

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

October 16 - October 22

Monday, 10/16	9:00 a.m. William English
Tuesday, 10/17	9:00 a.m. Rosalina Ruiz
Wednesday, 10/18	9:00 a.m. John Loh 7:30 p.m. Paul Popernack, Sr.
Thursday, 10/19	9:00 a.m. William English
Friday, 10/20	9:00 a.m. Roger Ruiz (L)
Saturday, 10/21	9:00 a.m. Paul Popernack, Sr. 5:00 p.m. Anthony Peters
Sunday, 10/22	8:00 a.m. William English 9:30 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 11:15 a.m. Frank Chite 5:00 p.m. Carla Cosman

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael Mattes, husband of Michelle Mattes, Consolacion Austria.

Please pray for the sick... Msgr. Ralph Kuehner, Bob Coyne, Gemma Palini, Larry Church, Ed Dudenhoefter, 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 October 15, 2017

Sunday:	Is 25:6-10/Ps 23:1-6/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/ Mt 22:1-14
Monday:	Rom 1:1-7/Ps 98:1-4/Lk 11:29-32
Tuesday:	Rom 1:16-25/Ps 19:2-5/Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday:	2 Tm 4:10-17b/Ps 145:10-13, 17-18/Lk 10:1-9
Thursday:	Rom 3:21-30/Ps 130:1b-6ab/Lk 11:47-54
Friday:	Rom 4:1-8/Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11/Lk 12:1-7
Saturday:	Rom 4:13, 16-18/Ps 105:6-9, 42-43/Lk 12:8-12
Next Sunday:	Is 45:1, 4-6/Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10/1 Thes 1:1-5/ Mt 22:15-21

Scripture Corner

THE WEDDING GARMENT

Today's Gospel (Matthew 22:1-14) centers on a parable of Jesus, dealing with a marriage feast. Such a celebration is often used as a symbol of eschatological joy. An example of that joyful reality is seen in today's first reading. (Isaiah 25:6-10a) "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines." (Isaiah 25:6)

The king who is putting on this banquet for his son has a number of problems. He sends his servants out twice to tell those invited, "Behold I have prepared my banquet; my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready, come to the feast." (Matthew 22:4) Those who had been invited ignore the king's request, even harming and killing the king's servants.. These servants represent the prophets of the Old Testament, but Jesus also has in mind the mistreatment of the early Christian missionaries. The king takes strong action against those who mistreated his servants.

The king, frustrated by his invitees, decides to reach out to the poor and marginalized. In Luke's version of this parable the master says, "Bring in here the poor and the crippled, the blind and the lame" (Luke 14:21) Matthew adds the important point that "bad and good" (22:10) were brought into the feast. This prepares for the additional parable about the man without a wedding garment (22:10-14). Jesus insists that coming into the kingdom of heaven is not a guarantee of salvation. All, both bad and good, must respond to the call by a faith-filled life, marked by good deeds.

This parable serves as a warning to Matthew's community and to all Christians down through the ages. Everyone is to appear before the Father with the "wedding garment" of a Christ-like life, marked by love of God and loving concern for all one's neighbors. To be among the few who are chosen (22:14) demands a change of mind and heart, a constant turning to Christ and his values.

Fr. Ralph

The Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What specific threads of “charity in action” are woven together to fashion the “wedding garment” needed for my presence at Jesus’ feast? Is it time that I got back to work at the proverbial loom?

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC: A COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

Thursday, October 26 7:00 p.m.

Parish Center

The current opioid epidemic has affected many families right here in our area as it has nationwide. The rapid rate of addiction and consequent rising death toll has left countless families and friends devastated in the wake of loss and grief. To address this tragic situation *St. Francis of Assisi Health Ministry* in sponsorship with Catholic Charities is hosting **THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC: A COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE**. This forum is a community wide effort to help families become informed and better equipped to cope with problem of substance abuse and to sustain hope that recovery is possible. Plan now to attend this forum that takes place in the Parish Center on Thursday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m.

