

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

November 20 - November 26

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|-------------------------|--|
| Monday, 11/20 | 9:00 a.m. William English |
| Tuesday, 11/21 | 9:00 a.m. For Those Who Are Sick & Alone (L) |
| Wednesday, 11/22 | 9:00 a.m. Reverend Francis Martin 7:30 p.m. Marge Zack |
| Thursday, 11/23 | 10:00 a.m. In Thanksgiving |
| Friday, 11/24 | 9:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen |
| Saturday, 11/25 | 9:00 a.m. William English 5:00 p.m. Dorothy Mai |
| Sunday, 11/26 | 8:00 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 9:30 a.m. Bernard Ruzga 11:15 a.m. Carla Cosman 5:00 p.m. Kevin Bushell |

Please pray for the sick....Maureen Hurley, Ed Dudenhoeffer, Bernard Kohan, Joseph Dreup, Tom Proctor, Jimmy Gerard, 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 November 19, 2017

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| Sunday: | Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-5/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30 |
| Monday: | 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43 |
| Tuesday: | 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-7/Lk 19:1-10 |
| Wednesday: | 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b, 15/ Lk 19:11-28 |
| Thursday: | 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/ Lk 19:41-44 |
| Friday: | 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10-12/ Lk 19:45-48 |
| Saturday: | 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19/Lk 20:27-40 |
| Next Sunday: | Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-3, 5-6/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46 |

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Last week I devoted this column to an interview that was published in the *Catholic Standard* about Cardinal Wuerl's recently released pastoral letter, *The Challenge of Racism Today*. I want to continue our reflections on this pastoral letter this week as this pastoral letter is very timely, particularly with events occurring in our country at the present time.

In his pastoral letter *The Challenge of Racism Today*, Cardinal Wuerl teaches us how the mission of the Church is to restore our relationship with God and each other in Jesus Christ.

Recognizing the urgency of the Church's response to the evil of racism in our country, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has called forth an Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. Cardinal Wuerl wrote this pastoral letter for the Church in Washington to address the crisis of racism and how the Church through its healing mission confronts racism by reconnecting us to God's plan for our unity in Christ and the ministry of reconciliation.

In the Scriptures, we find that in the perfect plan of God, we were created in his image: "God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him, male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27). Every human being shares this same identity and dignity, and we are all called by grace to a relationship with God and each other. God created each and every one of us in love. This is the source of our human dignity, and he called us to be a family.

Racism is discrimination against another person based upon their race or ethnicity. It is a denial of human dignity because it denies basic equality and dignity of all people before God. Racism is a sin. It is a sin that claims that some human beings are inherently superior and others inferior because of race. Racism offends God by denying the goodness of his creation, and it is a sin against each other through denying that certain persons are created in the image of God. Racism can be expressed personally through our own prejudices, and it can be expressed socially and institutionally through discriminatory political or economic structures. Racism violates the plan of God.

God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile us to God and each other. Jesus calls us to new life in him, and through the sacraments in the Church we share this new life in the Holy Spirit. In Christ, we live in the same Spirit. In Jesus Christ we find our truest identity as children of one Father; through Christ we are one family.

Conformed to Christ, we are called to respond to his call by acknowledging our sins, asking forgiveness, and seeking with the help of his grace to amend our lives. This means that we must examine how, in our hearts, we have held onto hateful things. Our response of faith through repentance entails a fundamental change in the attitude of our hearts. Experiencing forgiveness, we are each uniquely loved by God with an infinite love. We are called to communion in Christ to love each other as he loves us and to forgive as he forgives us.

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

The Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How am I investing those talents entrusted to me by the Master?



THANKSGIVING ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Sunday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.

Mill Creek United Methodist Church, Derwood will be hosting the service this year. *All are welcome. Our local church communities are participating. Canned food donations are welcome to benefit the Manna Food Bank. Attendees are also invited to donate money to help the principal at Redland Middle School fund a "Reward Room".*

REMINDER THANKSGIVING MASS 10:00 A.M. No 9:00 Daily Mass

FAMILIES SOUGHT TO HELP LIGHT ADVENT WREATH CANDLES STARTING DE- CEMBER 2



Take part in our **Advent Celebration!**

We invite individuals, couples, and families to sign up to light the Advent Wreath on one of the Sundays of Advent. Sign-up sheets are available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. Advent begins the weekend of December 2 and 3. Be a part of the Celebration... Sign up today!

