

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

October 9 - October 15

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|-------------------------|---|
| Monday, 10/9 | 9:00 a.m. Ann De Stwolinski |
| Tuesday, 10/10 | 9:00 a.m. Poor Souls in Purgatory |
| Wednesday, 10/11 | 9:00 a.m. Deacon Robert L. Connelly 7:30 p.m. Lacava & Jamgochian Families |
| Thursday, 10/12 | 9:00 a.m. Bess Mitchell |
| Friday, 10/13 | 9:00 a.m. For the Conversion of Terrorists (L) |
| Saturday, 10/14 | 9:00 a.m. Don Smith 5:00 p.m. Jimmy Gierula |
| Sunday, 10/15 | 8:00 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 9:30 a.m. Moe Rubritz 11:15 a.m. Milton Cosman 5:00 p.m. Paul Popernack, Sr. |

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Gloria Thomas, sister of Cornelia Pierre.

Please pray for the sick... Gemma Palini, Larry Church, Ed Dudenhoeffer, Fatimah Seyed-Ali, Evelyn Haddad, Carolyn Speaks, Bart Trickett, Katrina Schmidt, Bienvenido Delrosario, Jackie Roebuck King, Bob Coyne, 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 8, 2017

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|---------------------|---|
| Sunday: | Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20/Phil 4:6-9/ Mt 21:33-43 |
| Monday: | Jon 1:1—2:2, 11/Jon 2:3-5, 8/Lk 10:25-37 |
| Tuesday: | Jon 3:1-10/Ps 130:1b-4ab, 7-8/Lk 10:38-42 |
| Wednesday: | Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-6, 9-10/Lk 11:1-4 |
| Thursday: | Mal 3:13-20b/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 11:5-13 |
| Friday: | Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6, 8-9, 16/ Lk 11:15-26 |
| Saturday: | Jl 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Lk 11:27-28 |
| Next Sunday: | Is 25:6-10/Ps 23:1-6/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/ Mt 22:1-14 |

Scripture Corner SALVATION HISTORY

In today's Gospel (Matthew 21:33-43) Jesus provides a challenging parable. It is truly a wonderful view of salvation history. A landowner is presented, representing God. The many tenants are seen as the leaders of the Israelites.

God sends his servants to collect the produce of the landowner's fields. Often in the Old Testament the prophets are seen as servants. "From the day that your fathers left the land of Egypt even to this day, I have sent you untiringly all my servants the prophets." (Jeremiah 7:25) Unfortunately, the prophets were often the victims of abuse. Here also the servants sent are abused and even killed.

The landowner is upset with the tenants and decides to send his own son. The son, who represents Jesus is also treated shamefully! "They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him." (Matthew 21:35) "Jesus also suffered outside the gate, to consecrate the people by his own blood." (Hebrews 13:12)

Matthew cites Psalm 118: 22-23 which foretells the rejection of Jesus, but also announces that he will be the "cornerstone" of this new structure, the church. God says to the Jewish leaders, "The kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit." (Matthew 21:43) It is critical, therefore, that the Church produce good works for God, especially justice. "Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow." (Isaiah 1:17)

The parable completes its outline of salvation history by announcing this final period, the period of the church. After the period of Israel and the period of Jesus there is now the period of the church, which will last "until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Fr. Ralph

**PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, OCTOBER 9
IN OBSERVANCE
OF COLUMBUS DAY**

The Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Does the “peace of God that surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7) describe the life that pulses through my heart these days?

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.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY/ PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH:

Reminding us of Our Lord’s commission to spread the Gospel to all nations, this second collection supports Church missions in more than 1,150 dioceses throughout Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. Your generosity makes it possible for local priests and religious in desperate need, to bring the light of Christ to families and children living in the darkest of circumstances. This national collection will be taken on the weekend of October 14/15. Please be generous according to your means.

