

Mass Intentions

January 9 - January 15

Monday , 1/9	9:00 a.m. Helen Mooney
Tuesday , 1/10	9:00 a.m. Jane Muller
Wednesday , 1/11	9:00 a.m. Angella Gordon 7:30 p.m. Shirley Dorris
Thursday , 1/12	9:00 a.m. Debbie McNally
Friday , 1/13	9:00 a.m. May Wong
Saturday , 1/14	9:00 a.m. Don Smith 5:00 p.m. Rosemarie Rippel
Sunday , 1/15	8:00 a.m. Marge Zack 9:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Tenke Family 11:15 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 1:00 p.m. Jose Roxas, Jr. 5:00 p.m. McCormick Family Members (L)

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Paul Poppernack, Sr. father of Paul Poppernack, Jr.

Please pray for the sick.... Colleen Enos, Carolyn Maltz, Bob Coyne, Jeni Stepanek, Robert Dax. *(Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.)*

Readings for the Week of January 8, 2017

Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 /Ps 29/Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday:	Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8/Mk 1:21-/Ps 8/Mk 1:14-20 & 1:21-28
Wednesday:	Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95/Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

Scripture Corner

THE MANIFESTATION OF JESUS

In today's Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12) the Magi arrive in Jerusalem. They ask, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Matthew 2:2) This visit by the Magi leads to a great amount of knowledge about Christ and his church. It is truly the Manifestation, the Epiphany of Jesus.

First of all, the Magi identify Jesus as the king of the Jews. Since the time of King David the Israelites are expecting the messianic king, a descendant of David. "David now knew that the Lord had truly established him as king over Israel." (Second Samuel 5:12) Herod was able to inform the Magi that Bethlehem is the place of Israel's ruler. The prophet Micah had written, "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people." (Micah 5: 1)

The Bible talks of Magi, possibly astronomers from Persia. Early representations of this incident have from two to twelve Magi. The number three and the names of the Magi represent a later addition, possibly based on the three gifts. Matthew may have in mind a text from Numbers. Balaam, also an astronomer, saw in the stars critical events, such as the birth and death of important persons. He writes, "I see him, though not now, I behold him, though not near: a star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel." (Numbers 24:17)

The gospel of Matthew begins with Jesus' genealogy. Our Lord is identified at the beginning as the son of David and the son of Abraham. (Matthew 1:1) Descent from David, as mentioned above, was very important to the Jewish people. Descent from Abraham should be important for everyone! God had promised Abraham, "All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you." (Genesis 12:3) At the end of Matthew's Gospel Jesus will say to his followers, "Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)

Christ gives guidance to all as to how we shall live to make disciples of all nations. We are to love God and love our neighbor. Loving one's neighbor requires both charity and justice. As Saint Paul says, "Love is kind." (1 Corinthians 13:4)

~ Fr. Ralph

The Epiphany of the Lord

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

To what "strange lands" might God be inviting me to travel in this New Year to discover Christ? What gifts will I bring with me to offer there?

"A MYSTICAL MEANING...IN A POOR PERSON'S FACE

~ Pope Francis

Is God calling you to help the needy through the St. Vincent de Paul Society? The Society at St. Francis parish needs new members. We focus on the needs of the struggling and poor in the Derwood area, and we are sometimes asked to help in nearby areas of Montgomery County as well. Pope Francis tells us that "The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found . . . in a poor person's face" (*Laudato Si*, 233). See what this "mystical meaning" is as you look into the face of the poor with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Come see if you are called to the ministry of the Society. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:00 in the rectory Assisi Room. **Our next meetings are Thursday, January 12 and January 26.** For more information, call Tony Bosnick at 301-840-1407, Ext 11.

2016 ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS RESULTS

Many thanks to our wonderful St. Francis parishioners! Through your kind generosity, our Alternative Christmas Program collected an amazing \$26,500 in alternative gift donations to our brothers and sisters in the DC Metro area, Haiti, and throughout the world.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

is supported by the experience of communion which makes the memory of Christ's coming a daily reality. The educational process, nurtured by proclamation and catechesis, attending retreats and spiritual exercises, and the celebration of the sacraments, give pride of place to the dimensions of cultural work as a means of deepening and expressing their faith and as a condition of having a responsible presence in society; charity work, as education in service to be freely given to others and social commitment; and the mission, as education in the sense of the catholicity of the church and as a vocational choice. Bearing witness to Christ in schools and universities, in factories and offices, and in the local neighborhood and in the city, takes place through work, which is the specific way in which adults relate to reality.