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Drawing our life from Christ and transformed in his love, we participate in his mission of reconciliation and healing. In his pastoral letter, Cardinal Wuerl acknowledges how the Church has been affected by the sins of racism, and he gives thanks for the steadfast faith of African-Americans and immigrants who through great suffering have been witnesses to the new life in Christ. In concluding his letter, Cardinal Wuerl highlights how the Archdiocese of Washington has worked throughout history to bear witness and is working hard today to overcome the challenge of racism. Each of us bears a personal responsibility in our relationships and in a public way to be educated and raise awareness and, in a spirit of encounter and dialogue, promote justice and peace.

Life in Christ is a mission to live a life of holiness; it is a life which, on our own, exceeds our abilities. With the grace of Christ and the strength of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we can trust in God to accomplish through us more than we could ask for imagine (Ephesians 3:20). Through Christ, we are called to envision the holy city not build with human hands.

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING HELPS US CON- SIDER FINANCIAL GIVING AT ST. FRANCIS

This weekend, the Gospel reading from Matthew clearly tells us, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy." – Matthew 25:14-30

Over the last few weeks, our readings have pointed us to the last things – death, certainly, but also the virtues of how to grow in humility and trust. To grow in virtue, we do so slowly, not by moving mountains. And, we do so, by taking stock of what's big and small in our lives – the biggest being, how we grow the kingdom of God.

As our parish launches our annual Offertory Stewardship Appeal today, we are all invited to consider how we can build the kingdom of God on Earth. Much of that work is done at the parish level and we have many needs at our parish that can be continued and expanded through increased weekly offertory contributions by all parishioners. Please pray this week on whether your family can increase its weekly offertory contribution by making a regular financial commitment to St. Francis or adjusting your current one.

Information on how to give through Faith Direct or through envelopes was mailed to your home and is available in pews this weekend. Signs with suggested weekly offertory contributions based on a range of annual family incomes are in the Gathering Space and Parish Center for your consideration. Prayerfully decide how you can help build the kingdom of God at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

SPIRIT GIVING TREE AND ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD PROGRAMS KICKING OFF

With Advent almost upon us, it's time for two of St. Francis of Assisi's most beloved Christmastime program offerings: the Assumption Parish/Spirit Giving Tree and Alternative Christmas Gifts.

Starting this weekend, the Spirit Giving Tree will go on display in the Gathering Space. The annual activity with Assumption Parish in Washington DC allows St. Francis parishioners to choose ornaments listed with names and gift requests of parishioners in our neighboring parish. St. Francis parishioners then buy the suggested gift or gifts, wrap it, label it with the gift tag on the ornament and take it to the Gathering Space. All gifts are due back to the Gathering Space on Sunday, December 10.

Volunteers are needed at the Spirit Giving Tree ministry table at all Masses starting this weekend to help parishioners choose ornaments and help log in which ornaments are taken. For more information, please contact Ministry Coordinator Bobbi McLaughlin at bobbienmcl@comcast.net.

Starting December 2, consider honoring your friends and loved ones by purchasing an alternative gift from our St. Francis of Assisi Alternative Gift Catalog. Alternative Christmas Gift Cards allow buyers to purchase services or goods that will be used by beneficiaries helped by area charities. The gift cards will be sold after all Masses the weekends of December 2/3 and 16/17. Please bring your checkbook and support your favorite charities.

For more information, please contact ministry coordinators Patti O'Connor at leafs20879@aol.com or Doris Chung at dichung14@gmail.com.

November 19, 2017

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Lamb of God Prayer Meeting will not be held on Tuesday, November 21. 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'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.

**PARISH OFFICES WILL CLOSE FOR
THANKSGIVING @ 12:00 NOON
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22
AND OPEN AGAIN
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27.**

*Happy Thanksgiving
from Fr. John, Fr. Jack
& the Parish Staff!*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Figures were not available at the time of publication.

Thank you for your continued support

COME VOLUNTEER FOR THE ST. FRANCIS CHRISTMAS TREE SALE STARTING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Have you noticed the stakes are already out for the annual Christmas Tree Sale in front of the church? Besides trees, there's one other thing missing – you, to volunteer!