MINISTRY COORDINATORS LEADERSHIP RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE - OCTOBER 28

All Ministry coordinators and their rising leaders are asked to save October 28 as the date for our 4th Semi-Annual Ministry Coordinators Retreat. With a theme of “Servant Leaders of a Missionary Church,” the retreat will include time to:

- Pray and reflect
- Consider our servant leader role model – Jesus
- Discuss, reflect and share how servant leadership can be messy
- Explore how to avoid the trap of being a maintenance vs. a missionary ministry leader

The retreat will discuss how people process information differently and how this information can help the servant leader. There will also be time to reflect on the biggest challenge facing each ministry as it strives to support the vision and mission of St. Francis and our call to be missionary disciples. For more information, contact Deacon Dan Finn at deacondanfinn@gmail.com.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For that reason I want to devote my column to this very timely topic. I am going to base this column on a statement issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which is entitled “When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence against Women.” Our bishops state that domestic violence is any kind of behavior that a person uses to control an intimate partner through fear and intimidation. It includes physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, and economic abuse. The bishops provide some examples of domestic abuse: battering, name-calling and insults, threats to kill or harm one’s partner or children, destruction of property, marital rape, and forced sterilization or abortion.

Younger, unmarried women are at the greatest risk for domestic violence. Women ages 16 to 24 are nearly three times as vulnerable to attacks by intimate partners as those in other age groups. Abuse victims between 35 and 49 run the highest risk of being killed. Some women face particular obstacles. Women of color may not view the criminal justice system as a source of help. Additionally, in some cultures women feel pressured to keep problems within the home and keep the family together at all costs. Some fear that they will lose face in the community if they leave. Immigrant women often lack familiarity with the language and legal systems of this country. Their abusers may threaten them with deportation.

Women in rural communities may find themselves with fewer resources. The isolation imposed by distance and lack of transportation can make their situation more serious. Isolation can also be a factor for women who do not work outside the home. They may have less access to financial resources and to information about domestic violence. Women with disabilities and elderly women are also particularly vulnerable to violence.

Some who suffer from domestic violence are also victims of stalking, which includes following a person, making harassing phone calls, and vandalizing property. Eight percent of women in the United States have been stalked at some time in their lives, and more than one million are stalked annually. Stalking is considered a unique crime because stalkers are obsessed with controlling their victims’ actions and feelings. A victim can experience extreme stress, rage, depression, and an inability to trust others.

Domestic violence is often shrouded in silence. People outside the family hesitate to interfere, even when they suspect abuse is occurring. Many times even extended family members deny that abuse is taking place, out of loyalty to the abuser and to protect the image of the family. Some people still argue—mistakenly—that intervention by outside sources endangers the sanctity of the home. Yet abuse and assault are no less serious when they occur within a family. Even when domestic violence is reported, sometimes there are failures to protect victims adequately or to punish perpetrators.

To learn more about the Catholic response, visit the U.S. Bishop’s website for their Pastoral Letter: “When I Call for Help” (http://bit.ly/usccb_dv) If you or a family member or friend needs help now, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800 - 799 - 7233 (24 hours); 800 - 787 - 3224 (TTY); www.ndvh.org. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon

October 8, 2017

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, October 10, 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 Upper Montgomery Assistance Network (UMAN). *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.

HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT TICKETS ON SALE THIS WEEKEND

Tickets are on sale October 7 and 8 in the Gathering Space for the Haiti Benefit Concert at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, October 28, in the church. The concert will feature former Music Director Verena Anders and her husband, William Buthod, performing keyboard and vocal works reflecting Haiti's culture and heritage. Please support us!

FATIMA 100TH ANNIVERSARY CANDELIGHT PROCESSION & ROSARY

On Friday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m., the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception invites you to join Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, for a Candlelight Procession, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and Praying of the Rosary in commemoration the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. Visit www.nationalshrine.org or call 202-526-8300 for additional information..

NEW MEMBERS STILL SOUGHT FOR NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR OUTREACH

The Neighbor to Neighbor team held its first meeting Sept. 26 to begin exploring how to engage people moving into the parish and invite them to join us at St. Francis of Assisi. Based on the energy at the meeting and the many great ideas generated, this is a fun and intellectually stimulating group to join. The goal of the Neighbor to Neighbor initiative is to discern and plan how to reach out to our new neighbors and "get them in the door." We will also be exploring best ways to reach out to inactive members of St. Francis and invite them to re-engage.

