

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

### Mass Intentions

**August 21 - August 27**

<b>Monday, 8/21</b>	9:00 a.m. Dorothy Grondalski
<b>Tuesday, 8/22</b>	9:00 a.m. Joe Landgraf
<b>Wednesday, 8/23</b>	9:00 a.m. Zachary Misleh
	7:30 p.m. Mary Ellen Sawyer
<b>Thursday, 8/24</b>	9:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen
<b>Friday, 8/25</b>	9:00 a.m. Fred Boos
<b>Saturday, 8/26</b>	9:00 a.m. Anastacia Meneses
	5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
<b>Sunday, 8/27</b>	8:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen
	9:30 a.m. Fr. Donald P. Worch
	11:15 a.m. Melba & Charles Abbate
	5:00 p.m. Frank Chite

#### + In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Reverend R. Francis Martin, Retired Priest of the Archdiocese of Washington.

*Please pray for the sick...* Tom Krafchik, Esther Torres, 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 August 20, 2017*

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28
<b>Monday:</b>	Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44/Mt 19:16-22
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-14/Mt 19:23-30
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-7/Mt 20:1-16
<b>Thursday:</b>	Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
<b>Friday:</b>	Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-10/Mt 22:34-40
<b>Saturday:</b>	Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-5/Mt 23:1-12
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

### *Scripture Corner*

#### JESUS' MISSION

Jesus makes clear in today's Gospel (Matthew 15:21-28) that he has a special mission to the Jewish people. "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matthew 15:24) But Christ also reaches out in that same Gospel to the Canaanite woman, a Gentile. Whereas our Lord is committed to the people of Israel, he never abandons any people of faith, such as the woman in today's Gospel.

When Jesus points out to her that it is not right to share the food of the children with dogs, she responds quickly and cleverly, "Even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." (Matthew 15:27) With a smile, I believe, Jesus praised her, "O woman, great is your faith." (Matthew 15:28) Our Lord then healed the woman's daughter.

In our first reading today (Isaiah 65:1, 6-7) the prophet points out that already in the Old Testament there was a great concern of Yahweh for prayer and faith. "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." (Isaiah 26:7) Also, in the Hebrew scriptures God says about the Gentile city of Nineveh, "Should I not be concerned over the great city of Nineveh, I which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons, who cannot know their right hand from their left, not to mention all the animals." (Jonah 4:11)

As the time of Jesus' public ministry is coming to an end, he is very clear that his church must reach out to all! Matthew, for example, has Christ saying to his followers, "Make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19) Mark has this word for all Christians, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

In the early church Peter and Paul divided the work, but they made sure that their joint mission was universal. Saint Paul writes, "the one who worked in Peter for an apostolate to the circumcised worked also in me for the Gentiles." (Galatians 2:8)

**Fr. Ralph**

## The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*How patient is my prayer, how undaunted my confidence in Jesus' personal love for me? How do I treat those who pester me for a share of my time, attention, love?*

## RCIA

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Is For:

- those desiring to become Catholic
- Catholics seeking Confirmation
- Non-Catholics wanting information about the Catholic faith

In September, the RCIA program for those interested in becoming Catholics or completing their Sacraments of Initiation will begin. All of us are called to be looking for people who could be open to receiving an invitation. Many have said, "I would have done it much sooner, but no one ever invited me." If someone you know is receptive, please call or e-mail Terry Davis (301-774-0178, e-mail [davistj23@gmail.com](mailto:davistj23@gmail.com)) or Sara Dean (301-977-6373, e-mail [sgdean129@gmail.com](mailto:sgdean129@gmail.com)) with their name, address, and phone number.

There will also be an Information Night on Wednesday, August 30th at 7:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space for those who would like additional information. Please sign-up at the Information Desk if you would like to attend.

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

**Family (continued):** Archbishop Gomez cites the example of the servants of God Eugenio Balmori Martinez and Marina Francisca Cinta Sarrelangue from Veracruz, Mexico. In their letters and poems to each other they expressed a beautiful vision of family, "Our home will be a chapel of love, where no other ideal will reign other than to thank God and to love each other very much." There is beauty like this to be found everywhere in our families, our parishes, in the joy of our children. We need to proclaim this to our culture.

At the end of his address, Archbishop Gomez quotes the words that Our Lady of Guadalupe spoke to St. Juan Diego:

*"Do not let your heart be disturbed. Do not fear. ... Am I, your Mother, not here? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Are you not in the folds of my arms? What more do you need?"*

We need to lay our fears and hopes at the feet of the Virgin. We need to contemplate these times in which we live under the gaze of her loving eyes. We need to go always forward with confidence because we go with God and with his Mother.

