

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

January 1 - January 7

Monday, 1/1	9:00 a.m. Manuel B. Roxas
Tuesday, 1/2	9:00 a.m. Irene Armbruster
Wednesday, 1/3	9:00 a.m. Jane Tutsock 7:30 p.m. Rudolph Schneider
Thursday, 1/4	9:00 a.m. Margaret A. Sprague
Friday, 1/5	9:00 a.m. Barbara Lynn Beall 7:30 p.m. Dick Boehlert
Saturday, 1/6	9:00 a.m. Mary Louise Duffy 5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 1/7	8:00 a.m. Marwin, Nabih & Nabih Jr. Saah 9:30 a.m. Elena D. DeLeon 11:15 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen 5:00 p.m. Catherine Sgambati

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul Paul Richard Hayes, Jr., son of Anita Doherty and grandson of Ceil Noga, Michael Paul Mrocza.

Please pray for the sick... Lillie Coker, Bernard Kohan, Dick Hunt, Guy Beaven, Dennis Parnell, Maureen Hurley, Ed Dudenhoefter, 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.)*

Readings for the Week of December 31, 2017

Sunday:	Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 /Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a]/ Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Monday:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/ Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/ Jn 1:29-34
Thursday:	1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42
Friday:	1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/ Jn 1:43-51
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/ Mk 1:7-11
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

One of the things that I love to do during the Advent and Christmas season is to go to Christmas plays, concerts, and other activities that children put on for their parents, grandparents, and the wider community. I was invited to a Nativity play that was put on by our students in our Preschool/Kindergarten program that is held on Sundays from 11:10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Everyone participated, and it was delightful. When I mentioned this to some parishioners, they were surprised to hear that we have a program for pre-school children. For that reason I thought that I would write about that today. Children must be 3 or 4 by September 1 to be eligible to participate. Classes began on September 17 and will continue until May 7. The complete schedule is available on the parish website (www.sfadw.org). Our Religious Education staff is happy to accept mid-year registrations.

Our parish Religious Education and Youth Ministry Programs follow the curriculum guidelines of the Archdiocese of Washington, Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization. Parent guides for this curriculum can be found at: adw.org/forming-disciples/. The Child Protection Policy of the Archdiocese also outlines expectations regarding educational curriculum that must be presented on an annual basis to children and youth in our religious education programs. This content is incorporated into the curriculum of our Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs and taught each year.

I think that it might good to review with everyone the mission statement of our parish Religious Education Program. Together we share the hopes that children:

- Experience a personal relationship with Jesus and know that they are God's special and unique creation.
- Realize that they are immensely and unconditionally loved by God and that the Trinity dwells in them.
- Understand that they are made to live in community, and have a responsibility to live moral lives, and to also continue Jesus' mission by communicating God's love to others.

Our Religious Education program curriculum is designed to be taught in sequence and each year builds on the content presented in previous years. Therefore, children are expected to participate in Religious Education each year and attend classes regularly. The textbook used in our parish program include:

- Pre-K (age 3): *God Made Me* (Loyola Press)
- Pre-K (age 4): *God Made the World* (Loyola Press)
- Kindergarten: *God Loves Us* (Loyola Press)

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do I display the attributes described in today's readings when relating to my own family? As we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, do I show these qualities in my relations with friends, coworkers and strangers?

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018
IS NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
THIS YEAR.**

We will only have the 9:00 a.m. Daily Mass.

**PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018
FOR THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY.**

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., January 5, followed by adoration until 9:00 p.m. in the Church.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR *continued*

The final thing that I want to cover today would be the roles and responsibilities of parents in this process of faith formation of our children. In the Rite of Baptism, parents accept the responsibility of training their child in the practice of the faith. At the same time, we pray for parents that as the first teachers of their children, they will also be “. . . the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do . . .” (Final Blessing in the *Rite of Baptism for Children*). Parish catechetical programs serve and support the parent's primary role in their child's faith formation. Indeed, parenting offers many opportunities to teach by word and example in and through the circumstances of daily life. Parents exercise their responsibility for their child's faith formation by their efforts at home and with the parish community as they bring their children to Sunday Mass, provide for their religious education, and present their children for sacraments at the appropriate times.

