

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

May 8- May 14

Monday, 5/8	9:00 a.m. Joseph McCarthy
Tuesday, 5/9	9:00 a.m. Msgr. Ralph Kuehner (L)
Wednesday, 5/10	9:00 a.m. Deacon Samuel Minor
	7:30 p.m. Bernard J. Kohan Jr. Family (L)
Thursday, 5/11	9:00 a.m. Winnie Gardner
Friday, 5/12	9:00 a.m. Christy & Millie Zizzo
Saturday, 5/13	9:00 a.m. Peter Erskine
	5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 5/14	8:00 a.m. All Mothers
	9:30 a.m. All Mothers
	11:15 a.m. All Mothers
	1:00 p.m. All Mothers
	5:00 p.m. All Mothers

Please pray for the sick... Kathy Denchfield, Rick Kreter, Bill Devore, Jennie Cargill, Agnes Horrigan, Maureen Ferraro, Marta Monzon, Patrice Datovech, Carla Cosman, 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 Phyllis Foster, mother of Carol Bowling, Ann Gallagher Brennan, cousin of Fr. John Dillon, Rose Caponiti, mother of Fred Caponiti, grandmother of Anthony Caponiti, John Bruggeman, brother-in-law of Mary O'Sullivan.

Readings for the Week of May 7, 2017

Sunday:	Acts 2:14, 36-41/Ps 23:1-6/1 Pt 2:20b-25/ Jn 10:1-10
Monday:	Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4/Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-7/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24--13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27/ Jn 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-11ab/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 14:7-14
Next Sunday:	Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/ Jn 14:1-12

Scripture Corner

ROLE OF SHEPHERDS

The shepherd theme has been a theme throughout all the pages of Sacred Scripture, starting at the time of Abraham. It is clear that the Old Testament shepherds took great care of the sheep. They protected their flocks from wild animals and dangerous terrain. Not surprisingly then the psalmist declares, "The Lord is my shepherd." (Psalm 23:1) The people of that time were grateful for the loving, shepherd-like care of Yahweh.

Unfortunately, the Jewish leaders at the time of Ezekiel were called shepherds, but the prophet declares that they "have been pasturing themselves! Should not shepherds pasture the flock?" (Ezekiel 34:2) God intervenes with this promise, "I shall appoint one shepherd over them to pasture them, my servant David." (Ezekiel 34:23) The angel Gabriel tells Mary, "The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father." (Luke 1:32) The Gospel of Matthew begins with these words, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." (Matthew 1:1)

In today's Gospel (John 10:1-10) our Lord notes that there will be shepherds who are in fact thieves and robbers. Christ teaches that he is the true gatekeeper, the true shepherd. "Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." (John 10:9) The false shepherds would destroy the flock. "I came so that they may have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

"Pastor" is the Latin word for shepherd. The ones in charge of our parishes are referred to as "pastors." They are expected to be good shepherds. Pope Francis wrote, "I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion, which cannot leave things as they presently are" (The Joy the Gospel, paragraph 25)

~ Fr. Ralph



MOTHER'S DAY MASS CARDS

Cards are available this weekend in the Gathering Space. This is a wonderful way to remember your Mother, Mother-in-law, Grandmother, Aunt or anyone special at all the Masses on Mother's Day. Please return your spiritual bouquet envelope to the parish office on or before Wednesday, May 10.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Who have I pushed to the periphery of my life? How can I "call them by name" to be like Jesus, my Good Shepherd?

TRINITY DOME COLLECTION

When we trace the cross on our body as we sign ourselves in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we are actually making a concise summary of our Catholic faith. In the new Trinity dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Catholic faith is stunningly depicted in image and word, as the Holy Trinity is surrounded by the words of the Creed, a procession of saints, and Our Blessed Mother. By our Baptism, we too share in this life. The mystery of the Trinity is not an abstract exercise in theology. As the dome mosaic reveals, it is a life-giving proclamation that, to the extent that we are alive in God's grace, we live in God and God lives in us. Support this beautiful celebration of our faith by participating in the second collection on May 14, and learn more at #TrinityDome.org.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE FIFTH ADW WOMEN'S CONFERENCE!

Occasions of Grace - Encountering God's Grace in Day to Day Life

Catholic University on Saturday
May 20, 2017, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

There will be presentations in English and Spanish. Keynote speaker is ValLimar Jansen. Breakout sessions speakers are Rev. William Byrne, Christina Lamas (*en espanol*) and Michael Carotta. The day will also include Mass, lunch and many faith based exhibitors. For further information about speakers and schedule and to register go to: www.adw.org/womensconference. Registration fee: \$40.00 includes lunch.