Until next week,  
**Fr. John**

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Today I conclude my reporting of an address to the Napa Institute that Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles gave earlier this year. Archbishop Gomez encouraged his audience to recognize the great mission to America that was inspired by Our Lady of Guadalupe and to realize that mission was still continuing. To this purpose Archbishop presented a spiritual interpretation of the Guadalupe story in light of the present situation in our country. He sees the story of Guadalupe points to five themes: **vocation, education, life, culture, and family**. He believes that if we look at these themes, they give us a strategy for Christian living and carrying out the Church's mission in this post-Christian culture. Last week we look at the themes of vocation, education, and life. Now we are going to look at the themes of culture and family.

**Culture:** Archbishop Gomez notes that when we look at the image of Our Lady on the tilma (a cloak made of cactus fibers worn by men among the Aztec and other peoples of central Mexico in the sixteenth century), we notice that she is a brown skinned young woman, a *mestizo*, a person whose family backgrounds includes a mix of descendants from Europe and indigenous peoples. She came dressed in the garments of the indigenous peoples and she spoke to Juan Diego in his own indigenous language. Through this our Blessed Mother shows herself in a powerful way to be an icon of the church. Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us that the Church was established to be the vanguard of a new humanity and a new civilization—one family of God drawn from every race and every nation and every language. The saints of the Americas show us that holiness knows no color. Beyond the color of our skin or the countries where we come from—we are still brothers and sisters and children of one Father. And the Mother of God is our Mother.

**Family.** The Archbishop remarks that the vision of Guadalupe encourages us to strengthen marriage and the family as the foundations of a truly human civilization. Juan Diego and his wife Maria Lucia were baptized in 1524. They were among the first converts in the New World as well as being one of the first Catholic married couples in the Americas. Maria Lucia died five years after her baptism and two years before Juan Diego's encounter with Our Lady. Our Lady of Guadalupe came among us as the Mother of the family of God in the Americas. Some of the earliest martyrs in this country were missionaries who were killed because of their witness to God's truth about the meaning of marriage and the family. These include the Hispanic Franciscans who were martyred in what is now the state of Georgia in 1597 as well as some of the martyrs of Florida. When I speak of the martyrs of Florida, I mean those Native Americans, religious brothers, and priests were killed in evangelizing the faith in our nation's colonial land known as La Florida between 1549 and 1761. It would be good to ask these martyrs for courage as we confront the broad cultural crisis of the family today. How can we do this? First of all, we can do it by living the beauty and fullness of the Church's teaching ourselves. We need to be models to a culture that is confused. We need to proclaim by our actions even more than by our words the beautiful truth about the human person and God's loving plan for creation and the family.

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

**LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING** Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, August 22, 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 Prison Ministry Outreach Program. *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.

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

### NEW SCRIPTURE STUDY CLASS SESSION

#### TO FOCUS ON THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

*Have you ever felt reluctant to attend Mass or sensed your spiritual passions dimming?* You are certainly not alone in your spiritual struggle. The Letter to the Hebrews was composed for this reason. Hebrews is addressed to early Jewish Christians who, battered by hardship and persecution, allowed their early passions for Christ to waver. The author alternatively encourages and chastises these early converts to remain faithful to Christ. Hebrews is a masterful defense of the Christian faith and is regarded by many as the greatest Christian sermon ever preached. Come join the Scripture Study Class, as we explore this New Testament masterpiece. Beginning Wednesday, September 6, and ending Wednesday, October 18, 7:30-9 p.m. Please e-mail group leader Brent Hanson at [bhanson123@comcast.net](mailto:bhanson123@comcast.net) if you'll attend.

### MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT:

#### UPCOUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Upcounty Community Resources, Inc. has roots at St. Francis of Assisi, with many founding families being longtime parishioners. UCR is growing and thriving, much like our parish, and touches more than 400 gifted adults.

Operating under the belief that we are enriched by all persons in our community, UCR plans inclusive social, fitness, therapeutic and enrichment programs for adults with developmental and intellectual differences. Many of the dances and social activities take place in the Parish Center and would benefit from all parishioners attending. Volunteers are needed for Bingo Night and dances, but it's more fun than work. Community members that volunteer or attend a UCR social event are leading dances or just joining our members on the dance floor, helping UCR members with food and drink, or just setting the great example of acceptance and love.