We are still looking for additional members to help us discern a robust Neighbor to Neighbor Outreach Plan. Please call Deacon Dan at (240) 393-8180 or e-mail deacondanfinn@gmail.com if you would like to join.

SMALL GROUPS KICK OFF

Our **Pivotal Players, Sunday Mass Preparation, and Psalmody** Small Groups kicked off this past week. There are still several spots open if you are interested. A tan Small Groups brochure describing each group and contacts is available at the Information Desk.

Parishioners also joined some of our four existing Common Interest Small Groups. If you are interested in one of these, please contact the group coordinator, whose contact information can be found in the Small Groups brochure.

The **Catholic Perspectives on the Vietnam War** Small Group will begin meeting Tuesday, October 17, the first of four meetings throughout the fall and winter, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Rectory's Assisi Room. The meeting dates are as follows:

- October 17
- November 21
- January 16
- February 20

New members are still welcome to join. As background, please plan to watch the 10-part documentary "The Vietnam War," directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, on PBS. It can be watched online at www.pbs.org/VietnamWar. Participants should watch the first two episodes prior to the first meeting on Oct. 17.

The group respectfully welcomes all viewpoints and looks forward to delving into the causes and tragic consequences of this war. For more information, contact Pax Christi Ministry Coordinator Mary Kate Ryner at rynoslp@msn.com.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DISCOVERING CHRIST PARTICIPANTS

The Fall *Discovering Christ* session kicked off September 28, with more than 20 parishioners beginning their seven-week journey to deepen their relationship with Christ. There was a waiting list for this session and the next *Discovering Christ* session will be offered in September 2018. The second installment in this series, *Following Christ*, will be offered sometime next year, while the third installment, *Sharing Christ*, will take place in January 2018.

For more information, contact the ChristLife Series (*Discovering Christ, Following Christ and Sharing Christ*) Ministry Coordinator Medy Deausen at SFADCHRIST@comcast.net.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES THIS WEEK, OCTOBER 8, 9 AND 10

There will be no Religious Education classes on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, October 8, 9 and 10. In lieu of class, we hope that all RE families will plan to attend the Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 8.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE & PARENT MEETING: OCTOBER 11

A reminder to those who have registered for this year's Confirmation Program: There will be a meeting for students and parents on Wednesday, October 11, from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center. Letters with additional information are being mailed to families with children registered for Confirmation this year. If you have any questions about this meeting or our Confirmation program, please call Susan Anderson at 301-258-9193.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY *Upcoming Events*

FRED

OCTOBER

- 8 Parish Picnic—No FRED
- 14 UCR Hoe Down
- 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)

Theology on Tap in Bethesda

On **Thursday, October 12th** young adults (20s & 30s) are invited to The Barking Dog (4723 Elm Street, Bethesda, MD 20814) for Happy Hour from **6:00-7:00 p.m.** followed by a talk and Q&A from **7:00-8:00 p.m.** with Carlos Taja, Assistant Director at the Secretariat of Evangelization at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). He will be speaking on the reality of sin and salvation.

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.

RUN FOR VOCATIONS

Run for Vocations registration is open! The Marine Corps 10K will be held on Sunday, October 22, but plan to register soon, as the race fills quickly. Register at www.dcpriest.org/promote/run-for-vocations/register-to-run for both the 10K and Run for Vocations. It is not necessary to be part of a parish team to run. All proceeds to support vocation promotion and benefit seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington. For more information, go to www.dcpriest.org, search "Run for Vocations" on Facebook, or email RFV@adw.org.

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

CRAFTING

We will be making craft items on Thursday, October 11 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Please join us and bring your craft ideas. Projects can be taken home.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We are looking for silent auction items such as Time Shares, Sports Tickets, Theater Passes, etc. for our Fall Bazaar (November 11). Items donated are a tax write-off! For more information or to make arrangements to donate, please call the Parish Office, Donna, (301) 840-1407.

