

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

September 25 - October 1

Monday, 9/25	9:00 a.m. Kathleen Worboys
Tuesday, 9/26	9:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen
Wednesday, 9/27	9:00 a.m. Casey Ross 7:30 p.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen
Thursday, 9/28	9:00 a.m. Kathleen Worboys
Friday, 9/29	9:00 a.m. Kathryn Putano
Saturday, 9/30	9:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen 5:00 p.m. Patricia Braine
Sunday, 10/1	8:00 a.m. Gloria Branscum 9:30 a.m. Frank Anthony Chite 11:15 a.m. Mary Ellen Sawyer 5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Elizabeth Ferranti, Margaret Paul, Denise Smith.

Please pray for the sick... Gemma Palini, Fatimah Seyed-Ali, Barbara Sposato, Millie Cosman, Madelyn Cabatic, 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 September 24, 2017

Sunday:	Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27/Mt 20:1-16a
Monday:	Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-6/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday:	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-5/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday:	Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2-4befghn, 7-8/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday:	Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b/Lk 9:7-9
Friday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-5/ Jn 1:47-51
Saturday:	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jr 31:10-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43-45
Next Sunday:	Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-9/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/ Mt 21:28-32

Scripture Corner

"GOD IS LOVE"

Jesus often uses parables to make his point. The advantage of a parable is that one must seek the meaning underlying the words. In today's Gospel, for example, (Matthew 20:1-16a) Christ speaks of a landowner and laborers, meaning God himself and his creatures.

The landowner hires workers at early morning, then more laborers at nine o'clock, at noon, at three PM, and even at five o'clock. He agrees with all of them to pay a just wage – at that time a denarius was seen as fair. But this leads to trouble! Those who had worked all day complained, "These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat." (Matthew 20:12)

This situation reminds me of a modern situation where a well-known criminal repented just before his death and was received back into the Church with reconciliation and Eucharist. Some people complained, but our Lord's answer has always been, "Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?" (Matthew 20:15) The landlord explains that every worker had been treated justly, receiving a day's wage, the denarius. Jesus is always just and loving!

Christ wants his followers to realize that everyone is called by God. It is not as important when one responds to that call as to respond at some time in one's life. Saint John teaches, "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him." (1 John 4:16) In connection with today's Gospel we should note these words of John, "whoever loves God must love his brother." (1 John 4:21)

Isaiah says in today's first reading, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts' nor are my ways your ways." (55:8) Aware of the love of God, the Christian accepts both the generosity and the justice of God. Our Lord asks us today, "Are you envious because I am generous?" (Matthew 20:15) Envy is not proper for the followers of Jesus who should understand that every gift of God is due to his loving kindness, not to our ability or activity.

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.*

Animal Blessing @ 3:00 p.m.

The Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How will I stop acting like a self-appointed judge of "latecomers" and begin serving as a member of God's "welcome wagon"? After all, God has welcomed even me.

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.

LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH THROUGH DIRECT CARE FOR THE NEEDY

Do you sense a call to live out your faith through directly helping the poor and needy? It is a life-transforming experience, challenging, but filled with rewards and blessings. In the past month, our St. Vincent de Paul Society helped prevent two evictions, one eviction in Silver Spring was for a Syrian refugee family. Come to one of our meetings to learn more. Our September meeting is **Thursday, September 28** in the Assisi Room at 7:00 p.m. For more information please call Tony Bosnick, 301-840-1407, X 11.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

In their joint statement of August 29, 2017, Bishop Budde, Rabbi Lustig, Iman Shareef, and Cardinal Wuerl pointed out that nearly one million young immigrants have benefitted from the DACA program since its inception in 2012. They also noted that many of the program recipients are members of the respective faith communities they mentor in and around the nation's capital. They have seen firsthand the relief and pride in the faces of young people as they finally came to feel validated and safe in a program that made them feel more at home—in the only country they have ever considered home. But now, anxiety and fear for their future have returned.

They closed their joint statement with a collective prayer that in the coming months, Congressional leaders work together to pass sensible and comprehensive immigration reform that our country so desperately needs—including making the DACA program permanent. But until that time comes, they plead, the least our country can do is to continue supporting our dreamers.