In my column next week I will discuss suggested activities the parents can do at home to strengthen the knowledge of the Faith.

Happy New Year!

Fr. John Dillon

THE GIFT OF ALL GOD'S CHILDREN CELEBRATION MASS

Upcounty Community Resources invites everyone to join us at St. Francis of Assisi during the 5:00 Youth Mass, Sunday, January 7, 2018 to celebrate the Gift of All God's Children in a special Mass for adults and children with developmental differences. There will be a reception in the Gathering Space following the Mass. If you wish to participate in this event as a liturgical reader, greeter, usher, or altar server please contact Sylvia Jones at 301-762-6564. All are welcome.

THANK YOU ST. FRANCIS

To the Congregation of St. Francis of Assisi, On behalf of the volunteers of Gaithersburg Help, I would like to thank you for your generous Thanksgiving collection donation of \$458, made in memory of Fr. Ralph Kuehner. Your donation enables us to continue providing basic needs assistance to individuals and families in our community - work that Fr. Kuehner championed during his lifetime of service. You have made a real difference in the lives of the people in our community. Please visit www.gaithersburghelp.org if you would like to learn more about our organization, the ways we serve, and available volunteer opportunities. ~ Amy Spillman, Gaithersburg Help

CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH

Please welcome Father Bernard Olszewski who will speak at all the Masses on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach which was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America. Please be generous in your response to Father's appeal. Brochures will be provided if you wish to support this worthy Catholic ministry.

2017 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

To receive credit in 2017, your contributions must be dated December 31, 2017. If you are mailing a contribution, it must be received in the parish Office on or before Wednesday, January 3, 2018. As a reminder, the parish statement of contributions will not include your FAITHDIRECT contributions. You will receive a statement directly from FAITHDIRECT.

Altar Servers Schedule

Please check the online Ministry Scheduler for January 6 & 7 Altar Server Assignments.

It is the responsibility of the Altar Server to get a replacement if you cannot serve at your scheduled time

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, January 9, 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 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.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

If you are like many of us, each year we make New Year's resolutions – and within weeks or even days, we break them. We want to suggest a New Year's resolution that:

- Only takes a few hours commitment
- Helps you make more friends within the St. Francis community
- Makes you a better disciple of Christ
- Helps you make a difference at St. Francis and in the community

How can you do this? Join a Small Group this year, and if you can't find one that suits you, we will help you form one.

SMALL GROUPS WITHIN ST. FRANCIS

Lenten Small Groups beginning mid-February - More than 80 parishioners participated in our Lenten Small Groups earlier this year. The Small Groups Ministry hopes to double that number in 2018. We will be using *Live Lent!* Pope Francis tells us "*Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls you to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God with all their hearts, to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faith friend who never abandons us.*" *Live Lent!* includes Sunday reflections and prayers for a Small Group to use for inspiration in contemplating the next Sunday's Gospel readings. It also includes daily meditations. So, take the opportunity and embrace *Live Lent!*, so you can live a more authentic faith long after those 40 days have passed.

Join an Existing Small Group - There are many existing small groups that are ready to welcome new members. They include:

- **Catholic Perspectives on the Vietnam War** – The Pax Christi Group invites all St. Francis parishioners, but particularly active and retired military personnel, to view a 10-part series on the Vietnam War and consider the impacts the war had on their lives and Catholic social teaching.
- **Martha/Mary Women's Group** - Women who meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays, read aloud books chosen by the group and then discuss.
- **Men of Emmaus (a.k.a. the Church Guys)** – Men who meet Saturday mornings for faith, fellowship and relaxed discussion of Scripture and other spiritual writings, including how to live the faith as Catholic men.
- **Pivotal Players Small Group** – Groups meet weekly over 12 weeks to discuss Bishop Robert Barron's Pivotal Players Series, an in-depth look at the Catholic Church's most influential people. The next offering will be in the fall of 2018.
- **Psalmody** – A small group of parishioners who seek a group prayer experience through ensemble singing and playing of instruments. All that is needed is the desire to join with others in song as a means of prayer.
- **Saturday Morning Spiritual Reading Group** – A diverse group that meets Saturday mornings to study and discuss books that are selected by the group. The books read this past year have ranged from *Dante's Inferno*, the first part of Dante Alighieri's 14th-century epic poem *Divine Comedy*, and C.S. Lewis' *Four Loves*.
- **Scripture Study Class** – All are welcome to meet for six-week sessions on Wednesday nights, focusing on books by the Loyola Press Bible Series.
- **Sunday Mass Preparation Small Group** – Groups meet weekly over a six-week period or longer to read and discuss the coming week's readings and be better prepared for Mass.

Join a NEW Small Group - In addition to the Lenten Small Groups, a new group **Food for the Body and Soul** is forming. The group will rotate monthly to share a meal and discuss faith in a parishioner's home. As Fr. Leo Patalinghug has said, "the simple act of creating and sharing a meal can strengthen all kinds of relationships."

Start a Small Group - Don't see a group that interests you? Start a small group with a specific focus. We ask that the goal of each Small Group is to Make Friends, Make Disciples and Make a Difference. Contact Small Group Coordinator Alice Welanetz at awelanetz@gmail.com, so she can help get you started. Look for Small Group sign-ups in the coming weeks.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RE CLASS SCHEDULE AND THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

There are NO Religious Education classes on the following days: Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, December 31, January 1 and 2.

Religious Education classes will resume on January 7, 8 and 9.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PREP DAY – SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will attend a day of preparation on Saturday, January 6 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Center (Snow date: January 13). Please pray for these children who will receive this Sacrament on Saturday, January 20.

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.

DONATE TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES COAT DRIVE ON JANUARY 13/14

If you received a new coat, gloves, mittens, scarves or hats for Christmas and your once-used items are still in good condition, then consider donating them to the Catholic Charities Coat Collection. The St. Francis Social Concern Ministry will be collecting these winter garments before and after all Masses the weekend of January 13/14. New items are also gratefully accepted! For more information, contact Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

FINAL WEEKEND TO MAKE A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR OWNERS OF IRAS WHO ARE 70 1/2 OR OLDER

December 31 will mark your final chance to make a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) to St. Francis of Assisi Church for owners of individual retirement accounts (IRAs) who are older than 70 ½. A Qualified Charitable Deduction is a tax-savings tool for charitably-inclined owners of IRAs who are older than 70 1/2 in the year the deduction is made. For more information on QCDs, please stop by the Information Desk in the Gathering Space.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

DECEMBER

No FRED On December 31st!

Happy New Year!

Next Meeting is January 14th!

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

YOUTH SUMMER SERVICE CAMPS INTEREST MEETING

Fr. Jack is hosting an interest meeting for both teens and parents who are interested in participating in a summer service camp on Tuesday January 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory Youth Room. It is important to attend this meeting to address any questions about the camp itself, the expectations/preparation, fundraising opportunities, and ask other questions! The only service camp that St. Francis will be participating this summer is the Encounter the Gospel of Life Service Camp in College Park. We are also hoping to have some teens attend the Steubenville Conference in June! More information can be found on the St. Francis website (www.sfadw.org).

SPIRIT TREE GIFTS BENEFIT MORE THAN 100 FAMILIES OF ASSUMPTION PARISH IN WASHINGTON DC

The Spirit Giving Tree Ministry finished delivering the last Spirit Tree gifts on December 19 to Assumption Parish in Washington DC. All told, St. Francis parishioners donated gifts to 103 different families at the church, with 330 children receiving Christmas presents. The gifts were delivered to the parish's Assumption Outreach program, which then distributes the gifts to vetted recipients.

