



Mass Intentions

January 29 - February 4

Monday: 1/29	9:00 a.m. James Biedron
Tuesday, 1/30	9:00 a.m. Amelia Dudenhoeffer
Wednesday, 1/31	9:00 a.m. Msgr. Ralph Kuehner 7:30 p.m. Reverend Francis Martin
Thursday, 2/1	9:00 a.m. Steven Combs
Friday, 2/2	9:00 a.m. Barbara Lynn Beall 7:30 p.m. John Coady Dillon, Jr.
Saturday, 2/3	9:00 a.m. Joseph T. Stehle, Sr. 5:00 p.m. Dolly, Edward & Nida DeFreitas
Sunday, 2/4	8:00 a.m. Bill Didier (L) 9:30 a.m. Laurentino Quemuel, Jr. 11:15 a.m. Mary Ellen Sawyer 5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>

Please pray for the sick... Dennis Parnell, Lillie Coker, Bernard Kohan, Ed Dudenhoeffer, 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 January 28, 2018

Sunday:	Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9, [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28
Monday:	2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday:	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30--19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [1a]/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday:	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [cf. 5c]/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday:	1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd [12b]/Mk 6:7-13
Friday:	Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [10b]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Saturday:	1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 [12b]/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday:	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Two weeks ago I gave some advice to parents of children who are of kindergarten age (4-5) about activities that they could do at home to strengthen their understanding and acceptance of the teaching of our Catholic faith in the areas of the knowledge of the faith, liturgy and sacraments, morality, prayer, education for living in the Christian community, and evangelization and apostolic life. This week I want to give similar advice to the parents of children who are in primary or early elementary school level. This would include students in the first, second, and third grades.

Our parish presents a comprehensive program of faith formation following *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*. You can read more about our parish religious education program by checking out the following on our parish website: <https://sfadw.org/children-grades-pre-k-8>. There are several key elements to the archdiocesan curriculum. I'll suggest some at-home activities for each one of them.

Key Element I: Knowledge of the Faith. At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things that parents could do as a family to strengthen the teaching of the Knowledge of the Faith in their homes. Parents of primary-grade children provide the most powerful influence on forming the faith of their children by living out their own faith with consistency and joy. Children experience God's loving presence in the everyday care and nurturing provided by their parents. Families can also engage in primary-age actions and discussions of the Catholic faith. When children hear about the faith but do not see it lived out, they question its importance.

Key Element II: Liturgy and Sacraments. At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things parents can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of the Liturgy and Sacraments in their homes. Parents educate and prepare the primary child for the first celebrations of the sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and Eucharist by connecting daily experiences to Gospel teachings and their own experience of these sacraments. Families participate at Sunday Mass with the parish community and discuss the meaning of symbols. Simply talking about the readings at Mass is a powerful tool to begin to engage your child more in the liturgy.

Key Element III: Morality. At the primary or early elementary level, these are things that parents can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of Morality in their homes. Parents are responsible for forming a child's conscience through age appropriate instruction in right and wrong actions. Children will also notice the actions of their parents and other responsible adults and ask why they acted as they did. Parents have the opportunity to shape their child's view of the world and actions of people.

Key Element IV: Prayer. At the primary or early elementary level, these are things that parents can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of Prayer in their homes. Families help children memorize traditional prayers such as the Our Father and Hail Mary through repetition. The family can pray together regularly at mealtime, bedtime, and special seasonal observances and to commemorate significant life events. The model of a parent in prayer can be the most inspiring catechesis on prayer a child will receive.

Continued in the column to the right....

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What kind of "unclean spirits" afflicting some people do I encounter? Do I risk becoming unclean myself when encountering those who are afflicted? Can I overcome that risk?

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., February 2, followed by adoration until 9:00 p.m. in the Church.



OLD PALMS – We will be collecting old palms beginning this weekend through Sunday, February 11. Please place your palms in the Palm Collection Box in the Gathering Space.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community. At the primary or early elementary level, these are things that parents can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of Education for living in the Christian Community in their homes. Living Christian community life does not happen spontaneously, it must be taught carefully. Children are like apprentices learning at the feet of the master carpenter, Jesus Christ, who has shared this task with parents. Parents model the Christian virtues to their children and how to act in public settings with love and compassion.

Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life. At the primary or early elementary level, these are things that parents can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of Evangelization and Apostolic Life in their homes. Parents influence their children through the witness of their lived faith expressed in integrity and service. Children are made aware of service and Catholic social teaching through inclusion in service projects when this is possible. Issues related to justice, peace, respect for life, and other moral issues are discussed routinely around the dinner table or elsewhere at a level understandable to the primary age child. To make service projects more meaningful for primary children, it is useful to help them process the experience. These projects teach children to think of others and prepare them for serving/evangelizing others through word and action.

Until next week,
Fr. John

LAST FEW WEEKS TO SIGN UP FOR A LENTEN SMALL GROUP

In the readings over the past several weeks, Jesus has gathered his friends into a small group we call the disciples. He spent time with them, sharing insights and helping them grow as a small community. This Lent, this can be our journey too!

What is a Lenten Small Group and Why Join One?

This Lent, parishioners are invited to join Lenten Small Groups, which is a gathering of five to 10 people who will meet at a host's home to discuss the readings for the coming Sunday and support one another in their relationship with Christ. A typical session will start with a prayer after gathering. Using the booklet, *Live Lent!* as a guide to stimulate discussion, a facilitator will help support and guide the discussion of the Mass readings, their meaning and how the Scripture relates to our daily lives. Social time is built in, too, and the gathering will end with a prayer. It's also a great place to connect with other disciples on their faith journey, make new friends and deepen your Catholic faith.

Time is running out to sign up for a Lenten Small Group! Six different groups are meeting weekly on **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings**, as well as on **Thursday and Saturday mornings**. If none of these days or timeframes works for your schedule, then let Small Group Coordinator Alice Welanetz know by e-mailing her at awelanetz@gmail.com to see if enough parishioners can join you at a time and day conducive to everyone.

Sign up at the Information Desk after all Masses this weekend. Hope you'll join your fellow parishioners in a Lenten Small Group!

COME JOIN THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AT ST. FRANCIS

In today's Gospel reading, we see that Jesus' reputation spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee because he spoke with authority. As his disciples, we can also speak with authority when we put our faith into action by helping the poor and suffering. Learn more about the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Francis by calling Social Concerns Minister, Tony Bosnick, (301) 840-1407, Ext. 11. Members generally meet at 7:00 p.m., the second and fourth Thursdays each month in the Assisi Room. Come and see.

January 28, 2018

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, January 30, 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'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.



FEBRUARY 2018 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, February 7 at 12:00 Noon at Outta the Way Café, 17503 Redland Road, Derwood (301) 963-6895. If you are planning to attend, please contact Mary Lou Habib and she will save a seat for you, (301) 417-0243.

SEND AN E-MAIL TO YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN SUPPORT OF DREAMERS

As Congress deliberates further over the fate of as many as 3.6 million DREAMers – undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children – as part of comprehensive immigration reform, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is urging Catholics to write their congressional representatives in support of DREAMers.

St. Francis of Assisi parishioners can visit the USCCB Justice for Immigrants web site to send an e-mail to their U.S. Senate and House members by going to <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/category/action-alerts/>. For more information, contact St. Francis Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level competition for the 2018 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The competition will be held on February 10, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Mother of God School gym in Gaithersburg. This is a free event and all contestants are recognized for their participation. For entry forms or additional information contact Terry Waters at 301-216-1941 or terry.waters@ccbcc.com.

ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Breakfast for Dinner Super Pancake Extravaganza is Tuesday, February 13. The event celebrates Shrove Tuesday which marks the last night before the season of Lent begins. The dinner is breakfast with pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns and too much more breakfast treats too mention.

Breakfast for Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. and runs to 8:00 p.m.. Adults are \$8, kids 6 - 12 are \$5. Children under 5 eat for free and a family plan is available for \$25. Enjoy a relaxing dinner/breakfast / meal without having to do any dishes.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Sylvia Jones at 301-762-6564 in the evening.