Until next week.

Fr. John Dillon

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I want to devote this column to a statement recently made by Cardinal Wuerl in light of the decision by the Trump administration to end the Deferred Actions for Childhood Arrivals program in its current form. Cardinal Wuerl issued the following statement on September 15, 2017 and addressed it to the priests of the Archdiocese:

Earlier this month, in the days before the Trump Administration announced its intent to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to expire in early 2018, I was pleased to join other religious leaders in calling for President and Congress to work together to, first and foremost, protect those young adults and children who registered under the DACA program, and second, to work together on a permanent solution to remove doubt and fear within our immigrant community. [The other signers of this statement, issued on August 29, 2017, included the Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington; Rabbi M. Bruce Lustig, Senior Rabbi of Washington Hebrew Congregation; and Imam Talib M. Shareef, Masjid Muhammad, the Nation's Mosque.]

In a statement upon the Trump Administration's decision, I found it very regrettable and harmful that the administration made the decision to end the DACA program in its current form, and fully embraced the statement made by my brother bishops of the United States Catholic Conference on this matter. [I am happy to provide copies of Cardinal Wuerl's statement and the statement by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to anyone who wishes to have a copy. Please contact me by phone or email to get a copy of either statement.]

Ours is an Archdiocese that has a well-established history of welcoming the newcomer in our midst and working to provide our new neighbors with the pastoral, material, and even legal support, that they may require. I remain hopeful in the coming months Congress and the administration will work to forge a permanent solution to DACA. But until then, it falls to us—in the absence of a clear resolution—to continue to stand with immigrant families, those young adults and children affected by the uncertainty of DACA, and anyone else in need. Parish communities should accompany our immigrant families with prayer, which can bring comfort and unity. We will continue to raise our voice in support of them and to work for permanent policies to ensure they remain a vibrant part of our church in Washington.

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, September 26, 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 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 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.

“SERMON ON THE MOUNT” COMES TO ST. FRANCIS ON SEPT 30 IN FAMILY- FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE

On Saturday, September 30, St. Francis parishioners will get to experience a live Biblical performance of “Sermon on the Mount” featuring TV and film actor Frank Runyeon at 7 p.m. in the church. Runyeon sets the famous sermon in a revealing new setting: as told by Matthew to the church in Antioch, shortly after the Roman army burned Jerusalem to the ground. Bringing Scripture to life, Runyeon moves around the church and shares the story, filled with surprising humor and dramatic transitions.

After “Sermon on the Mount,” Runyeon will end the evening with “Hollywood vs. Faith,” where he discusses the empty values the media is teaching us and the choices we face daily as Americans and people on faith.

This family-friendly performance is free to St. Francis parishioners, but at-will donations are appreciated. There is also no photography or video allowed during the performance, but Runyeon is available for photos and autographs during a reception following the performance. This is a great way to kick off the parish's 45th anniversary the following week!

For more information, contact Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson at sanderson@sfadw.org or Fr. Jack Berard, Parochial Vicar, at sfayouth@sfadw.org.

SIGN UP FOR SMALL GROUPS NOW TO EXPLORE YOUR FAITH WITH OTHER PARISHIONERS

It's not too late to sign up for Small Groups that will begin meeting next month. What is a Small Group? It is a gathering of five to 10 people, who typically meet weekly in homes to discuss their journey, deepen their Catholic faith and support one another in their relationship with Christ. In addition to four existing parish Small Groups – the Martha/Mary Women's Group, the Men of Emmaus, the Saturday Morning Spiritual Reading Group and the Scripture Study Class – St. Francis is launching four new Small Groups that address very different areas of our Catholic faith, but will hopefully, all lead to a closer, a more meaningful relationship with Christ. These are:

- *Sunday Mass Preparation Small Group*, which will meet to discuss the coming week's Mass readings and help participants be better prepared for Mass.
- *Pivotal Players Small Group*, which will view videos and discuss the Catholic Church's most influential people, including saints, artists, mystics and scholars.
- *Psalmody*, which will gather to pray together through ensemble singing and playing of instruments. Experience in singing is not required!
- *Catholic Perspectives on the Vietnam War*, which will view film director Ken Burns' 10-part series on the Vietnam War and discuss the impacts of the war on participants' lives and on Catholic social teaching.