If you're interested in volunteering or spending time at our events, please contact Executive Director Jenn Lynn at (240) 614-0444 or e-mail her at [jennlynn@ucresources.org](mailto:jennlynn@ucresources.org). St. Francis parishioner Sylvia Jones serves as the UCR social activities coordinator and can be reached at (301)762-6564 or at [decafqueen@gmail.com](mailto:decafqueen@gmail.com). For more information on Upcounty Community Resources programs and activities, go to [www.ucresources.org](http://www.ucresources.org)

### NEW NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR INITIATIVE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Today we hear about the Canaanite woman of great faith, whose daughter Jesus healed. Just as the Canaanite woman was willing to say yes, won't you say yes to helping St. Francis of Assisi Parish reach out to our new neighbors?

Fr. John has initiated a Neighbor to Neighbor Team to help strategize how we can best engage our new neighbors moving into neighborhoods around Magruder High School and the Shady Grove Metro Station, as well as those families moving into the established neighborhoods around St. Francis. This will be a highly strategic ministry, as its members will be asked to think about the various audiences we intend to engage and form an understanding of what might motivate them to join our parish or participate more.

Parish members with the following experience are highly encouraged to join:

- Advertising / marketing,
- Event planning,
- Public relations,
- Communications strategy,
- Similar outreaches to new neighbors or new members.

Orientation and training will be provided to the team before members begin developing strategies to reach out to our new neighbors and invite them to join us at St. Francis of Assisi.

Please let Deacon Dan Finn know of your interest by e-mailing him at [deacondanfinn@gmail.com](mailto:deacondanfinn@gmail.com), calling him at (240) 393-8180 or signing up at the Information Desk.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

### REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

*So that we can be ready to welcome your child to class on the first day, it is important that we receive your registration by Wednesday, September 6!*

Please help us prepare well for this year's Religious Education classes by returning your registration form as soon as possible. Even if you do not know which Religious Education session will best match your family's schedule, please return a registration form now, marking your best guess for session time with a note indicating that this is subject to change.

Registration forms are 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 mailed, 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. A calendar for 2017-18 is available now on the parish website. Paper copies will be mailed in early September to all who have registered. **Classes will begin on September 17, 18, and 19!**

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 meet Sunday evenings 6:00-8:00 p.m. (following the 5 pm Youth Mass)

***If you have questions about this year's Religious Education program, or would like to register in person, please stop by the "Meet and Greet" table in the Gathering Space after Sunday Masses on August 27!***

### Registering for Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, 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 this fall.

### Catechists Needed

Please consider whether you can serve as a catechist for our children and young people. Additional catechists are always welcome and much needed, especially for our Monday and Tuesday evening middle school program. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

### ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY *Upcoming Events*

#### FRED

#### AUGUST

22-24 Middle School Service Camp  
27 FRED Summer Nights

#### **GET SOCIAL**

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

### HOLIDAY BAZAAR CRAFTERS

We will begin making crafts for the 2017 Holiday Bazaar on Wednesday September 13 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.

### THREE ST. FRANCIS MINISTRIES IN NEED OF NEW VOLUNTEERS

Several St. Francis of Assisi ministries are seeking new volunteers to join their groups and serve Christ through their actions. Please consider volunteering for one of these ministries, all of which build community in the local church:

- The Information Desk needs new ministers to help staff the table in the Gathering Space and answer church-related questions parishioners may have. Ministers volunteer for less than 15 minutes after the Mass of their choice on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis. High school students and adults are welcome to join. For more information, contact Chris King at [caking\\_home@gmail.com](mailto:caking_home@gmail.com) or call her at (240) 683-1355.
- If your spirit is lifted by working in the soil and creating beauty, then help the St. Francis Garden Committee with a project this fall to plant the flowerbed in the driveway leading to the St. Francis grounds. If you've admired the perennials now in bloom outside the Rectory and the Parish Office, then you've appreciated the work of gardeners in our parish. The flowers' beauty delights the eye and raises the mind to our Creator. For more information, contact Garden Committee Ministry Coordinator Maria Dunn at [mkdunn@gmail.com](mailto:mkdunn@gmail.com) or at (202) 281-4096.
- The Café Leon Ministry needs additional volunteers to help sell bags of Just Haiti Coffee after Masses on what is usually the first weekend of every month. On the day of their shift, volunteers are asked to arrive 10 minutes early to ensure everything is set up in the Gathering Space and stay approximately 15 minutes after Mass to sell the coffee. Volunteers are especially needed to sell coffee after the 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday Masses. For more information, please e-mail Danielle Niedermaier, [Danielle.stoermer@gmail.com](mailto:Danielle.stoermer@gmail.com).

