, 45).

Until next week,

**Fr. John  
Pastor**

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Several weeks ago now I began what will be a series of columns on *Being Catholic Today: Catholic Identity in an Age of Challenge*, a Pastoral Letter that Cardinal Wuerl issued on May 24, 2015. The Cardinal identified five key themes of being a Catholic today. I want to devote this column to the third theme: Participation in the Mission.

Within a Christianity that spans the globe and time, we know that there are many different expressions of a Christian way of life even among those who are not in full communion with the Church. People of good will, though not baptized, can still uphold a Catholic vision, and non-Catholics may participate in the mission of the Church. Still, being identified as authentically Christian or representing the public face of the Church requires essential elements to ensure that those we meet have an encounter with Jesus. Catholic identity is integral to how we live.

Christian belief is grounded in an authentic humanism of truth in love, which sees every human being as possessing inherent dignity and valuable worth. It is neither discriminatory nor an undue imposition on the freedom of others to promote Christian faith and live by it. There is a difference between one's identity, which we are called to respect, and one's actions, which we can very well find offensive, even immoral. There are some things that the Church simply will not do, and it is not discriminatory to say, "We do not do that." We cannot be expected to embrace error and give up our identity which inspired us to form ministries of teaching, healing, and charity in the first place. For those in the Church, as well as those who agree to assist in her ministries, everyone is held to the same standard. We are all at the service of the mission of the Church, and no one can claim a right simultaneously to work for the Church and work against her belief. Those who assist in the ministry of Catholic parishes and institutions also share in the obligation to help them achieve their goals and purpose.

For members of the Church it would be important that the truth and love of the Lord should shine in us and through us. Our faith must be an active and living faith. If one becomes a member of the Church, he or she is expected to believe what the Church believes and attempt to live it out as best he or she can, including participating in the Mass and other sacraments, providing a good example and witness to others, and helping others to know Christ.

When we come to the institutions of the Church—its parishes, schools, universities, charitable organizations—these too must reflect a Catholic identity with visible communion to the Church both universal and local, and fidelity to Catholic teaching. As Pope Francis has implored, each of these institutions and those involved in their operations must be oriented toward the Church (*Evangelii gaudium*, 27). The purpose of these entities—and the task of those who work for them—is to lead people to Jesus Christ.

In whatever area endeavor, the Catholic identity of the effort should be found, for example, in a mission statement. And the message it voices should exhibit a vision of life that is rooted in Christ, articulated in the Gospel and manifested in his church. Catholic institutions should be distinguishable from secular ones. When he visits Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Washington, Cardinal Wuerl often reminds the students that they should expect their school, since it is Catholic, to be different.

*Continued in the column to the left.....*

**April 23, 2017**

**LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING** Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, April 25, 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 Olney 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](mailto: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.

**ROSARY CENACLE OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE** Cenacle of Our Lady, Queen of Peace to pray for priests and vocations, 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the St. Clare's Chapel (Rectory) every Sunday. Please join us.

### **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.

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

### **FINAL REMINDER**

**ARE YOU CELEBRATING A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?** On Sunday, June 25, at 2:00 p.m. Cardinal Donald Wuerl will preside at the annual Mass honoring married couples celebrating **25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50** and **50+** years of marriage. The Jubilarian Mass will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Personalized scrolls signed by Cardinal Wuerl will be distributed to the couples following the ceremony, or mailed should they be unable to attend. If you are interested in attending or receiving a scroll, please call the Parish Office before **Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**.

### **MCCH HONORS PARISHIONER, DICK PETTIT**

Congratulations to St. Francis parishioner Dick Pettit who is being honored by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless with the 2017 Distinguished Service Award on Saturday May 4 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. When you see him, thank Dick for his selfless service to help the homeless in Montgomery County. Program begins at 6:00 p.m. For information about tickets, call MCCH at 301-917-6644 or email: [dezrin@mcch.net](mailto:dezrin@mcch.net).

### **BUILD UP OUR CHURCH**

#### ***Volunteers Still Sought to Help Beautify the St. Francis Office/Rectory***

Can you paint, plant flowers or handle a chainsaw? If so, then consider taking part in the St. Francis-based portion of Rebuilding Together on Saturday, April 29. While some St. Francis parishioners are working on a house in Silver Spring as part of the community-based service project, other volunteers are needed to help spruce up the office and Rectory. If you can help, sign up in the Gathering Space after all Masses this weekend. Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Pat O'Connor at [pjoccon-nor826@gmail.com](mailto:pjoccon-nor826@gmail.com) or St. Francis Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

#### ***Trio Illumino to Play Haiti Benefit Concert on May 6 in the Sanctuary***

In just two weeks, Trio Illumino will be returning to St. Francis at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, May 6, to perform eclectic works in a concert benefiting the Haiti Mission. Tickets are \$20 each and on sale in the Gathering Space on Sunday, April 23; Saturday, April 29, and Sunday, April 30. Don't miss this concert, bringing together Neil Brown on trumpet, Virginia Lum on piano and Stephen Czarkowski on cello. For more information, contact St. Francis Director of Music Deirdre Sweet at [sfadwmusic@gmail.com](mailto:sfadwmusic@gmail.com).