This weekend, volunteers are encouraged to sign up in the Gathering Space after Mass for shifts from 3-6 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m.-noon, 12-3 p.m., 3-6 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. on weekends. Male and female volunteers are also needed to begin offloading trees, when they are delivered at 7 a.m. Friday, Nov. 24. School-aged children are also invited to earn Student Service Learning Hours doing tasks, such as tagging trees, cleaning the lot, emptying trash cans and re-staking trees.

Volunteers are especially needed for weekday shifts between 3-6 p.m. Come help us sell some 400 Fraser Firs, ranging in size from 3' tabletops with stands to 10' trees. The sale will also include 75' white pine roping and freshly decorated Christmas wreaths.

Hours of operation will be 3-9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on weekends. Trees will be sold from November 25 to December 17 or until inventory is sold out.

For more information or to sign up, contact Christmas Tree Sale Ministry Coordinator Brian Pettit at (240) 372-1662 or at Brian-Pettit@PettitCompanies.com.

CATHOLICS ENCOURAGED TO REACH OUT TO THE POOR ON NOVEMBER 19

November 19 marks the first World Day for the Poor, as proclaimed by Pope Francis. He calls on Christians worldwide to serve the poor by taking tangible action in their communities. Here are some ways you can help commemorate World Day for the Poor:

- Donate food to the St. Martin's Food Pantry by leaving it in the designated bin in the Gathering Space
- Participate in seasonal food collections, including those at Thanksgiving, Lent, and Summer in the City
- Take part in the Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl activity during Lent
- Fill a baby bottle with change during the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Campaign in the Fall
- Talk with your kids about our sister parish, Conversion of St. Paul's in Leon, Haiti, and donate to the school, clinic or to the Haiti Medical Mission
- Let your children know when you contribute to special collections and appeals, such as the Good Friday Holy Land Collection, Peter's Pence, etc.
- Donate your gently-used clothing to the St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Bin in the parking lot
- Volunteer with other parishioners on the third Thursday of the month to help at the St. Martin Food Pantry
- Check out the Catholic Charities website to see ways to share your time, talent and treasure directly with the needy at catholiccharitiesdc.org.

For more information on World Day of the Poor, visit catholic-charitiesdc.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our class meets today, Sunday, November 19 from 3:30-4:30 pm 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.

CHRISTMAS STOCKING HELP LINE

Religious Education families are invited to participate in the *Christmas Stocking Help Line*, an Advent project to benefit children and families in need. Items needed will be listed on "stockings" hung in the Parish Center during RE class times beginning November 19. Families may choose to take one or more stockings, purchase the items listed, and return them to RE classes by December 12. Letters with more information about this project will be given to students in RE classes.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Confirmation candidates will meet next Monday, November 20, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

RE CLASS SCHEDULE AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
There are no Religious Education classes on Monday, November 20, Tuesday, November 21, and Sunday, November 26 (Please note that classes will meet on Sunday, November 19, and Monday and Tuesday, November 27 and 28.)

FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING

A reminder to families of children preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation this year: the next First Reconciliation Parent Meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 29 or Thursday, November 30 from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Parish Center. Parents are asked to attend one of these meetings. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

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.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY *Upcoming Events*

FRED

NOVEMBER

19 Living a Virtuous and Happy Life (1 Peter 1:13-25)
26 NO FRED — *Happy Thanksgiving!*

FRED JR

11 Archdiocesan Jr. High Rally

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.



CHEESECAKE FUNDRAISER

Please support St. Francis Youth Ministry by ordering cheesecakes for Christmas. This fundraiser runs from now until December 1st. Sweetz Cheesecake in Gaithersburg will be providing the cheesecakes. Order forms can be picked up in the office or on the Youth Table in the Gathering Space. You can also e-mail Fr. Jack @ jberard@sfadw.org.

270 CATHOLIC - a regional young adult ministry supported by the Archdiocese's office of YA ministry that serves several cities in the Montgomery County region (our home base is St. Mary's in Rockville).

270Catholic's monthly Holy Hour

On **Tuesday, November 28th**, young adults (20s and 30s) are invited to St. Mary's Historic Chapel (520 Viers Mill Road, Rockville) from 7:30-8:30 p.m. for a music-infused hour of adoration (option of confession). Join us after for fellowship in the basement of the rectory.