To join a Small Group, sign up at the tables next to the Information Desk by Sunday, Sept. 24, or contact Small Groups Coordinator Alice Welanetz at awelanetz@gmail.com or call her at (301) 351-6706. For more information about Small Groups, pick up a Small Groups brochure at the Information Desk. You can also read more about St. Francis' existing Small Groups, including those associated with international faith formation movements, by going to <http://www.sfadw.org/adults-1>.

LAST CALL FOR PASTORAL COUNCIL CANDIDATES

If you would like to shape the future of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in a strategic way, then consider running for the Pastoral Council this fall. This all-volunteer body advises Fr. John Dillon, the pastor of our church, on many issues affecting the parish, including facilities, growth plans, and provision of services. Currently, there will be seven vacancies on the Pastoral Council for the term that starts January 1, 2018, and ends December 30, 2020. If you are a registered parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi who is 16 years or older, can commit to attending near-monthly meetings, and are committed to making decisions for the good of the parish, then you are qualified to be a candidate. The Pastoral Council is particularly interested in having young people in their 20s and 30s serve, so they can reflect the interests of young adults and young families in our parish.

The deadline to express interest in running for the Pastoral Council is October 1. If you are interested in submitting your name as a candidate, contact Pastoral Council Co-Chairmen Alicia Church at alicia.church@collaborationcouncil.org and Miguel Welanetz at welawhat@msn.com. Interested persons can also call Parish Secretary Donna Zezzo at (301) 840-1407

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

Religious Education classes started last week 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.

CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our first class meets Sunday, September 24 from 3:30-4:30 pm 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.

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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KEEP UP WITH HOW YOUR TWO U.S. SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES VOTE?

Track their votes by email with MegaVote. Each week that Congress is in session, you receive: **1) key votes** of your Senators and Representative; **2) links to send e-mail** to your members of Congress using pre-addressed forms; **3) upcoming votes for your review** and a chance to offer e-mail input before they vote. Register here: <http://congress.org/>

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY *Upcoming Events*

FRED

SEPTEMBER

24 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

270CATHOLICS (Young Adults) UPCOMING EVENTS

On Tuesday, September 26th, young adults (20s and 30s) are invited to St. Mary's Historic Chapel (520 Viers Mill Road, Rockville, MD) from **7:30-8:30** for a music-infused hour of adoration (option of confession). Join us after for fellowship in the basement of the rectory. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/270Catholic/events>.

TICKETS FOR HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT ON OCTOBER 28 NOW ON SALE AT THE PARISH OFFICE

Have you missed the vocal talents of our former Music Director Verena Anders? She will be returning to St. Francis of Assisi Church— along with her husband, William Buthod, an accomplished and award-winning musician – for the Haiti Benefit Concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, October 28.

Verena and William's concert program will feature music reflecting Haiti's cultural identity. This will 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 concert program will include keyboard and vocal works from Spain and France, as well as music from Haiti itself. It 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 Damas.

Tickets for the concert are \$20 each and are on sale at the Parish Office during business hours through Oct. 27. They will also be sold in the Gathering Space the weekends of October 7-8 and October 21-22. Children under the age of 12 will be admitted for free.

A reception with light refreshments and beverages will follow the event. This concert is a terrific family outing and a great way to support the church's Haiti Medical Mission, now in its 21st year, with Conversion of St. Paul's Parish in Leon, Haiti. For more information, contact St. Francis Director of Music Deirdre Sweet at sfadwmusic@gmail.com.

**SPIRIT TREE MINISTRY SEEKS
A VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT**

Can you believe that the Spirit Giving Tree and Christmas are just around the corner? Bobbi McLaughlin, coordinator of our Spirit Tree Ministry, is seeking an assistant to help her with the organization of this annual service project benefitting Assumption Parish in Washington DC. Is that person you? Any volunteer in this ministry reaps great personal rewards for an initiative that takes place for just a few weeks each fall. If interested, contact Bobbi at (301) 926-4032 or Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick or Parish Secretary Donna Zezzo at (301) 840-1407.