### **FREE DINNER & DISCUSSION FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

Are you a young adult ages 18-30s? Pope Francis and our parish wants to hear from you! In preparation for an international gathering of Bishops (Synod) next year, Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment. Young adults are invited to join Fr. John for dinner and discussion at the parish on May 9th. Feel free to bring friends as we want to hear from both Catholics and nonCatholics! To RSVP for dinner please email [SFAYouth@sfadw.org](mailto:SFAYouth@sfadw.org). Can't make the dinner? Share your opinion online at [www.SharewithFrancis.org](http://www.SharewithFrancis.org).

### **ONLINE SURVEY TO SHARE WITH POPE FRANCIS!**

Pope Francis wants to hear from you! In preparation for an international gathering of Bishops (Synod) next year, Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment. People of all ages, Catholics and non-Catholics, are invited to give their feedback on how the Church can engage and support youth and young adults in making major life decisions. To participate in the survey visit [www.SharewithFrancis.org](http://www.SharewithFrancis.org)

### **ANNUAL YARD SALE**

**Saturday, May 13  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon**

Please start saving your "stuff". See today's bulletin insert for drop off dates and times. Volunteer sign-ups will start next weekend, April 29/30.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Please make note of the schedule for the remaining Religious Education classes for this school year:

April 23, 24 and 25	RE Classes
April 30, May 1 and 2	RE Classes
May 7, 8 and 9	Last RE Classes (except for Confirmation classes)

### CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers monthly catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our next session is today, Sunday, April 23 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the St. Clare Room. 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.

### UPCOMING SACRAMENTS AT ST. FRANCIS

Please pray for the children and young people of our parish who are preparing to receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation this Spring. First Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday, April 29 at 1:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

We are now accepting registration for next year's Religious Education Program! Our program offerings for children and youth include:

- Pre-school and Kindergarten classes on Sunday mornings, 11:10-12:15 p.m. (*Preschool classes are for children age 3 or 4 by September 1*)
- Grade 1-5 classes offered at two session times:  
*Sunday mornings, 9:20-10:35 a.m.*  
*Monday afternoons, 4:45-6:00 p.m.*
- Grade 6, 7, and 8 classes offered at two session times:  
*Monday evenings, 6:45-8:00 p.m.*  
*Tuesday evenings, 6:45-8:00 p.m.*
- Grades 9-12 (FRED) meet Sunday evenings 6:00-8:00 p.m. (following the 5:00 p.m. Youth Mass)

Since the curriculum of the Religious Education Program is designed to be taught in sequence and each year builds on the content presented in previous years, families should plan for their children to participate in Religious Education classes each year.

Registration forms were mailed home to families with children currently attending RE classes. For those new to our program, and if additional forms are needed, blank forms will be available on the parish web site ([www.sfadw.org](http://www.sfadw.org)), in the Gathering Space of the Church, and in the Parish Offices. Completed forms can be returned to RE classes this week, sent in by mail, or dropped off in person at the Rectory Office (Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm). Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please complete and return the registration forms as soon as possible!

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

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

### ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

#### *Upcoming Events*

#### **FRED**

#### **APRIL - High School**

23	FRED Lost Ark
29/30	Krispy Kreme Presale
30	FRED Dwelling Place

#### **MAY - High School**

5-7	FRED Spring Retreat
7	No FRED
13/14	Work Camp Bake Sale
14	FRED Eternal Crown
18	Service @ Our Lord's Table
19	Confirmation
21	FRED Aloha Party
26	FRED Lockout

July 9-14 Encounter Work Camp

#### **FRED JR.**

#### **APRIL - Middle School**

29/30	Work Camp Krispy Kreme Presale
-------	--------------------------------

#### **MAY - Middle School**

13/14	Work Camp Bake Sale
18	Service @ Our Lord's Table
19	Confirmation
21	FRED Aloha Party - 8th grade welcome!
26	FRED Lockout - 8th grade invited!

July 9-14 Encounter Work Camp - open to rising 9th through 12th grade

### **GET SOCIAL**

\*Instagram "SFASusie"

"FRED - SFA Youth Ministry" Page on Facebook

"St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church" page on Facebook

Twitter @SusanFREDLea

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (continued)**

#### **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.



**THANK YOU!** Our community changed lives this Lent, and CRS Rice Bowl wants to say thank you! If you haven't already done so, please turn in your CRS Rice Bowl to the church Gathering Space or Parish Office this week.