8TH ANNUAL WHITE MASS

Do not miss the 8th Annual White Mass, celebrating the gifts of people with disabilities and the Deaf Community. Mass will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 22 at St. Matthew's Cathedral (1725 Rhode Island Ave., NW) in Washington, DC. All are welcome! People wear white to symbolize our baptismal call uniting us as one Catholic family. Cardinal Donald Wuerl will be the principal celebrant, and Fr. Thomas Gaunt, SJ, Executive Director of CARA at Georgetown University, will be the homilist. For more information, contact the Department of Special Needs Ministries at 301-459-7464 or 301-200-5430 (Video Phone). Contact by e-mail specialneedsministry@adw.org.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

The purpose of the Share the Journey Campaign is to inspire communities to build relationships with refugees and immigrants, and to love their neighbors in the U.S. and around the world in a number of ways. We, as a parish, have already been engaged in this effort. A group of parishioners have been helping the Al Humayer family meet the many challenges that refugees from Syria encounter when trying to adapt to life in the United States. Through an initial contact with our parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference we also started to help another Syrian refugee family negotiate the complex issues they face in trying to adjust to life here. There is a small core group of parishioners who are helping these families. But the group would welcome anyone else who would like to help with this work of mercy. If you want to assist with this or want more information about our work with these families, please contact our Social Concerns Minister, Tony Bosnick (301-840-1407 or abosnick@sfadw.org).

I would be happy to provide anyone with a copy of *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*, the pastoral letter summarized above. Please contact me if you would like this and I'll be happy to send it to you.

Until next week,
Fr. John

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Pope Francis launched the “Share the Journey” Migration Campaign on September 27, 2017. Last week the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA began a two-year campaign to support migrants around the world. Through this campaign, our Church hopes to dispel widespread fear of newcomers and raise awareness of why so many people are compelled to leave their homes at this time of history. I went online to find a “Tool Kit” for pastoral leaders that offers ideas how we can show support and solidarity with migrants and refugees in schools, at Mass, and in the community. I would like to share with you one item that I found there. This is Catholic Teaching on Immigrants and Refugees. This is part of my ongoing series for Respect Life Month.

The Church's teaching on migration is rooted in the Gospel and in the rich tradition of Catholic social teaching. A recent example of this teaching is in *Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope*, a joint pastoral letter concerning migration from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States. The pastoral letter promotes five principles that should be used to help formulate migration-related policy.

Persons have a right to find opportunities in their homeland.

All persons have the right to find in their own countries the economic, political and social opportunities to live in dignity and achieve a full life through the use of their God-given gifts. In this context, work that provides a just, living wage is a basic human need.

Persons have a right to migrate to support themselves and their families.

The Church recognizes that all the goods of the Earth belong to all people. When people cannot find employment in their country of origin to support themselves and their families, they have a right to find work elsewhere in order to survive. Sovereign nations should provide ways to provide this right.

Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders.

The Church recognizes the right of sovereign nations to control their territories and their borders. However, wealthier nations, which have the ability to better protect and feed their residents, have a strong obligation to accommodate migration flows.

Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection.

Those who flee wars and persecution should be protected by the global community. This requires, at a minimum, that migrants have a right to claim refugee status without incarceration and have their claims fully considered by a competent authority.

The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected.

Regardless of their legal status, migrants, like all persons possess inherent human dignity that should be respected. Often they are subject to punitive laws and harsh treatment by enforcement officers from both receiving and transit countries. The Church recognizes the right of every sovereign state to control its borders to promote the common good. It also recognizes the right of every human being to migrate in order to enjoy his or her God-given rights. These teachings complement each other. Government policies that respect the basic human rights of the undocumented are necessary.

Continued in the column to the left...

October 15, 2017

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, October 17, 7:30 p.m., St. Clare's Chapel in the Rectory. For details, please call Louise, (301) 977-5217.

POOR BOX DONATION – The donations for next weekend will go to the Prison Ministry Outreach Program. *Thank you for your generosity.*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER CHAIN If you have a prayer request, please contact Marianne Bullen, (301) 963-3420 or mariannebu@comcast.net 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL - 2323 FALL FAMILY EVENTS

OKTOBERFEST FAMILY NIGHT

On Saturday October 21, from 4:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m. we will have an Oktoberfest Family Night at Father Cuddy Hall 17001 Overhill Rd Derwood. Food, beverages, entertainment and games will be provided at \$10 per person or \$25 per family. Proceeds to be donated to hurricane relief via Catholic Charities.

PUMPKIN CARVING & PAINTING PARTY

On Sunday October 29 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. we will host a Pumpkin Carving and Painting Party at Father Cuddy Hall 17001 Overhill Rd Derwood. Pumpkins, stencils, carving tools and art supplies will be provided. There is no charge for participation in this event. We will also have snacks and drinks. Contact John Leighton 301-340-9143 (cin2omn@verizon.net) to reserve your pumpkin. Walk-ins are also welcome.

