

Mass Intentions

March 27 - April 2

Monday, 3/27	9:00 a.m. Lynn Krafchik
Tuesday, 3/28	9:00 a.m. Leonore Gama Calastro (L)
Wednesday, 3/29	9:00 a.m. Helen Mooney 7:30 p.m. Ramon Ramano
Thursday, 3/30	9:00 a.m. Carmen Feliciano
Friday, 3/31	9:00 a.m. Terry King, Jr.
Saturday, 4/1	9:00 a.m. Marie Dundon 5:00 p.m. Marie Galvin
Sunday, 4/2	8:00 a.m. Helen Jenkins 9:30 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 11:15 a.m. Helen Procopio 1:00 p.m. Robert Peacock 5:00 p.m. Harry Leavy

Please pray for the sick....Fr. Ralph, Pam Kelley, Vincent Emanuele, Ben Spotts, Jim Sculley, Jackie Roebuck King, Bob Coyne, Jeni Stepanek, Robert Dax. *(Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.)*

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Scott Vaszil, brother-in-law of Linda Foster, Angelo Massino, father of Diana Massino..

Readings for the Week of March 26, 2017

Sunday:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-6/Eph 5:8-14/ Jn 9:1-41
Monday:	Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12, 13b/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-15, 17-18/ Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47
Friday:	Wis 2:1, 12-22/Ps 34:17-21, 23/ Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday:	Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45

Scripture Corner

THE BLIND MAN

The Church develops two special themes during Lent – baptism and repentance (change of heart). Today’s Gospel (John 9:1-41) helps develop those themes.

Baptism is suggested, first of all, by the fact that the man was blind from birth. The sacrament is also seen in the fact that our Lord tells the man to wash in the Pool of Siloam. The evangelist notes that Siloam “means sent.” (John 9:7) Christ is often seen as the one SENT by the Father, “We have to do the works of the one who SENT me.” (John 9:4) Washing in the Pool of Siloam means immersing oneself in Jesus. The baptismal formula used since the first century says, “I immerse you into the life of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Greek text of Matthew 28:19)

Repentance (change of heart) is also seen in the gradual transformation of the faith of the man born blind. This can be a great example for all the followers of Jesus. The blind man first speaks of “a man called Jesus.” (John 9:11) Later he has a greater faith in Christ as the Son of Man. He replies in the affirmative to our Lord’s question, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” (John 9:35-38) Son of Man could mean simply a human being. Jesus shows the importance of this title by quoting the prophet Daniel during his passion. “From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” (Matthew 26: 64, quoting Daniel 7:13)

Finally, the change of heart of the blind man is seen when he recognizes Jesus as the Son of God. He says, “I do believe, Lord.” (John 9:38) Lord (Kyrios) was the word used by Jewish translators when translating the Old Testament into Greek.

The miracles of Jesus in the gospel of John require a positive response on the part of the onlookers. In today’s miracle it is clear that while many did respond positively to Jesus, the Pharisees did not. Jesus says to them, If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.” (John 9:41)

~ Fr. Ralph

LENTEN SCHEDULE

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

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

LENTEN REGULATIONS

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

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I kindle Jesus' light in my daily life? Who now "outside" should I go out searching for to bring "home" as this Lent unfolds?



On Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., visit St. Francis and experience the simple generosity of God's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To find Confession times at other parishes and for additional resources visit www.TheLightisON.org.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS

Have you never had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Fr. John is teaching a five-week class for parishioners over the age of eighteen who have been baptized, have made their First Holy Communion, but for one reason or another have not been confirmed. Interested? Please contact Fr. John at the Parish Office. E-mail: jdillon@sfdw.org. Phone: 301-840-1407 by Monday, April 3, 2017. First session will take place on Monday, April 10 in the Assisi Room at 7:00 p.m.

**DEACON WIL PINDER
MEMORIAL MASS AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Saturday, April 1, 2017
1:00 p.m.
All are invited!**



APRIL 2017 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, April 5, 12:00 Noon, at Hershey's Restaurant, 17030 Oakmont Avenue, Gaithersburg, (301) 948-9893. If you are planning to attend, please contact Liz & Serge Triau (301) 840-1128 and let them know you are coming. They will reserve a seat for you and answer any questions.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

All are welcome! Join the Ministry of Eucharistic Adoration and assist with adoration in the following manner:

- *Become a regular attendee at adoration in the Parish.*
- *Pray that Eucharistic Adoration will increase.*
- *Foster Eucharistic Adoration in our parish by evangelizing His Eucharistic Presence.*
- *Deepen your personal relationship with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.*

First Friday Mass will be at 7:30 p.m., April 7, followed by adoration until 9:00 p.m. in the Church..