*Seek first
the Kingdom of
GOD*

MATTHEW 6:33

The Cardinal's Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift, today, payable over ten months. A significant gift to the Cardinal's Appeal will touch the lives of many others in a very positive way. Sometimes it is difficult to envision how one pledge can help an organization the size of our archdiocese, how it can make a real difference. But each pledge does make a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services. Our combined gifts not only signify our gratitude to God, they glorify Him by enabling the work of our archdiocese and give Him thanks for all He has given us.

As in past years, the theme of the Appeal is, "Seek First the Kingdom of God." (Matthew 6:33) As we seek first the Kingdom of God, we have the capability of helping it to be present in our lives and in the lives of those around us through our works of charity, our works of love, our works of love and compassion. Contributions to the Cardinal's Appeal offers each of us the opportunity to respond to the needs of others by enabling ministries and services that touch thousands of lives. *Please prayerfully consider a generous pledge to the 2018 Cardinal's Appeal.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP!

St. Francis of Assisi Church invites children from age 4 to those who will complete the 5th Grade in June 2018 to join us at Vacation Bible Camp, June 25-29 from 9:00 am to 12:15 pm. Look for camper registration information, as well as information about volunteer opportunities for adults and teens, in the Spring!

CATECHIST MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

There will be a Catechist Meeting for all catechists next Sunday, February 4 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in Room 6 of the Parish Center. The topic for our meeting will be: Catholic Moral Teaching – Questions our Children Asking. Please join us as we enhance our understanding of the Church's moral teaching and share ideas for responding well to the questions our students are asking.

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.

REGISTER FOR CATHOLICS IN ANNAPOLIS ON FEBRUARY 22

Are you passionate about and informed on Catholic stances regarding right-to-life issues, child protection and educational choice and opportunity? If so, then join your fellow Catholics on Thursday, February 22 for Catholics in Annapolis from 3-8 p.m. at the Maryland State House.

Formerly known as Lobby Night, the event brings together the Archdiocese of Washington, the Maryland Catholic Conference and lay Catholics to present a unified voice on the legislative agenda and policies that will come before the Maryland General Assembly this spring. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with their state legislators to express their views on assisted suicide, taxpayer funding for abortions, child protection, and end-of-life issues. The archdiocese's Office for Public Policy will also monitor efforts to enable a more just society and any proposals that might limit religious liberty or the Church's ability to meet the needs of the vulnerable in our communities.

If you are interested in attending Catholics in Annapolis, then please register at the following URL: <http://www.mdcathcon.org/lobbysnight>. For more information, contact St. Francis Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org or St. Francis Administrative Assistant Marie Yeast at mffv313@aol.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

JANUARY

28 Be Just - Matthew 22:36: "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

FEBRUARY

4 Souper Bowl of Caring -Help with a food collection and watch the Super Bowl together

11 Be Healed - Luke 5:23: "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk?'"

12-13 FRED Jr.

18 NO FRED - President's Day Weekend

25 Be Humble - James 4:10

MARCH

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

MEN'S RETREAT:

ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

On the weekend of February 9-11, join men from around the Archdiocese of Washington for a retreat directed by Fr. Dave Wells and Fr. Rick Kramer, who will lead talks on keys for men to actively engage in the spiritual life. They will celebrate Mass and offer opportunities for Confession and to spend quiet time with our Lord in Adoration. A retreat is a time away to reconnect and recharge the most important relationship in your life - your relationship with the Lord. The Men's Retreat will be held at Priestfield Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV. It is a short drive from the Washington D.C. area and provides space for quiet reflection away from all the distractions. The cost of the retreat is \$230 for the weekend, covering a double occupancy room (two double beds and a private bath) and meals including dinner Friday night; breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday; and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. To register, please call 301-853-5337 or visit www.2018adwmen.eventbrite.com.

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 February 4, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. We look forward to your joining us! Thank you

SFA Health Ministry

Encouraging health and wellness in body, mind and spirit

National Drug and Alcohol Week January 22-28

This national health observance for teens promotes local events that use National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) science to shatter the myths about drug and alcohol use. Educational resources for parents and teens from NIDA are available in the kiosk in the Gathering Space. **For more information please visit:** <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/national-drugalcohol-facts-week>.