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

CRAFTING

We will begin making craft items on Wednesday, September 20 & 27, 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

ANNUAL RETREAT AT MOUNT CARMEL

On Saturday, October 7, 2017, the Restorers' of Mt. Carmel annual retreat will be held at Mt. Carmel Monastery. The Retreat begins with Mass at 8:00 am in the Church at Mt. Carmel, 5678 Mt Carmel Road (off of Mitchell Road), LaPlata. Father Michael Briese, Pastor of St. Mary's in Newport, will be Retreat Master. Cost of the Retreat is \$30 and includes welcome bag, breakfast snacks, and boxed lunch. The retreat includes mass, confessions, several talks, rosary, and time to visit with your friends and to meet and make new friends. For more information and registration form, please contact Suzanne Carr at 301.645.5203 or suzannemcarr@verizon.net.

25TH INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER & FASTING

The 25TH International Week of Prayer and Fasting coalition in collaboration with the Marians Fathers, Legion of Mary and Priests for Life, are asking for individuals, families, prayer groups and parishes to unite for nine days (October 1-9) of prayer and fasting for the following goals: Conversion of all Peoples and Nations, to Build a Culture of Life, to Defend the Sanctity of Marriage and Family Life, to Pray for Peace and to Implore God's Mercy. For the final day, on Monday, October 9th, please join us at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. for the International Day of Prayer. Registration is FREE, but please register online at www.iwopf.org to receive a free prayer card at the Basilica event. The Celebrant and Homilist for the Noon Mass will be Bishop Joseph Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, IL.

SFA HEALTH MINISTRY

Encouraging healing in body, mind and spirit

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKSHOP ON OCTOBER 18
CAN BE THE FIRST STEP IN GETTING HELP**

Sometimes, bad things happen in good families – and domestic violence is included among them. If one of the adults in a household are yelling, hitting, shoving, insulting or not sharing income, then change is possible. Come find out how you make changes in your family or support a family member in making changes by attending a domestic violence workshop to be held from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Oct. 17, at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 4101 Norbeck Road in Rockville. Sponsored by Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Washington, the event will be held in Room 104 of the church's Parish Center. To RSVP, contact Monica Ludwig at Monica.ludwig@stpatrickadw.org or Teresa Villanueva at Teresa.Villanueva@cc-dc.org. For immediate help, contact the Montgomery County Crisis Center at (240) 777-4673 or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at (800) 799-SAFE. Additional resources can also be found at www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace.

FALL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP @ ST. PATRICK'S

Have you lost a parent, child, spouse, or close friend and think you might benefit from group support as you grieve? St. Patrick's will offer a grief support group in October. The group will be small in size and will provide a safe, compassionate, and prayerful environment for you to discuss your loss with others who share your experiences. The group will meet for 7 weekly sessions starting Thursday, October 5, 2017, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Parish Center. There is no fee, but registration is required. For more information and to register, please call Diane Salem at 301-924-4958.

**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.

GUADALUPE GALA

Celebrating LIFE and 27 years of service in our community, Centro Tepeyac Women's Center in Silver Spring invited you to their Guadalupe Gala on Saturday, October 7 (6:30-11:00 p.m.), at the Shrine of St. Jude in Rockville. Bishop Harry Jackson will be the guest speaker. Please RSVP by Monday, October 2. To register, call (301) 587-9516 or e-mail info@centrotepeyac.org.

**MARYLAND CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
7TH ANNUAL RETREAT "FIRE WITHIN"**

Register now for Fire Within. October 6, 7 & 8 - cost is \$65 or you may attend Saturday only - cost for one day \$55. Scholarships are available to help those in need. Retreat will be held at Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg. Speakers include Sister Helena Burnes, International speaker, radio host and EWTN guest. Mass with Archbishop William Lori and Jon Leonetti, Catholic speaker, author and radio host, closing Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan. Please visit the website for more details or to register www.marylandcatholicwomen.com.