Special thanks go to Bobbie McLaughlin, the longtime coordinator for the Spirit Giving Tree Ministry. She, in turn, would like to thank longtime volunteers Jim and Pat Badolato, Tom Reese, young volunteers from the Potter family and many other parishioners who have made this ministry a successful seasonal outreach to Assumption Parish. Lastly, thank you very much to the St. Francis parishioners who gave so generously to make Christmas brighter to our brothers and sisters in need.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

Catch our Spirit

www.StJudeRockville.org

<http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd>

RE-ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR IS OPEN

All current families are asked to re-enrollment for the 2018-2019 school. Please take a moment to register by following the links on our school website at www.stjuderockville.org. Go to Admission, then Apply Online, then Enrollment: [TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment](#). Current families planning on enrolling children in grades PK-3 or Kindergarten should do so before January 2. Only current school families are being allowed to enroll new students prior to January 2. Open enrollment for new families begins on January 2, 2018. During Open Enrollment applications will be taken on a first come first serve basis.

3rd Annual SJRCS International Day!

We invite you to travel...

All Over the World!

Friday, February 2nd at 10:00 am

We would love Parishioners to share their cultural heritage with the students. We are asking volunteers to set up a booth that represents the country you come from. The booth will contain different artifacts from your country (flags, posters, photographs, art, etc.) We are also asking that you bring samples of food from your country for the students to try at International Day (small appetizers, small desserts, etc.). Students will get their "Passport" stamped at each country, learn about your culture, and sample the different foods. We are also looking for groups to perform during the festival. If you can set up a booth or know a group that would love to perform or would like additional information, please contact Mrs. Balog Katharine.Balog@StJudeRockville.org.

LUAU GALA – MARCH 10, 2018

The Gala committee is pleased to announce a new addition for this year's Luau Gala. Thanks to Criswell Motors for their generosity and the efforts of Sherry Koehler, we will be raffling off a 2017 Jeep Renegade Sport 4x4! • Tickets are \$50 each • Winner will be drawn at the Gala on March 10, 2018 • Winners need not be present to win, so let your friends and family know and have an opportunity to win • Tickets can be purchased at the Main Office or online at www.stjuderockville.org.

PARENTAL & SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

St. Elizabeth Bereavement Ministry will offer an eight week bereavement support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse or significant other. The winter series will meet at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Montrose Road in Rockville on Wednesday mornings, 10–11:30AM, from January 17 - March 7, 2018. There is no fee but registration is required. Space is strictly limited so call early. To register call Deacon Kevin Byrne (301-279-5962) or Claudia McAuliffe (301-881-1457).

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT THE MONASTERY

The National Symphony Orchestra will perform a free chamber music concert at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America on Wednesday, January 3, 7:00 p.m., as part of the NSO in Your Neighborhood concert series. NSO members Marissa Regni, violin; Rachel Young, cello; Paul Cigan, clarinet; and Lisa Emenheiser, piano will perform. A light reception follows. The Monastery is at 1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017. Free parking; near Brookland-CUA Metro/H6 bus toward Ft. Lincoln. Information: myfranciscan.org and 202-526-6800.

MONTHLY ROSARY CALL

Mary, Our Blessed Mother, asks us to pray very much, especially the Rosary. Please join the Washington Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) to pray the Rosary on the 4th day of each month at 8:00 p.m. (Eastern time). We welcome all to phone into our ACCW Rosary by calling 605-468-8016 and insert access code: 357090# to pray the Rosary as a community. Our next call is scheduled for January 4, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. We look forward to your joining us! Thank you

MOTHER TERESA VOCATION SOCIETY ANNUAL DAY OF RECOLLECTION

On Saturday, January 20, 2018, from 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Fr. Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations for the Archdiocese of Washington, will lead a day of recollection at Annunciation Church in Washington, DC (3810 Massachusetts Ave., NW). The day will include Mass, a talk, Adoration, and an opportunity for Confession. Lunch will be served, and donations are welcomed. It is not required to be an MTVS member to attend this event! For more information, please visit www.dcpriest.org or contact Maris Moriarty at moriarty@adw.org or 202-636-9020.

YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE ABUSED

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It can consist of repeated severe beatings or subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace.

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.