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

On May 24, 2015 (Pentecost Sunday) Donald Wuerl issued a pastoral letter entitled "Being Catholic Today: Catholic Identity in an Age of Challenge." He has remarked that "Our Catholic Identity, even when challenged, should remain a source of conviction and pride. As God was with those who first accepted the challenge, 'You will be my witnesses,' so God is with us as we accept the summons to be faithful witnesses to our Catholic faith today in all that we say and do." Our Archbishop has identified five key themes of being Catholic today. Let me present these themes to you now.

Theme One: Our Catholic Identity is given to us by Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of Baptism and the communion fellowship of the Church. This is our encounter with him.

Theme Two: The mission of the Church is to proclaim the Good News of God's kingdom. This was entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and their successors the Bishops.

Theme Three: Our Participating in the Church's Mission is carried out in union with our bishop. Together with all the baptized, we are missionary disciples.

Theme Four: Religious liberty is the freedom every person has to live his or her life according to God's will. We strive to live what we believe and order our life according to the truth.

Theme Five: Expressions of Catholic Identity are central to the mission of the Church. Our schools and institutions are as much a part of the Church as our parishes.

We are going to look at each of these themes at greater length over the next several weeks. I shall leave you with this thought expressed by the Cardinal in "Being Catholic Today":

The Church brings what it has always brought: an invitation to faith, an encounter with Christ, and a way of living inspired by the Gospel. We are called to share this Good News with others to let them know of the beauty of life in Christ. There is no greater, no more perfect gift that we can give to others."

Until next week,

**Fr. John
Pastor**

HOLY THURSDAY– WASHING OF THE FEET

We are looking for volunteers to have their feet washed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to participate please call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407, no later than Monday, April 10 or sign-up at the Information Desk in the Gathering space...

March 26, 2017

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, March 28, 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 Gaithersburg Help. *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.

HOOPS FOR HAITI

Saturday, April 8 - 6:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
17301 Old Vic Blvd, Olney MD

Join us for tons of family fun as we raise the roofs in Haiti. Tickets can be purchased at the door. All proceeds benefit the effort to reconstruct homes in Haiti after destruction by Hurricane Matthew.

ARE YOU CELEBRATING A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR? On Sunday, June 25, at 2:00 p.m. Cardinal Donald Wuerl will preside at the annual Mass honoring married couples celebrating **25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50** and **50+** years of marriage. The Jubilarian Mass will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Personalized scrolls signed by Cardinal Wuerl will be distributed to the couples following the ceremony, or mailed should they be unable to attend. If you are interested in attending or receiving a scroll, please call the Parish Office before **Monday, April 24th**.

BUILD UP OUR CHURCH

Save the Date for the Spring Ministry Coordinators Leadership Retreat on Saturday, April 22

Ministry coordinators are asked to save the morning of April 22nd for our Spring Ministry Coordinators Leadership Retreat. It will be held from 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Parish Center. This will be the third Leadership Retreat and follows two highly successful retreats last year. With the content from the spring retreat stemming from past participants' suggestions, this retreat will include more time for prayer and reflection and opportunities to get to know more of the other ministry leaders. For more information, contact Deacon Dan Finn at deacondanfinn@gmail.com.

Buy Your Ticket Next Week to Hear Trio Illumino at St. Francis

On Monday, April 3, tickets will go on sale in the Parish Office for the concert performance of Trio Illumino on Saturday, May 6, in the church. The trio consisting of Neil Brown on trumpet, Virginia Lum on piano, and Stephen Czarkowski on cello marks a return of the musical group, which performed at St. Francis in October 2015. Please do not miss this performance, which will benefit our parish's Haiti Medical Missions. Tickets are \$20 and will also be sold in the Gathering Space on April 23, 29, and 30. For more information, contact St. Francis Music Ministry Director Deirdre Sweet at sfadwmusic@gmail.com.

Update: Syrian Families Sponsored by St. Francis Need Additional Financial Help

St. Francis of Assisi Parish continues to provide health, education, food, and financial assistance to help our families, the Alhummayers and the Abdulraheemakes, become independent residents of Maryland. To date, the families have received assistance from proceeds of our parish's Alternative Christmas card sales. We are now in need of additional funding to assist them. If you would like to contribute, you can make a donation payable to St. Francis and designate it to the St. Francis Syrian-sponsored family. If you have questions, please contact Mary Kate Ryner at rynoslp@msn.com or Chris King at caking.home@gmail.com or by calling her at (240) 683-1355. Thank you and God bless your generosity.