Register NOW for Vacation Bible Camp 2017 –  
Maker Fun Factory VBS: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.

**Who:** Children ages 4 by June 26, 2017 to those who completed the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in June 2017

**Where:** St. Francis of Assisi Church Parish Center

**When:** June 26-30 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

**Cost:** \$40 per child

**How:** Complete the registration form found in the Gathering Space with a check (or pay though Faith Direct, contact main office 301-840-1407 for details) and return it to the Rectory Office, Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. or mail it to:

St. Francis of Assisi Church  
6701 Muncaster Mill Road  
Derwood, MD 20855  
Attn: Religious Education Office-VBC

### ***SFA HEALTH MINISTRY (continued)***

#### **THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE RESOURCE FAIR**

For young people with disabilities from age 14 and up and their families, hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Transition Work Group of Montgomery County, offering a wealth of information about post-high school employment, social and recreational programs from over 35 local organizations.

**WHEN:** April 30, 2017 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington  
Abraham S. & Minnie Kay Conference Center  
6101 Executive Blvd., North Bethesda, MD

**REGISTRATION:** [SHALOMDC.ORG/RESOURCEFAIR](http://SHALOMDC.ORG/RESOURCEFAIR)

**COST:** FREE, on-site parking available

#### **BACK TO HEALTH EVENT**

Is back or neck pain impacting your quality of life? Don't miss this opportunity to connect with health professionals and learn how to prevent or treat common back issues, so you can enjoy the freedom of movement again. Enjoy a day of:

- Chair exercise and physical therapy demonstrations
- Bone density and balance screenings
- Community exhibitors including pain management, podiatry and orthopedics
- Refreshments

**WHEN** Saturday, April 29, 2017 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**WHERE** Holy Cross Germantown Hospital, 19801 Observation Drive, Germantown, MD 20817

**COST** FREE and free parking.

Registration is required. Register at [HolyCrossHealth.org/HCGHspine](http://HolyCrossHealth.org/HCGHspine) or call 301-754-8800.

### **SFA HEALTH MINISTRY**

*Encouraging health and wellbeing of body, mind and soul*

**CELEBRATING THE LORD'S RESURRECTION & PLANNING FOR YOUR OWN - *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*** (John 14:27).

These familiar words of Christ resonate with us at Easter. We understand that by the glorious Resurrection of Our Lord death and sin are conquered and our destiny of eternal life is possible. This year Easter Sunday fittingly coincided with National Healthcare Decisions Day and begs this question, "Are we prepared to "go in peace"? Can we say to our loved ones, "Let not your hearts be troubled?" Perhaps the answers lie in first asking these questions,

- When is the right time to think about the healthcare decisions (advance directives) you would make for yourself in times of serious illness or at the end of life?
- When is the right time to appoint someone (healthcare agent) to carry out your choices if you could not speak for yourself?

A: when you are in good health or B: when you are in a coma.

The answer is of course A. The problem? We are reluctant to even think or talk about the reality of our own mortality or the loss of loved ones, much less make decisions about it. For your peace of mind and spirit...and for your family's, the Catholic Bishops of Maryland address these concerns in their pastoral letter, Comfort and Consolation, Care of the Sick and Dying.

Relying on the underlying moral principles and wisdom of Church teaching, this letter outlines a process of discernment to guide our medical decision-making in times of illness and at the end of life. By providing a clear and concise understanding of church teaching it encourages families to have conversations and make choices in advance of critical illness or family crisis. The supplement publication, Healthcare Directives, A Catholic Perspective, includes both the Catholic Declaration for Health Care Decision Making and the Appointment of My Health Care Agent documents. Both documents have been designed to meet Maryland law and to give you an opportunity to express your wishes in a form that reflects Church teaching. Both publications, Comfort and Consolation, Care of the Sick and Dying and Healthcare Directives, A Catholic Perspective can be obtained from the SFA rectory office and are available at [www.mdcathcon.org](http://www.mdcathcon.org). Additionally, the SFA pastoral staff and Betty Baklarz, RN and faith community nurse are available for consultation

Whether death comes unexpectedly or at the end of a long and full life, it is important for us to consider not only the spiritual dimension of death, but to think in a very practical way about how we would want the circumstances of our death to reflect our deepest beliefs. We know that Jesus is coming for each of us at the hour of His choosing. Especially, during this Easter Season we are reminded that we wait and prepare for His arrival, not in fear, but full of expectant hope.

*Continued in the column to the left.....*