MINISTRY LEADERS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND NEXT MINISTRY COORDINATORS RETREAT ON OCTOBER 28

All ministry coordinators and rising leaders should save the date of Saturday, October 28 for the parish's Fourth Semi-annual Ministry Coordinators Retreat at the Parish Center. With a theme of "Servant Leaders of a Missionary Church," the retreat will focus on exploring and meditating upon our servant leader role model – Jesus. In addition to praying and reflecting, participants will:

- Discuss and share how servant leadership can be messy.
- Explore how to avoid being a maintenance vs. a missionary ministry leader.
- Learn how people process information differently.
- Determine how this information can help the servant leader.
- Examine and discuss effective leadership.
- Identify the biggest challenge facing their ministry.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Lisa Singleton, a St Francis parishioner for more than 30 years and a teacher at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, an all-girls Catholic high school in Washington D.C. Singleton, a graduate of both Catholic University and the University of Pennsylvania, teaches public speaking at Georgetown Visitation, mentors the Student Government and created and implemented a student leadership development program. Singleton – the daughter of Deacon Jim and Patrice Datovech – and her husband Mark are the parents of two boys. For more information about the retreat, contact Deacon Dan Finn at deacondanfinn@gmail.com.

MARTHA/MARY WOMEN'S GROUP

Just as Martha opened her home in service to Jesus and Mary sat at His feet to learn, our women's group opens the door to you to join us twice a month to learn and discuss how we, too, can move closer to Jesus. We meet at 7:30 p.m. every other Wednesday, in the Youth Room of the Rectory. We are currently reading the book, *Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self* by Sr. Joyce Rupp. It is a very casual women's group, and we always welcome newcomers. Our next meeting is October 18. Questions: Email Linda Call at dcall94080@aol.com or Marie Yeast at Mffy313@aol.com

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT

Interested in sharing your Thanksgiving bounty a little early this year? *Donate* canned goods typically found at Thanksgiving tables *the weekend of November 4 and 5*, as part of a Community Holiday Giving Project sponsored by St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Rockville. The church is requesting that some of the following items be donated:

- Stuffing mix bags (12-14 oz.) or boxes (6-10 oz.)
- Turkey gravy (16 oz. cans)
- Cranberry sauce (16 oz. cans)
- Green beans (16 oz. cans)
- Applesauce (48 oz. containers)
- Sweet potatoes or yams (40 oz. cans)
- Apple juice (64 oz. bottles)

Please leave donations in the Gathering Space. The canned goods will be assembled into 1,000 Thanksgiving food baskets for families in need in our local community, specifically, the 20853 and 20906 zip codes. For more information, contact Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS UPDATE

Even though Religious Education classes have started, space is still available in most classes and children are welcome to begin 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.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING

There will be a First Reconciliation Parent Meeting on Wednesday, October 18, at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center for those who have registered their children for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation this year. Parents will be receiving a letter in the mail with additional information. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 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 questions, call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

ST. JUDE REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL www.StJudeRockville.org

ARCHDIOCESE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The ADW Tuition Assistance Program is available for students who are applying to or currently enrolled in Catholic Schools. All tuition assistance obtained through the archdiocese is based on financial need. Families must apply each year to receive assistance and financial need must be demonstrated each year to qualify. The 2018-2019 ADW Tuition Assistance Program is now online at <http://www.adw.org/tuition-assistance/>. The application deadline is December 1, 2017. Other Scholarship opportunities are also available at the link above.

REMINDER: Halloween Parade October 31 @ 10:30 a.m.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY *Upcoming Events*

FRED

OCTOBER

15 FRED - Celebrating 100 Years of Our Lady of Fatima
22 FRED - Protecting God's Children
29 FRED - Halloween Party

NOVEMBER

3-5 FRED Fall Retreat

FRED JR.

OCTOBER

30 NET Retreat

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

270 CATHOLIC OCTOBER EVENTS

(A regional young adult ministry sponsored by the Archdiocese's Office of Young Adult Ministry)

Monthly Service Event

Young adults (20s & 30s) save the date: **Saturday, October 21st, 9:00-12:00 Noon** for our monthly service event at A Wider Circle (9159 Brookville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910). Tasks involve sorting through donations, re-stocking the show rooms, and helping load up trucks or client's vehicles.

Special Vigil Mass

On **Tuesday, October 31st**, young adults (20s & 30s) are invited to St. Mary's Historic Chapel (520 Viers Mill Road, Rockville, MD) from **7:30-8:30 p.m.** for a special vigil Mass for The Feast of All Saints. Join us after for fellowship in the basement of the rectory.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/270Catholic/events> or email: 270catholic@gmail.com for more information on any of these events.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

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.

THEME BASKETS FOR SILENT AUCTION

If you would like to make up a theme basket for the Silent Auction, please call the Parish Office to let us know you are donating a special basket. Theme Baskets are always a big hit!