Conference Highlights

Keynote speaker ValLimar Jansen is blessed with an extraordinary speaking and singing voice. She is a highly regarded inspirational/catechetical speaker, singer, composer and recording artist.

See today's bulletin insert for additional information.

FREE DINNER & DISCUSSION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Are you a young adult ages 18-30s? Pope Francis and our parish wants to hear from you! In preparation for an international gathering of Bishops (Synod) next year, Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment. Young adults are invited to join Fr. John for dinner and discussion at the parish on May 9th. Feel free to bring friends as we want to hear from both Catholics and nonCatholics! To RSVP for dinner please email SFAYouth@sfadw.org. Can't make the dinner? Share your opinion online at www.SharewithFrancis.org.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Several weeks ago now I began what will be a series of columns on *Being Catholic Today: Catholic Identity in an Age of Challenge*, a Pastoral Letter that Cardinal Wuerl issued on May 24, 2015. The Cardinal identified five key themes of being a Catholic today. I want to devote this column to the fifth and final theme: Expressions of our Identity.

Since 1634 when the first Catholics set foot on what is now Maryland, the Church has made a tremendous impact manifesting Christ's kingdom of truth, life, justice, love and peace. We must remain true to the expressions of our Catholic identity. Through our educational, social service, and health care programs, the goodness of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the presence of Christ are actually visible and tangible in our community. The Church, in all of her works, brings an invitation to faith, an encounter with Christ, and a way of living inspired by the Gospel. There is no greater or more perfect gift.

This is what it means to be witnesses. The visible expressions of our Catholic identity can be traced all the way back to the Acts of the Apostles, where Jesus in his final instruction before his ascension into heaven, tells his Apostles, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes down on you, and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8). As God was with those who first accepted his challenge to be his witnesses, so he is with us as we accept the call to be faithful witnesses to our Catholic faith in all we say or do. As we open ourselves to life in the Holy Spirit, we are given the incredible gift and responsibility to radiate Christ's truth and love to bring joy to a world that so desperately needs God.

Cardinal Wuerl concludes the Pastoral Letter with this reflection:

Pope Francis puts it this way, "We should avoid the temptation of having earthly power transform our faith." In a recent homily he prayed that "the witness of the martyrs" might help us lest we be tempted by the ways of the world toward an attitude that is not of Jesus. Shortly after his election Pope Francis called us to experience the value of witnessing in our societies an openness to transcendence that is inherent in the human heart.

Our Catholic identity, even when challenged, should remain for us a source of conviction and pride. As God was with those who first accepted the challenge, "You shall 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. As we open ourselves to life in the Spirit, radiating fully Christ's truth and love, we can also bring joy to a world that so desperately needs God. By being true to our Catholic identity, we can help manifest and realize God's kingdom, coming to be here and now, a kingdom of truth, peace, joy and love that trust sets us free.

Until next week,

Fr. John Dillon

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m., St. Clare’s Chapel in the Rectory. For details, please call Louise, (301) 977-5217.

POOR BOX DONATION – The donations for next weekend will go to the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. *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.

BUILD UP OUR CHURCH (continued)

Danielle Niedermaier, a member of the Lector Ministry, said she thought the retreat was a great way to learn more about Catholic ministry, reflect individually and in small groups on how lecturing supports the larger St. Francis community, and make strategic plans on how to strengthen the ministries to which she belongs. “I particularly appreciated the structure of the retreat: short presentations, followed by individual reflection and then small group discussions. I’ve already begun applying what I learned it to the ministries I’m part of - and I’m excited to continue to do so,” she said.

For more information about ministry building at St. Francis, contact Deacon Dan Finn at deacondanfinn@gmail.com.

Videos of Dr. Ralph Martin’s Talks Now Available on St. Francis Web Site

If you were unable to attend Dr. Ralph Martin’s talks during the Lenten Parish Mission on March 24 and 25, then you can catch the next best thing on the St. Francis of Assisi web site. Videos featuring edited footage of Dr. Martin’s talks are available by going to <http://www.sfadw.org> and navigating to ‘Our Community’ à Explore Our Faith à Lenten Mission 2017. Please watch the videos that featured Dr. Martin’s lectures on the theme, “Living as a Catholic during Challenging Times.” If you have any comments on the lectures, then please contact Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

Blood Pressure Screening Taking Place after Masses on May 13 & 14

The St. Francis Health Ministry will conduct blood pressure screening in the St. Clare Room on May 13 and May 14 after Masses at 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday. For more information, contact Health Ministry Coordinator Betty Baklarz at lbbaklarz@yahoo.com.