The basic instrument for the formation of those who belong to CL is a weekly catechesis called the School of Community. Our local School of Community meets every Friday night in the Assisi Room in the rectory from 8:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For more information about CL, you can contact Maria Dunn at mkdunn@gmail.com.

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon
Pastor

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

This week I am beginning a series of columns in which I am highlighting several international associations of the faithful of Pontifical Right that are present in this parish. This week I am featuring the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation. Communion and Liberation (CL) is a movement in the Church which has the purpose of forming its members in Christianity in order to make them coworkers in the Church's mission in all areas of society. Let me now present information on the history and identity of Communion and Liberation that can be found on the website for the Pontifical Council for the Laity. (I have made some adjustments to reflect American, as opposed to the British, spelling of words in the material below.)

History

At the beginning of the 1950s, realizing the need to rebuild the Christian presence in the student world, Father Luigi Giussani, a professor at the Theological Faculty at Venegono (Varese) dedicated himself to teaching religion in schools. The experience of a small group of students from the Berchet classical high school in Milan, which gathered around him, led to the establishment of Gioventù Studentesca (Student Youth). With the strong encouragement of the Archbishop of Milan, Giovanni Battista Montini, the future Pope Paul VI, Gioventù Studentesca spread to other Italian cities, and after 1968 it also began to involve undergraduates and adults. This led to the establishment of Communion and Liberation which, in 1980, was to be canonically recognized by the Ordinary Abbot of Montecassino, Mgr. Martino Matronola. The first fraternity groups were set up in the latter half of the 1970s by CL graduates who, using a method based on communion, wished to strengthen their membership of the Church as adults, along with the responsibilities that this entails. It was through their spread to various countries that the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation came about. On 11 February 1982 the Pontifical Council for the Laity decreed recognition of the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation as an international association of the faithful of Pontifical Right.

Identity

The essence of the CL charism is the proclamation that God became Man; in the affirmation that this man—Jesus of Nazareth, who died and rose again—is a present event, whose visible sign is communion, that is to say, the unity of a people led by a living person, the Bishop of Rome; in the awareness that it is only in God made man, and hence within the life of the Church, that man is more true and humanity is truly more human. In the educational proposal made by CL, the free acceptance by the individual of the Christian message is determined by the discovery that the needs of the human heart are met by the annunciation of a message that fulfills them. It is the reasonableness of the faith which leads men and women who have been transformed by their encounter with Christ to commit themselves with Christian experience to affect the whole of society. This commitment strengthens their awareness of their own identity, enabling them to see their life as a vocation, and

Continued in the column to the left...

January 8, 2017

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

ROSARY CENACLE OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE
Cenacle of Our Lady, Queen of Peace to pray for priests and vocations, 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the St. Clare's Chapel (Rectory) every Sunday. Please join us.

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.

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) 412-1237 or e-mail gtdbpalmer@verizon.net.



JANUARY 2017 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will *NOT* meet in January due to the closeness to the Holidays. We will see you all on February 1. Watch the bulletin for details. If you have any questions please contact Mary Lou Habib, (301) 417-0243. Hope everyone had a joyful Christmas and wish you all a Happy & Healthy New Year! ~ *Mary Lou*

HELPING SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY

The Pax Christi group at St. Francis parish in partnership with our friends at the Islamic Center of Maryland (Woodfield Road) has entered into a relationship with the Al Humayer family, Syrian refugees who recently entered the U.S. after spending three years in a Jordanian refugee camp. Several of us recently travelled to Riverdale to meet them for the first time. They shared details about the hardships they faced living for three years in a Jordanian refugee camp. There were water shortages and medical and dental care were limited. They face many obstacles to self-sufficiency but are so grateful for the support we plan to provide. We will be posting regular updates most weeks in the bulletin about how you can help provide for their needs. Many thanks to those who generously contributed through the Alternative Christmas project. Almost \$1,000 was raised and will be used towards rental assistance, transportation costs, and food. For more information, contact Mary Kate Ryner at 301-807-1355.