## **AUGUST @ ST. FRANCIS**

22-24	Middle School Service Camp (SFA)	
23	Martha & Mary Women's Group (YR)	7:30 pm
24	St. Vincent de Paul Mtg (AR)	7:00 pm
	Alanon (Lib)	7:00 pm
25	CL (AR)	8:00 pm
27	Religious Ed Registration after all Masses	
	FRED Summer Nights (YR)	6:00 pm
31	Alanon (Lib)	7:00 pm

## **HAITI MEDICAL MISSION BANQUET TO BE HELD FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

Looking for a fun date night or family night in mid-September? Then plan to attend the Haiti Medical Mission Banquet to be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, September 22, at New Fortune Restaurant, 16515 S. Frederick Road; Gaithersburg, MD 20877. As the second annual banquet benefitting the Haiti Medical Mission, the event will feature a multi-course dinner, auctions of Haitian paintings, karaoke, dance performances and additional entertainment. Tickets for the event are \$35 in advance and \$40, if purchased at the door. For more information, contact Hoai-an Truong at [htruong@umes.edu](mailto:htruong@umes.edu) or call him at (240) 401-4284.

## **THE JOYFUL GREETER MINISTRY TO GATHER ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

The Joyful Greeter Ministry will hold a meeting followed by a wine and cheese social at 7 p.m. Saturday, September 16, in the Gathering Space. All Joyful Greeters and anyone interested in joining this ministry should attend. For more information, please contact Joyful Greeter Ministry Coordinator Helen Hayes at [helenlhayes@aol.com](mailto:helenlhayes@aol.com).

## **YOUR OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTION**

Just a reminder that we do not record loose checks from the weekly collection. In order for us to track your contribution and send you a statement at the end of the year, it is suggested that you sign up for envelopes or Faith Direct. To sign up for envelopes you can call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407. To sign up for electronic contributions visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net). The code for St. Francis is MD110. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office.

## **HELP 'EM SMILE!**

By joining the Mid-Maryland Dental Mission of Mercy and Health Equity Festival, you can help 2,000 uninsured people experiencing dental calamity obtain \$2M worth of emergency treatments. Dental and medical professionals and general volunteers at least 18 years old, are welcome and must register in advance. Shifts are half a day, serve one or more shifts. Volunteers get an amazing experience (and a T-shirt). The event is **September 7, 8, & 10** at the University of Maryland Xfinity Center in College Park, MD. To get more information and register please visit [www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org/MOM](http://www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org/MOM).

## **JOIN US AT DISCOVERING CHRIST & DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS**

Beginning Thursday, September 28, St. Francis parishioners are invited to open their hearts and examine their relationship with Jesus Christ through the *Discovering Christ* course.

*Discovering Christ* is an engaging seven-week faith formation course that is sponsored by St. Francis of Assisi Church but held at the Goshen House, Mother of God community in Gaithersburg, because of space constraints. It is designed to help participants forge a personal relationship with Christ and His Church. Each session consists of four components:

- Free Dinner* -- Enjoy getting to know one another in a casual and welcoming environment.
- Prayer and Worship* -- Show our love for Jesus and one another in community prayer, praise, and singing. St. Augustine said: "He who sings prays twice."
- Dynamic Teaching* -- Listen to the proclamation of Jesus and His Gospel.
- Small Group Discussion* -- Deepen your relationships with peers, discuss the lessons of the teachings and their implications in our lives, and encounter Jesus in the context of a loving community.

In this course, you will learn about the meaning of life and why we need to cultivate our relationship with Jesus. There is a one-day retreat to help you encounter a new life in the Holy Spirit and receive the Spirit's transforming graces. Be inspired to believe in and belong to the Church because we can't face life on our own. Rather than looking at the Church as being led by bishops and cardinals, you'll experience a new way of looking at the Church as our "family." As a family, we belong together with other brothers and sisters who share the same faith and love in Jesus Christ. We need each other, we're called to be "witnesses" of each other's lives, and we have talents, treasures and gifts to share.

Registration is FREE and will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. All attendees must register since seating is limited. No walk-ins, please! To register, pick up a registration form at the **Information Desk** today and place the completed form in the box marked *Discovering Christ*. The registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 1. For more information, e-mail parishioner Medy DeAusen at [SFADCHRIST@comcast.net](mailto:SFADCHRIST@comcast.net).

**A REMINDER FROM FR. JOHN ...** If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, it would be wise to consult with a priest to see whether that situation might be rectified. It could be as simple as repeating your marriage vows quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist.

## **SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED**

Mother of God School, a vibrant private Catholic school located in Gaithersburg, MD, is in need of substitute teachers for Grades PreK – 8. For further information, please contact Alice Garvey at [agarvey@mogschool.com](mailto:agarvey@mogschool.com) or call 301-990-2088 ext. 11.