



Mass Intentions

February 12 - February 18

Monday, 2/12	9:00 a.m. James Bussard, Sr.
Tuesday, 2/13	9:00 a.m. Sgt. Eric Schenck
Wednesday, 2/14	9:00 a.m. Don Smith
Ash Wednesday	12:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
	6:00 p.m. John Marshall Carter
	7:30 p.m. George Giannetti
Thursday, 2/15	9:00 a.m. Thomas Edward Corbett
Friday, 2/16	9:00 a.m. Joseph & Mary Polosky
Saturday, 2/17	9:00 a.m. Adela Canino
	5:00 p.m. John A. Burroughs
Sunday, 2/18	8:00 a.m. Fr. Ivan Almodovar
	9:30 a.m. Elizabeth Vermont
	11:15 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
	5:00 p.m. Guy Beaven

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Anne Prebilio, Joan Gossett, Hunter Lee James, son of Trevor & Patricia James.

Please pray for the sick.... Joaquin Rosal, Dick Hunt, Dennis Parnell, Ed Dudenhoeffer, Bob Coyne, Evelyn Haddad, Calvin Speaks, Mark Trickett, Geri 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 February 11, 2018

Sunday:	Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/ 1 Cor 10:31--11:1/Mk 1:40-45
Monday:	Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 [77a]/ Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/ Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a]/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/ Lk 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/ Mt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/ Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday:	Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/ 1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

The following individuals and their families recently joined our St. Francis faith community during the month of January:

Steven & Genevieve DeWitt
Jim Orellana
Matthew & Casey Perisin

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Last week I gave some advice to parents of children who are intermediate elementary school level (grades 4-6) about activities that 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 give similar advice to the parents of children who are young adolescents. This would include students in the seventh and eighth 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. Parents communicate their values to their children through family participation in the life, mission, and work of the parish community. Frequent reference to Jesus and the Gospels and the Church helps keep them relevant in the life of the young adolescent. Seventh and eighth graders are ready to start learning more complex teachings of the Church and Christian living.

Key Element II: Liturgy and Sacraments. Parents set the standards for family involvement in parish liturgical celebrations including attending regularly, speaking positively about them, dressing with care, arriving on time and participating fully. Family encouragement for young people to take on the responsibility of liturgical ministries is essential in their decision to do so. Children learn how to fully and actively engage in the liturgy whether they are participating in a ministry or are in the pew.

Key Element III: Morality. As children approach the teen years they are confronted with serious questions about life, love and chastity. More than ever, they need to know they have a solid foundation they can lean on when pressure is pushing them in a different direction. Their faith and relationship with the parents ought to fill this need. Although parents feel like they are being listened to less and less, studies show that children are listening and often act on what they have heard from their parents (this is especially true in the area of chastity). Parents need to keep discussing Catholic values and moral decision making skills with their children so that they have a compass to follow.

Key Element IV: Prayer. Seventh and eighth graders are becoming more socially aware. Sometimes this means being hesitant to do or to be seen doing spiritual activities. Parents should talk to their children about involvement in the Church and community life and why it is important to you that they participate. Parents should realize that their young people's feelings are valid while still encouraging them in a positive direction. Their living a virtuous life will be tested in new and varied ways. Parents should help their young people to set healthy boundaries and learn ways of dealing with pressures of being a teen.

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can our compassion lead us to break barriers and bring healing to others, thereby giving glory to God?

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass Schedule – February 14

9:00 a.m. 12:00 Noon 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Mon thru Sat 9:00 a.m.
Wed 7:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena follows
Wednesday Evening Mass

Lenten Evening Prayer Friday Evenings 6:40 p.m.
Stations of the Cross Friday Evenings 7:00 p.m.

Confession: In addition to Saturday afternoon, Confessions will be heard each Wednesday evening during Lent before Mass 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. **(The Light is ON for you.)**

Confession will also be heard 30 minutes before Daily Mass and Sunday Masses during Lent.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Fasting: Ages 18-59 fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, limiting themselves to one full meal.

Abstinence: Catholics age 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community. As I mentioned above, seventh and eighth graders are becoming more social aware. Sometimes this means being hesitant to do or to be seen doing spiritual activities. Parents should talk to their children about involvement in the Church and community life and why it is important to you that they participate. Parents should realize that their young people's feelings are valid while still encouraging them in a positive direction. Their living a virtuous life will be tested in new and varied ways. Parents should help their young people to set healthy boundaries and learn ways of dealing with pressures of being a teen.

Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life. As children begin to think more deeply about their future, it would be good to help them discern the vocation by discussing a call to priesthood, religious life, and marriage. Parents should help them to know if they have a calling and to awaken any desires that God may have placed in their hearts. Not matter what the vocation, parents should let them know that God has a plan for their lives. Families who open their hearts to those in need, and put their faith into action witness Christian service to the young adolescent child. Parents help children understand the service they experience in light of Christian teaching and the Gospel.

Until next week,

Fr. John

ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

Parish Center

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

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

Chow Down on Pancakes at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13. The Shrove Pancake Supper is just around the corner! Join the Special Events Ministry on Tuesday, February 13, from 5-8 p.m. to eat pancakes and breakfast fixings – all to usher in the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Confirmation candidates are welcome to volunteer at the event to help fulfill their service requirements. For more information, contact Special Events Ministry Coordinator Sylvia Jones at decaffqueen@gmail.com.

DIGNITY OF LIFE SEMINAR OFFERS GUIDANCE ON MAKING HEALTHCARE DECISIONS ALIGNED WITH CHURCH TEACHINGS

February 17, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Knights of Columbus Father Cuddy Hall

17001 Overhill Rd, Derwood, MD 20855

On February 17, Fr. Daniel Mindling, a moral ethicist, will present the wisdom of the Church teachings about discerning health-care decisions that honor the dignity of life in all its stages. This seminar is directed to all age groups because unexpected critical illness and end-of-life situations can happen 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. To register, call (301) 412-1909 or register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dignity-of-life-seminar-tickets-42023620781>.

SHARE THE CROSS - CROSSES FOR HAITI

We are called to be God's hands in the world to heal the sick. Every year, St. Francis Parishioners respond generously to this call and "Share The Cross" by taking down a cross from the board in the Gathering Space and returning it with a contribution to benefit our medical mission in Haiti. The Haiti Committee asks you once again to participate in this Lenten program - to Share the Cross of Christ by easing the burdens of our friends in Haiti. 100% of your contribution goes towards providing critical health care for our sister parish in Leon at the next medical mission in Haiti this summer. **Thank you!**

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, February 13, 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 UMAN (Upper Montgomery Area Network). *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.

LENTEN FISH FRY - Please join the Knights of Columbus Montgomery County Council 2323 for a Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, February 23, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Rd., Derwood, MD. 20855. Dinner will include fried fish, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, and dessert. Beer, wine, soda, and coffee included. All proceeds go to Council supported Charities. \$8.00 a person, \$5.00 for children 6 and under. We hope to see you there!!

LENTEN DAY RETREAT AT ST. FRANCIS

Please come to a Lenten Day Retreat on "The Presence of God, A Time of Recollection and Prayer with Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity". Organized by the Secular Carmelite Community in Frederick, this day will be led by Father John Dillon and will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 6701 Muncaster Mill Road Derwood on Saturday February 17, open to all from 10.30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.: bring your family, bring your friends, bring your own lunch. The day will include Mass at 11:00 a.m., two conferences by Father Dillon, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and participation in the Bible-based experience "Surge in Prayer". Share impromptu discussions, find quiet places for prayer and reflection as you draw closer to the Lord during this season of prayer.

Summary of Lenten Activities

This Lenten season, ministries at St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be hosting many activities and events to help parishioners reflect on the life, death and Resurrection of Christ. There are several activities that will provide joyful fellowship, quiet reflection and the opportunity to learn more deeply about our Christian faith. Please see this list for many of the activities being sponsored by or promoted by St. Francis ministries:

- *Lenten Small Groups*, meet starting the week of February 11, at parishioners' homes. Small group members read and reflect on *Live Lent!*, a booklet published by Renew International.
- *Shrove Pancake Supper*, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 5-8 p.m. in the Parish Center. Come enjoy pancakes and breakfast fixings to kick off the start of Lent.
- *40 Days for Life*, February 14-March 25, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. everyday outside Leroy Carhart's abortion clinic in the Wildwood Medical Center, 10401 Old Georgetown Road. Come pray and keep vigil for mothers and children. For more information, contact Jill Perry at (301) 924-3838, Ext. 204 or socialconcerns@mothersetonparish.org.
- *Share the Cross*, take a cross and help support the St. Francis Medical Mission. Crosses can be found in the Gathering Space throughout Lent.
- Distribution of Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls to all students attending Religious Education. The Rice Bowls will also be made available in the Gathering Space. For more information: <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>.
- *The Light Is On*, Wednesdays during Lent from 6-7:30 p.m. A priest will hear confessions every Wednesday night during Lent in the confessional.
- *Stations of the Cross*, Fridays during Lent at 7 p.m. The Stations will take place every Friday during Lent except for Good Friday, when traditional services, including a Family Stations of the Cross, will be held. The Stations of the Cross will be preceded by evening prayer – Liturgy of the Hours – at 6:40 p.m.
- *Offering of the Sacrament of Penance* for Religious Education students in grades 3-8 during class time.
- *Parish Penance Service*, Monday, March 19, at 7 p.m. in the church.
- *A Lenten Day of Reflection*, Saturday, March 24, after the 9 a.m. Mass.
- *Family Stations of the Cross*, Good Friday, March 30, 1 p.m. in the church. St. Francis parishioners, including children, teenagers and adults, are needed to play the roles of people on Jesus' journey to Golgotha, as well as lector. There will be three rehearsals for the Family Stations of the Cross. If you are interested in taking part in this activity, contact parishioner Pam Kelly at pammycats@msn.com.
- *Blessing of the Easter Baskets*, Saturday, March 31 at 12:00 Noon.

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 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.. Look for camper registration information, as well as information about volunteer opportunities for adults and teens, in the Spring!

CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers monthly catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our next session is today, Sunday, February 11 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the St. Clare Room. If you would like to learn more about these sessions, or if you are interested in serving as a catechist or aide for children with special needs, please call Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

NO RE CLASSES NEXT WEEK

In observance of the Presidents' Day holiday, there are NO Religious Education classes on Sunday, February 18, Monday, February 19, and Tuesday, February 20.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Confirmation candidates will meet on Tuesday, February 20, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

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.



ENCOUNTER LENT

Join our faith community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from Religious Education Classes or the Church Gathering Space this week, and don't forget to download the CRS Rice Bowl app! May these 40 days better prepare us to encounter ourselves, our neighbors and our God.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY Upcoming Events

FRED

FEBRUARY

- 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

- 3 Archdiocese of Washington High School Youth Rally @ Catholic University

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

HELPING HURTING TEENS

PARENT SESSION - MARCH 2, 7:00-9:00 P.M. ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, OLNEY

Anxiety, depression, self injury, sexual orientation, suicidal ideation. These are just a few things ministers, catechists, teachers, parents and others involved in the lives of today's teens face. It can be daunting to help teens who are dealing with these issues. Many adults think "I'm not a psychologist...How can I help these teens?" While there are limits to what non mental health professionals can do, there is MUCH more you can do than you probably think. You'll leave this session with a better understanding of these issues and with a clearer understanding of the critical role you can play in pastorally caring for today's hurting teens. Roy Petitfils is an internationally sought after speaker who uses humor, passion, clinical and life experience to help adults connect with teens and teens to know, understand and love themselves. He is a therapist at Pax Renewal Center in Lafayette, Louisiana. He holds a Masters in Mental Health and School Counseling from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.

RCIA - The Rite of Sending will take place at the 5:00 Mass next Saturday. This is a preparation rite for the next day, when the candidates and catechumens will participate in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at 3o'clock at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. This rite gives the St. Francis Community the opportunity to express its approval of the catechumens and candidates and to send them forth to the celebration of election, assured of the parish's care and support. The catechumens will sign the Book of the Elect that will be presented to the Archbishop at the Rite of Election.

IN/OUT OF FLU SEASON: No one is ever under an obligation to shake hands during the Sign of Peace (a statement of peace, bow or other gesture is appropriate) or to receive from the chalice. We as Roman Catholics believe that both the Body and Blood of Christ are contained in the Holy Eucharist under the form of the consecrated host. Anyone who is ill, or suspects he or she is ill, should refrain from receiving from the chalice out of goodwill. Also, he or she may wish to receive the host in the hand rather than by mouth. Common sense dictates that you remain at home, if feeling unwell.

CATHOLICS IN ANNAPOLIS

St. Francis Parishioners Can Help Stand Up for Right-to-Life Issues at Catholics for Annapolis Event. In less than two weeks, Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Washington will gather in Annapolis, MD, to ensure the Catholic viewpoint is heard on issues and policies that the Maryland General Assembly may deliberate this spring.