RCIA

The second scrutiny will be celebrated today at the 11:15 a.m. Mass. The scrutinies are rites of self-searching and repentance for those seeking initiation into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil. They are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak or sinful in the hearts of the elect; and to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. Today's Gospel reading of the man born blind will fill the spirit of the elect with Christ the Redeemer, who is the light of the world. During our Lenten journey, we should use the scrutinies of the elect to prepare ourselves for Easter. Please, continue to pray for our elect, Brandon Cao, Nala Ton, Giselle Hernandez, Emily Hernandez, Kimberly Hernandez, Jacob Hernandez, Eric Moss and our candidates, Karla Capellan, Juan Veloz, Robert Blankenbaker and Jamie Popernack.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers monthly catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our next session is today, Sunday, March 26 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the St. Clare Room. If you would like to learn more about these sessions, or if you are interested in serving as a catechist or aide for children with special needs, please call Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

FIRST EUCHARIST PREP DAY: APRIL 1

Children preparing to receive First Eucharist this spring will attend a day of preparation on Saturday, April 1, from 9:00 am - 12:30 p.m., 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 p.m.. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP!

St. Francis of Assisi Church invites children from age 4 to those who will complete the 5th Grade in June 2017 to join us at Vacation Bible Camp, June 26-30 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.. Look for camper registration information, as well as information about volunteer opportunities for adults and teens, later this spring!

CALLING ALL CHILDREN WHO LIKE TO SING!

Come join the Children's Choir that will sing at the Family Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 14, at 1:00 p.m.. All children, 6 years of age and older, are invited. If you will be reading one of the Stations that day, you could also sing because the songs are before and after the readings. We will have rehearsals in the church on Thursday, March 30 and Friday, April 7. Rehearsals begin at 5:00 p.m. and will last approximately 45 minutes. We will also meet at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on Good Friday, April 14, in the Youth Room (lower level of the Rectory). For those who have sung in the choir for the Family Stations in previous years, please come to the April 7 and April 14 rehearsals. If you are interested in having your child sing in the choir, if you want more information, or if you are musical and want to rehearse with your children at home, please call Sue Madison, 301-977-6854 or email musikal76@msn.com.

GAITHERSBURG HELP FUNDRAISER - Not Your Average Joe's Restaurant, 245 Kentland Blvd., Gaithersburg, Tuesday in March (28). Gaithersburg HELP will receive 15% of the total bill from any meal (lunch or dinner, carry-out). You must have a printed copy of the certificate which can be downloaded from the Gaithersburg HELP Facebook Page or show certificate to server on mobile device for HELP to get credit.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

MARCH - High School

31-4/1 FRED Food Fast for CRS

APRIL

- 1 FOOD FAST
- 2 FRED Immaculata
- 7 First Friday Mass & Adoration
- 8 Hoops 4 Haiti'
- 9 FRED Psalm Sunday Praise & Worship
- 15 Easter Vigil
- 16 No FRED Easter Sunday
- 20 Service @ Our Lord's Table
- 23 FRED Lost Ark
- 29/30 Krispy Kreme Presale
- 30 FRED Dwelling Place

FRED JR.

MARCH - Middle School

31-4/1 FRED Food Fast for CRS

APRIL

- 1 FOOD FAST
- 7 First Friday Mass & Adoration
- 8 Hoops 4 Haiti
- 9 FRED Jr. Psalm Sunday Praise & Worship
- 20 Service @ Our Lord's Table

GET SOCIAL

**Instagram "SFASusie"*

FRED - St. Francis of Assisi Youth Ministry Page on Facebook

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

YOUNG ADULTS

DCCatholic invites all young adults (20s and 30s) to the 14th Annual 7 Church Walk on Saturday, April 8th! Join hundreds of young adults for our annual Lenten pilgrimage as we continue a Roman tradition in DC. We walk to seven D.C. churches in the Brookland neighborhood, praying together at each station, and concluding with a 5pm Mass with Cardinal Wuerl at the St. John Paul II Shrine. Meet: 10:00 a.m., Crypt Church of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Register at dccatholic.eventbrite.org or email dccatholic@adw.org.