FAITH DIRECT - With the busy times of Thanksgiving and the Season of Advent coming up, enrolling in Faith Direct today is a great way to ensure your gifts to St. Francis of Assisi are received even while you are traveling for the holidays. Already using Faith Direct? Don't forget to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account this fall. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: MD110 *Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!*

MOVING/CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407, of any changes in address, phone number or e-mail. *Thank you.*

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

God Most High,

Before your Son fed the multitudes, he first gave thanks.
Before he raised his friend Lazarus, he first gave thanks,
That all might know your glory.

And so, as we are blessed to do your works in the world,
That all, indeed, might know your glory
We thank you and praise you, O Lord.

For the grace to feed the poor ...

◆ ... *we thank you and praise you, O Lord.*

For the grace to heal the sick ...

◆ ... *we thank you and praise you, O Lord.*

For the grace to lift up the broken ...

◆ ... *we thank you and praise you, O Lord.*

For the grace to harbor the refugee ...

◆ ... *we thank you and praise you, O Lord.*

For the grace to aid the endangered ...

◆ ... *we thank you and praise you, O Lord.*

For the grace to speak on behalf of the marginalized and vulnerable ...

◆ ... *we thank you and praise you, O Lord.*

For the grace to be for the prisoner, the addict, the lost, the outcast, the dying

What your Son has been for us

A comfort, a beacon, a shepherd, a rabbi, a healer, a hope

The salt of the earth, the light of the world ...

◆ ... *we thank you and praise you, O Lord.*

Amen

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School Catch our Spirit

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

THANK YOU!

In this season of thanksgiving we at SJRCS want to thank you, our St. Francis parishioners, for your support of the school. A heart-felt thank you to all of you for all you have done for SJRCS this year!

ARCHDIOCESE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The ADW Tuition Assistance Program is available for students who are applying to or currently enrolled in Catholic Schools. Families must apply each year and financial need must be demonstrated each year to qualify. Applications for the 2017-2018 ADW Tuition Assistance Program is now online. Log onto <http://www.adw.org/tuition-assistance/>. The deadline is December 2, 2016. Other Scholarship opportunities are also available through the link above.

A REMINDER FROM FR. JOHN ... If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, it would be wise to consult with a priest to see whether that situation might be rectified. It could be as simple as repeating your marriage vows quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist

ARE YOU AFFECTED BY SOMEONE ELSE'S ADDICTION?

NAR-ANON offers hope. Nar-Anon Family Groups are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. As a twelve step program, we offer help by sharing our experience, strength, and hope. A meeting is held on Wednesday evenings 7:00 p.m., 15886B. Gaither Drive, Gaithersburg. For additional information contact Alison, (301) 963-6640 or visit the website nar-anon.org.

VEHICLE DONATIONS OF ANY KIND NEEDED FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA

Do you have an old car, truck, motorcycle, trailer, boat or other vehicle taking up space in your driveway? Donate it to Catholic Charities USA. Vehicle donations provide a way to support the mission of Catholic Charities-USA (CCUSA). Through CCUSA's partnership with CARS (Charitable Adult Rides and Services), you can donate your vehicle in any condition and from any location. Turn your car into a contribution by calling (877) 952-2872 to donate. A CARS representative will answer your questions and schedule a pickup of your vehicle at a time convenient for you. For more information about vehicle donations, please refer to the Vehicle Donation FAQs at <https://catholiccharitiesusa.org/vehicle-donation>

THANK YOU BULLETIN AD SPONSORS! HELP STILL NEEDED!

S. Victor Verbiest from Liturgical Publications, our bulletin publisher, was with us this past week securing advertisers for our Bulletin. We would like to thank all of the advertisers who have generously committed to the Bulletin for this year! We still have space available and humbly ask that you consider advertising your business or remembering a loved one in our weekly bulletin. Our parish bulletin is one of our main communication tools to our parish members. It provides inspirational words from Father, Mass intentions, news, and events for the week ahead. We are thankful that this crucial communication piece is provided to our parish at no cost thanks to the generous advertising support of our parishioners and community-minded businesses. Please let us know if you can help. Sponsors of our bulletin recognize the tremendous value of connecting with our Church family, who in turn respond by supporting our sponsors! If you would like to advertise in the weekly bulletin, please contact S. Victor Verbiest at (973) 634-0586, or via e-mail to sverbiest@4lpi.com. Thank you!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

Bingo will be held every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 9707Rosensteel Ave, Silver Spring, MD. 20910. Dinner is available at 6:30pm. All St.Francis' parishioners are welcome. Contact. Al Wigmore,III for additional information, 301-649-5410"