BUILD UP OUR CHURCH

Spring Ministry Retreat Invited Volunteers to Think Through Their Ministry’s Purpose

On April 22, 39 ministry leaders and volunteers gathered at the Parish Center to reflect upon their ministries as an outgrowth of the Catholic Church and a support to St. Francis of Assisi Church. As part of the retreat, participants also learned about communications vehicles at St. Francis and how to build up their ministries, one person at a time.

The semi-annual gathering marked the first time that the meeting brought together leaders and volunteers. The retreat’s theme, “Serving a Parish during Challenging Times,” encouraged reflection about what it means to be a Catholic ministry and how that unit directly supports the local church.

In the first presentation, Fr. John Dillon gave participants the framework and history in which their Catholic ministries exist in the Church. In a format that continued throughout the retreat, participants then reflected upon questions based on the talk, considered how it applied to their ministries and then discussed their responses in a small group.

Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick then led participants through a talk, asking them to consider the deeper questions of why their ministry exists. Using a framework from author Patrick Lencioni’s book, *The Advantage*, he encouraged participants to ask themselves six questions:

- Why does your ministry exist?
- How does your ministry behave?
- What does your ministry do?
- How will your ministry succeed?
- What is most important for your ministry, right now?
- Who must do what?

One of the retreat’s aims was for participants to begin the conversation and reflect on the questions with ministry members. In determining how a ministry behaves, Bosnick shared that the ministry must have values – and the ministry’s values will guide the ministry’s behavior, define its personality and attract volunteers that can succeed.

During the third presentation, Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan gave an overview of communications trends pertinent to parishes and reviewed the parish’s main communications vehicles.

She advised ministry members to take a “less is more” approach with communications, extending to using concise writing and targeting communications to the right demographic groups. She then talked briefly about ministry building, repeating the adage, “Don’t use people to build up your church; use church to build up your people.”

Bosnick, one of the organizers of the retreat, said ministry leaders told him they appreciated being reminded that ministry outreach needs to be grounded in and reflect the mission of the church.

“The retreat helped to clarify for us the reasons we do outreach are based on our following Jesus as disciples,” Bosnick said. “In addition, I think those there really enjoyed being with other people serving at St. Francis. That if really energizing, knowing that others feel that serving is an important expression of our Catholic faith.”

Continued in the column to the left.....

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Next week (Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, May 7, 8 and 9) is the final week for Religious Education classes for PreK-Grade 8 for this school year. Thank you to our catechists and volunteers who have helped to make this a successful year for our Religious Education Program. This parish is blessed to have so many wonderful catechists who volunteer their time each week to teach and share the faith. We pray that God will continue to bless each of them with his gifts of joy and peace!

As we look ahead to next year's Religious Education program, please consider whether you can serve as a catechist for our children and young people. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

REMINDERS FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Our Confirmation program continues as follows:

- Rehearsal with Sponsor: Mon., May 15,
6:45-8:30 pm
- Confirmation: Fri., May 19, 7:00 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

We are now accepting registration for next year's Religious Education Program! Our program offerings for children and youth include:

- Pre-school and Kindergarten classes on Sunday mornings, 11:10-12:15 p.m. (*Preschool classes are for children age 3 or 4 by September 1*)
- Grade 1-5 classes offered at two session times:
Sunday mornings, 9:20-10:35 a.m.
Monday afternoons, 4:45-6:00 p.m.
- Grade 6, 7, and 8 classes offered at two session times:
Monday evenings, 6:45-8:00 p.m.
Tuesday evenings, 6:45-8:00 p.m.
- Grades 9-12 (FRED) meet Sunday evenings 6:00-8:00 p.m. (following the 5:00 p.m. Youth Mass)

Since the curriculum of the Religious Education Program is designed to be taught in sequence and each year builds on the content presented in previous years, families should plan for their children to participate in Religious Education classes each year.

Registration forms were mailed home to families with children currently attending RE classes. For those new to our program, and if additional forms are needed, blank forms will be available on the parish web site (www.sfadw.org), in the Gathering Space of the Church, and in the Parish Offices. Completed forms can be returned to RE classes this week, sent in by mail, or dropped off in person at the Rectory Office (Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm). Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please complete and return the registration forms as soon as possible!

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*

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

MAY - High School

7	No FRED
13/14	Work Camp Bake Sale
14	FRED Eternal Crown
18	Service @ Our Lord's Table
19	Confirmation
21	FRED Aloha Party
26	FRED Lockout

July 9-14 Encounter Work Camp

FRED JR.