FLEA MARKET

Start saving your "stuff" for our flea market

**COME ATTEND FILM SERIES
ON THE HOLY LAND**

St. Francis parishioners are invited to attend the first of a four-part film series on the Holy Land at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, October 15, at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 9801 Centerway Road, in Gaithersburg. The first film, "Open Bethlehem," spans seven momentous years in the life of Bethlehem, revealing a city of astonishing beauty and political strife under occupation.

Director Leila Sansour, whose hometown is Bethlehem, will attend the film showing, which will be followed by a moderated discussion. The other four films in the series will also be shown at 2:30 p.m. at the church on the following dates:

- October 22: "Life in Occupied Palestine"
- November 5: "Two Blue Lines"
- November 12: "Where Should the Birds Fly"

The films provide perspectives rarely seen in the United States, but offer information essential for peace and reconciliation. Visit www.facebook.com/VoicesHolyLand and voicesfromtheholylnd.org.

The St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pax Ministry is a supporter of The Montgomery County VOICES from the Holy Land film series. We hope you will attend and explore the issues of justice, human rights and peace in the Holy Land through these films and join in these very timely conversations.

For more information, contact St. Francis Pax Christi member Pat Labuda at patlabuda@aol.com.

**SOLEMN NOVENA TO ST. JUDE THADDEUS
October 20th-28th, 2017**

Every night, from Friday, October 20th– Saturday, October 28th at 8:00 p.m., we will be praying our solemn Novena to St. Jude. St. Jude, is the saint of impossible causes. All of us have situations in our lives, at home or at work, which can seem to have no possible solution. These very situations are the ones we would encourage you to bring to St. Jude during our novena. Make a commitment, come every night, and ask him to beg the Lord Jesus to find a way to break into our lives and bring His healing presence into impossible situations. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and He reminds us: "Ask anything of the Father in My Name, and He will grant it to you." (Lk 11:9) The evening devotions consist in novena prayers, reflections, confessions, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and veneration of the St. Jude relic. Fr. Jack MacFarlane will be leading the novena ceremony for us this year. Hope to see you there! (12701 Viers Mill Road, Rockville)

SFA HEALTH MINISTRY

Encouraging healing in body, mind and spirit

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is an international grief support organization. TCF offers friendship and understanding to parents who come together to learn how to cope w/ the pain and grief of having a child die. We do not have 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 & TIME: November 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

For additional information: Contact Barbara/George Beall 301-253-8740 or oldedish@starpower.net. St. Francis parishioners, whose youngest child and daughter, died in 2004. They are available to speak with parents at any time, night or day.

MONTGOMERY HOSPICE

Our six-week bereavement groups are for anyone who lives or works in Montgomery County who is grieving the death of a loved one. All groups are led by a professional counselor. The groups provide emotional support and encourage the sharing of personal experiences. Practical issues and concerns are discussed. Educational materials are provided. **To register: ask for a Bereavement Counselor at 301-921-4400**

Montgomery Hospice suggests you wait 3 months after the death to participate in a support group. \$25 non-refundable registration fee for community persons; No registration fee for Montgomery Hospice family members.

LIVING WELL PROGRAM

Join this free six-week workshop to show you how **LIVING WELL** allows you to enjoy a healthier life despite ongoing health problems such as: heart disease, asthma, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, arthritis. See flyer at Information Desk for details.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

Catch our Spirit

www.StJudeRockville.org

DUNKED FOR READING REWARDS

On a daily basis, Mr. Benjamin and Mrs. Donatelli inspire the students to learn. However, today they went over and above expectations. They were dunked! Back in the spring, Mr. Benjamin challenged the students, in grades 3 to 8, to read 100,000 minutes this summer. The students read over 140,500 minutes! Since they exceeded the challenge amount, the top 15 readers took their aim at the target and Mr. Benjamin and Mrs. Donatelli were dunked.

OKTOBERFEST

Join us on Saturday, October 14 for the Third Annual Oktoberfest. This is a wonderful opportunity for all parents, alumni and community members to meet and have a night to unwind. 6:30-10:30 p.m. (rain or shine), \$30 if you purchase through October 12 or \$35 at the door!. Traditional German food and beverages. **Remember this is an adult only event!**