New Opioid Website: <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/>

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched this new website offering resources and links to services to address the opioid epidemic. The website, <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/>, provides information on prevention, treatment, recovery and information about the epidemic. Approximately 116 people a day die from opioid related drug overdoses and nearly 80% of heroin users report using opioids prior to turning to heroin. The website highlights the National Helpline, 1-800-622-4357, for 24/7, 365-days-a-year confidential assistance and a link to over 14,000 substance abuse centers.

Staying well at St. Francis during flu season

The first and most important step to stay well and prevent getting the flu is to get a flu vaccination each year. Preventive actions such as staying away from people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and frequent hand washing help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu. Because flu viruses can spread when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk it is advisable to stay home when you are ill. It is appropriate to refrain from receiving the Eucharist from the cup or shaking hands at Mass because a person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. One can spread the flu virus even before one develops symptoms.

DIGNITY OF LIFE SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 17, 2018 9:30am-12noon

Knights of Columbus FATHER CUDDY HALL

17001 Overhill Rd, Derwood, MD 201855

The Dignity of Life Seminar featuring ethicist Father Daniel Mindling takes place on February 17. This seminar prepares you to make healthcare decisions in accordance with Church teachings. This seminar is directed to all age groups because unexpected critical illness and end-of-life situations can happen to us without warning at any age. Who will decide treatment choices for you if you cannot? What does the Church teach about care during the most vulnerable times in our lives? The Dignity of Life Seminar offers you peace of mind with answers to these important questions. Registration: 301 412-1909 or register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dignity-of-life-seminar-tickets-42023620781>.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ENSLAVED MEN AND WOMEN

You are invited to join Cardinal Wuerl in honoring the memory of enslaved men and women who, during the period when slavery was legal, were buried in unmarked graves throughout what is now the Archdiocese of Washington. This special Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, February 3 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 5:15 p.m. To learn more about this event please visit www.adw.org.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

Catch our Spirit

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

OPEN HOUSE

We would love to share the story of our school with you. Attending a St. Jude Regional Catholic School Open House is a great way to learn about SJRCS and experience our welcoming community first-hand. SJRCS will be hosting an Open House on:

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

9:00-11:30 a.m. & 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Applications for enrollment for the 2018 school year are now being accepted. Visit www.stjuderockville.org. Go to Admission, then Apply Online, then Enrollment: [TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment](#).

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (CSW):

LEARN. SERVE. LEAD. SUCCEED.

CSW is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. SJRCS will observe CSW week with Masses, open house and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, we focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to Church, local communities and the nation.

Catholic Schools Week Schedule

- January 28 at 9:30 a.m. - Opening Mass at St. Francis of Assisi
- January 29 8:30am - Volunteer coffee
- January 30- Service day
- January 31- Open house 9-11:30am /6-8pm
- February 1- Family lunch
- February 2- 9:00am closing Mass/International day/12:00 dismissal-teacher appreciation day

3RD ANNUAL SJRCS INTERNATIONAL DAY!

We invite you to travel....All Over the World!

Friday, February 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

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, please contact Mrs. Balog at Katharine.Balog@StJudeRockville.org

THANKS TO PARISHIONERS FOR NEARLY \$200 DONATED TO THE SHADY GROVE PREGNANCY CENTER

Jacqueline Stippich, executive director of the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, recently sent a heartfelt thank you to Fr. John Dillion and St. Francis parishioners for their Third Quarter Poor Box Donation of \$174.13. In her letter, she enumerated several of the reasons why women may opt for an abortion and reiterated her organization's mission to be a haven for women who find themselves unexpectedly pregnant. "Like the long-ago story of Mary and Joseph for a room at the inn, we are the STABLE for those weary pregnant women," Stippich wrote. "We are the safe place for women to come and lay down their burden of confusion, fear, and the obstacles that leave no room in their heart for a new life" Contact: Tony Bosnick, abosnick@sfadw.org. for information.