ST MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking for a ministry to join in the New Year? How about giving one hour every other month helping with the Food Pantry Ministry Team? Duties consist of removing the non-perishable food in the bin located by the glass doors and delivering it to St. Martin's Food Pantry, which is only a short 10 minute drive to Old Town, Gaithersburg. Please contact Carolyn Brauer at carolyn_brauer@yahoo.com or Christine Young at youngbodywork@hotmail.com for more information or to join.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Please stop by the St. Clare Room after Mass this weekend to have your blood pressure checked. (Saturday, 5:00 p.m., Sunday, 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m. Masses)

FATHER STACK'S PLAQUE UPDATE

The final layout of the plaque has been sent to the producer. Upon acceptance of the plaque's layout by Fr. John, a contract will be signed. At this time some funds are lacking and if you would still like to contribute to the plaque, please submit a check for your donation, made out to St. Francis of Assisi Church, and send it to the Parish Office. Thank you again for your monetary and spiritual support of this effort honoring our founding pastor. ~ *The Fr. Stack Plaque Committee.*

DONATE YOUR USED CLOTHING -If you are sorting through gently used clothing to give away, remember that there is a St. Vincent de Paul clothing collection bin in the lower parking lot. Donations of clean clothing in good repair is greatly appreciated. Please put clothing in a plastic bag and deposit in the slot at the top of the bin. Collections are made weekly and will be a great blessing to those in need in the region.

CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Sunday, January 8, 2017
5:00 p.m. Youth Mass

The Feast of the Epiphany
A special Mass for Adults and Children
with Developmental Differences
St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Sponsored by the Up County Special Needs Ministry

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Religious Education classes resume this week: January 8, 9 and 10. Please note that Religious Education classes will not meet next week, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, January 15, 16 and 17, in honor of the Martin Luther King Day holiday.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Confirmation candidates will meet on Tuesday, January 17, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

CATECHISTS AND AIDES NEEDED

Additional volunteers are welcome! Please consider whether you can serve as a catechist or classroom aide for our children and young people. We especially need catechists for the 6th grade on Monday and Tuesday evenings, from 6:45-8:00 pm. 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").

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.

MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Looking for a good Catholic education for your children? Attend the Mother of God School Open House, Sunday, January 29, 1:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg. We have the largest Catholic Pre-K program (3's & 4's) in the area, with before and after care available year-round. Check out our rigorous academic programs for K-8th grade as well. For more information or to schedule a tour call Alice Garvey, (301) 990-2088, Ext. 11 or e-mail agarvey@mogschool.com or you can visit www.mogschool.com.

HOPE AFTER ABORTION:

DAY OF PRAYER & HEALING FOR MEN

Have you been impacted by abortion or do you know a man who lost a child through abortion? Did you pressure someone or were you both pressured to abort? Were you against the abortion? On Saturday, February 4 from 9am-5pm, Project Rachel Ministry of the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring an *Entering Canaan* Men's Day of Prayer and Healing: Addressing Issues Unique to Men. For more information, call Project Rachel Ministry at 301-982-2008 or email hope@adw.org. Location and contacts are confidential due to the personal nature of this experience.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

JANUARY - High School

- 8 Epiphany Special Mass
- 19 Service @ Our Lord's Table
- 21 FRED Snow Day
- 22 FRED Winter Kickoff Social
- 27 Mass, Rally & March for Life
- 29 FRED

FRED JR.

JANUARY - Middle School

- 8 Epiphany Special Mass
- 19 Service @ Our Lord's Table
- 27 Mass, Rally & March for Life

GET SOCIAL

**Instagram "SFASusie"*

**FRED group on FACEBOOK: friend "Susan FRED Lea"*

**"St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church" page on Facebook*

COLLECTION FOR CHURCH MISSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES & THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES

On the weekend of January 14-15, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up a second collection for Church Missions in the United States and the Archdiocese for the Military Services. The collection for Church Missions in the United States supports home mission dioceses in this country that are unable to offer their people basic liturgical, pastoral, and service ministries without outside help. It also supports vulnerable Black and Native American communities with funds for parish support and evangelization needs. The Archdiocese for the Military Services provides the Catholic Church's full range of pastoral ministries and spiritual services to those in the United States Armed Forces, and is therefore responsible for more than 1.8 million men, women, and children.

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

From Friday, February 3 through Sunday, February 5, men in their 20s, 30s or 40s who are considering a call to the priesthood are invited to attend a discernment retreat at Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, DC (145 Taylor St., NE) led by priests of the Archdiocese of Washington. The weekend will offer time away from your daily routine and will provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God's call. There is no fee to attend. Registration is now open at www.dcpriest.org, or email vocations@adw.org for more information.

HOPE CORPS

Catholic Charities is recruiting young adults to work in teams to lead volunteer events once a month for the next year. Choose your project. Each month, Hope Corps members lead volunteers in one-time, short projects that make a big difference in a few hours: clean up a shelter, pack breakfast bags (Cup of Joe) for people who stay in our shelters, help load up food packages, and more. Hope Corps members receive training, swag, and gratitude! Get information and apply at www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org/volunteer.