FLEA MARKET

Start saving your "stuff" for our flea market

CRAFTING

We will be making craft items on Thursday, October 19 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Please join us and bring your craft ideas. Projects can be taken home.

TICKETS TO ATTEND THE HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT ON SALE THROUGH OCTOBER 27

If you've missed the beautiful voice of former St. Francis music director Verena Anders, then you are in luck – the Baltimore native and, now, Atlanta resident, will return to St. Francis of Assisi Church at 7 p.m. Saturday, October 28, to perform with her husband William Buthod during the Haiti Benefit Concert.

Anders and Buthod have planned a rich program featuring vocal and keyboard works that reflect the identity of Haiti. It will touch on 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 program will also feature the debut of *Three Quotes*, an original short work composition by Will Buthod based on three short quotes from Haitian descendent Alexander Dumas.

Tickets to the Haiti Benefit Concert are \$20/person and children under 12 will be admitted for free. Those interested in attending can purchase tickets at the Rectory during business hours through October 27, or they can buy them in the Gathering Space after all Masses the weekend of October 21 and 22. For more information about the concert, contact St. Francis of Assisi Music Director Deirdre Sweet at sfadwmusic@gmail.com.

On a separate note, thanks to all the St. Francis of Assisi parishioners who supported the Haiti Medical Mission Banquet on Friday, September 22, at New Fortune Restaurant in Gaithersburg. The event raised nearly \$5,000 to help support the Haiti Medical Mission.

COME SEE WHAT LIFE IN MODERN-DAY BETHLEHEM LOOKS LIKE BY ATTENDING FILM ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 15

Have you ever wondered what Bethlehem – the birthplace of Jesus – is like today? Experience the next closest thing to an actual visit by attending a film screening on Sunday, Oct. 15, to watch *Open Bethlehem*, a documentary revealing a city of astonishing beauty and political strife under occupation. The 90-minute film follows director Leila Sansour, a Palestinian Catholic, as she returns to her hometown as it is soon to be encircled by The Wall. Chronicling Sansour's campaign to stop occupying Israeli forces encircling Bethlehem, this fierce and poignant story maps a determined and ongoing effort to unite Christians, Muslims and Jews in the desire for free access to the Holy City. Sansour will attend the film showing and lead an after-film discussion.

"Open Bethlehem" is the first of four films to be shown in the Holy Land Film Series, an initiative supported by the St. Francis Pax Christi Ministry. All films will be shown at 2:30 p.m. at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Montgomery Village (9801 Centerway Rd). On October 22, *Life in Occupied Palestine*, a primer on the situation by Anna Baltzer, a Jewish-American Columbia graduate and Fulbright scholar, will be shown at the same location and time.

PASTORAL COUNCIL DECIDES ELECTION WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 4/5

On September 21, the Pastoral Council discussed its upcoming election on the weekend of November 4 and 5 to elect seven new members who will advise Fr. John on parish matters, large and small.

Alicia Church, a member of the Executive Committee of the Pastoral Council, announced at the meeting that nine candidates have expressed interest in running for the Pastoral Council, including several parishioners in their 20s and 30s. Following the election on November 4 and 5, the new council will start a three-year term on January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2020.

Church requested that members of the Pastoral Council sign up to serve on three committees related to the Pastoral Council election – a Pre-Election Committee, which will be charged with contacting all the candidates, securing a head shot and biography of each and helping publicize this information in the Gathering Space and through various St. Francis communications channels. Members were also asked to serve on a committee to count ballots and one to guide the voting process the weekend of the election.

The Pre-Election Committee plans to begin displaying the candidates' biographies and head shots in the Gathering Space by the weekend of October 21 and 22. The Communications Ministry also plans to post this information on the parish web site, and, possibly, on the Information Monitor.

In other business, the Pastoral Council also discussed:

- A theme for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.
- The St. Francis Feast Day and Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 8.
- Proposed 2017-18 parish goals from Fr. John.
- The status of the school year at St. Jude's Regional Catholic School and upcoming activities.
- Two upcoming forums about the opioid crisis.
 - The first one is on October 21 at Covenant Life Church and is sponsored by Montgomery County Collaboration Council, county government, the Maryland County Police Department, and county public schools. For more information, go to www.manyvoicessmartchoices.org – Save a Life Montgomery.
 - The second one is at St. Francis at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 26, and is sponsored by SFA and Catholic Charities.

Those in attendance at the meeting were council executive committee members Alicia Church and Miguel Welanetz; Anna Breece; Debra Crone; Arleen Hall; Chris King; Ann Pierre; Larry Pinto; Ken Raker and John Vilgos. Fr. John and Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan also attended to staff the meeting.