Attendees to the Maryland Catholic Conference's Catholics in Annapolis event on Thursday, February 22 will have an opportunity to weigh in on right-to-life issues, a statewide minimum wage proposal, expanded sick leave for low-income workers and scholarship help to needy students who attend non-public schools.

The event will start at 3:00 p.m. with a briefing at St. John Neumann Mission Church, 620 N. Bestgate Road in Annapolis. Meetings with legislators will then begin at 5 p.m. at the Legislative Office Buildings on Rowe Boulevard. Catholic leaders, lay parishioners and legislators will then get a chance to mingle at a legislative reception from 6:30-8 p.m.

If you are interested in attending the free Catholics in Annapolis event, please pre-register at www.mdcathcon.org/lobbysnight. If you are in need to a ride to Annapolis, then please contact St. Francis Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfdaw.org or St. Francis Administrative Assistant Marie Yeast at mfffy313@aol.com.

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

Young adults at St. Francis are invited to take part in two archdiocesan Lenten events taking place this month. On February 17, join Cardinal Wuerl at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle for "*Light the City*," an evening of prayer and street evangelization from 8 to 11 p.m. Come be a prayer warrior in the church or by inviting people in the streets to come into the church and light a candle, pray for a loved one or talk to a priest. Sign up to volunteer at www.adw.org/Light. Check out the event on Facebook by going to <https://www.facebook.com/events/139673986707594/> and share your prayer intentions on Saturday night on social media using #LighttheCity.

On March 24, DCCatholic invites all young adults in their 20s and 30s to the 15th Annual 7 Church Walk, a Lenten pilgrimage. Attendees are welcome to meet at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Shaw. Make sure to bring comfortable shoes – you'll log three miles –, a Rosary, a bag lunch or lunch money.

SERIES CANCELLED - The four-part series on "Abraham's Children" scheduled for March and sponsored by the Faith Community Working Group of Montgomery County and Greater Gaithersburg Interfaith Alliance has been cancelled because not enough people representing the three Abrahamic traditions could participate to make the program a successful one. The Montgomery County Interfaith Community hopes to plan a similar event in the future.

SFA Health Ministry

Encouraging health and wellness in body, mind and spirit

World Day of the Sick

The World Day of the Sick is a feast day of the Roman Catholic Church, which was instituted on May 13, 1992, by Saint John Paul II. Celebrated annually on Feb. 11 to commemorate Our Lady of Lourdes, it is meant to be a special time of prayer and sharing, and of offering one's suffering to God. Pope Benedict XVI declared his decision to resign from his post as the Pope on this day in 2013. He cited his failing health as the reason behind his decision.

Prayers for the sick, as with all prayers, can help our Lord ease our burdens by giving us His graces to deal with them so that we can bear our crosses with more equanimity and with more patience. Uniting our sufferings in prayer with Christ's on the Cross helps us make amends for our sins and those of others.

Let us pray,
Almighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to you in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bereavement Support

Compassionate Friends - The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is an international grief support organization offering friendship and understanding to parents who are learning how to cope with the pain and grief of having a child die. The group has no professional therapists, just other parents who understand what it means to suffer the tragedy of losing a child. The Montgomery County Chapter meets monthly on each first Tuesday.

Location: Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Date and Time: Tuesday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m.

For additional information: SFA parishioners Barbara or George Beall at (301) 253-8740 or by e-mailing oldedish@starpower.net.

Perinatal Loss Support Group

A support group for families who have lost a baby through miscarriage, infant death or stillbirth. When a family experiences the loss of a child, the grief journey can be a lonely one. This free parent-to-parent support group will provide a safe place to share feelings and receive comfort from others who have experienced a similar loss.

Location: Willow Room at Shady Grove Hospital

Date & Time: Tuesdays, February 13-March 20, 7-8:30 pm
9901 Medical Center Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850

For additional information and to register: Contact Jeanine L. McGrath at (240) 481-3903 or e-mail her at jeaninemcgrath@gmail.com. You can also contact the Parent Education Office at (301) 315-3130 or -3131.

Please pray for Those Served by the St. Vincent de Paul Society

In today's Gospel reading, we find that Jesus would rise very early before dawn and go to a deserted place to pray. Then he went out to preach and to heal. Please pray for the poor and suffering, especially those we meet through our St. Vincent de Paul Society home visits, knowing that you are bringing the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.