RETRouvaille:

A LIFELINE FOR MARRAIGES IN TROUBLE

Many marriages may experience four stages: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from disillusionment or misery, please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced "retro-vie" with a long "i"). The next Retrouvaille weekend is January 27-29, 2017. Please visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com, call 443-400-7017, or email 3015@Retrouvaille.org to obtain more information. All calls and inquiries are confidential.

A WAY TO GROW.....Teams of Our Lady was founded by Father Henri Caffarel in France in 1947 and has spread to over 10,000 Teams world-wide. Teams came to the United States in 1958 where they are currently over 700 Teams. Teams of Our Lady is a lay movement officially recognized by the Holy See under the Pontifical Council for the Council for the Laity. A team is a group of five to seven couples and a spiritual advisor who meet once a month to share, pray and discuss challenges of living a Christian marriage and life. Couples use a time-tested format to meet their needs and desires of growing closer in love and faith through Teams of Our Lady and in the process they discover support for one another and for their marriage. For more information, please contact Fr. John in the parish office or Joe and Jeanne McElhaney at joenjanne@mcelhaneysonline.com.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION ON SAINT THOMAS MORE

In a new landmark exhibition, God's Servant First: The Life and Legacy of Thomas More, the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington DC presents the life, martyrdom, and legacy of the 16th century English philosopher-statesman whom Pope John Paul II named the heavenly Patron of Statesmen and Politicians. The exhibition also explores the connection between Thomas More, the Carroll Family of Maryland, and the foundations of religious liberty in America. It features over 60 artifacts from England and the United States, including numerous period objects from Stonyhurst College in the United Kingdom that have never been exhibited in the United States.

The exhibit runs through March 31, 2017 and is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. The Saint John Paul II Shrine is located at 3900 Harewood Road, NE, Washington. Visit www.jp2shrine.org for additional information.

PRIVATE RETREAT SPACE IN DC

Need to unplug from your busy life? Enjoy a personal retreat at the Hermitage, a contemporary single-person retreat house on the grounds of the historic Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington DC (1400 Quincy ST NE). The Hermitage is wheelchair accessible. To learn more and to reserve the Hermitage visit myfranciscan.org (See Facilities), hermitage@myfranciscan.com or (202) 526-6800.

MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Do you know someone who can't get to Mass? Please tell them about the Sunday TV Mass, which is produced by the Archdiocese of Washington and taped in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It is a wonderful ministry for those members of our Catholic family who are unable to be physically present with a local worshipping community for the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy. The Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on WDCW-50:

- No cable; Dish or Direct TV subscribers: Ch. 50.
- Comcast: Ch. 23 in Washington, DC & Montgomery County; Ch. 3 in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland
- RCN: Ch. 15
- Verizon: Ch. 3

JOIN THE SUNDAY TV MASS CONGREGATION!

Would you like to be on TV? Join the congregation at a taping of the TV Mass! Your presence at the TV Mass is a wonderful way to bring the Mass to those who are homebound. Two Masses are taped on the same evening, from 7:30-8:45 p.m. in the Crypt Church of the Basilica at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington. Come for one Mass or stay for both! For upcoming taping dates, please visit adw.org/tvmass or call (301) 853-4517.

CATHOLICS IN ANNAPOLIS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017

3:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Mark our calendar for the 33rd Annual "Catholics in Annapolis." Meet your legislators and build a positive relationship with them by sharing the great work and the Good News of the Church in Maryland lived out through the works of our ministries, charities, hospitals, schools, parishes and communities. How? Mingle with like-minded Catholics at Catholics in Annapolis! Save the date now and watch for further information.

JOIN THE 2017 ANNUAL POLAR BEAR PLUNGE IN THE POTOMAC RIVER

Do something bold in the New Year and support the work of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) in protecting the Bay. Challenge yourself in the 12th annual Polar Bear Plunge on January 28 at National Harbor, beginning at 11:00 a.m. With hundreds of other citizens, you can wade into the Potomac up to your knees or take the full plunge in this annual fundraiser. Franciscan Action Network is a sponsor. For more information and to register, search: CCAN 2017 Polar Bear Plunge.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesday, January 18, Brooke Grove Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, 18131 Slade School Road. For further information contact Bill Neely, (301) 924-5176 or bneely@bgf.org.