ENCOUNTER COMMUNITY

We encounter Maria in Mexico, where a community of hard-working women share joys, sorrows and fellowship while growing economic opportunity at a greenhouse. How have your communities helped you encounter Christ anew this Lent? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

Please plan to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl to Religious Education Classes or to the Church Gathering Space no later than Sunday, **APRIL 9**.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School
Catch our Spirit

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

SJRCS National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is one of the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character, and Citizenship. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service. Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into the SJRCS National Junior Honor Society on March 8th:

2017 Inductees

Eighth Grade

John Gibbins

Alexandra Lemus

Mary Sheetz

Seventh Grade

Nicolas Abreu

Mateo David

Sixth Grade

Isabelle Flores

Justin Gibbins

Michael Gitau

Nicole Koehler

Mark Nakamura

Andrew Rapisura

Sequoia Santoro

Katherine Sheetz

Sara Stanley

Alyssa Tull

Breanna Valcarcel

Amira Villanueva

Christina Young

SPRING FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 1, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Washington Grove United Methodist Church

303 Chestnut Road

Washington Grove MD 20880

Features arts & crafts, old fashioned bake sale, mini-plant sale, lunch available, kids games, free parking & more!

EVENING MASS AT ST. PETER'S DURING LENT

On *Monday through Thursday evenings*, Saint Peter's Parish celebrates Mass at 7:15 p.m. Saint Peter's is located just one quarter mile east of Georgia Avenue on Olney-Sandy Spring Road (MD Route 108). For further information, call 301-924-3774 or visit their website at www.saintpetersolney.org.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, AIDES, SUBSTITUTES & EXTENDED CARE WORKERS WANTED-

Mother of God School seeks teachers, aides and substitute teachers who are committed, practicing Catholics with a zeal for living out their faith, for the 2017-2018 school year. Please email Mrs. Alice Garvey agarvey@mogschool.com with your information and questions. www.mogschool.com

SFA HEALTH MINISTRY

Encouraging health and wellbeing of body, mind and soul

WALKING TO THE CROSS LENTEN PROGRAM

Meets Saturdays in Lent through April 15

9:30a.m. Gathering Space

Walking to the Cross is a 40-day devotional designed for the Season of Lent. It invites you to make *walking, reflecting and prayer* a part of your daily Lenten practice. Group gatherings on Saturday will begin with a psalm and the opportunity to set a "movement goal" for the week such as walking or another reasonable physical challenge for yourself.

Weeks 2-6 Group share about how their movement goal was met/not met/ successes and roadblocks, etc. Set Movement Goal for upcoming week. **New Comers welcome.**

Just as Jesus traveled the long journey to the cross, walking or meeting another intentional challenge can discipline and strengthen us physically and spiritually.

REQUEST FROM GABRIEL PROJECT

The Gabriel Project assists women in a crisis pregnancy. Items such as new and gently used clothing for infants through teens, diaper bags and receiving blankets are provided to mothers and their families in need. Donations are greatly appreciated. Bilingual Angel Friends are very helpful and appreciated. Men are needed to deliver and haul items. E-mail and daily prayer supporters are also needed. For more information please contact Natalie Ray at natalieanneray@gmail.com or 240-374-3297, or Diane Reinke 301-946-4815.

THE SAVVY CAREGIVER

Alzheimer's/Dementia Seminar Series, Tuesdays, April 4-May 9, 2-4 p.m., Brooke Grove Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 18131 Slade School Road on the Sandy Spring campus of Brooke Grove Retirement Village. This is the first in a new, six-week series offered by the Alzheimer's Association that provides clinical-level training for caregivers. You'll learn the skills needed to assess the abilities of your loved one, gain the confidence to set and alter caregiving goals, and explore strategies to manage activities of daily living. To register, contact Toni Davis, 301-388-7209 or tdavis@bgf.org, by April 2.

THRIVING WITH PARKINSON'S KICKOFF EVENT

Wednesday, April 5, 7-9 p.m., Brooke Grove Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 18131 Slade School Road on the Sandy Spring campus of Brooke Grove Retirement Village. Don't face Parkinson's alone! Brooke Grove is partnering with the Parkinson Foundation to offer twice-weekly exercise classes and a weekly support group for those with Parkinson's or other neurodegenerative diseases. During this kickoff event, Dr. Stephen Grill, co-founder of the Parkinson's and Movement Disorder Center of Maryland, will share his expertise and Terrie Daniels, Brooke Grove's senior fitness and wellness specialist, will provide detailed class information. Free. To register, contact Toni Davis, 301-388-7209 or tdavis@bgf.org, by April 3.