MAY - Middle School

13/14	Work Camp Bake Sale
18	Service @ Our Lord's Table
19	Confirmation
21	FRED Aloha Party - 8th grade welcome!
26	FRED Lockout - 8th grade invited!

July 9-14 Encounter Work Camp - open to rising 9th through 12th grade

GET SOCIAL

*Instagram "SFASusie"

"FRED - SFA Youth Ministry" Page on Facebook

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

Twitter @SusanFREDLea

ONLINE SURVEY TO SHARE WITH POPE FRANCIS!

Pope Francis wants to hear from you! In preparation for an international gathering of Bishops (Synod) next year, Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment. People of all ages, Catholics and non-Catholics, are invited to give their feedback on how the Church can engage and support youth and young adults in making major life decisions. To participate in the survey visit www.SharewithFrancis.org.

REGISTERING FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION (continued)

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. Please note that there is a separate materials fee for sacramental preparation programs. More details will be provided at the parent meetings next year. If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193.

2017 VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Register NOW for Vacation Bible Camp 2017 –
Maker Fun Factory VBS: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.

Who: Children ages 4 by June 26, 2017 to those who completed the 5th grade in June 2017

Where: St. Francis of Assisi Church Parish Center

When: June 26-30 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Cost: \$40 per child

How: Complete the registration form found in the Gathering Space with a check (or pay through Faith Direct, contact main office 301-840-1407 for details) and return it to the Rectory Office, Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. or mail it to:

St. Francis of Assisi Church
6701 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, MD 20855
Attn: Religious Education Office-VBC

ANNUAL YARD SALE IN THE PARISH CENTER

*Saturday, May 13
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon*

Please sign-up *this weekend* to help with the Annual Yard Sale. We need lots of volunteers. You can also sign up by calling the Parish Office (301) 840-1407. This is a good fundraiser for the parish and a great chance to meet fellow parishioners. *Also, time to spring clean - we welcome your stuff you want to get rid of!*

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Come for the whole time or just a few hours. Whatever time you can work will be appreciated!

Wednesday, May 10, 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 11, 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday, May 12, 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 13, 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS IN THE PARISH CENTER

Wednesday, May 10 2:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 11 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday, May 12 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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.

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.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School *Catch our Spirit*

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

Congratulations to our 8th graders who received a total of **\$578,500** in scholarships, grants or financial aid and will be attending the following high schools:

Academy of the Holy Cross
Archbishop McCarthy-Florida
Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School
Our Lady of Good Counsel
St. John's College High School
Bethesda Chevy Chase High School
Clarksburg High School
Richard Montgomery High School
Rockville High School
Wheaton High School

BULLDOG BOLT 5K & FUN RUN – MAY 13

St. Jude will host our third annual Bulldog Bolt 5K and Fun Run, followed by an HSA sponsored cookout! All proceeds from the race will be used to replace aging athletic equipment and enhance the school facility. This wonderful event is a day of fun and fresh air for families and friends. Register online and check out all the photos from last year's Bolt on the web site!

5K Bolt - \$35 before May 11; \$40 on site

1K Fun Run - \$25 before May 11; \$30 on site

<http://www.stjuderockville.org/pages/>

[StJudeRegionalCatholicSchool/Giving/Bulldog Bolt 5K race](http://www.stjuderockville.org/pages/StJudeRegionalCatholicSchool/Giving/Bulldog_Bolt_5K_race)

THE ARTS COMBINE AT SJRCS - SPRING ART SHOW, CHOIR AND BAND CONCERT

May 15th at 2:00 p.m. & May 16th at 7:00 p.m. the SJRCS Choir and Beginning and Advanced Bands will perform a spring concert. Artwork created by students in grades Pre-K to 8th grade will be on display throughout the school. Come and listen to our talented performers and see the creative artwork gracing our hallways. The Students are creating some terrific pieces of art.

MEMORIAL MASS

FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES

On Sunday, May 21, the 23rd Annual Memorial Mass will be held to honor those who have served and are serving in our nation's armed forces. The Mass will take place at 4:30 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (400 Michigan Ave., NE). The principal celebrant and homilist will be Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. Military personnel are encouraged to be in uniform, and civilians should wear business attire. Parking is limited and carpooling is advised. To register and to request group seating, please visit www.milarch.org/memorialmass/laity-registration. For more information, contact Jo Ann Redmond at administration@milarch.org or (202) 719-3600.